



Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

www.southerncampaign.org

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South Carolina hosts the summer of 1780 Southern Campaign 225th Anniversary Events: The Fall of Charleston – Buford’s Defeat at the Waxhaws – Alexander’s Old Field - Mobley’s Meeting House - Huck’s Defeat at Williamson’s Plantation.



Artist Werner Willis, in “The Assault”, creates the British Legion dragoons in full speed charge. The green jacketed British Legion provincial troops, lead by the charismatic British cavalry commandant, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, successfully applied the bold shock frontal charge tactic at the Battles of Monck’s Corner/Biggin Bridge (April 14, 1780), Lenud’s Ferry (May 6, 1780), the Battle of the Waxhaws (Buford’s Massacre, May 29, 1780), but it was not as successful at Charlotte (September 26, 1780).

*All of you that love your Country & wish to fight
for your country, your friends & posterity, & not
to plunder your country in a day of distress,
you will parade to the right; And all you that
are of a different disposition & intend to
plunder - not to fight, you will parade to the left -
Col. William Hill*

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Editor's Notes

The new world of Internet publishing is opening up many connections between people and allows SCAR to reach a diverse group of interested scholars and researchers from all over the world. We appreciate the opportunity for your friendship, to share your scholarship, ideas and your feedback.

Southern Campaigns students are being treated to many 225th anniversary events as the British renewed their strategy in 1778 to reconquer their rebellious colonies in the Southern Department. Reenactments, memorial services, scholarly conclaves, and tours are scheduled. We will keep you informed with a list of events and contacts for which we need your help.

SCAR attended the Mobley's Meeting House reenactment and presentations and the York Cultural Heritage Center symposium and Brattonsville reenactment of Huck's Defeat at Williamson's Plantation. These two programs were wonderfully organized and were meaningful to all students of the Revolution in the Carolinas' backcountry. SCAR gives a mighty Huzzah! to Pelham Lyles and her planning committee at the Fairfield Museum; to Chuck LeCount at Historic Brattonsville; to Sam Thomas, Nancy Sambats, Jeannie Marion, Mike Scoggins and all of the crew at the Cultural Heritage Center and Museum of York County; all for their hard work to make everyone welcome, informed and entertained. The field demonstrations and reenactors' recreation of these Carolinas' backcountry victories was tremendous and SCAR recommends the "Liberty or Death: Rebels and Loyalist in the Southern Piedmont" display at the Museum of York County.

Planning Stages

SCAR and friends have organized the Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Roundtable, loosely modeled on the successful New York and Philadelphia Revolutionary War roundtables and the many Civil War roundtables that meet across the United States. Our new roundtable has been invited to meet at a mansion on Hobkirk's Hill in Camden, SC, the historic Fireproof Building, in downtown Charleston, SC, home of the South Carolina Historical Society, McCelvey Center in York, SC, Belle Acres in Charlotte, NC and to Hopsewee Plantation on the North Santee River in Georgetown County, SC. Stay tuned for an announcement on how to join our group.

SCAR is also working with Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site to plan a world-class symposium and battlefield tours on Gen. Nathanael Greene in April 2006 in conjunction with the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. This program will include noted scholars and authors on their latest publications and an opportunity to do walk the Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs Battlefields with knowledgeable guides. Your thoughts and input on both projects are invited.

Preservation

In South Carolina, the SC DOT is working on replacing several bridges at important Revolutionary War battlefield and cultural sites. Besides the bridges over the Broad River at Fish Dam Ford for the southbound US Highway 17 bridge over the North Santee River at Hopsewee Plantation, SCDOT is designing replacement of the SC Highway 14 (Landrum Road) bridge over the Pacolet River in upper Spartanburg County at the site of the Battle of Earle's Ford. SCAR needs any information you may have about the locations of Earle's Fort and Earle's Ford and the battles and camps there. SCAR is discussing these projects with the SC DOT environmental management office, which is charged by law to protect vital historic and cultural resources. Information of relic recoveries from the area, plats, maps, or documents locating the battle may provide the basis for a professional

Charles B. Baxley.....editor
William T. Graves.....contributor
Werner Willis.....artist

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution is dedicated to the study of the War for American Independence in the Southern Department from 1760 to 1789. We facilitate the exchange of information on the Southern Campaigns' Revolutionary War sites, their location, preservation, historic signage, interpretation, artifacts, and archaeology as well as the personalities, military tactics, units, logistics, strategy, and the political leadership of the state. We highlight professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation to encourage an active exchange of information. All are invited to submit articles, pictures, documents, events and suggestions. Please help us obtain site information from the dusty archive files, the archaeology departments, and knowledge base of local historians, property owners and artifact collectors. We feature battles and skirmishes, documents, maps, artifacts, Internet links, and other stories.

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution magazine is published online by Woodward Corporation. I respectfully acknowledge that the title for this newsletter is also a great book written by Dr. Dan L. Morrill. I claim no copyrights on reprinted articles, photographs, maps and excerpts contained in these materials. Copyrights are reserved to the authors for articles, maps, and images created by others and to myself on other original materials. I often edit old documents for easier reading and insert comments as to names, alternative dates, and modern punctuation and spelling. I also from time to time forget to appropriately reference my sources, to whom I offer my humblest apologies.

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution's letter and email publication policy: the author must sign all letters and emails and include a telephone number and return address for verification. We reserve the right to select those letters and emails that contribute to the cause, and to edit them for clarity and length. Letters and emails published may not reflect the opinion of your editor.

David P. Reuwer aids and abets *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* with ideas, research, editorial decisions, great enthusiasm, and much needed grammar, all of which are greatly appreciated.

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archaeological survey of the site and fund appropriate marking and interpretation.

Battlefield and historic structures and sites' preservation is usually initiated and led by local groups. Have you worked on locating, preserving, and marking your favorite Revolutionary War cultural treasure? Your help is critical to identify and mark local Revolutionary War sites, as we have irrevocably lost many of the Revolutionary War sites' historic context by over-development. Civic groups may sponsor appropriate roadside historic markers and signed driving or walking tours. Spreading "on the ground" knowledge is the most powerful force we have to build public awareness and influence to encourage protective stewardship of these sites entrusted to our generation. We have over 230 Revolutionary War battle and skirmish sites to document in South Carolina alone...then there is also Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. We need your help! Even the over-built sites can still be appropriately marked and interpreted.

State of the Art

Recently a friend, fellow traveler and observer from "upper US" casually shared his perception that we loved the Patriot militias down south better than the Continentals and that SCAR seemed to him to be biased to the militias' roles in the Southern Campaigns. His observation triggered some minor introspection. Officially, SCAR has no position on the often-articulated debate between the relative merits between the "professional" military (standing military) and "citizen soldiers" (National Guard) of the militia. We only want to discover and communicate the facts and let them fall where they may. SCAR is biased in its belief that the Revolution was finally won in the Southern Department, that this critical campaign has been poorly reported in student's texts the last 140 years, and that these Patriots' victory was a result of combined arms, financial, military, diplomatic support from many sources, including foreign nations and the fledgling national and state rebel governments. SCAR's interest in documenting the internecine backcountry military history in the Southern Theatre has published more feature articles on the militia actions because: 1) covering the Southern Theatre makes it imperative to focus on the Loyalist militias and provincial troops and Southern Patriot Militias and State Troops as they were often the only troops fighting in many battles; 2) many of the larger battles which involved Continental soldiers are well studied in published scholarly works, beyond the scope of an on-line magazine; and 3) most of the Georgia, North and South Carolina Continental Line units ceased to exist after their surrender in Charleston, SC in May of 1780, but the revolt went on in Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia. Also, and more pragmatically, military historians have great opportunities to publish their research as never before published battles in the Southern Department; SCAR features never before compiled research and SCAR has also attempted to integrate the scholarship with the archaeology of these actions to put the action on the ground. All authors have some motive for their research and writing. SCAR invites the submission of articles of all stripes.

Corps of Discovery – Searching for Lacey's Fort

In the June 2005 SCAR reported that we toured the site of Col. Edward Lacey's Fort (as formally marked by a SC roadside historic marker) in southwest York County, SC at Blanton Road and the West McConnells Highway (SC 322). After a discussion on Lacey's Fort with York County Revolutionary War scholar Mike Scoggins, I am not too sure we have found the correct place. There are distinct remnants of the old Winnsborough to Rutherfordton, NC road (known in Chester County as Quinn Road) including a stone bridgehead downstream of the modern SC 322 bridge over Turkey Creek. According to a map in the Cornwallis papers located by John Allison, Lacey's Fort was south of Turkey Creek where we may find additional Revolutionary War era road pieces and the redoubt. Col. Lacey took this position the day after the Battle of Blackstocks on November 20, 1780. Gen. Thomas Sumter, seriously wounded at Blackstock's Plantation on the Tyger River, was carried north from this camp and his scouts went out through the country. Col. Lacey and his Patriot Militia were able to hold that part of the South Carolina backcountry for some time. Lord Cornwallis' Army, beginning the Race to the Dan, after it left its winter camp at Winnsborough, camped from January 16 to 19, 1781 at the William Hillhouse plantation in this section of Turkey Creek where colonial era artifacts have been recovered. In his Federal pension application S7008, filed June 1832 in Marengo County, Alabama, Hillhouse stated: "I would also like to state to the War Department, that the British commander-in-chief, Lord Cornwallis, on his march to Virginia in January 1781 made my plantation his place of rendezvous from Tuesday till Thursday, stripped me of all my possessions except the land which he could not destroy." As Lacey's Fort was described as a redoubt with 15 foot high earthen walls, there is some likelihood the fort's earthworks have survived the farming and logging in the Turkey and Susybole Creek area of York and Chester Counties over the last 225

years. SCAR and friends will mount an expedition to reconnoiter the area if landowner permission can be obtained.

Write and tell us about your trips to discover our Revolutionary War heritage. **CBB ★**

Letters to the Editor

July 1, 2005

Dear Charles Baxley,

I've just come across your newsletter this morning in my research for more information about Greene's Race to the Dan and its Crossing. The Crossing was here in South Boston, Virginia, where we are now just beginning to create a permanent exhibit to recognize the significance of the event. The goal is to have the exhibit ready in 2007 to help commemorate the 1607 founding of Jamestown - Virginia's 400th birthday.

Our research is not yet complete but we have started a Web site that contains the most accurate description of "The Crossing" that we can achieve, given that there is conflict in many of the source documents. I'm sure you have many readers that have information that can improve, or contribute, to tell the story as it really happened. Many of the old maps and stories written about Irwin and Boyd's ferries are quite inaccurate. We have some 18th century land plats that show the actual ferry crossing points that will be added to this site in the next couple of weeks.

If you have the time, will you please review what we have and comment on the story as it currently exists:

<http://www.prizery.com/ExhibitPlanningOverview.htm>

In addition to this work for the exhibit, we are also preparing for a celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Crossing this coming February.

Hopefully this can turn into an annual event.

With great esteem, I am,

Dan Shaw dan@possumhollow.us

June 15, 2005

Hi Charles:

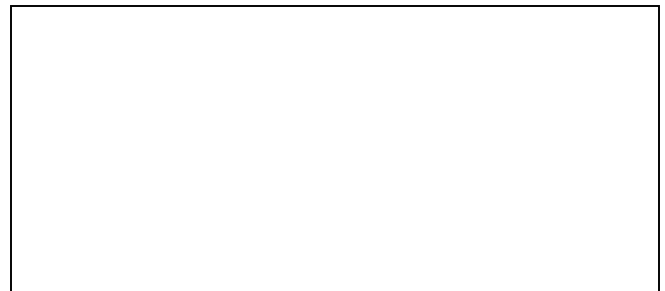
The Sumter issue was chokefull of information. Great job.

I have a library of books, pertaining to Revolutionary War in South a recent acquisition; *Benjamin Lincoln and the American Revolution* by David B. Mattern was a welcome surprise! It presents a full picture of Lincoln's life, before, during and after the War. He was quite a man! And a pretty good military leader.

Mattern's premonition pictures him as the best choice for the Southern Department - as he had much army experience in the north. Also, he seems to have had Washington's confidence, as did Nathaniel Greene.

So, I thought others might like to know.

Regards, **Doug Crutchfield ★**



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please submit items to post upcoming Southern Campaigns programs and events that may be of interest to Revolutionary War researchers and history buffs.

July 30, 2005 – 1st Battle of Hanging Rock Commemoration – Lancaster County, SC - 9 a.m. until 12 noon, at the Hanging Rock State Historic Site. Rangers will be on hand as well as local historians to discuss the battle with visitors. Reenactors will also be camping at the site. Contact Laura Ledford at lledford@scprt.com.

August 6, 2005 – 2^d Battle of Hanging Rock Commemoration – Lancaster County, SC - at 3 p.m. at the Barron Masonic Lodge in Heath Springs, SC to learn more about the battle with the help of our guest speakers including Bert Dunkerly of Kings Mountain National Military Park and Keith Brown of the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project. 5:30 pm - After the presentations, we will drive to the battlefield and then onto the Hanging Rock to lay wreaths at the monuments at the base of the rock. After the wreath laying ceremony, local historians will be available to meet with visitors at the battlefield to answer questions. Contact Laura Ledford at lledford@scprt.com.

August 13, 2005 – Spartanburg, SC - Discover regional history in a bus tour of Revolutionary War battle sites in the Spartan District: Wofford Iron Works Battlefield, Union County Museum, Fairforest Headquarters of Colonel Ferguson, Blackstock's Plantation Battlefield, and Musgrove Mill State Historic Site. Fee of \$35.00 includes lunch in historic Union, SC. The tour, sponsored by Palmetto Conservation Foundation, will be lead by Military Heritage Preservationist, Dr. George Fields. Bus will leave at 10 am from the Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, located in the historic downtown train depot at 296 Magnolia Street, and return at 4 pm. The tour is limited to 54 persons. Call 846-948-9615 for reservations or register on website www.palmettoconservation.org

August 16, 2005 – Battle of Camden site, Great Waxhaw Road (modern Flat Rock Road) 8 miles north of Camden, SC - 225th anniversary and dedication ceremony hosted by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Hobkirk Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Historic Camden at 10:00 am, at the battlefield. The battlefield is located 6 miles north of Camden on Flat Rock Road, off US Highway 521 North. For further information about this event and others pertaining to the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Camden celebration, visit: www.camden225th.net, call (803) 432-9841 or email: hiscamden@camden.net.

August 18, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, 222 South Broad Street (US 521), Camden, SC - Lyceum Series talk and reception at the Kershaw-Cornwallis House at 7:00 pm. Author/reenactor Michael Cecere will give a presentation on Patriot Colonel Charles Porterfield of Virginia, who was mortally wounded during the Battle of Camden night skirmish. Copies of his recent book, *An Officer of Very Extraordinary Merit*, will be available for purchase and autographing.

