



Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

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SCAR Lifetime Achievement Awards Presented at Eutaws Conference



Dennis M. Conrad
Lifetime Achievement in
Historic Research

Dr. Dennis M. Conrad is awarded the **2006 SCAR Lifetime Achievement Award in Historic Research** for his service as editor and project director of the monumental *Papers of General Nathanael Greene* where he directed the completion of volumes 7 through 12 of that series covering Greene's campaigns in the South. He also served as contributing editor for volume 13, the final volume in the series that was published late last year. Gen. Greene was also the subject of Conrad's doctoral dissertation at Duke University. Dennis now works as an historian at the early history branch of the Naval Historical Center. There he helps edit the *Naval Documents of the American Revolution* series. Prior to coming to the NHC, he wrote about John Paul Jones with E. Gordon Bowen-Hassell and Mark L. Hayes in *Sea Raiders of the American Revolution: The Continental Navy in European Waters*. ★



George D. Fields, Jr.
Battlefield Preservation

Dr. George D. Fields, Jr. is the Director of the Military Heritage Program of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. George is awarded the **2006 SCAR Lifetime Achievement Award for Battlefield Preservation** for providing advocacy and leadership of successful programs to preserve Revolutionary War battlefields in South Carolina including: Battles of Camden, Musgrove Mill, and Blackstock's Plantation, Marion's camps at Snow Island and Lee's trenches at Ninety-Six National Historic Site. The Military Heritage Program has also assisted in various improvement programs at Cowpens National Battlefield, Earle's Ford, Eutaw Springs, Fish Dam Ford Battlefield, Cedar Spring battlefields, and Fort Charlotte. George is a native of Lamar, SC and a graduate of Wofford College, Emory University, and three senior military colleges and universities. He has been an advocate for preservation of battlefields since his retirement in 1997 as a United Methodist Church Minister and President of Spartanburg Methodist College. He is also a retired army Brigadier General with 43 years of active and reserve duty in the artillery, infantry and chaplaincy. ★



Christine R. Swager
Youth Education

Dr. Christine R. Swager, retired professor of education, storyteller and author of three award winning youth books on the Southern Campaign: *Black Crows and White Cockades*, *If Ever Your Country Needs You*, and *Come to the Cow Pens!* is awarded the **2006 SCAR Lifetime Achievement Award for Youth Education**. Her latest book, aimed at general readers, *The Valiant Died* is the first modern book that covers in detail the Eutaws Campaign of Gen. Nathanael Greene. Chris, born in Canada, a descendant of both an American who served with the British Army and settled in Canada after the war and Continental soldiers who fought in Connecticut and Maine, was raised in an area settled by tens of thousands of Loyalists. Chris reports that she grew up knowing that there had been a sizable Tory resistance and a bitter civil war during the Revolution. Chris is a highly sought speaker, commentator and newspaper columnist. ★

The Eutaws Campaign of Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene - Battle of Eutaw Springs Conference & Tour.

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution and the historic Church of the Epiphany in Eutawville, South Carolina presented a successful conference on the Eutaw Springs military campaign of "The Fighting Quaker" - Major General Nathanael Greene; 78 people from 5 states attended the 225th anniversary conference held at the historic Church of the Epiphany in Eutawville, South Carolina and on the Eutaw Springs battlefield on September 9th, 2006.

Keynote presenter, Dr. Dennis M. Conrad, now a historian for the United States Navy served as the editor of the final volumes of the encyclopedic *Papers of General Nathanael Greene*. Dennis described Greene's Eutaws campaign and focused on Lt. Col. "Light Horse Harry" Lee's role and reactions to Gen. Greene's report to Congress concerning the fight at Eutaw Springs. His talk was titled, "He thinks I have not done justice to his services": Nathanael Greene, "Light Horse Harry" Lee and the Battle of Eutaw Springs."

Dr. Lee F. McGee discussed the role and uses of cavalry in the Southern Campaigns especially at Cowpens, Hobkirk Hill and at Eutaw Springs on the Eutaw Springs battlefield.

Eutaw Springs scholars covered all aspects of the battle, the troops engaged, strategy and aftermath of the battle. Author Dr. Christine R. Swager discussed British & Loyalists Troops at Eutaw Springs; author Robert M. Dunkerly explained the post battle military operations of both armies; and author Dr. Jim Picuch discussed whether the battle represented a victory or defeat – how contemporaries and historians view the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Jim also reviewed the post battle strategic changes in the South. Military historian Steven J. Rauch detailed Patriot forces at Eutaw Springs and described the weapons, uniforms and tactics. Gen. George Fields of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Eutaw Springs battlefield project archaeologist Scott Butler discussed the

modern battlefield archaeological research and preservation planning. Historical novelist Charles F. Price presented his experiences writing about the battle in his paper: "Eutaw Springs: Battle as Fact and as Experience, A Novelist's View".



**Battle of Eutaw Springs
225th Anniversary Station**

September 8, 2006
Eutawville, SC 29048

The Saturday afternoon tour of the Eutaw Springs battlefield on the shores of Lake Marion put attendees on the ground where Gen. Nathanael Greene pushed the British from the midlands of South Carolina to their tidewater enclave around Charleston. Historic Guide David P. Reuwer (director of first Eutaw Springs battlefield survey project) was assisted by military historians Dr. Lee F. McGee, Steven J. Rauch, Robert M. Dunkerly, and Dr. Jim Picuch, geologist Dr. Irene Boland, and archaeologist Scott Butler. At five locations this on-the-ground tour of the huge Eutaws battlefield pointed out the battle chronology, the sites of the tactical deployments and emphasized the impact of topography on the action. Not much of this battlefield is submerged under Lake Marion. David Reuwer and Bert Dunkerly discussed the modern research, interpretation and preservation-challenged geography of the site of General Greene's greatest victory.

Afternoon program included a commemorative ceremony to honor those who fought at Eutaw Springs at the memorial park conducted by the Battle of Eutaw Springs Chapter of the SAR and the Eutaw Springs and William Thomson Chapters of the DAR. Attendees were treated to a closing reception at historic Numertia Plantation on Saturday evening complete with a "groaning board" of hors d'oeuvres and tour of the grand 1840s plantation home and its grounds.

View Bob Yankle's photo gallery of the conference at <http://ncssar.com/images/NathanaelGreeneSymposium>★

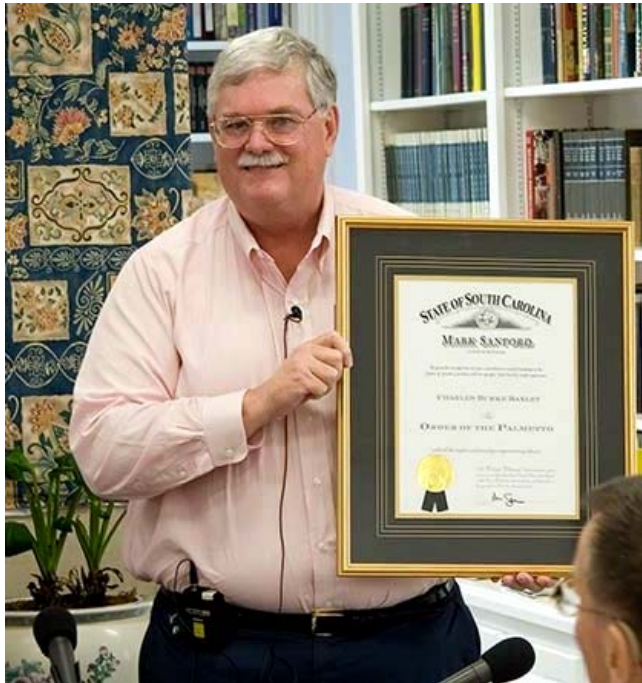


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SCAR Publisher Awarded the Order of the Palmetto by SC Governor Mark Sanford



A very surprised and a bit “red-faced” SCAR Editor/Publisher Charles B. Baxley receives the State’s highest civilian recognition from Gov. Mark Sanford on behalf of the State of South Carolina. Photo by Bob Yankle.