August 19, 2005 – Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 502 West DeKalb Street, Camden, SC – 10:00 am commemoration to honor the 225th anniversary of the death of German-born patriot hero, Gen. "Baron" Johann de Kalb, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780 and died three days later on August 19, 1780.

August 20-21, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, 222 South Broad Street (US 521), Camden, SC - 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Camden programs and reenactment of the patriot defeat, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily. Visit the military and camp followers camps; see Battle of Camden reenactments on Saturday, August 20th at 11:00 am (night battle) and 3:00 pm (daybreak battle). Shop at sulders row, attend

a Patriot's funeral, courts-martial, round-table talk, period fashion show & dancing and children's activities. Admission charged. www.historic-camden.net or www.camden225th.org

August 20-21, 2005 – Battle of Camden Site, Great Waxhaw Road (modern Flat Rock Road) 6 miles north of Camden, SC - the Palmetto Conservation Foundation offers free guided tours of the Camden battlefield on Saturday at 9:30 am, 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and on Sunday at 9:30 am and 1:00 pm.

August 20, 2005 – Musgrove's Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC - 225th Anniversary celebration of the Patriot victory at the Battle of Musgrove's Mill. Guided tour of the battlefield followed by a memorial service at the battlefield. Space is limited, contact Brian L. Robson, Interpretive Ranger, Musgrove Mill State Historic Site at 864-938-0100 brobson@scprt.com

August 27, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - Living History 9 am to – 6 pm with the backcountry militia, and music by R.G. Absher and Laurie Fisher. Visitors are invited to explore a militia camp and learn about rifles and muskets used in the battle. Throughout the afternoon musicians R.G. Absher and Laurie Fisher will perform period music with the fiddle, guitar, and banjo. They will discuss the music of early America and its important to the frontier settlers. www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html

September 3, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 8th Annual Kings Mountain Forum, Colonial Trade and Craft Fair, music and military camps. Craftspeople will demonstrate various skills and trades. Activities will include blacksmithing, woodworking, carpentry, pewtering, pottery, leatherworking, and more. Militia groups will perform military drill and demonstrate historic weapons. Musician Ken Bloom will also be performing. www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html

September 10, 2005 – Augusta, Georgia – Augusta Museum of History. Event postponed until 2006 because of scheduling.

September 15, 2005 – Savannah History Museum - Lecture Series: "Revolutionary Perspectives" - "Creeks & Georgians in a Revolutionary Era" by Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund of Auburn University. All lectures are free and are held in the Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at 912-651-2240 or kkornegay@chsgorgia.org <http://www.chsgorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=51>

September 16-18, 2005 – Huntersville, NC - Latta Plantation Park - will be presenting a celebration honoring the 225th Anniversary of the battles that took place in and round Charlotte in the year 1780. There will be a battle both days on the site representing the Battle of Charlotte and the Skirmish at McIntyre's Cabin (or Battle of the Bees). There will be sutlers present for your period needs. If you have any questions or requests, please contact Bob Boynton at bob@rncr.org or 704-938-7744 or www.lattaplantation.org.

September 17, 2005 – Laurens County/Newberry County, SC - The Belfast House, c. 1785 (SC Highway 56 at county line) at 10:00 am (rain make-up 24th Sept.) Revolutionary War hero Gen. James Williams Bridge dedication and naming ceremony and with wreath laying, followed by installing the pistol that the State of North Carolina gave to Col. James Williams to the museum at Musgrove Mill State Historic Site and a tour of Laurens County Revolutionary War historic sites.

September 22, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series: "Revolutionary Perspectives" – Presenting "The Glory is Gone! The Failure of the British Southern Strategy", a lecture by noted author, Dr. Edward J. Cashin of Augusta State University. Lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light

Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org <http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=52>

September 25, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Battlefield - In-Depth Battlefield Tour - This tour will follow the Provincial and British Regular soldiers' route through the battlefield. Visitors will see the battlefield as the troops saw it. The tour is strenuous and will last two hours; registration is required. Contact Kings Mountain National Military Park for details.

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

September 29, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series: "Revolutionary Perspectives" - Featuring "Ten to One" Odds of No Return: Lachlan McIntosh, Benjamin Lincoln, and the Virginia Continentals During the Siege of Savannah", presented by Dr. Carol Ebel of Armstrong Atlantic State University. The lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org <http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=53>

October 1-2, 2005 – Spartanburg County, SC - 240th anniversary of Walnut Grove Plantation and Re-enactment of the Loyalist Major William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham raid.

October 6, 2005 – Cowpens National Military Park, SC - 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Over Mountain men at Cowpens National Battlefield.

October 6, 2005 - Savannah History Museum Lecture Series: "Revolutionary Perspectives" - "The Intrepid Warrior: Casimir Pulaski Fights for American Liberty" presented by Francis C. Kajncki, Colonel, U.S. Army Retired. Light Refreshments at 6:30 pm with the lecture starting at 7:00 pm. The lecture is free and will be held in Savannah History Museum Theatre. RSVP to Krystal at **912-651-2240** or kkornegay@chsgeorgia.org <http://www.chsgeorgia.org/calZoom.cfm?id=54>

October 8-9, 2005 – Savannah, Georgia. Reinterment and Hero's Funeral Mass for American Revolutionary War Patriot Gen. "Count" Casimir Pulaski and rededication of the Pulaski Monument in Monterrey Square. The last remains of Polish American Revolutionary War hero, Gen. Casimir Pulaski, the father of the Patriot cavalry, will lie in state in with honor guards in several Savannah area churches and Temple Mickve Israel before funeral mass and reinterment in the Pulaski Monument in Monterey Square on Sunday, October 9, 2005. **Preliminary Schedule: October 8, 2005** - Battlefield Park wreath laying with musket, drum, bugle and pipes ceremony at Louisville Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard. **6:30 pm** - Reception and Dedication of the "Pulaski Room" at Savannah International Trade and Convention Center (SITCC). **7:30 pm to 10:30 pm** Dinner, Dignitaries, Award Ceremonies, and "Pulaski Polonaise Ball" at the SITCC. Presentation of "Pulaski - O'Neil" Medal to Recipients after Dinner. Lying In State. Ships' Open houses. Original Banner Display. **October 9, 2005 at 9:30 am** - Solemn Mass For the Dead (Pulaski) at Cathedral of Saint John The Baptist. (Bishop Boland is designating Archbishop O'Brien of the Military Ordinariate Archdiocese of US and Poland's Military Prelate as the Principal Celebrants, subject to their concurrence). **11:00 am** - Funeral Procession and en route programs & hymns by the Bull Street Corridor National Landmark Historic District Churches. **Noon** - Reinterment in new tomb in front (north side) of the Pulaski Monument, Monterey Square, with accompanying Military, Roman Catholic and Interfaith ceremonies. **Evening** - Governor's Dinner.

The Mickve Israel Temple museum on Monterrey Square honors Savannah Patriot Col. Mordecai Sheftall, who served as Deputy Commissary General of Issues for all Continental Troops in South

Carolina and Georgia and Commissary General of Georgia troops. For museum tours, see www.mickveisrael.org.

October 7-8-9, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain and grand re-opening of museum on October 7th. Museum renovation will be complete and brand new exhibits will tell the story of the battle. **October 7th: 10:30 am** wreath laying ceremony. **3:00 pm** guest speaker and arrival of Overmountain Victory Trail marchers. **7:00 pm** British actor Howard Burnham as Sir Henry Clinton. **October 8th and 9th:** Living history camps open to the public 9 am to 6 pm. Battle tactical demonstrations at 2 pm each day. Activities will include music, Ferguson Rifle demonstrations, military funeral for British Maj. Patrick Ferguson, discussions on camp life, military drill, and more. Event ends at 4 pm Sunday. Saturday night at **7:00 & 7:30 pm** - guided lantern tours of the battlefield by reservation only. Register at Visitor Center or call park: (864) 936-7921.

<http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

October 8, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Annual Candlelight Tour - Guided tours proceed along the one-mile historic trail, which is illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight and torchlight. Along the way, costumed volunteers portray Colonial citizens and soldiers who tell stories of peace and war at old Ninety Six in the 1700s. Tours begin at 7 pm & leave every 10 minutes until 8:20 pm.

October 14, 2005 – Pacolet, SC - Explore the history of Pacolet, tour a granite quarry, visit the site where feared British commander Tarleton was encamped in Pacolet and visit where he crossed the Pacolet River in pursuit of Daniel Morgan and his troops. Learn of the role of the militia in the American Revolution, fee \$10 includes lunch. Tour begins at 9:00 a.m.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

October 15-16, 2005 – North Augusta, SC – Living History Park – presents: Colonial Times "A Day to Remember" - featured attractions include hornsmithing, pottery, a tomahawk throw, butter churning, weaving and spinning, quilting, candle making, scrimshaw, pewterer, musket firing demonstrations, calligraphy, gunsmithing, gold and silversmithing, blacksmithing, woodworking, meat smoking and curing. Be sure to stop by and visit with the Indian traders, the Backwoodsmen, the Sutlers, the Milliner, the Tavern Keeper, the Alchemist, and pet the animals! Web page is www.colonialtimes.us or if you have any question either please email lynn@colonialtimes.us or call 803 279-7560. Free.

October 15-16, 2005 - Summerton, SC - American Revolutionary Living History Encampment/Re-enactment and Wildlife Expo. 4th Celebration of "Victory at Fort Watson" at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, I-95, Exit 102, US 15/301, Summerton, SC. Please check website for updates: www.francismariontrail.com or call: 803-478-2217 or 803-478-2645.

October 22, 2005 – Brattonsville, SC - Historic Brattonsville will host a reenactment of the Battle of King's Mountain, fought on October 7, 1780. One of the most famous battles of the Southern campaign, this Patriot victory has been described as the Southern militia's finest hour. To be placed on a mailing list and receive registration materials for York County Cultural History Museum 225th Anniversary events, contact Jeannie Marion, CHM Director of Marketing and Public Information, at jemarion@chmuseums.org.

October 23, 2005 Kings Mountain National Military Park - In-Depth Battlefield Tour - This tour will follow the South Carolina and Georgia militia's route through the battlefield to see the battlefield as the troops saw it. The tour is strenuous and will last two hours; registration is required. Contact Kings Mountain National Military Park for details.

November 4-5, 2005 – TBA - Seminar and banquet with keynote presentation by John Buchanan, author of *The Road to Guilford Courthouse - The American Revolution in the Carolinas*.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

November 5-6, 2005 – Camden, SC – “Camden 1774”. 10 am to 5 p.m. daily featuring: Camden Grand Jury, Royal militias drill, military music, period fashion show and dancing, military roundtable discussion, 18th century church services, and kids’ activities. Colonial craftsmen and demonstrations and sutlers row teaming with unique traditional 18th century gifts.

<http://www.historic-camden.net>

November 11, 2005 – Rock Hill, SC – Museum of York County – “Book Talk” featuring Revolutionary War authors Carl Borick, Michael Scoggins and Robert Pelton. www.chmuseums.org

November 19-20, 2005 - Battle of Blackstock’s Re-enactment and 225th anniversary ceremony.

December 17, 2005 – Clinton, SC – Musgroves Mill State Historical Site – 10:00 am - Sam Fore (SCAR contributor) special collections librarian at the John D. Rockefeller Library of Williamsburg, Virginia will present a paper on South Carolina Patriot Lt. Col. James McCall of the Long Cane settlement, commander of the SC State Dragoons. McCall fought at Ninety Six in 1776, the Cherokee battles, Kettle Creek, Musgroves Mill, the siege of Augusta, Fish Dam Ford, Blackstock’s Plantation, Long Cane, with Lt. Col. William Washington at the Battle of Hammond’s Store, Cowpens, Wetzels Mill, and at Beattie’s Mill. He died of small pox contracted during the campaign. Small admission. For additional information call Brian Robson at 864-938-0100 or email brobson@scprt.com

January 14-15, 2006 – Cowpens National Battlefield - Battle of Cowpens 225th anniversary - Updates will be posted on the park’s website. Contact [Cowpens National Battlefield](http://www.cowpensnationalbattlefield.org) for details.

January 15-16-17, 2006 - March to Cowpens - led by Revolutionary War re-enactors, march the Green River Road, route from Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River to Cowpens, following the route take by General Daniel Morgan. Contact [Cowpens National Battlefield](http://www.cowpensnationalbattlefield.org) for details.

January 17, 2006 – Spartanburg, SC - Re-dedication of the statue of General Morgan in downtown Spartanburg and 225th anniversary events at the Cowpens battlefield.

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view&WebSiteID=127&WebPageID=6527>

March 7 - 15, 2006 - Guilford Courthouse, NC - 225th Anniversary - The park will be holding an expanded version of its popular lecture series on four evenings, March 7 – 10. The anniversary of the battle will be observed the weekend of March 11 - 12 with an encampment. The park will also coordinate with the City of Greensboro and conduct a battle re-enactment in a city park adjacent to the NPS property that weekend. Contact [Guilford Courthouse National Military Park](http://www.guilfordcourthousenationalmilitarypark.org) for details.

April 23, 2006 - Summerton, SC - The Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter, South Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution is hosting the 225th Commemoration of the Battle of Fort Watson at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. (I-95, exit 102) There will be a color guard and wreath laying ceremony at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the wreath laying. Call Muriel Hanna at 803-478-4179 or 803-481-3836, or hannaman@ftc-i.net for more information.

April 2006 – Camden, SC – 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk’s Hill, Program TBA and Gen. Nathanael Greene Symposium.

May 20 & 21, 2006 - Ninety Six, SC – Gen. Nathanael Greene’s Siege of Ninety Six - The 225th anniversary celebration continues with an authentic encampment of British, Loyalist and Patriot (Continental and militia) forces and will focus on the 28-day siege (the making of gabions/fascines and various components of siege warfare). The park is working with the local community, SAR groups, and DAR groups to help with a wreath-laying ceremony featuring 18th century entertainment, including music. Contact [Ninety Six National Historic Site](http://www.ninety-six-national-historic-site.org) for details.

June 2-3, 2006 – Augusta, Georgia – 225th Anniversary of Liberation from Loyalist - TBA ★

More on The Battle of Hill’s Ironworks

Dear Charles,

I was pleased to see Patrick O’Kelley’s article on the Battle of Hill’s Ironworks in the June 2005 issue of *SCAR*. I would like to pass on some additional information concerning this battle that might be of interest to your readers. This entire series of events is covered in great detail in my forthcoming book, *The Day It Rained Militia: Huck’s Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May-July 1780*, which will be available from the Culture & Heritage Museums and The History Press in late July.

The earliest reports of this engagement are found in letters from Lieutenant Colonel George Turnbull, commander of the British fort at Rocky Mount, to Lord Cornwallis in Charleston. On 16 June 1780, Turnbull wrote to Cornwallis informing him that he had been visited the day before by a “Mr. Floyd who lives about Sixty miles to the Westward.” This was a reference to Matthew Floyd, a prominent Loyalist and colonial militia officer who lived on the upper Broad River. Floyd and his son, Abraham, along with a company of thirty Loyalist militiamen, arrived at Rocky Mount on 15 June and offered their services to the Crown. Turnbull was impressed with Floyd’s sincerity and promptly commissioned him colonel of the Upper District Loyalist Militia Regiment; he then gave Floyd’s son, Abraham, a captain’s commission in the same regiment (Abraham Floyd had previously served as an officer in the Whig militia from 1775-1779). Shortly thereafter, Turnbull received an express stating that “a party of Rebels” had sallied forth from Hill’s Ironworks in the New Acquisition District (now York County, SC) and was “tearing everything to pieces” in Floyd’s neighborhood.¹ The “party of Rebels” was in fact the New Acquisition Militia Regiment, commanded by Colonel Andrew Neal and Lieutenant Colonel William Hill. Colonel Neal and most of his regiment left their camp at the ironworks on 15 June and proceeded to attack the Broad River Tories, leaving a small garrison of twelve to fifteen men at the ironworks under the regiment’s second-in-command, Lieutenant Colonel Hill. Hill was the owner and operator of Hill’s

¹ Turnbull to Cornwallis, 16 June 1780, in Cornwallis Papers, PRO 30/11/2/162-163; Elizabeth Ellet, *The Women of the American Revolution*, Vol. III (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1854), 179; Lyman C. Draper, notes of an interview with Daniel G. Stinson, Thomas Sumter Papers, Draper Manuscript Collection, 9VV10, 12-13, 28-29; Elmer O. Parker, “Burning by the British of Reverend Simpson’s Home and Hill’s Iron Works,” *Chester County Genealogical Bulletin*, Vol. III, No. 2 (June 1980), 27-28; American Loyalist Claims, Memorial of Matthew Floyd, PRO AO13/128/264-281; Loyalist Transcripts, Memorial of Matthew Floyd, New York Public Library, LT/54/469-478; Robert S. Lambert, *South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution* (Columbia: USC Press, 1987), 119; Abraham Floyd, Federal pension application S32251, 9 May 1834, Decatur County, IN.

Ironworks, a large iron manufacturing facility on Big Allison Creek, a tributary of the Catawba River.²

Turnbull immediately ordered Captain Christian Huck, commander of a troop of British Legion dragoons stationed at Rocky Mount, to proceed to the ironworks along with a company of Loyalist militia commanded by Captain Floyd. The weather on the evening of 15 June prevented Huck from leaving Rocky Mount, but early on the morning of 16 June he and his men set out for the ironworks.³ On 19 June 1780, Lieutenant Colonel Turnbull sent Lord Cornwallis an after-action report that described in some detail the battle and the subsequent destruction of Hill's Ironworks by Captains Huck and Floyd:

I have the Pleasure to Acquaint your Lordship that by a Letter from Capt. Huck of the British Legion Dated yesterday some miles this side of the Iron Works. That the Rebels were assembled at that Place about one hundred and fifty strong, that He with his Detachment of the Legion and about Sixty militia attacked them. The Rebels had time to pull down a Bridge very near the Iron Works which Impeded them for some time. That Repairing the Bridge they were Lucky enough to overtake their Rear, Killed seven and took four Prisoners, the Rest Fled to the mountains.

*I am Likewise to Inform your Lordship that Cap^l. Huck has Completely Destroyd the Iron works which has been the Head Quarters of the Rebels in arms for some time past.*⁴

In spite of Huck's claim to have defeated 150 rebels at the ironworks, Colonel Hill's memoirs, written in 1815, make it clear that Neal and most of his regiment were still patrolling the Broad River when Huck attacked, and that the ironworks were only defended by a small garrison. As evidence of the exaggerated numbers claimed by both sides, Hill later stated that Huck commanded "a company of Horse and about 500 Tories."⁵ Based on the evidence in Turnbull's letters, several local historians (including myself) have previously dated the battle at Hill's Ironworks to 18 June 1780. However, I have recently uncovered information that definitively fixes the date to the day before, 17 June.

One of the officers serving under Colonels Neal and Hill in the New Acquisition Regiment was Captain John Henderson. In 1785 Henderson applied to the South Carolina government for his back pay as a militia officer, and for reimbursement for material losses incurred during the last two years of the Revolution. Among his losses were a horse, bridle and saddle which were confiscated when he was captured by the British at Hill's Ironworks in June 1780. To support his claims for losses, Henderson obtained a sworn deposition from Colonel William Hill, dated 25 November 1785, that not only verified his claims but also established the date for Huck's attack on the ironworks:

This is to Certify that on 17th June 1780 when a Great part of the State of South Carolina was overrun by the British, that there was a party of Our friends made a Stand at the Iron works in York County in Said State, & that I Sent Cap^l. John Henderson to endeavor to make discovery of the Enemies movements, who in the execution of that endeavor, was Taken prisoner by the british, by which means he lost a large bay horse about five feet high, five years old which mare together with a Saddle & Bridle lost at the Same time was appraised to three

hundred pounds old Currency, as will appear by an appraisement signed by Tho^s. & Joseph Henderson.

*Certified by me this 25th day Nov^r. 1785.
W^m Hill C^{ol}.*⁶

Lieutenant Colonel Turnbull's letter to Lord Cornwallis on 19 June also mentioned the capture of a rebel named Captain Henderson "some days ago." This is the same letter in which Turnbull reported that Captain Huck had destroyed Hill's Ironworks.⁷

As Huck approached the ironworks, he hijacked a local planter named Moses Ferguson and coerced him into guiding his troops around the rebel camp. By this time the Whigs were expecting the British to attack up the main road leading to the ironworks from the south, but Huck used Ferguson's knowledge of the area to outflank the rebels and attack them from the north, thus catching the Whigs by surprise. In 1871 the Wisconsin historian Lyman C. Draper interviewed Thomas C. McMackin of Vicksburg, Mississippi. McMackin's family was originally from York District in South Carolina, and the old man claimed to have extensive knowledge concerning the Revolutionary War battles in the South Carolina backcountry, including Hill's Ironworks. In Draper's notes of that interview, we read the following:

*The British, ab^t. 30 in number, went to Moses Ferguson, the representative in Legislature—who resided two miles east on Little Ellison [Allison] creek; & told him he must pilot them to Hill's Iron works, so that they c^d. surprise the abt. 50 Am^{ts}. there stationed (not commanded by Col. Hill—who was with Sumter—don't know who did command them) or they w^d. "make mince meat of him." They came in daytime—crossed the ford of Ellison's Creek & on opposite or southⁿ. bank was the store & furnace & mills & suddenly fired on them, & they (the Americans) stampeded, & the British captured half a dozen prisoners, stripped them of everything, even to the rings some of them wore on their fingers, & burnt houses, mills & everything. Ferguson took no active part in the war—represented the county—British having used him, dismissed him. He died before informant's recollection.*⁸

While McMackin's comments to Draper are generally correct, they contain several errors in the details, undoubtedly due at least in part to the fact that they were recorded 91 years after the battle actually took place. McMackin's statement that Hill was in North Carolina at the time of the attack on the ironworks is especially dubious. With Colonel Neal and his regiment away from camp and enemy forces close at hand, it would have been a very poor tactical decision for Hill to leave his highly vulnerable ironworks in the hands of subordinate and take off to Salisbury to meet Sumter. The sworn deposition quoted above verifies that Hill was, in fact, present at the Battle of Hill's Ironworks and in command of the garrison there on 17 June. In this deposition, Hill specifically states that he dispatched Captain Henderson to scout the enemy's movements prior to the battle, and that Henderson was captured by the British during the execution of these orders. Furthermore, Hill's postwar memoirs make it clear that he was still in South Carolina at the time of Huck's attack. After describing the destruction of the ironworks, "all of which was done before Col. Niel returned with the army to camp," Hill noted in his memoirs:

About this time I was informed that Col. Sumter was then in Salisbury with a few men waiting for a reinforcement—I then wrote to him, informing him of our situation & that there was a

² William Hill, *Col. William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution*, A. S. Salley, ed. (Columbia: Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1921), 7-8; Samuel Gordon, supporting deposition for Federal pension application of James Clinton, FPA S2437, 20 May 1833, Caldwell County, KY; Daniel H. Hill, *Col. William Hill and the Campaign of 1780*, Daniel H. Hill Jr., ed. (privately printed, c. 1919), 7-8.

³ Turnbull to Cornwallis, 16 June 1780.

⁴ Turnbull to Cornwallis, 19 June 1780.

⁵ Hill, 8; Ellet, III: 177;

⁶ Deposition by Col. William Hill, 25 November 1785, in South Carolina audited account for Capt. John Henderson, AA 3522, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

⁷ Turnbull to Cornwallis, 19 June 1780.

⁸ Lyman C. Draper, notes from an interview with Gen. Thomas C. McMackin, 26 May 1871, in Thomas Sumter Papers, Draper Manuscript Collection, 16VV49-50.

probability of our making a handsome stand—and that we were about to form a junction with Genl. Rutherford^d. in N. Car^a. That we were going to attack a large body of Tories that had collected at a place called Ramsour's Mill.

There is nothing in this statement to suggest that Hill actually went to North Carolina before the battle, and it is clear from Hill's statement that the meeting with Sumter was only in the planning stages when Huck attacked the ironworks. Hill specifically states that he wrote to Sumter, informing Sumter that he and his men planned to rendezvous with North Carolina militia general Griffith Rutherford and attack the Tories at Ramsour's Mill, and suggesting that Sumter join forces with them. Sumter did in fact join Hill and the other militia from South Carolina and North Carolina at Tuckasegee Ford prior to the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, which took place on 20 June 1780.

Along the same lines, McMackin's numbers for the British and American troops involved in the battle of the ironworks do not correspond with either Turnbull's or Hill's accounts. McMackin also stated that Moses Ferguson served in the South Carolina legislature, from which Mr. O'Kelley evidently concluded that Ferguson represented the New Acquisition District in the South Carolina Provincial Congress. However, the journals of the South Carolina Provincial Congress, which are complete for both the first (1775) and second (1776) sessions, make no mention of Ferguson sitting in either Congress. The New Acquisition was not represented at all in the First Session of the First Provincial Congress (January 1775), but the district's representatives to the Second Session of the First Provincial Congress (June 1775) were Colonel Thomas Neel, Colonel Ezekiel Polk, Captain Samuel Watson, Captain William Byers, Captain Alexander Love, Captain Thomas Fitzpatrick, John Gordon, Joseph Howe, William McCulloch, and James Carson.⁹ Most of these men also served as officers in the New Acquisition Militia Regiment. During the Second Provincial Congress, the district's representatives included all of the above except Fitzpatrick and Gordon, with the addition of Robert McAfee, John Howe, Francis Adams, Joseph Woods, Francis Ross, Thomas Janes, and Robert Dickey.¹⁰ Thus it is clear that, according to the official records of the South Carolina government, Moses Ferguson was not present in either the First or Second Provincial Congress.

Assuming that McMackin's story concerning Huck and Ferguson is substantially correct, we might legitimately wonder why Huck would select Ferguson, out of all the people living on Allison Creek, to pilot him to the ironworks. A statement made by Colonel Hill in his memoirs may shed some light on this, and may also explain McMackin's claim that Ferguson served in the "legislature." Hill stated that in early June, "a man of respectable character that had represented the District in the Gen^l Assembly" visited Lord Rawdon in Camden on behalf of the citizens of the New Acquisition, in order to seek terms with the British.¹¹ Unfortunately for modern historians, Hill did not name this individual, but if Ferguson had visited Lord Rawdon in early June, it would explain how the British knew who he was and why Huck selected him as his pilot. However, unlike the early journals of the House of Representatives and the Provincial Congress for 1775-1776, the later journals of the Senate, the House and the General Assembly are incomplete, and many of the records have been lost. There are no extant journals for the Second General Assembly of 1776-1778 or for the Senate from 1778-1780, and the membership rolls of the House of Representatives for 1778-1780 have only been reconstructed from unofficial lists.¹² Thus it is possible that Moses Ferguson served as a

representative of the New Acquisition in one of these bodies, and that the records of his service no longer exist. William Hill served as senator from the New Acquisition District from 1778-1780, but the name of the senator for the 1776-1778 term is unknown.¹³ Perhaps it was Moses Ferguson.

In the years following the Revolution, William Hill served as one of the justices of the peace for the newly-created York County. Between 1786 and 1788, Hill filed several lawsuits against both Abraham Floyd and Moses Ferguson, seeking the recovery of various sums of money from both individuals.¹⁴ One cannot escape the conclusion that Hill was attempting to obtain some compensation from two of the individuals who assisted Captain Huck in the destruction of his ironworks.

Michael C. Scoggins

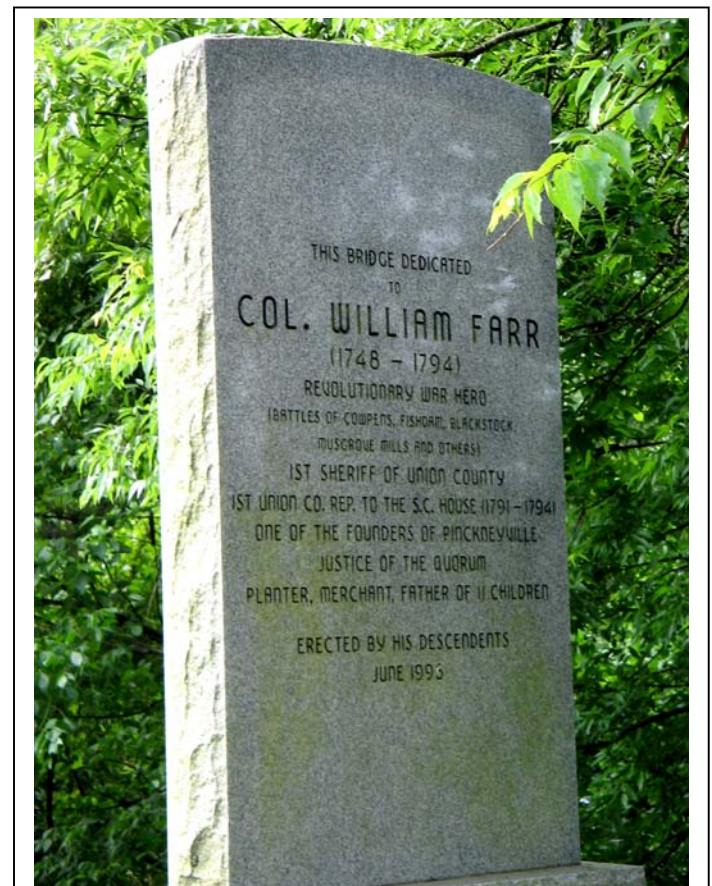
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Marker at Fish Dam Ford over the Broad River - SC Highway 72/121/215 bridge.