Editor / Publisher’s Notes

"If we have a good Army in the field they [the British] may relinquish the project of reducing the Southern States; but if we are negligent in the present moment we may invite new calamities. Act wisely therefore and provide seasonably." Gen. Nathanael Greene to NC Gov. Alexander Martin, November 14, 1781.

SCAR Corps of Discovery Trips – You are Invited

This winter the **Corps of Discovery** will take advantage of the premier Southern battlefielding season with field trips:

- Join the Corps on **December 10, 2006** for a carpool tour of northwestern SC to sites of Col. Andrew Pickens’ 1776 Ring Fight and his Tamasee Mountain home; we will have a presentation by Scott Alexander at the extant 1791 frontier post at Oconee Station. We will also visit Kings Mountain hero Col. Benjamin Cleveland’s grave; SC Patriot militia Maj. Samuel Taylor’s grave; Gen. Andrew Pickens’ and Col. Robert Anderson’s graves at the Old Stone Church. We will tour Gen. Andrew Pickens’ Hopewell House and the site of the Hopewell Treaty Oak; the site of Fort Rutledge at Seneca Town and Cherokee Wars battles. This tour is free and open to the public. Oconee Station will collect the SC Park user fee of \$2.00 per person. This day is planned and hosted by Barbara Abernathy and will leave the town square in Pendleton, SC at 9:00 am.



Store building at Historic Oconee Station. SCAR photo.

- On **January 20, 2007**, the Corps of Discovery mobilizes again to explore little-known Lexington County Revolutionary War sites with historian Dean Hunt. Beginning at the reconstructed Cayce House for a tour of the Museum we will carpool along the Old State Road and stop at site of Ft. Granby for a discussion on the Sieges on the British at Fort Granby. Visit the old Granby Cemetery by Congaree River; Fridig’s (Friday’s Ferry), site of two skirmishes; and discuss the site across Congaree River the camp of repose at Ancrum’s Plantation. Drive to Congaree Creek bridge, site of Lee’s Legion cavalry, commanded by Maj. Joseph Eggleston’s ambush. See site of burial of heroine Emily Geiger at her husband’s Threewitt’s Plantation. Visit the sites of skirmishes at Tarrar’s Springs, Muddy Springs and Cloud’s Creek and tour the Lexington Museum. Also, visit the site of the running fight at Cedar Creek (Pelion) and the Juniper Springs skirmish (Gilbert). This carpool trip is free and open to the public.



For other Corps of Discovery trips we are planning, see page 4: <http://www.southerncampaign.org/newsletter/v3n9.pdf>

Corps of Discovery field trips are organized upon invitation of a host and guide. SCAR publishes a meeting date, time, and tentative Revolutionary War related sites to be visited. We invite all interested to car pool, join the hike and enjoy informal on-the-ground, interpretive presentations of research. Plan to join us as it sounds like fun! SCAR keeps you posted on the details in the Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Tell us about your research and trips to discover our Revolutionary War heritage. Share in SCAR. ★

Southern Campaigns Roundtable Meeting

Southern Campaigns Roundtable met on October 7, 2006 in Savannah, Georgia as the guests of the Coastal Heritage Society’s Savannah History Museum. We toured the Revolutionary War exhibits in the museum and were delighted to be joined by Sir Christopher Prevost, Baronet and his consort, Lady Deloris H. Prevost. Sir Christopher is the direct descendent of Gen. Augustin Prévost the British Commander of East Florida and Georgia.



Steve Rauch holds picture of British Gen. Augustin Prévost, “old bullet head” next to his direct descendant, Sir Christopher Prévost, Bt. at the Savannah roundtable.

We also made new friends with Daniel Fils-Aimé, Sr. and Pradel Vilme, both of the Haitian American Historical Society, who joined the roundtable discussions to present the story of the allied Haitian troops who fought with the Patriots and French at the September/October 1779 Siege of Savannah. Their society and the City of Savannah are working to erect a memorial to the sacrifices of the Haitian troops in the American Revolution. [See related story on p. 25.]

The Southern Campaigns Roundtable will meet again at Farmers Hall on the old town square in Pendleton, SC at 10 am on **December 9, 2006.** ★

On-line Historic Library Resource

SCAR would like to help John Robertson expand his on-line listing of journal articles, newspapers and historic magazines that contain articles or publication of letters, manuscripts and diaries of significance to the study of the Southern Campaigns. We will also need help in republishing these items in the public domain that are not already readily available on-line. Use the Internet to bring the library to us!

[Online Library of the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War](#) – now fully searchable!

Examples of cites we need to compile and make readily accessible are articles on relevant topics and personalities associated with the southern campaigns of the Revolutionary War in publications such as *Harpers Weekly*; *Historical Magazine*; *The Southern Literary Messenger*; *The Magazine of American History*; numerous state and local historical society journals; *Year Book*, *City of Charleston*; numerous history professional journals; and modern magazines such as *Military Historian and Collector*; *Muzzleloader*; *Military Affairs*; and *Military History Quarterly*. ★

Help Wanted

SCAR also needs the services of a graphic artist and someone to help with magazine layout. We are also looking for articles, photos, maps, columnist, and feature editors for future SCAR editions. Volunteers are requested to contact SCAR editor **[Charles B. Baxley](#)**. ★

Research Wanted

SCAR wants to publish materials on the Battles of Long Cane, 2d Cedar Spring (Thomson's Peach Orchard-Wofford's Ironworks-Clifton), Ramsour's Mill, Beaufort, SC, Parker's Ferry, Granby and Beattie's Mill. We are looking for reports, pension statements, private letters, maps and plats, and archaeological finds to explain the action and put these battles on the ground. If you will share information you have gathered on these battles, either privately or are willing to submit something for publication, it would be greatly appreciated. SCAR is working with historians who are researching SC Patriot militia Gen. Thomas Sumter's battles at Blackstock's Plantation and Hanging Rock and Gen. Nathanael Greene's battles of Hobkirk Hill and Eutaw Springs. If you have any information on these battles, please let **[SCAR](#)** know so we may share information you have gathered. **A story unshared may become a site unspared.** ★

SCAR Cavalry Conference Planning

SCAR has begun planning for a conference in 2007 on cavalry operations in The Revolution. Personalities, tactics and the uses of cavalry in specific battles and campaigns will be reviewed in depth. The training, accoutrementing, and support of cavalry on both sides during the Revolution and the traits and capabilities of the cavalry horse are also great subjects for presentations. Pulaski, Tarleton, Baylor, Simcoe, William Washington, Lee, Frazier, Eggleston, Call, Thompson, White, and Coffin were colorful and skillful cavalry officers in the Revolution. The date and details are still under consideration, but please let SCAR know your suggestions of topics and presenters on cavalry operations in The Revolution. ★

New National Heritage Corridor Law

The National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 established nine new National Heritage Areas (NHA), including two NHAs that include significant Revolutionary War battlefields. The two new Revolutionary War related NHAs are the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in Vermont and New York and the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in New Jersey. The National Heritage Areas Act also directs the Secretary of the Interior (National Park Service) to conduct studies of potential NHAs, including a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating...a "Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area" in South Carolina and North Carolina. SCAR is extremely pleased that the heart of the Southern Campaigns will be studied for possible inclusion in a National Heritage Area as this is the first step in formation of a federally recognized and fundable heritage area.