⁹ William Edwin Hemphill and Wylma Anne Wates, eds., *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina, 1775-1776* (Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1960), 3, 7-8, 33.

¹⁰ Hemphill and Wates, 77, 87.

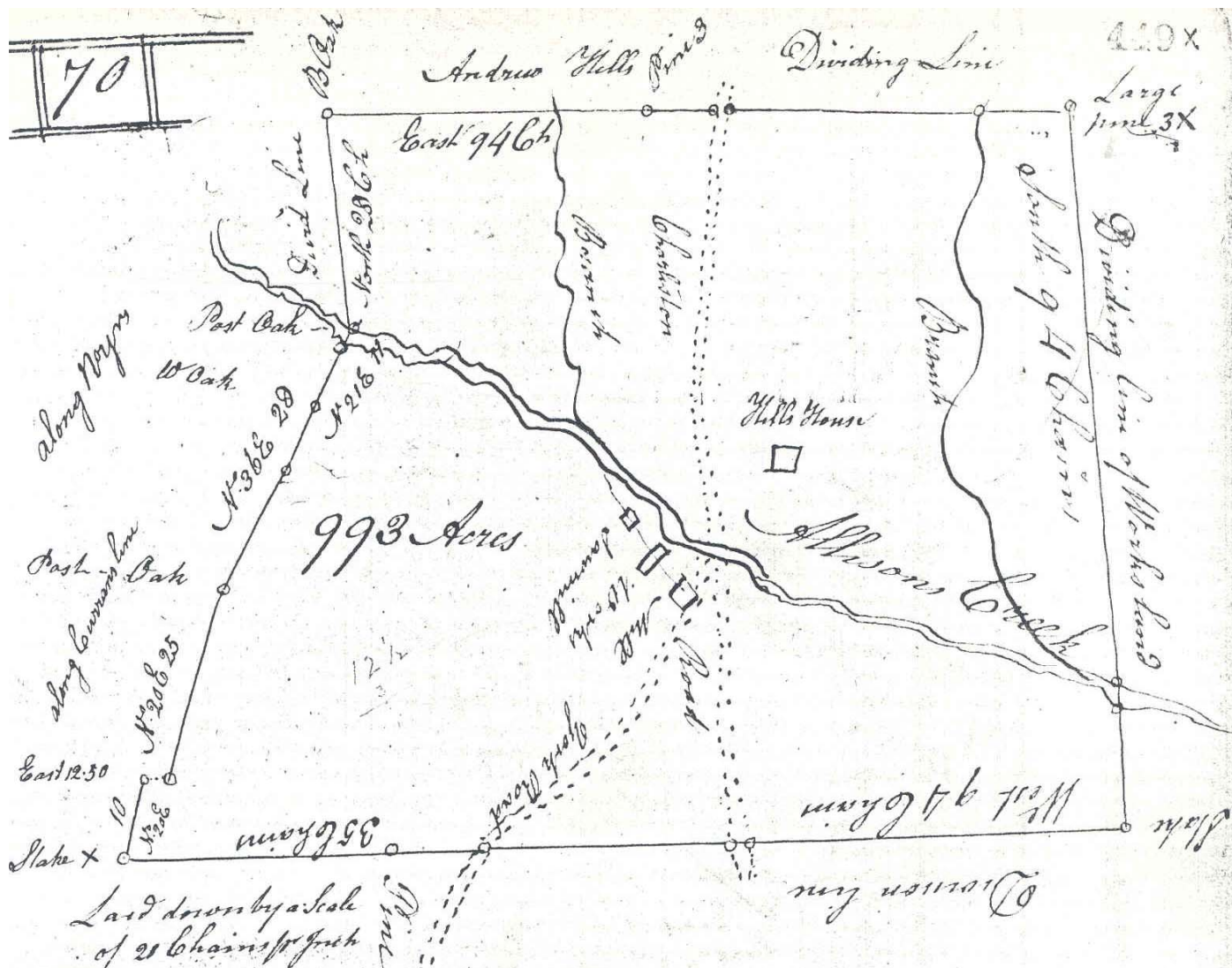
¹¹ Hill, *Memoirs*, 6.

¹² William Edwin Hemphill, Wylma Anne Wates, and R. Nicholas Olsberg, eds., *Journals of the General Assembly and House of*

Representatives, 1776-1780 (Columbia: USC Press, 1970), 311, 317, 325.

¹³ Hemphill, Wates and Olsberg, 326.

¹⁴ Laurence K. Wells, York County, South Carolina Minutes of the County Court, 1786-1797 (Columbia: South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, 1981), 6, 10, 22, 34, 40.



This 1813 York District plat shows Hill's Ironworks after it had been rebuilt following the Revolutionary War. Colonel Hill's home is on the north side of Allison Creek, with the ironwork's gristmill, furnace, and sawmill on the south side of the creek. The Whigs expected the British to attack up the Armstrong Ford Road from the south, but Captain Huck circled around from the east and attacked the ironworks from the north, catching the Whigs by surprise. North is at top of map. The old iron works site is now under Lake Wylie. Plat courtesy of the York County, SC Culture & Heritage Museums.

Aera Ironworks

In August 1777 John Rutledge, then president and later governor of South Carolina, persuaded Hill to accept a ten-year state loan of 1,000 currency to erect a furnace for the production of cannonballs, grape shot, camp kettles, and other utensils for the revolutionary army. When "Aera" furnace was completed sixteen months later, Hill and Isaac Hayne, of hanging infamy, (who became a co-partner in March 1778) became the sole manufacturers of heavy weapons and munitions south of Virginia. By June 1780 Hill's Iron Works had provided over 106 tons of ironware for the revolutionary forces, as well as farm implements, anvils, hammers, pots, kettles, skillets, and Dutch ovens for settlers in the surrounding region.

Hill's furnaces created iron using the Catalan plan, a process that reduced the ore by directly fusing it with charcoal. Instead of using the customary bellows, Hill became one of the first iron manufacturers in the United States to utilize the trompe, a European device that used falling water to force a more even flow of air to the furnace. Hill employed over one hundred laborers--the vast majority slaves trained in all aspects of iron

manufacturing--to operate the ironworks. A lack of men skilled in iron manufacturing in the region forced Hill to hire workers from Virginia to serve as founders, fillers, and colliers; a farm on site provided food and supplies.

Financial difficulties continually plagued Hill's Iron Works. His troubles began during the war when paper money received from the revolutionary government depreciated rapidly. Furthermore, he was not properly compensated for supplies furnished to the state. Unable to repay the loans he received after the war to rebuild and expand his facility, Hill was forced in 1796 to sell his entire operation to William Edward Hayne, a lowcountry planter and son of Isaac Hayne. Nevertheless, Hill continued to manage the works. Recognizing his losses and contributions during the Revolution, the legislature in 1812 forgave the balance of Hill's debt. Despite his financial troubles, Hill remained a wealthy and influential leader in his community. Shortly before his death he owned a plantation, a 500-acre tract, household items, twenty-one slaves, and livestock--all valued at \$5,910.

Hill's petitions to the South Carolina General Assembly in 1791, 1793, and 1812, located in the South Carolina

Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), provide detailed information regarding the history of his enterprise. In the same archives, York County Deeds, book B, 152-55, 167-71, 177-93, and book E, 132-34, 138-41, 143-44, contain additional information regarding Hill's financial difficulties. For a detailed inventory of Hill's ironworks, its operations, and items manufactured, see (Charleston) South Carolina and American General Gazette, 3 Dec. 1779; (Charleston) City Gazette and Daily Advertiser, 12 May 1795; (Columbia) South Carolina State Gazette and Columbian Advertiser, 20 Dec. 1806; and Articles of Co-Partnership between Isaac Hayne and William Hill, 3 Mar. 1778, subject file (Iron Industry), SCDAH. Thomas Cowan, "William Hill and the Aera Ironworks," *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* 13 (Nov. 1987): 1-32, provides the most thorough description and analysis of Hill's ironworks, while Ernest M. Lander, Jr., "The Iron Industry in Ante-Bellum South Carolina," *Journal of Southern Industry* 20 (Aug. 1954): 337-55, places his business in a larger perspective. Alexander Salley, ed., *Colonel William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution* (1921), and Daniel P. Hill, *Colonel William Hill and the Campaign of 1780 n.d.*, describe Hill's military service.

Keith Krawczynski, from the American National Biography, published by Oxford University Press, Inc., copyright 2000 American Council of Learned Societies. ★

Col. William Hill also filed this Memorial with the South Carolina General Assembly: Senate

The Petition of Col. Wm. Hill praying that his bond may be delivered up to him

Col. Richardson; Col. Hopkins; Col. ____ ; Capt. Mitchell
Col. Johnson South
Carolina]

To the Honble the President & Members of the Senate in General Assembly met

The Memorial of William Hill Senior respectfully sheweth

That the Provincial Congress met in the City of Charleston in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy five to encourage home manufactures proposed and offered a premium to any person or persons that should first build & erect a Bloomery & manufacture Bar Iron within the limits of this State which Premium your Memorialist though much labor attention & extraordinary exertion obtained.

Your Memorialist further sheweth that his Excellency John Rutledge then Governor of this State & other leading & influential persons in the revolutionary War with the King of Great Britain were acquainted with the industrious exertions of your Memorialist & were knowing the superior strength of the Enemy by sea and the impossibility of obtaining a proportionate supply of cannon & cannon balls for the support & defence of Charleston the Capital of this State applied to & encouraged your Memorialist to erect & work a furnace for the purpose of providing the Army with those necessary means of defence to which application your Memorialist offered the following objections.

First that he had not the means of establishing such a work in his own hands.

And Secondly that it would render him an object of resentment to the enemy & their adherents in the country if their objections were removed by those friends of the revolution. First

by the promise of a loan to your Memorialist of One Thousand pounds sterling to be free & clear of & from all demands or claim of interest for & during the term of ten years then next following the date of the obligation to be secured by a mortgage of property for the payment thereof & secondly by their assurances that the Government would not suffer your Memorialist to sustain loss by his patriotic exertions in the cause of his country.

Your Memorialist further sheweth that confiding in the promises & assurances he owes the aforesaid sum of One Thousand Pounds and for the better securing the payment thereof Mortgages to the Commissioners of the Treasury of this State the tract of land whereon the furnace was built & three valuable Negro Slaves two of which Negro Slaves were taken during the War by the Enemy out of the possession of your Memorialist & which he has not been able to recover.

And also that the money when he recd it was in value though not nominally depreciated. And being under the receipt of sending to the Northward for workmen to accomplish the work & before it was finished the money was so depreciated that it would not be received in payment for any demand by any of the workmen & was only enabled to accomplish the undertaking by being joined in Copartnership by the late Col Isaac Hayne the money borrowed from the State actually lying in the hands & possession of your Memorialist.

And your Memorialist further sheweth that after having completed the works he was from the purpose of the public demand called upon to & actually did furnish for the public service One hundred & six tons of Cannon Ball, grape shot Camp Kettles &c which he delivered to the public for twenty six thousand five hundred pounds old currency (Provincial) which was equal to three thousand seven hundred & eighty five fourteen shillings Sterling. When he might have sold without an increase of wages to his workmen the same weight of metal in hollow ware for six thousand one hundred & eighty three pounds six shillings & eight pence Sterling. And was also thereby prevented from making any other profit or advantage from the furnace but what was necessary to the support thereof. And the aforesaid materials so as aforesaid furnished to & for the public use is now one of the Stores funded in favor of this State against the General Government.

And your Memorialist further sheweth that in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred & eighty a detachment of the British troops & a large body of Tories from Rocky Mount came to the plantations of your Memorialist & apparently from a spirit of resentment & deep rooted enmity burnt down the furnace forge dwelling Houses Store House Mills Barns Stables & Negro Houses Wagons & every other Article that they found of or belonging to your Memorialist they destroyed & also took away upwards of ninety Negroes that belonged to & was employed at the furnace & forge many of which Negroes Your Memorialist to this time has not been able to find out or recover and they the said British & Tories also drove off all the Stock of horses & killed and destroyed all the stock of Cattle which they found that belonged to your Memorialist.

And your Memorialist also further sheweth that upon the conclusion of peace the aforesaid sum of One Thousand pounds being while in his possession he applied to the aforesaid John Rutledge & also to the other persons who had counseled him to draw that said manner & form aforesaid for the purposes aforesaid to know of them what would in his circumstances be most advisable for him to do with it; & if they observed to him that the money might as well lie in his hands as in the Treasury as the loss would be the same to the public. And they at the same time counseled and advised him to apply to the Office of the Auditor General for an Indent to the amount of the Military Stores wherewith he had furnished the public which he -did & obtained an Indent to the full amount of his Demand.

And also that being by the unfortunate death of his Copartner Isaac Hayne left alone in the arduous & expensive business & the Executor of the Estate of Col Hayne from the circumstances thereof being unable to render him any assistance in rebuilding the furnace & forge Your Memorialist was under the necessity of selling his Indent to & did sell it at the rate of ten percent for purpose to rebuild the said Iron Works and also that having by his Contract with his workmen bound himself to pay them the price or value of the one fifth part of all the work they should finish in the furnace which was at the rate of twenty percent he was consequently upon the sale of the Indent indebted to them as much more as the amount he recd for it at the rate of ten percent & this loss he sustained in consequence of his compliance with the request of those persons who then conducted the affairs of the State.

And your Memorialist also further sheweth that he thinks his exertions in the defence of his Country & his industry to furnish a supply of Military Stores rendered him as conspicuous mark to the resentment of the British & Tories. And he also thinks that the great loss he sustained as well by the low prices at which the articles he furnished the public sold as the loss which he sustained from the depredations of the Aforesaid detachments of British & Tories on his premises and also from the entire loss of the money borrowed from the State and his unremitting endeavors to assist his Country during all the time of the War entitle him to an impartial & favorable hearing of this memorial praying to be released from the Burden of the aforesaid Loan of One Thousand pounds as well as the interest that may have _____ thereon.

Your Memorialist therefore take liberty to remind your Honble House that during the session of the Legislature in and about the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred & ninety five he presented a memorial to both branches of the General Assembly praying to be released from the payment of the aforesaid One Thousand pounds Sterling & the interest thereon. And having Stated the reason as above whereon he found the justice & equity of his remonstrance. And the prayer of his Memorial was then granted by the Senate, but from the hurry of business in the House of Representatives the Memorial of your Memorialist was not reported on by the _____.

Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honorable House to take this case into consideration & grant him such relief as in your wisdom from the various & peculiar circumstances thereof to you shall seem most _____ if _____ all the Circumstances set forth you should not deem it expedient to release your Memorialist from the payment of the aforesaid One Thousand pounds & the interest He requests you to cause to institute an Action in the Court of Common Pleas against him that he may have an opportunity of defending himself in the said Court or of applying upon failure therein to the Court of Equity for relief as

he has not from a dependence upon petitioning the Legislature availed himself of an opportunity which he has heretofore had in the Court of Common Pleas.

And your Memorialist is in duty bound will pray

S/Wm Hill

December 6th 1812

N./B. Your Memorialist was sworn to the Memorial presented to your House in the year 1808 or by reference thereto will appear.

Memorial furnished by **Edward D. "Ned" Sloan, Jr.** and transcribed by **William T. Graves, Esq.** ★

Fascinating Collection of Revolutionary War Narratives Restored to Print after 115 Years

Charleston, SC: The History Press is proud to present *Reflections of Rebellion: Hours with the Living Men and Women of the Revolution*, by nineteenth-century historian Benson J. Lossing, as a new addition to the "New World Classics" series. Out of print since 1889, *Reflections of Rebellion* is highly sought-after by historians, as it contains primary accounts of Revolutionary War participants from eight states. This fascinating collection of interviews—conducted by Lossing during an epic pilgrimage across the United States—comes with a new, insightful introduction by noted Revolutionary War scholar and SCAR contributor, Michael C. Scoggins, and is a triumph of preservation and a treasure for history-conscious Americans, present and future.

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During the 19th century, when some of the most important American histories were written, perhaps the most popular historian was Benson J. Lossing. A tireless interviewer and researcher, his career as a popularizer of United States history ran for over sixty years. ★



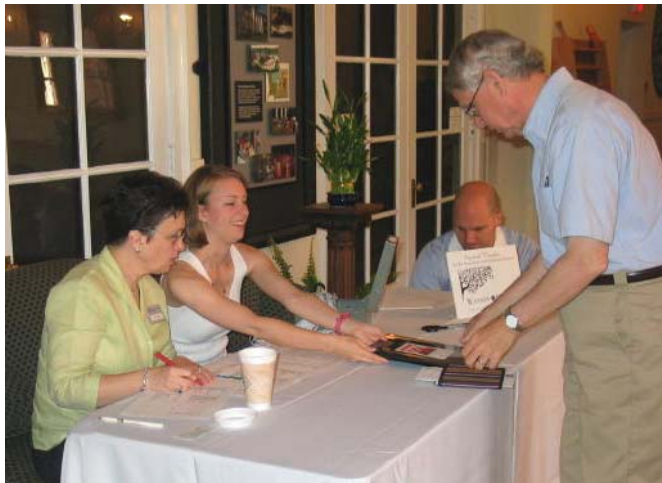
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**Photo Report as York County, SC Hosts 225th
Anniversary Symposium and Reenactment
Activities - July 8-9-10, 2005**

**by
Malcolm Marion, III, MD**



A friendly welcome for symposium registration at the McCelvey Center in York, SC.



Historian Sam Thomas welcomes attendees to the 225th Symposium “Huck’s Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry May-June 1780” at the McCelvey Center.



Dr. Rory Cornish, Professor of History at Winthrop University, discusses the War for American Independence from the British prospective. His topic was “The British Strategy in the South in 1779 and 1780”.



The Cultural & Heritage Museum’s own Mike Scoggins, author of new book on Huck’s Defeat, holds fourth on the participants and battle at Williamson’s Plantation. Mike describes the Whig and Tory leaders at Hick’s Defeat and the military actions on July 12, 1780.



Prof. Carole Troxler of Elon, NC speaks on the mobilization of the backcountry loyalist militias in the British Carolinas Campaigns from the rise of Col. Moore's Loyalist at Ramsour's Mill, and the embodiment of Loyalist North Carolina militia regiments under Cols. John Hamilton, David Fanning, and Samuel Bryan.



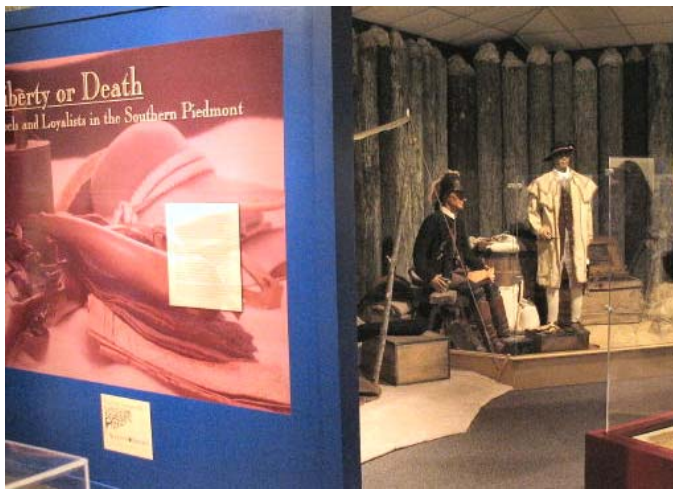
Todd Braisted, expert on provincial troops in the American Revolution, focuses on the New York Volunteers, provincial troops from New York who fought across Georgia and the Carolinas in the 1778 to 1781 Southern Campaigns including those defeated at Williamson's Plantation.



SCAR editor, Charles B. Baxley describes the military actions of the partisans in the Carolina backcountry in the summer of 1780. Baxley describes the military situation in the Carolina backcountry from total disorder after the fall of Charleston in May 1780, the South Carolina patriot militia leaders reorganized and resisted Loyalist organization and domination in June and July to the SC and NC militias fielding an army to support Gen. Gates by August 1780.



Historian Wes Hope of Spartanburg speaks on the series of battles in the summer of 1780 at Cedar Spring, Gowen's Old Fort, Earle's Ford and Shiloh Church to Prince's Fort in the old Spartan District that set up the Patriot victory at Musgroves Mill and brought the Over-Mountain men to defeat Maj. Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain.



Diorama at the Museum of York County, part of their new “Liberty or Death: Rebels and Loyalists in the Southern Piedmont” exhibit.



Artifacts recovered from the Battle of Camden site are a part of those on display at the Museum of York County.



Display of cavalry sword and cannon balls at the Museum of York County.



Chuck LeCount, director of Historic Brattonsville, gives a presentation on uniforms and combatants at Huck's Defeat.



Display of backcountry uniforms, seen in the Carolinas in 1780, on display at the Museum of York County.



Red coated reenactors give a spirited defense against the attack by Patriots at Huck's Defeat.



Properly accoutremented and well-mounted British Legion dragoon blasts at the Patriots with his .50 caliber flintlock pistol.



Loyalist troops parade at Brattonsville, enjoying a South Carolina summer welcome to wool red coats.



The British Legion dragoons observe the action at Williamson's Plantation.



Loyalist dressed in the British infantry uniform.

The Day it Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May–July 1780.

Noted Revolutionary War historian and contributor to SCAR, Michael C. Scoggins, has completed *The Day it Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May–July 1780*. After six years of exhaustive research, Scoggins has amassed a wealth of information—including a cache of previously unpublished firsthand accounts—that sheds light on the important and often overlooked role that South Carolina played in America's war for independence.

Scoggins tells a story that begins with the capture of an entire American army at Charleston in May and ends with a resounding series of Patriot victories in the Carolina Piedmont during the late summer of 1780—victories that set Lord Cornwallis and the British Army irrevocably on the road to defeat and to surrender at Yorktown. Published for South Carolina's celebration commemorating the 225th anniversary of important Revolutionary battles, *The Day it Rained Militia* presents the events as they unfolded and reveals a compelling, largely untold story that will appeal to historians and general readers alike.

The Day It Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May–July 1780 is available at the Historic Brattonsville Gift Shop and at the Store at the Museum of York County. Also, you can purchase *The Day It Rained Militia* from Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Borders, Waldenbooks, and most of the major retail chains, as well as from their websites and from www.amazon.com, and also directly from the publisher, The History Press (www.historypress.net).

Michael C. Scoggins is research historian at the Culture & Heritage Museums of York County, South Carolina. He is co-author of the acclaimed *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*, and contributed to the forthcoming *South Carolina Encyclopaedia*. Scoggins also writes regularly for several historical and genealogical journals, including SCAR and wrote the introduction for the History Press re-edition of the 1889 classic *Reflections of Rebellion: Hours with the Living Men and Women of the Revolution* (June 2005). ★

The Day it Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May–July 1780

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The Battle of Mobley's Meeting House Fairfield District, South Carolina, June 1780

This article is drawn from the book *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* by Kenneth A. Shelton, copyright 2005.

"...the enemy overrun the country that regular drafting was abandoned when all that dare oppose them may be said to be in constant service until the British left the state in 1780."

Stephen McElhenney application for a Revolutionary War Pension

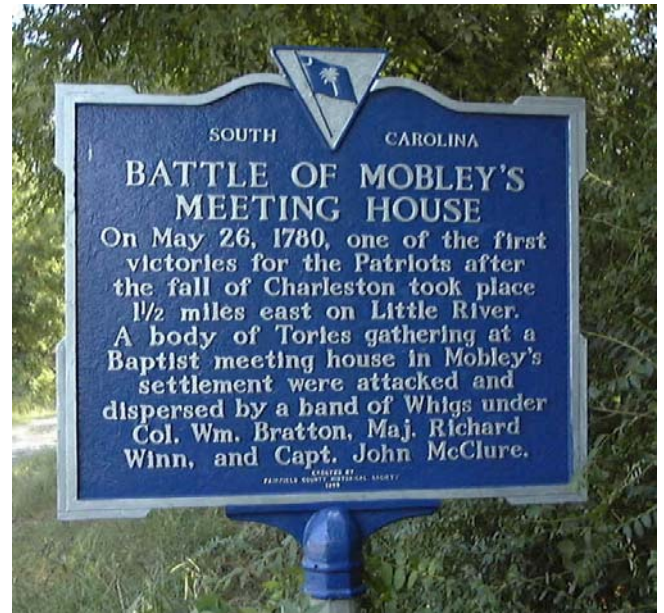
With the fall of Charleston, on the 22nd of May 1780, the British Army under Cornwallis fanned out to lay waste to the southern colonies and confiscation of all property was proclaimed against all persons in rebellion. By the 28th of May, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton's Light Dragoons had reached Camden and were in pursuit of Buford's troops fleeing up the road to Salisbury, North Carolina. At that point, Buford was forced to turn and fight in the area of the Catawba Settlement in upper South Carolina near the North Carolina border in an open field called the Waxhaws¹⁵. The Waxhaws was a disaster for the Whig cause, and Buford's forces were routed by Tarleton. After this, the entire state of South Carolina was left without a Whig force of any consequence to put up a resistance, and it was left to individual militia units to offer whatever response was possible to the British advances. With such rousing successes, the Tory men in the upcountry began to organize and prepare for Cornwallis' advance.¹⁶

One such organization was to occur at a place in Fairfield County called Mobley's Meeting House. McCrady, in his history, notes that a rendezvous of Tory militia was to occur on or about the 26th of May 1780 at the meeting house.¹⁷ This location had been used previously as a standard militia rendezvous point and would continue to as will be demonstrated later. The use of churches and schools as militia meeting places was a standard practice in the Revolutionary War south. In his remembrances of the war, James Potter Collins noted:¹⁸

We would meet at a time and place appointed, probably at a church, schoolhouse or some vacant building, generally in the afternoon, lay off our circuit and divide into two or more companies, and set off after dark.

Upon learning of the planned meeting at Mobley's Meeting House, Captain Richard Winn, Colonel William Bratton and Captain John McClure raised a small unit of local militia from the

general Fairfield County and Chester County area to respond and hopefully put an end to it. They were successful, and accounts suggest that few casualties resulted along with the capture of a number of the Tories as well.



South Carolina roadside historic marker on the east side of the Ashford Ferry Road (S-20-18) in Fairfield County.

The location of the meeting house is about 6 miles west of present-day Winnsboro on the waters of the Little River. A marker has been placed nearby, on Ashford Ferry Road at a point approximately 1.5 miles west of the site.¹⁹ At one time, there was a road or pathway that went past the meeting house, but it is inaccessible today. At the 16 August 1786 session of the County Court for Fairfield District (County), the inhabitants on Little River petitioned for a road from Mobley's Meeting House to Winnsboro leading by James Rogers' house. This order was granted, and a commission of Burr Harrison, Esquire, Thomas Shannon and Thomas Addison was empowered to view the road. Surveyors (maintainers) for the road were also ordered at this session as a Mr. Butler for the leg from the meeting house to Mr. Harrison's on Little River, and for Benjamin Harrison for the leg from Harrison's to the Winnsboro Road. It would appear that in the two centuries hence, this road has been discontinued at least in the part near the meeting house site.²⁰

While minor in scope, this engagement and others like it represented important symbolic victories for the Whigs. Ripley notes in his book that Mobley's Meeting House and the Battle of Beckhamville were the first two Whig successes set against a string of defeats at Monck's Corner, the Waxhaws, Lenud's Ferry, and the demoralizing fall of Charleston. Other setbacks at Brandon's Defeat and Hill's Iron Works after the Beckhamville and Mobley's Meeting House successes continued to press the Whigs, but rallies at Huck's Defeat (Williamson's Plantation) and Ramsour's Mill continued to provide strategically small, but much needed morale and spiritual victories. These kept the Patriots going through these dark days, especially after the whippings delivered upon them by the British at Camden and Fishing Creek only two months later on 16 and 18 August 1780.

¹⁵ Tarleton, Lt Col Banastre, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, 1787 provides copies of the proclamations and the early movements of Lord Cornwallis' troops in and around Charleston. See also Draper, Lyman C., *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain*, 1881.