The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area will provide \$10 million in federal funding over the next 15 years to preserve and promote Revolutionary War sites throughout New Jersey.

www.nps.gov/crossroads or **www.revolutionarynj.org**

The new New Jersey NHA stretches across all or parts of 15 counties, from Fort Lee overlooking the Hudson River in Bergen County to the shore of the Delaware River at Red Bank Battlefield in Gloucester County. It encompasses New Jersey State Parks at Monmouth Battlefield, Washington's Crossing of the Delaware River, and the Princeton Battlefield, and the Morristown National Historic Park, which will serve as a headquarters for preservation and educational efforts. ★

Charles B. Baxley..... H[Editor-Publisher](#)H
 David P. Reuwer... H[grammarian & plenipotentiary](#)H
 Steven J. Rauch..... H[calendar](#)H
 Jim Picuch..... H[book reviews](#)H
 Werner Willis..... artist
 Lanny W. Morgan.....H[photographer](#)H
 John A. Robertson..... H[cartographer](#)H
 David McKissack.....H[contributing editor](#)H
 B. Caroline Baxley..... H[webmistress](#)H

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 preservation, historic signage, interpretation, artifacts, and archaeology as well as the personalities, military tactics, units, logistics, and strategy, and the political leadership of the states. We highlight professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation and encourage an active exchange of information. All are invited to submit articles, pictures, documents, events, and suggestions. Please help us obtain 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. We also facilitate the discovery, preservation, interpretation, and promotion of historic sites on the ground.

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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. Please submit all proposed articles as a MS Word document.

1776 Virginia Light Dragoon used in the magazine's banner is from an illustration by Charles M. Lefferts (1873-1923) now in the collections of The New-York Historical Society. Later cavalry uniforms were probably green or buff. Used by permission of The New-York Historical Society.

Please contact us at P. O. Box 10, Lugoff, South Carolina 29078-0010 or Hcbaxley@truvista.netH or (803) 438-1606 (h) or (803) 438-4200 (w).
[Hwww.southerncampaign.org](http://www.southerncampaign.org)H ★

Update on the Washington, DC - Gen. Francis Marion Park Project

The US House of Representatives approved H.R. 5057, the "Brigadier General Francis Marion Memorial Act" on July 24, 2006. The same proposed act is pending before the United States Senate as bill S. 2822 where it has been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and is waiting on a hearing. If the bill does not pass and is not signed by President Bush before the end of the Congressional Session this fall, the House Bill will have to be reintroduced and we must start over. Project leader John McCabe of Columbia, SC, is asking supporters to call or email your US Senators and voice your support for Senate Bill 2822, The Brigadier General Francis Marion Memorial Act. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Jim DeMint (R-SC) have pledged to do everything possible to obtain a hearing in the National Parks Subcommittee. The subcommittee scheduled a hearing on the bill, but the hearing was cancelled at the last minute due to the chairman's illness. Everyone's support is most graciously appreciated for soon the Swamp Fox will be immortalized in our nation's capital. [John McCabe] ★

Corps of Discovery in Coastal Georgia



Corps of Discovery group views sites of British Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell's December 29, 1778 successful capture of Savannah.

On October 8, 2006 the Corps of Discovery and Georgia SAR compatriots viewed the sites of the 1776 Battle of the Rice Boats just off of Hutchinson's Island in the Savannah River. We climbed the ramparts at old Fort Jackson, named for Georgia Revolutionary War hero Lt. Col. James Jackson, to view the site of the December 29, 1778 British invasion and the Patriots' initial defense from Girardeau's Plantation at Brewton's Hill. We drove the route of the British approach to Savannah on the old Shell Road and viewed the 1778 Battle for Savannah site. Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell's troops quickly defeated the Patriot skirmishers at Brewton Hill and marched overland to enter Savannah where the Patriots were waiting. The December 1778 battle pushed the Patriot defenders through Savannah and into the swamps north of the city restoring the capitol of Georgia into the Crown's hands.

To keep Savannah, the British and Loyalists steadily improved the city's fortifications that made it the fortified city by the time of the September/October attacks by allied American and French troops. We toured the location of Savannah's 1779 defenses and the morning ended with presentations about the allied troops unsuccessful siege of Savannah at the site of the final fatal charge

of Gen. "Count" Casimir Pulaski near the newly recreated Spring Hill redoubt; part of the fortifications of Savannah which held off the allied troops laying siege to the city.



Coastal Heritage Society's Executive Director Scott Smith explains the failed Allied troops attack on the Spring Hill Redoubt.

At the Spring Hill redoubt we heard a detailed explanation of the October 9, 1779 action given by Coastal Heritage Society's Executive Director Scott Smith. George Carroll of historic Wise's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia presented a fife and drum command demonstration and reenactors presented an 18th Century cannon and musket demonstration. Daniel Fils-Aimé, Sr. and Pradel Vilme of the Haitian American Historical Society joined the morning tours in Savannah. They were anxious to see the 1779 battlefield that pitted the French, Haitian and Patriot allied troops against the British and Loyalists defenders of Savannah. Members of the Georgia SAR, Sir Christopher Prevost, Bt. with Lady Deloris H. Prevost and the Corps of Discovery also joined us. On Sunday afternoon we toured historic Midway Congregational Church (sister to Dorchester, Ma. and Dorchester, SC) and Museum, visited the Midway, Spencer's Hill and Bulltown Swamp skirmish sites. We finished an afternoon of battlefielding with a guided walk by David Swinton of the Fort Morris Historic Site on the scenic Medway River.



Corps of Discovery tour finishes up at Fort Morris, Sunbury, Georgia. SCAR photo by Judy D. Baxley.

Special thanks to David Swinton, President of the Friends of Fort Morris for the informative tour of Fort Morris; Scott Smith of the

Coastal Heritage Society for arranging facilities for our roundtable, admissions to old Fort Jackson and his riveting presentation on the final failed attack of the 1779 Siege of Savannah at the Spring Hill Redoubt; and military historian Steven J. Rauch for helping with the handout materials and the tour commentary. ★

American Revolution Center Musters Support

by Daniel Kristie

The American Revolution Center will be built at Valley Forge National Historical Park after all. At a town hall meeting, Valley Forge Park superintendent Michael Caldwell updated residents on the center's progress. According to Caldwell, Congress has not approved construction yet. That must come from the Appropriations Committee and Caldwell is unsure when that will happen. On July 3, 2006 Secretary of the Interior Dick Kempthorne wrote a letter to Congress supporting the project, a big step forward. It showed that the American Revolution Center and the National Park Service were talking again. Last November, the nonprofit in charge of building the center decided to break off its partnership with Valley Forge Park and announced it was looking for another site for the center. A big reason for that, said Caldwell, was Valley Forge Park decided last August to shrink the center from 90,000 to 50,000 square feet. Tom Daly, president and CEO of the American Revolution Center, refused to comment for this article, but in a November 12, 2005 "New York Times" letter to the editor he wrote, "Building the center in a way that would compromise the educational experience would be unconscionable. That is the reason for the partnership's termination." This year, negotiations got back on track. Caldwell believes that, once the New Year hit, the both parties decided to start focusing on the issues again. He also feels that the perspective of Gerry Lenfest, the new chairman of the American Revolution Center, helped. Pressure from legislators may also have pushed both parties to resume negotiations. This project has had much bipartisan support. Gov. Ed Rendell and Sen. Rick Santorum became especially vocal after negotiations were broken off. Caldwell said there were many people in public office who were happy to see negotiations resume.

One result of resumed negotiations was that Valley Forge Park agreed to give the American Revolution Center the square footage it originally wanted. Another result was that the funding estimate for the center increased to \$150 million. The original estimate was \$100 million, but a fund-raising feasibility study conducted by the National Park Service determined that the center's endowment, originally calculated at \$10 million, ought to be larger. Caldwell believes that this increase was one positive result of the negotiations. Also, all of the funding for the center must now come from private sources. Valley Forge Park will reserve all government funds for itself. Caldwell estimates that the American Revolution Center will be complete within five years. In a July 6, 2006 article, Lenfest said that no work will be done on the center until the entire \$150 million is raised. Robert A.M. Stern Architects came up with the blueprints for the center. It will be built into the side of a quarry wall near the main parking lot. The center will contain exhibit space that will house the American Revolution Center's collection of Revolutionary War-era artifacts. The collection was begun in 1907. The center will also contain an auditorium, retail and food-service establishments, an outdoor terrace, and a resource center for scholars and educators. The American Revolution Center will be the first museum dedicated exclusively to the American Revolution. ★

226th Anniversary Ceremony of the Battle at Kings Mountain

Photo essay by Bob Yankle



Children of the American Revolution present wreath at the 226th anniversary celebrations at Kings Mountain. Photo by Stewart Dunaway.