¹⁶ Tarleton, Lt Col Banastre, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, 1787. See also Draper, Lyman C., *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain*, 1881

¹⁷ McCrady, Edward, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution*, in two volumes, 1776-1780 (1) and 1780-1783 (2), 1902

¹⁸ Collins, James Potter, *Autobiography of a Revolutionary War Soldier*, 1859

¹⁹ see Phil Norfleet's website at www.angelfire.com/fold/scsites for a photograph of this marker

²⁰ Holcomb, Brent, *Fairfield County South Carolina Minutes of the County Court 1785-1799*, 1981

²¹ It wasn't until 7 October 1780 that deliverance came, with the decisive Whig victory at King's Mountain that was, in retrospect, the turning point of Cornwallis' Southern Campaign.²²

Origins of the Meeting House and Moberley Settlement

Strictly speaking, the proper name for the site would be Moberley's Meeting House. The head of the family, Edward Moberley Sr., moved to the old Craven County from southern Virginia in the 1750's with his sons John, William, Edward Jr., Samuel, Benjamin Sr., and Clement Sr., as well as his married daughters and their families of Halsey, Meador, and Hill, and several other families that over the years became interrelated. Edward came from Prince Georges County, Maryland,²³ and in 1742-1746, he migrated to that area of Brunswick County, Virginia that was later sectioned into Lunenburg County, Virginia. Lunenburg was formed from Brunswick in 1746, and Edward's grandson Clement Mobley states he was born in Bedford (sic) County in 1746.^{24,25} He and his sons remained in this area and in that part that was sectioned into Bedford County, Virginia until their move to South Carolina. Although living in South Carolina, the Moberleys continued to own and obtain land in Virginia.²⁶ For some years in Camden District, the surname continued to be spelled Moberley. Over time, however, it was shortened in stages until it settled to Mobley. Occasionally, though, descendants would revive the proper Moberley spelling.^{27,28}

The Moberleys arrived a few years before the outbreak of the Cherokee War. Edward's grandson Isaiah Mobley stated he was born in South Carolina in 1754.²⁹ McMaster's history refers to

Edward Sr. settling on Beaver Creek of Broad River in the vicinity of Hans Waggoner's Fort.³⁰ Their lands were located along Beaver Creek from around the branch of McClure's Creek over to the branches of Little River, upon one of which they built Mobley's Meeting House.³¹ They were reputed to have served in the Cherokee War of 1760, although no documentation has been found to support this.³² It is likely true, however, because the muster roll of Captain James Leslie's Company of Colonel Richard Richardson's Regiment of militia for the period of 8 October 1759 to 8 January 1760 shows several Fairfield County men, viz: Sergeant Thomas Addison and Privates Ephraim Lyles, John Lyles, Robert Alcorn, William Hill, Ambrose Hill, William Mills, Joseph Gibson John Ferguson, Joshua Gwinn Henry Funderburgh, Edward Mobbley (sic) and Clement Mobbley (sic).³³ What is considered the 1760 Cherokee War didn't start until 19 January 1760 with the attack on Fort Prince George. However, as they were mustered out only two weeks prior, it is likely that these militiamen would have been among the first to be considered for activation during the 1760-1761 campaigns.

According to Dixon and McMasters, Waggoner Fort in the immediate area of Beaver Creek which was used for the greater defense of the surrounding population. The site of Fort Waggoner has been traditionally located in Fairfield County and a marker exists commemorating it. The marker was erected by the now-defunct Richard Winn Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The notations state that Fort Wagner (Waggoner) was at the junction of Beaver Creek and Reedy Branch, built in 1760 by Hans Waggoner (Jans/John Wagner). The article then uses the information from Mills Statistics to fill out the story.³⁴

Mobley's Meeting House vs. Gibson's Meeting House Debate

There has been some debate about the location of this battle over the years. Although a significant number of contemporary and historical citations exist referring to Mobley's Meeting House as a battle site, there is only one historical reference to it as Gibson's Meeting House. The fact that participants of the battle referred to the location as "Mobley's Meeting House"³⁵, coupled with the 1786 Fairfield District Court Order³⁶ record that provides the specific geographic reference of Mobley's Meeting House as being on a road between Captain Thomas Addison and Mr. Burr Harrison on Little River, leaves little doubt that the Battle of

²¹ Ripley, Warren, "Battleground: South Carolina in the Revolution", 1983

²² see Draper, Lyman C., *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain*, 1881, for an assessment of the impact of these battles. See also "The Battle of Camden Project" at www.battleofcamden.org for an integrated battle timeline.

²³ Sharf, J. Thomas, *History of Western Maryland: Being A History of Frederick, Montgomery, ..., 1968*. The chapter for Frederick CO, MD contains a transcription of the 1742 petition from then Prince Georges Co, Maryland relating to the formation of All Saints Parish. It is signed by Edward, Clement and William Moberley. The original has not been located by the author, although Maryland House and Senate minutes clearly show it being entered, voted on and approved.

²⁴ Mobley, Clement, Revolutionary War Pension Application file

²⁵ Bell, Landon C., *Sunlight on the South Side: Tithes Records of Lunenburg County, VA*, 1931. see

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/va/lunenburg/census/un001.txt> for an online version.

²⁶ Hudgins, Dennis Ray, *Cavaliers and Pioneers – Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents & Grants*, v. 5 & 6, grant to Edward Mobberly, 400 acres in Lunenburg County, 20 August 1760; Clement Mobberly 345 acres in Lunenburg 16 August 1756 and named as bounding landowner in grant to George Walton for 1600 acres in Bedford Count on 16 February 1771.

²⁷ Bedford County, Virginia Deed Book 2, pages 89 and 94, notes Edward Moberley "of Craven County (District), South Carolina" on 4 September 1762 and 10 September 1756 respectively, and Deed Book 1, pg 252, notes Clement Moberley "of Craven County (District) South Carolina" on a deed registered on 25 February 1760, execution date not stated.

²⁸ South Carolina (Camden District) Deed Books 1766-1786 and Fairfield District Deed Books 1786-1820 inclusive (ex. South Carolina Deed Book V5, p. 50-57)

²⁹ Mobley, Isaiah, Revolutionary War Pension Application file

³⁰ McMaster, Fitz Hugh, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina*, 1946 (reprinted)

³¹ ex. See South Carolina Colonial Land Memorials, 8 February 1769, Edward Moberly, 200 acres on Little Creek, being originally granted to William Moberly on 20 February 1760, sold by lease to Edward on 9&10 May 1762. SC Memorials, 8 February 1769, Benjamin Moberly, 150 acres on Little Creek, granted 4 March 1760 to William Moberly, sold by lease to Benjamin on 9 & 10 May 1762 (signed by Edward for Benjamin). SC Memorials, 8 Feb 1769, John Moberly, 150 acres on both sides of Beaver Creek, originally granted to Job Meadows (Meador) on 17 May 1760, sold by lease to John on 22 July 1765 (also signed by Edward).

³² Dixon, William Woodward, 'The Mobleys and Their Connections', 1915

³³ Clark, Murtie June, 'Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774', 1983

³⁴ Fairfield (County, South Carolina) News and Herald, 14 December 1939 (Winnsboro)

³⁵ see Chapters 8 & 10 of the book *All That Dare Oppose Them*, Shelton, 2005

³⁶ Minutes of the Fairfield County, SC County Court, 16 August 1786 session

Mobley's Meeting House occurred at Mobley Settlement as is generally attributed and not at Gibson's Meeting House.

General Richard Winn is the original source of this errant attribution of the engagement as being at Gibson's Meeting House³⁷ The source of this confusion of Gibson's Meeting House with Mobley's Meeting House likely stems from the confusion of the two Meeting Houses as one. This likely arose from the fact that in later years, Mobley's Meeting House became merged with Gibson's Meeting House. Gibson's Meeting House was the resultant organization of a congregation started by Philip Mulkey who, in 1768, united with others in the area to build what was known as Gibson's Meeting House on land donated by the Reverend Jacob Gibson. This church was "located about two and a quarter miles below Kincaid's Bridge on the west side of Little River just above the mouth of Neckley's Creek." On 26 February 1770, twelve members were constituted, with Jacob Gibson being ordained in 1771. Gibson was associated with this church until his death in the 1790's.³⁸ After Gibson died, the church was renamed as Little River Baptist Church. The minutes of the church begin with the 10 May 1794 entry "The Church of Christ on Little River South Carolina Fairfield County formerly under the care of Jacob Gipson (sic) it has been many years constituted." Of interest is the 16 September 1797 entry that states "2^{ly} two Deligates from Mobleys settlement apply to this church for to know whether they might be considered as a constituted body. Brother's David Andrews & Henry Crumpton was appointed to go & see." Another entry states, "September the 22th 1798 the upper Branch of this Church called Mobleys Settlement was considered as a constituted body by the revd. Wm Woodward."³⁹

Clearly, the membership of what was Gibson's Meeting House did not consider itself to be in or part of the Mobley Settlement, although they did consider themselves in association and communion with them. The fact that they literally took a Mobley Settlement church into their fellowship and constituted them as the 'upper branch' of their own church in 1798 shows that the two became merged somewhat later years. It is not proven that this Mobley Settlement church that merged with Gibson's / Little River was the actual Mobley's Meeting House, which certainly was established for many years prior to 1798. However, it seems that Mobley's Meeting House dropped from official records starting in the 1790's, most likely because the majority of the Mobley family sold out and moved to Kentucky between 1788 and 1792. By the mid-1790's, the land on which Mobley's Meeting House was located was no longer owned by the Mobley family – in fact, the Mobley Settlement was almost devoid of anyone with the surname Mobley. As no meeting house minutes or the like exist, it is possible that the membership disbanded in later years and the church was reused by another congregation – possibly even the Mobley Settlement church associated with Gibson's / Little River.

We now return to General Richard Winn. The Tennessee historian Samuel Cole Williams discovered a narrative by General Winn in the Library of Congress and published it in 1942. The manuscript is his recollection of the events of 1780.

³⁷ Williams, Samuel C., 'General Richard Winn's Notes – 1780', South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, vol. 43, 1942. The manuscript is contained in the Library of Congress, Peter Force Collection, subpart called Joseph P. Bevan Collection, Force Series 7-E, microfilm shelf 19,061, entry #11.

³⁸ King, Joe M., *A History of South Carolina Baptist*, 1964

³⁹ Minutes of the Little River Baptist Church, Fairfield County SC at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~scfairfi/lrbc.htm>

The notes were not written contemporaneous with the events being discussed, but are from memory some 30 years later. He noted that he went to "Gipson's (Gibson's) Meeting House in Moberley's Settlement" for an engagement "about the middle of June". Winn states "Gipson's (Gibson's) Meeting House is twelve miles above Shiroe's Ferry on the same side of the river (earlier described as "east side of Broad River opposite to the Dutch Fork") the British was posted as first mentioned." Samuel Williams notes that "this action is usually referred to as occurring at Moberley's Meeting House, but Gen. Winn knew the locality well and is more specific".⁴⁰ The generalization on the part of Williams about Gibson's vs. Mobley's has been repeated ever since as fact. However, as shown in the minutes of Little River Baptist Church, the historical, original Gibson's Meeting House was not located in what was known as Mobley's / Moberley's Settlement, but was in fact south of Mobley's Settlement and distinctly separate from that locality. This is shown on Mill's Atlas in 1825.⁴¹ It is also clear that in 1798, what may have been the actual Mobley's Meeting House, or at least a meeting house in the immediate vicinity thereof, associated itself with what was Gibson's Meeting House, then Little River Baptist Church. So, from a technical standpoint, the Baptist Mobley's Meeting House of 1798 could be correctly referred to as Gibson's Meeting House, albeit the northern branch thereof. It doesn't change the fact, however, than prior to 1798, no branch or associate of Gibson's Meeting House existed in Mobley's Settlement. Finally, the physical distances and locations cited by Winn describe a location that fits exactly with Mobley's Meeting House. In fact, if the word "Gipson's" was removed from the narrative, a researcher would be forced to conclude Winn was talking about Mobley's and not Gibson's based on the landmarks and distances given. At the back of his notes, Winn apparently either had made or made himself a series of maps showing where his various battles were located. That for "Gipson's Meeting House" is strangely drawn upside-down, i.e. Winnsboro to the east is drawn on the left side of the page, "Lialt Ford", being Lyles Ford, on Broad River and "Fuldarn Ford", being Fishdam Ford in Chester District on Broad River, are on the right side although they are west of Winnsboro. Thus, if we invert the map to correct the orientation, the road from Winnsboro to Lyles Ford is shown as a more-or-less straight line, although Mill's Atlas shows that in 1825 it arched slightly to the northwest and, interestingly, crossed the Little River at a place called "Col. Winn's Bridge" at about the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Little River. It then shows "Gipson's Meeting House", most importantly, **north** of this road on the route to "Fuldarn Ford", or Fishdam Ford. From Mills Atlas, this single roadway appears to have been broken into sections to form an extended X-Y interchange – one branch, as noted before, is the leg across the South Fork of Little River on which Mobley's Meeting House is located and going up to Lee's Old Place, another leg going southwest down to Lyles Ford merging with the Winnsboro Road, a third going northwest to Fishdam Ford, and a fourth going more-or-less due north into Chester District. Gibson's Meeting House, as shown on Mills Atlas, is on a fifth leg of the intersection going due **south** down to Neckley' Creek off Little River – this being the southern half of the route termed the 'Road to Columbia'. Thus, even the map provided by Winn indicates he is referring to Mobley's and not Gibson's Meeting

⁴⁰ Williams, Samuel C., "General Richard Winn's Notes – 1780", South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, vol. 43 (1942)

⁴¹ Mills, Robert, *Mills Atlas of the State of South Carolina*, 1825

House. It is very generally drawn so no real details or scale are implied on the map.⁴²

A second map, also purported to have been made at Richard Winn's request and provided by Daniel Stinson to Lyman Draper, shows "Mobley Mill" being near the Hanging Rock battle site on the Catawba River, which is on the completely opposite side of the county. While explained as being the site of Mobley's Meeting House, it is perhaps possible that a Mobley Mill did exist in extreme eastern Fairfield District on the Lancaster border, but this is not Mobley's Meeting House.⁴³

Gibson's Meeting House (bottom center) is shown on this excerpt of the 1820 Mills' Atlas of the Fairfield District as East of the Little River, about 15 miles south of Mobley's Meeting House (top left). It is noteworthy that Gibson's Meeting House (now Little River Baptist Church), the Salem Meeting House (now Salem Presbyterian Church), and the Ebenezer Meeting Houses (now Ebenezer Presbyterian Church – Old Brick Church) are quite extant. The beautiful Ebenezer Presbyterian Church was built of brick, just west of the Little River in 1788. Gibson's Meeting House started about 1770 later organized as Little River Baptist Church, with a 1840s sanctuary still in use; located on SC 213 in Jenkinsville, SC.

A main eastern tributary of the Little River is Jackson Creek, home of the Jackson Creek Regiment, loyalist militia, commanded by Col. John Phillips. This group, little more than a company, participated in the June 1781 relief of Gen. Nathanael Greene's siege of Ninety Six.

Unfortunately for students of history in South Carolina there are several "Little Rivers", one near the North and South Carolina state line in Horry County and another in Laurens-Newberry Counties, a tributary of the Saluda River, another behind the Lake Marion Dam emptying into the Santee River, and the Little River of McCormick-Abbeville Counties, a tributary of the Savannah River.