On an overcast, somewhat cool day, members of a number of Patriotic organizations gathered together on "The Mountain" to commemorate the battle that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War in the South. After the Patriots' bitter defeats at Camden and Fishing Creek, and their victory at Musgrove Mill in August 1780, the Patriots desperately needed a victory to revitalize their fighting spirit and to resolve the Whig/Patriot vs. Tory/Loyalist fight raging in the South Carolina backcountry. It was delivered to them on October 7, 2006 at Kings Mountain, SC. Maj. Patrick Ferguson's Loyalist troops were soundly defeated by the growing coalition of southern Patriot militias. As the pictures in the on-line gallery attest, a grateful nation will long remember their deeds through the efforts of the DAR, CAR, SAR, Sons of the Revolution, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, the NC Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots, and the Georgia 30 Society. Organized by the Marquis de LaFayette Chapter, NCSSAR, the ceremony held on October 7th, 2006 well and faithfully upheld the tradition of patriotic pride in the founding of our nation.

View the exciting photo gallery at:

<http://ncssar.com/images/KingsMountain2006/index.html> ★

The Southern Revolutionary War Institute Call for Papers - Second Biennial Southern Revolutionary War Symposium

The Beginning of the End: The Campaigns of 1775-1776 in the Southern Colonies

The Southern Revolutionary War Institute is pleased to announce that it will host the Second Biennial Southern Revolutionary War Symposium at the McCelvey Center in York, South Carolina on Friday, July 13, 2007. The McCelvey Center 212 East Jefferson Street is home to the Southern Revolutionary War Institute, a research center dedicated to the study of the American Revolution in the Southern colonies.

The 2007 symposium will focus on the important but often overlooked years of 1775 and 1776, the "beginning of the end" of British rule in the Southern colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Critical political events included the dissolution and expulsion of the royal governments of the Southern colonies, the formation of the first independent provincial governments, the division of loyalties among the populace, the mobilization of state troops and militia, North Carolina's "Mecklenburg Resolves," and William Henry Drayton's expedition to the South Carolina backcountry. Significant military engagements in 1775 included the first siege of Fort Ninety Six, SC; the Patriots' success at the Battle of Great Bridge, Virginia and the Battle of Great Canebrake or Reedy River, SC, and the "Snow Campaign." The year 1776 witnessed the Patriots' victory at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, NC; the failed British attack on Charleston, SC at the Battles of Fort Sullivan and Breach Inlet; and the epic Cherokee Campaign that launched the militia of both Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia into a total war against the pro-British Cherokee Nation. The Institute especially encourages studies of the involvement of Native Americans, African Americans, and women in this early phase of the Revolution; areas of interest include the effects of Virginia Governor Lord Dunmore's efforts to grant freedom to the slaves of rebel slave owners in exchange for the slaves' service to the Crown; the Indian wars along the frontiers of Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia; the participation of the Catawba Indians in the Battle of Sullivan's Island and the Cherokee Campaign; and the involvement of women in political events like the "Edenton Tea Party."



Southern Revolutionary War I N S T I T U T E

The Institute invites proposals for papers and sessions for the symposium. To submit a proposal, please send by January 1, 2007 a 300-word abstract with a cover letter indicating your name, postal and e-mail addresses, institutional affiliation (if any), equipment needs, and a short biographical summary, to:

Michael Scoggins - Director, Southern Revolutionary War Institute
212 East Jefferson Street, York, SC 29745

Address any inquiries Michael Scoggins at micscoggins@chmuseums.org or the above address. Notice of acceptance will be made no later than January 30, 2007, at which time presenters will also receive information on hotels and local accommodations. Papers should be 18-20 pages, Chicago Manual of Style, with footnotes and bibliography. Full text of the paper must be delivered by May 30, 2007. A copy in word processor format is also requested for future publication of the proceedings. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes per person with 10 minutes for discussion; time limits will be strictly enforced. Papers will be grouped into sessions based on themes with a moderator for each session. ★

Caribbean Rev War Database Launched

The real stakes in the Revolutionary War after Saratoga were no longer the 13 rebelling colonies but shifted to the West Indies where major trading nations of Europe did fully one-third of their foreign commerce. Much real estate changed hands there during the war. Some captured Continentals agreed to serve here as British soldiers to escape the hell of prison hulks. This is a part of the war with which many of us have little familiarity. A new online geographical database has been launched for the study and vicarious exploration of significant Revolutionary War sites that fall on a map of the Caribbean. The intent is to marry terse history with geographical coordinates, and to document the process. Your collaboration is invited. See

[Gazetteer of Caribbean in Revolutionary War](#) ★

SCAR Caribbean Symposium

SCAR has started work on a cruise ship based symposium on the Revolutionary War in the Caribbean Ocean for 2008. We know that the war became more global as allies entered the fray against the British and the prized British colonies in the Caribbean were seen as up for the taking, those valuable sugar=molasses=rum islands. Take a look at John Robertson's Caribbean database and see the number of battles in the area that I call the southern southern campaign. We are taking suggestions of relevant battlefields and museums that are "must see". Stay tuned for more information. ★

Launch Planned for: *Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution*

by John A. Robertson

For nearly 7 years, I have worked at locating most of the Revolutionary War battle/skirmish/significant sites worldwide. My earliest efforts were geographic only, with no effort to marry the sites with the history, and with little effort to document a site or to estimate its level of confidence. At one point, I even prepared a CD version that I planned to market containing coordinates but nothing related to the history of the site. The only extant copies live on my computers and are used with some frequency. My recent efforts have re-examined each site, provided a number of references and state the confidence level of the estimate. My experience is that when collaborators are involved in the process, even if I do most of the work involved, the results are better than when I work alone.

My friends have advised me to publish my work, reap any financial benefit forthcoming from it, in order to receive just credit for long effort and for my contribution to the study of the Revolution. I appreciate their concern. It is my belief that if I were to do so, it would have the effect of freezing the project at its current level of completion. It is more important to me to see such a gazetteer develop to its full potential during my lifetime. If I am remembered as the one who saw the possibility for such and if I live to see it develop into a reasonable state of completion, that will be reward enough.

I plan in the very near future to convert the present [Caribbean Gazetteer](#) to a *Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution*. There will be a separate section for each letter of the alphabet, with entries in each arranged alphabetically. The format of the World Gazetteer will be the same as that used for the *Caribbean Gazetteer* and there will be an individual documentation page for each

location. As time is available, I will fill out each "letter page" with simple name entries for the locations known to exist. Little if any data will be provided for those sites for which a documentary page has yet to be created and coordinates, if provided, will be less precise. I have learned from experience that when the history is married to the geography, the sites of interest change and multiply.

I have not yet decided whether or not to include the [Graves of Notables](#) in the same database, but I am inclined to do so. I personally find that it adds a long-term perspective to the war that I find very satisfying.

If you would like to see an entry added or an existing entry developed fully, you can vote for such with "sweat equity". The most time-consuming part of developing each entry is that of finding references (online or printed) that substantiate a terse historical statement of all significant events occurring at that location and which support the selected location of the site. Your contribution in that effort will accelerate your site of interest being fully developed. The alternative is waiting until such time as I can do all the grunt work myself.

The site will be copyrighted. The usual laws for its use will apply. There will be provided the text to suitably credit this online gazetteer as your source of information. Individual use of site entries and those of a modest number would require only the suitable citation of their source. If a substantial number of sites were involved, or if an entire work were developed based on this gazetteer, specific permission would be required. The requirement of such permission would likely require a gratis copy of the resultant publication, but each situation would be considered individually. An extreme case would be the incorporation of the entire database into a derivative work in which a financial agreement would likely be required.

The principal idea behind this online publicly-available gazetteer is to allow and to encourage interested persons worldwide to provide suggestions that would improve upon the accuracy of the information provided for any site. Also this will build a site-specific ready reference to documentary histories including maps, pension statements, historic texts, and manuscripts.

When the *Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution* becomes publicly available, it will appear in the menu line at the top of all pages at <http://jrshelby.com/sc-links>, replacing the present link for *Gazetteer of Caribbean in Revolutionary War*. At some point it may be given its own domain name.

For any who might be concerned about this effort endangering unprotected sites, first, let me thank you for your unfounded belief that I am that good, working in my basement in Shelby, NC. One of the more active archaeologists in the Carolinas has told me that he sees no problem in such work when it is based on historical research. In the very few cases where amateur archaeologist information is available and used, it will be displayed in a fashion that obscures this source. It is my belief that this database will serve to prepare those concerned to participate in any public hearings concerning any proposed development on these sites. I have visited many of these sites and the "city fathers" destroyed with bulldozers the only ones that I have found destroyed. They knew full well that which they were destroying as is was demolished. ★

New On-line Revolutionary Grave Locator

SCAR cartographer **John Robertson** and others have started an on-line catalogue and data exchange on the location of Revolutionary

War leaders' graves. If you wish to help locate the final resting places of 18th century Patriots and Loyalists whose names appear in history books, and share that data, please contact [John Robertson](mailto:John.Robertson@jrshelby.com). Please visit the database at <http://jrshelby.com/sc-links/graves/index.htm> - *Graves of Notables in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War*.

Hopefully we will find all Revolutionary War soldiers' graves suitable marked, protected, tended, and respected. Many will require research. The DAR and SAR both have active grave identification and marking programs for Patriots' graves and many local chapters have lovingly adopted these graves. Here is the epitaph on two amazing heroes tombs that are located in the Sumter National Forest in Union County, SC.

Maj. Joseph McJunkin's Epitaph

Erected
To the memory of
Major Joseph McJunkin
Born June 22nd, 1755
Died May 31st, 1846
He commanded the services of his country in
the war for its independence as a private
soldier, never ceased from that service till
the war closed, when he held a major's commission.
He was a useful and upright citizen through
the period of manhood, promoted diligently the
best interests of society,
He was a ruling elder of the Presbyterian
Church for a period of 60 years. Major
But mark the man of holy fear,
How blest is his decease!
He spends his days in duty here
And leaves the world in peace.

Sacred
to
the memory of
Mrs. Ann McJunkin
The wife of Major McJunkin
and the daughter of Col. John Thomas
who departed this life March 17th
1826
aged 69 years.
The deceased was an intrepid heroine of the ~
revolution, who with the aid of her
mother, brother, and brother-in-law
defended her father's house with success against the attack
of 300 Tories.*

Lord, I am thine, but thou wilt prove
My faith, my patience, and my love.
When men of spite against me join
They are the sword, the hand is thine.
Their hope and portion lie below.
Tis all the happiness they know.
Tis all they seek, they take their shares,
And leave the rest among their heirs.
What sinners value, I resign.
Lord, this enough that thou art mine.
I shall behold thy blissful face,
And stand complete in righteousness.
This life's a dream, an empty show;
But the bright world to which I go,
Hath joys substantial and sincere;
When shall I wake and find me there?
O glorious hour; O blest abode;

I shall be near and with my God.
And flesh and sin no more control,
The sacred pleasures of the soul.
My flesh shall slumber in the ground,
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound;
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise,
And in my Saviors' image rise.

Supplied to SCAR by Carole Grant and Philip Feldman. ★

Eutaw Springs Conference Presenters



Author Robert M. "Bert" Dunkerly, Kings Mountain.



Novelist Charles F. Price of Burnsville, NC.



Historian Dr. Jim Picuch, Kennesaw State University.

Digging for Information – Southern Campaigns Archaeology Projects

SCAR needs sources to report on Revolutionary War archaeology projects in other Southern Campaigns states; more militia is needed for intelligence. New and follow-on archaeology projects at several interesting South Carolina Revolutionary War sites are underway.



Buford's Battlefield (Waxhaws) SCAR Emergency Response – Lancaster County is constructing a recreational facility just south of the monument area of the site of the Battle of the Waxhaws. John Allison led a team to examine the site for Revolutionary War era battlefield artifacts. One old halter buckle was recovered, but nothing more definitive of the battle was located. SCAR believes that Scott Butler of Brockington and Associates, archaeologists of Norcross, Georgia conducted a survey of the graded area prior to the grading and also did not find any evidence of the battle except for an area thought to possibly be a second mass grave which was not disturbed by this project. SCAR photo.

Unfortunately, Lancaster County, the SCIAA, the SC DOT, or SCAR does not really know the precise location of Buford's Massacre. Butler's SC DOT survey did locate some military artifacts about 2,000 feet northeast of the new recreational park, their scatter did not prove this important battlefield. Butler's "cultural resources" survey of a portion of the **Battle of the Waxhaws (Buford's Massacre)** site near the intersection of SC Highways 9 and 522 in Lancaster County, SC located a wide Revolutionary War era musket ball scatter to the north and east of the monument site, indicative of the battle. This initial survey shows the period military artifact scatter over a wide area and that the National Register of Historic Properties boundaries need to be enlarged and redefined. Since the SC DOT is making roadway improvements on this battlefield, hopefully, the mitigation plan will fund additional archaeological research to fully delineate the battlefield, locate and mark the mass graves, recover artifacts before they are paved over, and place interpretative signage. If you have Battle of Waxhaws artifacts in your collection, please contact [SCAR](#) about sharing your data.

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology's (SCIAA) military archaeology team of Steve Smith and Jim Legg have finished some "quick and dirty" fieldwork for the Palmetto

Conservation Foundation and the State of South Carolina – Parks, Recreation and Tourism at SC Patriot militia Gen. Thomas Sumter's November 20, 1780 **Blackstock's Plantation** victory over British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton on the Tyger River. The initial survey recovered a wide scatter of 18th century military artifacts and 18th century nails from the plantation's buildings described in the battle accounts covering a large area around the DAR monument.

Smith and Legg's archaeological survey of Continental Lt. Col. John Laurens' May 4, 1779 **Coosawhatchie** battlefield and SC Patriot militia Col. William Harden's capture of **Fort Balfour** from its Loyalists garrison at Pocotaligo, SC on April 13, 1781 is available on-line at

<http://www.lowcountryrevtrail.org/downloads/BalfourandCoosaRep.pdf>.

Smith and Legg are also working on an initial archaeological survey of the important backcountry revolt that occurred on July 12, 1780 at the **Battle of Williamson's Plantation – Huck's Defeat** battlefield in York County, SC. Luckily, the majority of this site was obtained for preservation by York County in conjunction with Historic Brattonsville. Their research thus far confirms the presence of Revolutionary War period military artifacts north and east of the Historic Brattonsville visitors' center, but many finds have been artifacts from modern reenactments. Hopefully, the archaeologists can return to Brattonsville to further define this important battlefield and the York County Cultural and Heritage Commission will interpret this battle on the actual battlegrounds. If you have any relics from or knowledge about the Huck's Defeat site, please contact either York County historian [Mike Scoggins](#) or project archaeologist [Steve Smith](#).

Smith and Legg are also conducting some fieldwork to delineate the **Musgrove Mill** battlefield. The State of South Carolina owns property on the east side of the Enoree River thought by many to be the actual battlefield. The state historic site clearly owns the old Edward Musgrove home, mill and ford sites, and purchased an elaborate battlefield model showing the battlefield just to the east, across the Enoree River. The location of the actual Musgrove Mill battlefield is subject to some debate until archaeology can confirm the site. SCAR is excited to add archeological evidence to aid in the preservation and accurate interpretation of this important Patriot victory during the lowest ebb of the Southern Campaigns. Preliminary results have failed to find the level of 18th century military artifacts on the state's battlefield property; this is a preliminary indication that the location of the battle is not as believed. Since the State of South Carolina has chosen Musgrove Mill as the locus to tell the story of the Georgia and Carolinas backcountry in the Revolution, hopefully, the SC PRT will fund further survey work to locate, delineate and interpret this important battleground. Additional lands may need to be purchased to protect the site's view shed and actual battlefield. If you have any relics from or knowledge about the Musgrove Mill battlefield site, please contact either historic site manager Frank Stovall or archaeologist [Steve Smith](#).