CBB



Author Ken Shelton has posted a list of documented and probable participants in the Battle of Moberly's Meeting House can be found on line at:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/h/e/Kenneth-Shelton-VA/FILE/0028page.html>

"All that Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780", by Kenneth Shelton, ashva@comcast.net, copyright 2005

To order the book, it is available for \$25 US postage paid, 164 pgs + index, softcover. Send to Kenneth Shelton 13900 Wild Raspberry Court Gainesville, Va. 20155

⁴² Peter Force Collection, subpart called Joseph P. Bevan Collection, Force Series 7-E, microfilm shelf 19,061, entry #11, Library of Congress and Mills, Robert, 'Mills Atlas of the State of South Carolina', 1825

⁴³ Draper, Lyman C., Draper Manuscripts Vol. 5VV. Editor Note: Gen. Richard Winn and D. G. Stinson were not contemporaries.

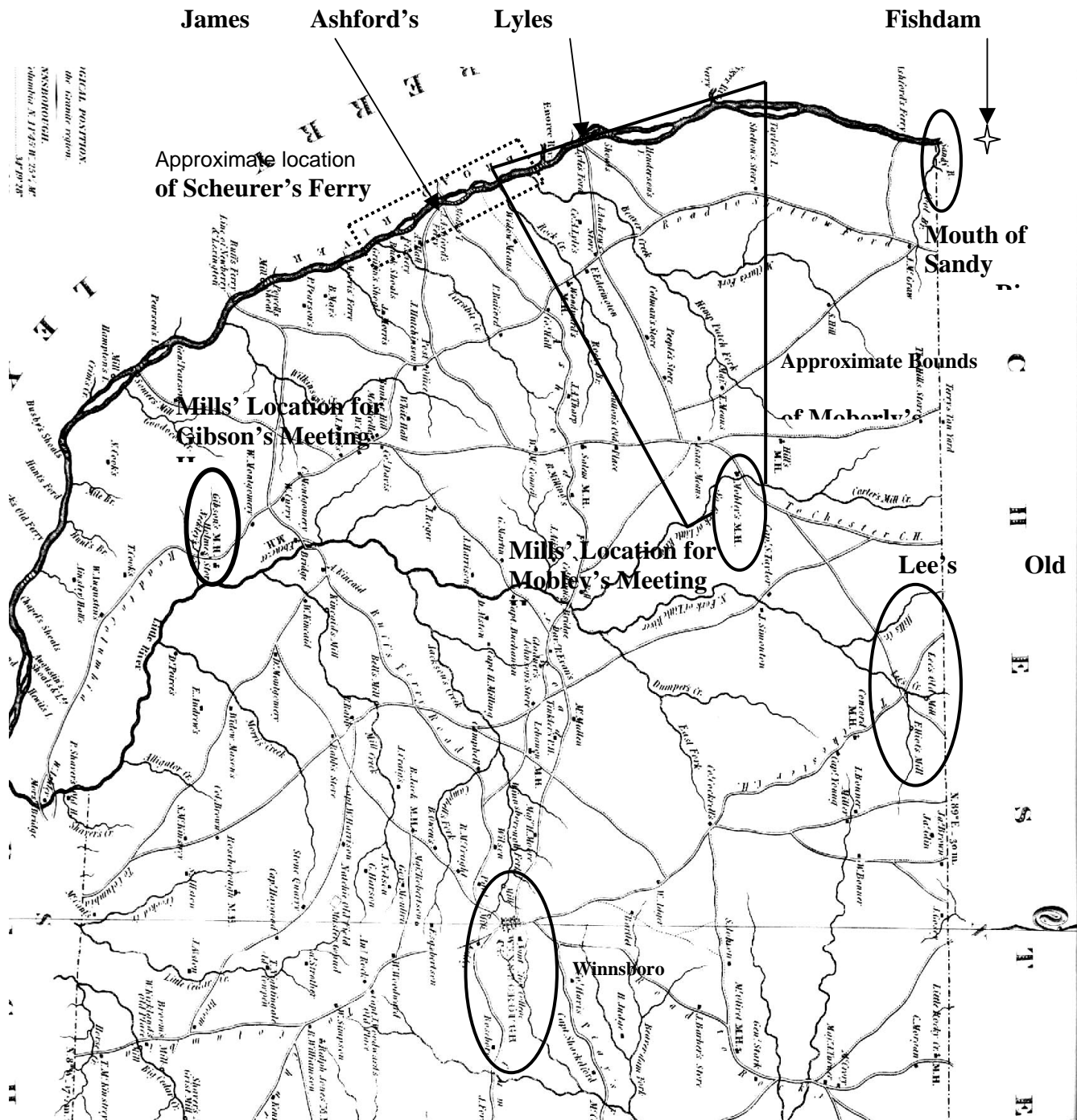


Figure 1: Annotated Mills' Map of Fairfield County, South Carolina (west is up). From Mills' Atlas Fairfield District, surveyed 1820, published 1825.

Thus, it appears that in writing his notes in the early 1800's, when General Winn referred to "Gipson's Meeting House", he did so in error. This error was likely caused by the formal association by that time of the Mobley Settlement church with the historical Gibson's Meeting House.

When considering other first-hand sources from Revolutionary War pension files, narratives and biographies of individuals, the

scorecard is universally for attribution as Mobley's Meeting House and only General Winn as it being Gibson's Meeting House. It is not reasonable to discard the many other first-hand observations that will be discussed in this work in favor of a single one that differs, especially when a reasonable explanation exists for the discrepancy on the part of Richard Winn.

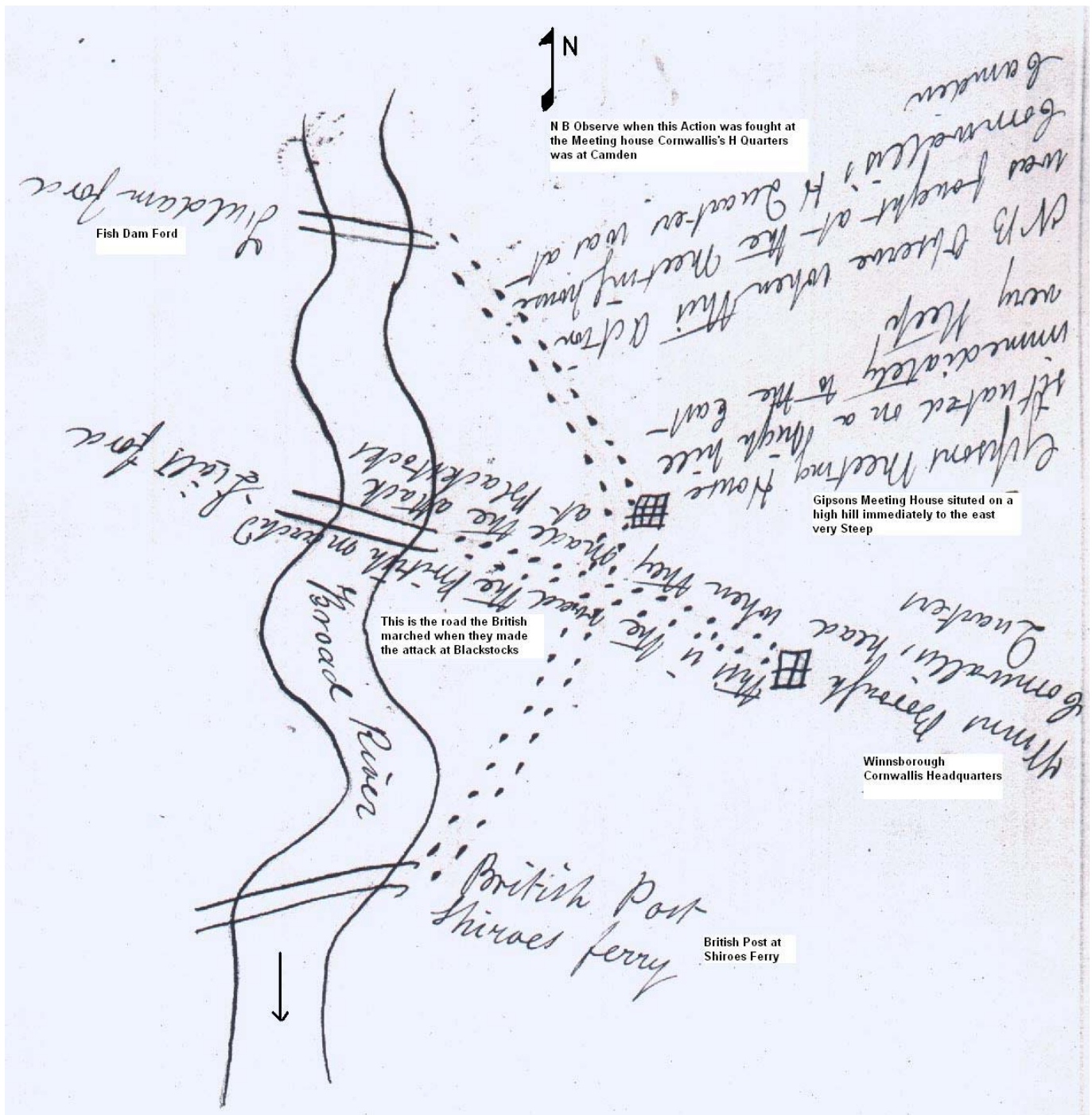


Figure 2: Map of "Gipson's Meeting House" drawn by General Richard Winn. Ford on road leading from Winnsborough to the west over the Broad River is probably "Lyles' Ford". (Map is shown inverted from placement in original text to orient north as up.)

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General Richard Winn's Notes - 1780

May 12th. Charleston fell 1780. 29th May 80. Col Buford cut to pieces. about the middle of June the British took a strong post at Shivers ferry, on the east side of Broad River opposite to the Dutch fork & the Inhabitants summons to come & take the oath of allegiance to the King, & those that did not was treated as Enemies. Capt Richard Winn, living in that part of the Country, & finding the Enemy was fast advancing & that he could not raise one single person to oppose them set out himself, for the new Acquisition to see if he could not raise men, by the help of Col Lacey, Beattin & Ellison. in the course of the day, they collected 100 Militia & immediately marched for Gipsons Meeting House in Moberleys settlement where we found a large Body of Tories strongly posted under the Command of Col. Ch' Coleman, as Capt Winn was well acquainted with the strength & situation of the place it was left to him to bring on the attack & in a few minutes this body of Tories was drove from a strong House which answered for Block House & totally defeated with a small loss of killed & wounded, the wig party lost nothing, this body of Tories two or three days previous to their defeat had plundered the Hamptons on the Road of about thirty Negroes, two or three masons & seamen, & thirty balua Horses & a large Quantity of Household furniture besides many other things, they also made prisoners of Captain John & Henry Hampton, which the day before the action they sent them under a strong guard to Camden the British Head Quarters, their property recovered by us, this was the first fight after the Reduction of Charleston - Gipsons Meeting House is twelve miles above Shivers ferry on the same side of the river, the British was posted as first mentioned.

When Capt Hampton got his release from Camden he informed Winn this Action got to Camden as soon as he & his Brother did, & when they was taken before the British

Figure 3: General Richard Winn's Notes for 1780.

No 2

Commander that Winn was grossly abused by him for the Dumbest
Ruffian & Scoundrel that ever disgraced human being - immediately
after this, Capt Winn sets out for the Northward on foot for
the Tories had taken all his Horses. with a determination to
travel until he could meet men that he could depend on
to fight, he had not got more than twelve miles day
came on, stopt at John Lees, where he was well acquainted,
who this man a well wisher to the British - he gets this person
out, who informed him there was three Hundred Tories
just a head, & then told him he must let me have a Horse,
& pilot me into the Catawba Nation, through the woods,
he informed me he had but two horses being plundered of the
rest, but he immediately brought them up & let me have
one & me in a few minutes set out for the Nation -
The next day arrive at General Rutherford near
Charlotte in N^o Carolina where I found forty four
of the N^o Carolinians in the same situation of myself
we got together & held a Consultation, notwithstanding
the smallness of our No it was unanimously agreed on
to oppose the British & Tories, under expectation was
when the panic of the people was over, many would
join us, the next question rose who should command,
Capt R. Winn, was chosen without a dissenting voice,
Capt Winn obsd that Colo Sumter was on the ground
an old experienced officer, he surely was the most
proper person to take the command, for the moment
this was objected to, however it was agreed that Colo
Patten & Capt Winn, should without delay consult the
Colo on the subject - after some conversation & explanation
Colo Sumter accepted the nomination, & the next day
set out with his party on horse back & made a forced
march to reinforce Colo Lock, in order to attack a body
of about 1000 Tories who had collected at Ramsoners
Mill in N^o Carolina, under their leader Colo Moore,
however Colo Sumter did not arrive until the action

Figure 4: General Richard Winn's Notes for 1780.

Description of Mobley's Meeting House

The location of the Meeting House is described in a note to Henry B. Dawson in most likely 1873 from George Howe who stated:⁴⁴

Mobley's Meeting House

Being at Chesterville, a few days since, with Hon. James Hemphill, I learned of your inquiry, from him, about the affair at Mobley's Meeting-house, in Fairfield County, in this State. Meeting with a reference to it, in a paper formerly published in this place, I have had it republished in the *Southern Presbyterian*, and enclose it to you. Mobley's Meeting-house is about twelve miles, in a direct line, North-east [sic], from Winnsboro, on the South Fork of Little-river, a tributary of Broad-river, which unites with the Saluda, and forms the Congaree-river, at this place.

George Howe

Columbia, S.C.

The letter as printed in the Historical Magazine says "north-east", however, that would put it on the Catawba River vice the Little River. This is a typographical error on the part of Dawson or a mistake in Howe's letter. The most obvious problem is that if we place it northeast of Winnsboro, then it can't be on Little River, which is due west. This was also the opinion of the Reverend James H. Saye, noted author of the 1800's, as Draper indicated that Saye thought it was near Little River about 10 miles west of Winnsboro.⁴⁵ Samuel McCalla described the church as 'a frame with pine weatherboards and loose plank in the floor'.⁴⁶ It is noted being on the Little River overlooking a rather steep bluff, which was blamed by Moore and others for injuries to the Tory defenders.⁴⁷

The Leonardo Andrea Collection notes on the family, drawn from Fitzhugh McMaster's more detailed notes for his book, states that there was a Mobley Fort as well as Fort Waggoner, although this is the only explicit reference to a "Fort Mobley" or "Mobley Fort" by name found to date.⁴⁸ The "Fort" and the Meeting House were placed approximately ¼ mile east of the homestead of Isaac Means and the "Old Means Graveyard".⁴⁹ General Richard Winn, in his memoirs of the events of 1780, notes that as they brought the attack on, "in a few minutes this body of Tories was drove from a strong house, which answered for a block house, and totally defeated with a small loss of killed and wounded."⁵⁰ It would not be unusual for a home or work house to be nearby the meeting house, and it is known that such an approach for fortification was commonplace. The Tory "fort" at

Rocky Mount was, in fact, merely a home that had been reinforced internally with logs and clay.⁵¹ Thus, it is possible that such a reinforced building was located nearby, just as General Winn recalled years later.