Smith and Legg are back in the field working on their third "dig" at the **Battle of Camden** site with some highly skilled volunteers doing an extensive metal detection survey in specific areas, some ground penetrating radar studies, and again interviewing collectors to identify and catalog old finds on the master GIS system of battlefield artifacts. The initial analysis of ground penetrating radar (GPR) returns indicates that the battlefield's sandy soils are not conducive to GPR studies. A project goal of locating the mass graves on the battlefield continues to elude the researchers. If you have Battle of Camden artifacts in your collection, please contact

archaeologist [Steve Smith](#) or [SCAR](#) about sharing your data. Smith, Legg and Tamara Wilson's detailed report on the first two Battle of Camden archaeological surveys, called *Understanding Camden*, is available for sale for \$20.00 from the Palmetto Conservation Foundation.

(<http://palmettoconservation.org/index.php?action=website-view-item&WebSiteID=127&ItemID=3040>)

Smith and Legg are conducting a major Gen. Francis Marion site survey contract for the Francis Marion Trail Commission. At the **Port's Ferry** Marion campsite on the Pee Dee River, Smith discovered several artifacts dating to the late 18th century, including a side plate from a British Brown Bess musket, buttons, a colonial period horseshoe and a buckle. "I've been to three locations in the Port's Ferry area where we found evidence that might be possible locations of Francis Marion camp sites," Smith said during an interview deep in the woods. "Port's Ferry was an important strategic point along the Pee Dee that Marion crossed several times. It is also where he camped during the early part of his partisan career, generally between August of 1780 and January and February of 1781." Smith is searching to prove sites selected for identification of Marion's military operations: Black Mingo Creek/Dollard's "Blue House" Tavern; Wadboo Barony (boats captured and burned, Colleton mansion, final camp and Battle of the Avenue of the Cedars); Fairlawn Barony (Stony Point landing, extant redoubt "Fort Fairlawn" and British camp, Colleton Castle and hospital burned); Battle of Parker's Ferry; Battle of Tydiman's Plantation/Wambaw Bridge; Georgetown defenses and raid sites; Port's Ferry (redoubt) camps; Battle of Quinby Bridge/Shubrick's Plantation; Birch's Mill; Snow Island/Tanyard camps and raid; Battle of Blue Savannah; the route of Lt. Col. Tarleton's chase of Gen. Marion to Ox Swamp; Battle of Halfway Swamp to Singleton's Mill; Thomas Sumter's Plantation (at Great Savannah); site of the reconvention of South Carolina's General Assembly at Jacksonboro on the Edisto (Pon Pon) River; Witherspoon's Ferry on the Pee Dee River; and route of Col. Watson's chase of Gen. Marion in the "battle of the bridges". These Marion sites together with his positions in the Battle of Eutaw Springs; the sieges of Fort Watson and Fort Motte; Marion's birthplace on the Cooper River; the Tradd Street house in Charleston; Marion's tomb at his brother's Belle Isle Plantation on the Santee River; Pond Bluff Plantation, his final home, now under Lake Marion are major Marion sites available for a tour.

Scott Butler has completed a preliminary cultural resources study of the historic site of **Bacon's Bridge** over the upper Ashley River in Dorchester County, SC. There is an extant earthwork mound, possibly of the Revolutionary War era where several 18th century military and civilian artifacts were recovered. To mitigate any adverse impacts of this Revolutionary War era campsite, the SC DOT will move the new bridge improvements to the north (upstream) away from the possible 18th century mound.

Pursuant to his contract with PCF, Butler has submitted his initial archaeological survey plan to the National Parks Services (ABPP) to do phase two reconnaissance at Gen. Nathanael Greene's **Eutaw Springs** battlefield in Orangeburg County, SC. This fieldwork, scheduled for January 2007, is designed to further delineate the boundaries of the battleground building on the initial battlefield survey work by David P. Reuwer and Butler in 2000-2002. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation's Military Heritage Program (Gen. George Fields and Nancy Stone-Collum) held their initial community meeting on November 14, 2006 in Eutawville, SC, planning for preservation of this important national heritage site. If you have Battle of Eutaw Springs artifacts in your collection, please contact [SCAR](#) about sharing your data.

The **Hobkirk's Hill** battlefield archaeology project (ARCHH, Inc.) has completed its metal detection survey of the fourth property located south of Greene Street and west of Broad Street on the southern face of Hobkirk Hill. ARCHH researchers found one oval brass plate, lead filled, with a hasp, very old, *possibly* a cross strap plate; however preliminary archaeological identification by Tariq Ghaffar indicates that he believes that the brass piece is a "bridal rosette", common on horse tack up to about 1805. "We are classifying it as an "M" (maybe related to the battle) in the artifact catalogue. It could just as easily have come from a lady out for an afternoon ride in 1800, as from American or British cavalry." Also the team found one melted piece of lead and second piece of misshapen lead. They also recovered 11 post 1959 coins to go with 3 coins the team found in late summer along with some other "yardifacts", but nothing of import. The team speculates that they may be too far north of where action may have occurred; however this yard is in an area of heavy residential development and landscaping. ARCHH Field Director John Allison is confident that with the coins and yardifacts recovered they would find anything else relevant if it is there. The ARCHH team plans to be back "on the hill" the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. If you are interested in volunteering to work with the Hobkirk Hill archaeology research project, please contact [SCAR](#). If you have Battle of Hobkirk's Hill artifacts in your collection, please contact [SCAR](#) about sharing your data. (see www.hobkirkhill.org)

The University of Georgia Lamar Institute, lead by archaeologist Daniel T. Elliott, has published their impressive archaeological survey of **Ebenezer, Georgia**, site of numerous British camps on the Savannah River is posted in a sanitized version on-line at <http://shapiro.anthro.uga.edu/Lamar/PDFfiles/Publication%2073.pdf>.

Southern Research, Historical Preservation Consultants, Inc, lead by archaeologist Daniel T. Elliott, has published their comprehensive archaeological survey of **Fort Morris, Georgia**, site of the Patriot battery on the Medway River is posted on-line at <http://hpd.dnr.state.ga.us/assets/documents/archaeology/FtMorris%20Archaeological%20Investigation.pdf#search=%22Fort%20Morris%20Georgia%22> ★

DAR - SAR SC 72 Bridge Dedication & Tour



Services for a bridge dedication to the Patriot Little River Regiment at the historic Liberty Springs Presbyterian Church in Cross Hill, SC.

SCAR attended the 4th annual Cambridge Chapter SAR program at Liberty Springs Presbyterian Church (1787) at Cross Hill, South Carolina – also called the Bridge Dedication and Constitution Day - on a beautiful September 16, 2006. This red brick façade with substantial steeple replaced the earlier chapels built on the same site by the Presbyterians, many descendants of the Liberty boys of this area of Greenwood County, South Carolina, often referred to as a company of the Little River Regiment. The ceremony at the church was to memorialize the dedication of a bridge of South Carolina Highway 72 over the Little River in honor of the Patriots who formed the Little River Regiment in the American Revolution. Legislative delegation including State Representative Mike Pitts and Senator Danny Verdin were on hand who made motivating speeches about the importance of this part of local heritage. SC Highway Commissioner Marion Carnell was also present and sponsored the motion through the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Commission to have the bridge named and signs placed. The service included traditional prayers, patriotic songs, and a presentation of wreaths by Cambridge Chapter SAR, South Carolina Society of the Sons of American Revolution and the Henry Laurens Chapter of the DAR. After the ceremony, Joe Goldsmith lead a caravan of approximately twenty (20) individuals on a tour of Revolutionary War sites including the Ninety Six National Historic Site and the site of Gen. Andrew Williamson's Whitehall Plantation, a muster and rendezvous site for many actions including the Snow Campaign. ★

Merle “Mac” McGee’s Estate makes a donation of major RW book collection and loan of artifacts to Ninety Six: “A Tangible Piece of the Past”

by David Morgan

“It’s a direct link to the past,” said Eric Williams, Chief Ranger on the Ninety Six National Historic Site’s latest acquisition. The U.S. National Park recently received a donation of books and a loan of 18th century artifacts. These came from the estate of collector and park volunteer Merle A. “Mac” McGee of Greenville. McGee passed away in January.

Williams said the book donation consists of about 230 volumes, many dealing with some aspect of the American Revolution. One of the most interesting books in the McGee collection is *History Written With Pick and Shovel*, by Bolton and Calver. During the 1920s and 1930s, these authors did extensive research on American and British uniform buttons of the Revolutionary War.

The McGee artifacts number several hundred items found over a period of years at South Carolina Revolutionary War sites and battlefields. Williams said McGee found some of the artifacts at the Ninety Six site before it became a National Park in 1976. As a result, McGee was allowed to keep the historic relics. The artifacts in the McGee collection include a musket and musket parts, rifle balls, military and civilian buttons, buckles, and lead pencils, which were hammed from a musket ball. “This is what remains of his collection,” Williams said. One prominent item, now on display in the visitor center museum, is a Dutch musket from 1777, which McGee purchased. Williams said these muskets were manufactured in the Netherlands for Patriot use in America. The muskets were shipped to the colonies by way of France. Another interesting item is paper money dated 1778 and issued by South Carolina for 7 shillings, 6 pence. The bill bears the signature of Charles Pinckney (1758-1824).



Musket and cannon munitions, buckles, blades, and Jew’s harps from the McGee collection on display at Ninety Six. SCAR photo.

“(McGee) really had a special love and fascination for Ninety Six and its history,” Williams said. McGee’s family wanted to honor his request by loaning the remainder of his artifact collection to be displayed at the Historic Site. All of the artifacts in McGee’s collection are too numerous to display at one time and will be changed out periodically for display in the museum, Williams said. When visitors see an object from 225 years ago, Williams said it gives them “a tangible piece of the past to relate to.”

The books from McGee’s estate will be catalogued and placed in the park’s reference library, where they will be used by park staff and volunteers. The park plans to purchase a locking security cabinet to store the most rare books, Williams said.

The Ninety Six National Historic Site is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week on S.C. 248, two miles south of the Town of Ninety Six. The 989-acre park has a picnic area and more than three miles of walking trails. For information, call 543-4068 or visit the park’s Web site at www.nps.gov/nisi.

Article courtesy of David Morgan, “The Star & Beacon” and the Ninety Six Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. ★

New Documentary Televised on the Battle of Camden Produced and edited by Bruce Mayer

http://www.myetv.org/television/productions/carolina_stories/battleofcamden/index.html [Watch a clip](#)

South Carolina ETV kicked-off its second season of the award-winning series Carolina Stories with the “Battle of Camden”. The premier aired on SC ETV opposite the USC - Auburn game on September 28, 2006. SCAR Editor/Publisher Charles B. Baxley, Palmetto Conservation Foundation’s military heritage program chief, Dr. George Fields, and SCIAA archaeologist Steven Smith are featured in the documentary along with Bruce Mayer. The hour-long documentary examined one of the most demoralizing and bloody defeats suffered by the Americans during the Revolutionary War. Paradoxically, it was this important battle that many South Carolina historians also consider to be the war’s turning point. “A lot happened because of the Battle of Camden,” said ETV Producer Bruce Mayer. “Most of the militiamen never fired a shot before they took off and ran. It taught us that you cannot take untrained troops and put them up against a well-trained army. It also inspired King George III to write a proclamation

saying that if you did not fight with the British, you would die. That plan really backfired and only served to rile people up.”

Scenes from Historic Camden, the 255th anniversary reenactment at daybreak on the actual battlefield and historic documents give visual interest to the film. From new guerilla tactics employed by American militia to the actions of an over-confident King, the tragic events that transpired on August 16, 1780 became the catalyst that led to the birth of a nation. However, Mayer believes that the battle's importance has been largely overlooked. “For some reason, it never received much attention,” he said. “This is bad in one respect, because not many people know about it; but there have also been benefits because the field itself has remained so pristine.”

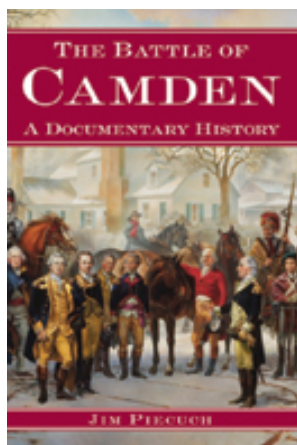
Mayer hopes that this program will only add to the renewed interest in the historic site located six miles north of Camden, as recent efforts have been made to preserve the field and turn it into a national or state park. An admitted history buff, he said he became captivated by the Battle of Camden during a visit to the site many years ago, when he discovered his first musket ball. “I realized that this really happened, there were real people here, and I was holding a musket ball that was fired on that day,” Mayer said.

Copies of the documentary on VHS tape or DVD may be purchased from the SC ETV store.

<http://www.etvstore.org/completelist/index.asp?let=C&CurrPage=2> ★

The Battle of Camden: A Documentary History

by Jim Piecuch



Author and historian Jim Piecuch offers a comprehensive consideration of this vital Revolutionary battle and its effects on the war for American independence. This engaging new book presents the Battle of Camden as never before: through the eyes and words of American and British participants and witnesses to the conflict.

The story of the Battle of Camden, the largest open-field contest in the South and one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War, is at last fully told in *The Battle of Camden: A Documentary History*. Rather than simply relate the general narrative of events, the author sets the scene and then allows the participants to speak. Readers learn the strategies of the opposing commanders, Horatio Gates and Lord Cornwallis, in the generals' own words; hear their subordinates including Otho Holland Williams and Lord Rawdon describe their own roles in the campaign and battle; while ordinary soldiers relate their experiences on the fatal day of August 16, 1780.

To demonstrate the importance of the battle, the book includes contemporary observations from a variety of sources. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Nathanael Greene, and John Adams express their concerns, General Henry Clinton and Lord George Germain exult in the British victory, and loyalists – and some Americans – ridicule Gates. The wide variety of original material included in *The Battle of Camden* makes it an excellent reference work as well as an informative book on the battle.

Piecuch, PhD in history from William & Mary, is the book review editor of *SCAR* and serves as professor of early American and Revolutionary War history at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. His next book is a Battlefield Guide to Eutaw Springs, written with *SCAR* editor, David P. Reuwer. **The author has generously agreed to donate one-half of his royalties from the book to help fund the preservation and interpretation of the Camden battlefield.**

The book is available from The History Press, 18 Percy Street, Charleston, SC 29403, www.historypress.net and in bookstores. Anyone wanting a signed copy can contact the author, Jim Piecuch, at Kingsranger@aol.com.

ISBN 1-59629-144-3 \$24.99 - over 30 color photos in 160 pp. ★

Letters to Editor

Thank you, Charles:

I found the following citation in the Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, page 92. (at Ancestry.com)

"Bozeman, Ralph R-1116 b. 1760, Bladen County, NC While residing in Williamsburg County, he enlisted during May 1777 under Gen. Marion, Col. John Lanford Dart, Maj. Benjamin Snipes and Capt. McCall. He was in the battles at Dorchester, Monck's Corner, Black Mingo, Gen. Pickens' Lane, Mars Bluff, Camden and Eutaw Springs. (Moved to Georgia and Florida.)"

Is there any other record of the above-listed Major Benjamin Snipes? This is the only citation where I have seen this name mentioned.