In his book, Draper provided a complete transcription of the diary of Lieutenant Anthony Allaire of Ferguson's Corps.⁵² Additionally, the South Carolina Historical Society has a typescript of the diary of Dr. Uzal Johnson, also of Ferguson's Corps and a friend of Allaire (Johnson's diary notes Allaire by name in several places and records socializing with him).⁵³ Draper's reprint of Allaire's diary shows he wrote that on 15 August 1780, the unit moved to Mr. Coleman's in the Mobley Settlement, and on 16 August 1780, marched two miles to Mobley's Meeting House for 'convenience of ground'.⁵⁴ Uzal Johnson also recorded that the part of the corps they were attached to had laid in "at Mr. Coleman's in Moberley Settlement" on Tuesday, 15 August 1780. Johnson explained that this stop was to wait out the heat of the day. This was on the day before the battle of Camden, and the corps was maneuvering in anticipation. Johnson also agrees with Allaire that at first rise on the 16th, they moved to Mobley's Meeting House 'for convenience of ground'. It is interesting that both made the observation that they were positioning for Camden with the knowledge that General Horatio Gates was preparing for battle. The move to Mobley's is specifically stated to be based on the lay of the terrain – presumably for a defensive position knowing that a major engagement was imminent. On the 17th, they moved from Mobley's Meeting House to Colonel Winn's Plantation some six miles from the meeting house, with Dr. Johnson noting that Winn was a prisoner at Charleston.⁵⁵

When Did the Battle Occur?

There are numerous sources from the 1800's, all of which attest to the battle as being at Mobley's Meeting House, in addition to Draper's book based largely upon the contents of his extensive manuscript collection. These sources involve testimony from participants in the battle itself. As one would expect from recollections coming 50-plus years after the fact, the exact year and month is inconsistent among the various testaments. We can examine the sources though, and come to some conclusions about the real time and date of the engagement. An extensive analysis of the evidence available is analyzed in my book on this battle,⁵⁶ and the result is that it can be placed with extremely high confidence between the two bounds of the Battle of Beckhamville on 6/7 June and the burning of the Reverend John Simpson's home on 11 June. It is probable that the exact date of the battle was 10 June 1780, given the start date in the Reverend John Simpson's audited account.

A Synopsis of the Battle

Between 7 and 11 June, most likely 10 June 1780, a small body of Whig militia numbering between 100 and 200 men in total was formed from the commands of Colonel William Bratton, Colonel (Captain) Edward Lacey, Captain (Colonel) John McClure,

⁴⁴ Dawson, Henry B., 'The Historical Magazine and Notes & Queries Concerning the Antiquities, History and Biography of America', Vol. 1, Third Series, 1873

⁴⁵ Draper, Lyman C., The Draper Manuscript Collection, volumes 23VV

⁴⁶ Draper, Lyman C., The Draper Manuscript Collection, volumes 14VV

⁴⁷ Draper, Lyman C., The Draper Manuscript Collection, volumes 14VV

⁴⁸ Leonardo Andrea Collection, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia SC

⁴⁹ Leonardo Andrea Collection, South Caroliniana Library, Columbia SC

⁵⁰ Williams, Samuel C., 'General Richard Winn's Notes – 1780', South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, vol.43, 1942

⁵¹ Moore, M.A., *The Life of General Edward Lacey*, 1859

⁵² Draper, Lyman C., *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain*, 1881

⁵³ Johnson, Dr. Uzal, diary of the Southern Campaign, typescript at South Carolina Historical Society

⁵⁴ Draper, Lyman C., *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain*, 1881

⁵⁵ Johnson, Dr. Uzal, diary of the Southern Campaign, typescript at South Carolina Historical Society

⁵⁶ Shelton, Kenneth A., *All That Dare Oppose Them*, 2005

Colonel Samuel Watson, Colonel Cooper, and Colonel William Hill, with Majors Richard Winn and Patrick “Paddy” McGriff as the Field Majors and Adjutant James ‘Jemmy’ Johns(t)on. This group was comprised in large part of the Whig forces that had a few days earlier routed and scattered a Tory gathering at Beckhamville under the command of the Tory “Colonel” (probably Loyalist Captain Henry) Houseman. Colonel William Bratton was elected overall field commander for the engagement, and this group attacked a formation of Tories who were plundering the greater Fairfield District neighborhood in the aftermath of the fall of Charleston under the active encouragement of Lord Cornwallis at Camden and Loyalist Lt. Col. George Turnbull at Rocky Mount.

The Tories had formed at a well-known rendezvous location called Mobley’s Meeting House in the Mobley Settlement, located on a high embankment on a branch of the Little River in Fairfield District. They were under the general command of Tory Colonel Robert Coleman of Fairfield District, Tory Colonel Joseph Fleuquinyan and Tory Captain William Nichols. This group had plundered many of the possessions of Whigs in the area, in particular members of the Hampton family and had sent John and Henry Hampton prisoner to Lord Cornwallis at Camden. Thus laden down with booty and awaiting British assistance, the Tories were hit by the combined Whig force more or less by surprise and, like at Beckhamville, scattered in retreat in short order.

The attack occurred at daybreak with an assault on the Church and a nearby strong/block house or fortified building. The Whig forces attacked from three sides, leaving the fourth uncovered as it was thought that the embankment was too hazardous to climb for an attack or to descend in a retreat. However, during the

confusion and panic, a number of Tories attempted just that and were injured in the process. Few casualties were noted on either side other than those resulting from falls down the embankment. Much of the plunder was recovered and restored to the owners, and a significant number of prisoners were taken and sent to North Carolina.

After the battle, some of the Whigs immediately left for North Carolina while others stayed on. In the immediate aftermath, Lt. Col. Turnbull, the regional British commander at Rocky Mount, detached some New York Volunteers, provincial troops, and some British Legion green jacketed dragoons (Tories) under Loyalist Captain Christian Huck in reprisal. They in turn destroyed the home and parsonage of the Reverend John Simpson and attacked the remaining Whigs at the Iron Works of Colonel William Hill. After the destruction of the Iron Works, the remaining Whigs were forced to withdraw into North Carolina and assist in Sumter’s rise and their vengeance on Huck in July.★

Kenneth Shelton is a Senior Project Engineer for the Aerospace Corporation and works in the Deputy Directorate for System Engineering, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly Virginia. He is a BS and MS graduate in Aerospace and Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla, and is currently working on his PhD in Systems Engineering from George Mason University, Virginia. His interest in the Battle of Mobley’s Meeting House derives from his ancestry from Benjamin Moberley, Sr., one of the documented Tories at the battle.

Front Cover by artist Werner Willis: “The Assault”, featuring the feared British Legion Dragoons lead by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. Black and white pen & ink drawing print \$25.00 or hand colored print by the artist \$250.00, both plus \$10.00 s&h. 13” x 18 ¾”. Contact Werner Willis at 3927 Brockwood Road, Charlotte, NC 28215. Telephone (704) 509-2877.

**Sources for the American Revolution at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Compiled by Charles H. Lesser**

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/exhibits/revolution/revsources.htm>

Revolutionary Scene in Fairfield County

Photographs by Charles B. Baxley

The ancestral call whispers, “*Tell my story!*” Kitty Wilson Evans, an award-winning storyteller from Historic Brattonsville, plays the part of a slave named Kessy in presentations and reenactments throughout the Southeast. She was one of many eighteenth century camp life presenters on June 25-26 at the pristine historic setting of Feasterville in northwestern Fairfield County, South Carolina. The Fairfield County Museum staged the event as a reenactment of the Revolutionary Battle of Mobley’s Meetinghouse, the event took place at the Liberty Universalist Church and Feasterville Female Academy Boarding House, a restored historic setting about 5 miles west of the yet unverified site of the 1780 skirmish. The once-thriving area is located about 8 miles north of Salem Cross Roads on SC 215 north. The museum in Winnsboro is sponsoring an archaeological search to locate the actual Revolutionary War battlefield near this early Broad River settlement of the backcountry. In June of 1780, a small band of backcountry Carolina Whig militia under John McClure, Richard Winn, William Bratton, Edward Lacey, and Andrew Neal attacked and dispersed a gathering of local Tory militia at the meetinghouse.

The battle was reenacted at 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Other presenters rounded out the recreation of a typical Whig (Patriot) or Tory campsite. Denley Caughman, a joiner, or furniture maker, who doubles as a backwoods preacher conducted a service on Sunday morning in the meticulously restored (circa 1830) Liberty Universalist Church, while also demonstrating methods of dovetailing and other early joining techniques in his canvas tent workshop. In the afternoon, Reverend Caughman shed his collar and took up his musket to support the American militia efforts. Leather workers, blacksmiths, campfire cooking demonstrations, sutler shops, and a backwoods livestock drover were on hand during the weekend.



Inside the old Liberty Universalist Church, author Ken Shelton answers questions with Fairfield Museum Director, Pelham Lyles, about his research concerning the Battle at Mobley's Meeting House. Shelton has compiled over 160 pages of data on the Fairfield County settlement, the meetinghouse, the Moberley Family and the June 1780 backcountry battle.



Restored 1830s Liberty Universalist Church in the Feasterville Community of Fairfield County, SC. The small community of Feasterville is named for one of its founding families who had immigrated into Pennsylvania before moving south in the 1770s establishing homes in what would eventually become Fairfield County. The Feasters were of the German Dunker religious persuasion, but early on became the founding family for the Universalist Church in the South. Liberty Church is said to be the first congregation in America to use the term Universalism to describe their beliefs.



Historic Feaster Female Academy Building, site of Reenactment of Patriots attack on Mobley's Meeting House.



Loyalists gather in front of the historic Feaster "Boarding House" mansion in the Feasterville Community of Fairfield County, SC to defend the Patriots' successful attack.



Loyalists return fire led by red-coated Capt. L. H. "Kip" Carter and the SC Rangers (Loyalist) Carolina backcountry militia.



Loyalist troops reload and exchange fire with the unseen Whigs in the trees.



The Patriot militia attacks the Loyalist gathering from the woods. Three New Acquisition Militiamen, barely visible in the tree line, form the Patriots' left flank attack line. ★

Revolutionary War Battlefield at Fish Dam Ford Preserved Through Innovative Land Purchase

Chester County, SC - SC DOT Report - A long-lost Revolutionary War battlefield, discovered on a South Carolina Department of Transportation (SC DOT) bridge replacement project over the Broad River in Chester and Union Counties, will now be preserved for future generations.

State, Federal, and local leaders attended a preservation ceremony for the Fish Dam Ford Battlefield on Monday, June 27, 2005. Speakers included SC DOT Commissioners William C. "Bud" Turner, 4th Congressional District, and Bobby T. Jones, 5th Congressional District; SC DOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry; Bob Lee, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; US Representative John M. Spratt; US Representative Bob Inglis; South Carolina Senator Linda Short; South Carolina Representative Creighton B. Coleman; Michael Scoggins, Curator of the York County Museum; John Frampton of the SC Department of Natural Resources; and SC DOT archaeologist Wayne Roberts.

"After the discovery of the long-lost battlefield, SC DOT consulted our partner, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and other experts on the next course of action to make sure the battlefield would be preserved," Mabry said. "We learned that removing the seven feet of sediment, which has built up over the past 225 years, and the excavation of the river bottom camp could have cost as much as \$2 million. On top of the cost, the bridge project would be delayed and local citizens would be impacted."

Mabry continued, "SC DOT and FHWA came up with what I believe is a "win-win" idea – to purchase the battlefield outright. This is a win for the taxpayers and citizens of South Carolina. By purchasing the battlefield for preservation, it will not only result in securing the historic land for future generations and allow the bridge replacement to be completed much sooner, it will save taxpayers more than \$1.5 million. Purchasing the land is far more cost effective than

excavation, which may have cost \$2 million." The SC Routes 72/121/215 bridge replacement alignment was moved downstream to avoid any adverse effects to the Fish Dam during construction. The 143 acres purchased by SC DOT will be deeded over to the Department of Natural Resources.



Congressman John Spratt (D-5th SC) speaks at the Fish Dam Ford Battlefield about the significance of battlefield preservation and describes the Carolina backcountry military actions in 1780.

"We are delighted that the battlefield will be preserved because of a creative partnering effort between several State and Federal agencies that allowed SC DOT and the Federal Highway Administration to meet our obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 in a win-win situation where the real winners are the citizens of South Carolina," Mabry said.

Lee said the preservation already has received notice on the national level. "This is such a great example of people and agencies working together on many levels of federal, state and local government," Lee said. "Preserving this land through a purchase agreement was clearly

the right thing to do. It is a savings to taxpayers; a benefit to local motorists who will use the new bridge much sooner than had we gone the excavation route; and, of course, it is also a treasured resource for historians."

The Battle of Fish Dam Ford was fought in the early morning hours of November 9, 1780. The American forces were under the command of General Thomas Sumter who had with him the regiments of Colonels Thomas Taylor, Richard Winn, William Bratton, Edward Lacey, and William Hill.

The Battle of Fish Dam Ford is historically significant not only because it was a Revolutionary War battle, but because it was one of several battles during the campaign of 1780 in the Upstate that led to the British being driven out of the area leading to the ultimate surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.



Congressman Bob Inglis (R-4th SC) speaks at the preservation ceremony.

During the ceremony, Mabry thanked the many partners of SC DOT who worked to make the project a success including the Federal Highway Administration; the York County Museum, the South


Carolina Department of Archives and History, and the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at USC for providing their expertise; the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for their consulting; the Department of Natural Resources, for agreeing to take over ownership and be stewards of this land; and the US Forest Service.

The Executive Director of SC DOT is Elizabeth S. Mabry. The SC DOT Commission includes Chairman Tee Hooper of Greenville; Bob Harrell Sr., 1st Congressional District; John N. Hardee, 2nd Congressional District; Marion P. Carnell, 3rd Congressional District; William C. "Bud" Turner, 4th Congressional District; Bobby T. Jones, 5th Congressional District; and John M. "Moot" Truluck, 6th Congressional District.



SC DOT Chief Archeologist Wayne Roberts, left, shows some of the musket balls and rifle balls found on the Fish Dam Ford Battlefield. Roberts was one of the speakers at a preservation ceremony June 27 in Chester County. Shown with Roberts are: John Frampton, center, and Stuart Greeter from the Department of Natural Resources. (Rob Thompson/SC DOT) ★

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