Bill Snipes
sfa344@juno.com

Howdy,

After reading Steven Rauch's article on the 2nd siege of Augusta, I need to write in to make a correction. In his article he wrote that the North Carolina Continentals commanded by Eaton were made up of the militia that had ran at Guilford. You do these men a great disservice. Historians in the past have also made this mistake, however these men were the newly formed 1st North Carolina Regiment. The 1st North Carolina Regiment was made up of 12-month Continentals from the Halifax District. Some historians have mistakenly written that these men were the militia who had fled the field at Guilford Courthouse, and then had to serve in the Continentals for 12 months, but those men are not the unit under Eaton. These were the same four North Carolina Continental companies who fought at Guilford, and were sent to serve as the cadre of Eaton's detachment.

So, where were the militia who had fled during Guilford? They were under intensive training up in Halifax throughout the summer of 1781. They would become the North Carolina brigade at Eutaw Springs. That brigade was both new enlistees and the militia drafted for 12 months as punishment for running away at Guilford Courthouse. They were combined into three regiments and drilled and trained intensively during early summer 1781.

It was also Captain Samuel Finley who commanded the 6 pounder, not Ebenezer Finley.

Patrick J. O' Kelley, Lillington, NC

Charles,

I appreciate Patrick's comments that indicate he read my article, but I would refer him to read closely my sources in the footnotes to the Order of Battle. I stand by my research unless he can provide the exact sources for his information, which I would like to see. I do not believe I did the North Carolina Continentals a disservice. I said they performed very well in the campaign, except for the 41 who deserted Eaton when he began the operation. According to the Greene papers, the participants themselves said:

- ❖ General John Butler's letter to Greene, 11 April 1781: "Maj Eaton will march "tomorrow" with 200 men who have been ordered to serve for a year because they fled during the battle of Guilford Court House."
- ❖ Eaton to Sumner, 17 April 1781: "his troops desert fast and complain heavily of the injustice done them, having never had a Tryall as they many of them declare."
- ❖ Eaton to Greene, 17 April 1781: "On his way with 140 'Men from Halifax' who have been 'turned into' the Continental service for twelve months."

So from that, I think one can reasonably conclude that Eaton knew who the men were that he commanded. Apart from that assessment however, there is no indication that they did not exhibit exemplary conduct during the subsequent operations. They knew how to fight, but needed leadership such as Eaton's to do so effectively.

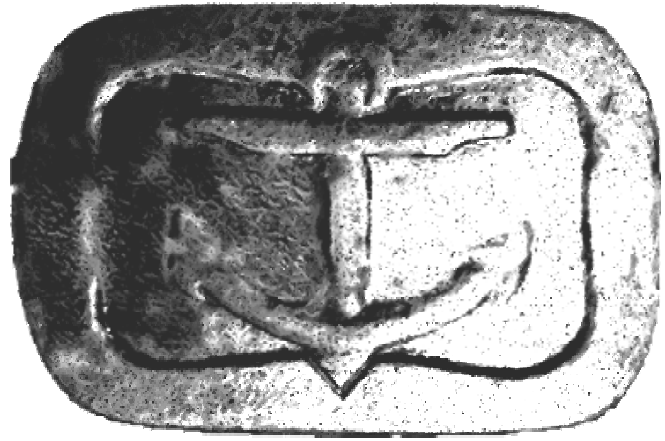
Regarding Capt. Finley's first name, my sources for the Order of Battle cite a muster roll titled "Muster Roll of Capt Rich'd Dorsey's and late Gale's Companies of Maryland Artillery incorporated serving in the Southern Army of the United States, 28th Jany 1782" which includes information on a Captain-Lieutenant Ebenezer Finley, part of Col. Harrison's 1st Continental Regiment. Though not a primary source, William T. Sherman lists in his massive work on the southern campaigns a Capt. Ebenezer Finley of the 1st Continental Artillery. So having seen the reference in two sources, I have not seen any other reference to Finley that indicates a different first name other than Patrick's books.

Regards, **Steven J. Rauch, Evans, Ga.**

The Cambridge Chapter of the SC Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is happy to announce the newly web-published Colony-by-Colony Cambridge Chapter's Comprehensive Compilation of Revolutionary Battles. This lists (more or less chronologically) the names, alternate names and dates of the 231 known South Carolina battles. Then companion piece, describing the above plus the leadership and directions to the location is currently undergoing final edit by the committee and is expected to be available by the end of the year. The website url is: http://www.scssar.org/PDF/Edited1stComprehensive_Cambridge_Collection_of_Rev_Battles.pdf

For questions or further information: joe5950@yahoo.com

Best! **Joe Goldsmith, Clinton, SC**



Recently there were some concerns about the actual identity of a certain pattern of a belt plate that has been excavated from a few Revolutionary War sites in Rhode Island and near Yorktown, Virginia and hailed by some "experts" and re-enactors as the proper belt plate for the British Marines of the 1775-1783 period.

I have investigated this particular artifact in the interest of improving my own knowledge of British naval and marine material culture, and just received a reply from the *Musee National de la Marine* in Paris, of a comprehensive package concerning the history of the uniform of LE CORPS ROYAL DE MARINE 1772-1784, which includes illustrations and research by Mons. Jean Boudriot and Michel Petard. It seems that my educated observation on the design of said belt plate was correct, and the specimens found here in North America were discarded or lost by **De Marine Royale**. Being familiar with the fouled anchor of the British Admiralty, a device in use since King Henry until today, I knew at once upon looking at the mystery plate's design and style of anchor that it had to be either French, most of all, or Spanish. Also, if you look at the various cartridge box designs used by the French Marines in the Seven Years War, you will notice a similar device.

I hope this helps those of you who might run across one of these in the near future, or have excavated one of these and have found it to be a sort of "mystery" belt plate!

With Best Regards, **Thomas Tucker, Rock Hill, SC**
Historic Maritime Educator, Consultant & Film Maker
Heartfoak1764@aol.com

★

Eutaw Springs Battlefield Advisory Council

As a part of their American Battlefields Protection Program (ABPP) grant, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) held an organizational meeting in Eutawville, SC on November 14, 2006 to form a local committee to guide development of a long-range preservation and interpretation plan for the Eutaw Springs battlefield. SC State Sen. John Matthews opened the program. The project's primary goals are to delineate the boundaries of the Eutaw Springs battlefield with archaeology and to build a community based preservation plan. A budget of \$50,000.00 has been approved of which one-half will come from the National Parks Service ABPP grant. Military archaeologist Scott Butler of Brockington & Associates of Norcross, Ga. will head the archaeology work which is a follow on to his initial 2002 study at the same battlefield. A follow up community meeting will be scheduled at the Eutawville Community Center during January 2007 when the archaeological team is in the field. ★

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please submit items to post upcoming Southern Campaigns programs and events of interest to Revolutionary War researchers and history buffs. Before you go, always call ahead to confirm events and admission policies. To add events, please contact Steven J. Rauch, calendar editor at sjrauch@aol.com.

Through January 31, 2007 – Chapel Hill, NC - Exhibition "DEFINING A STATE: A Selection of Maps of North Carolina 1776-1860". The North Carolina Collection Gallery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented an exhibition on charts and maps of this region dating from 1529 to 1775 in 1997. A new exhibition opened in the Gallery on October 19, 2006 complements that earlier project and resumes, time-wise, with displays of North Carolina related maps produced between the American Revolution and the War of Northern Aggression. Most of the twenty-eight selections exhibited in this exhibition are drawn from the North Carolina Collection's holdings, although nine original maps are on loan from a private collector, and The Library of Congress provided full-scale copies of two rare North Carolina maps preserved in its collection. Another extraordinary reference exhibited from the University Archives is the original plat that depicts the University of North Carolina's initial campus and the formation of the town of Chapel Hill. Dating from 1793, this hand-drawn map depicts the "village's" first surveyed lots and thoroughfares (Franklin and Columbia streets), as well as the intended construction sites for the University's first facilities, including the building known today as "Old East."

The inclusive years covered by "Defining a State" witnessed the rise of the United States' cartographic industry, a time in which European publishers and printers relinquished the monopoly they had held on the production of maps and atlases depicting North America. By the opening decades of the nineteenth century, the cartographic and geographic resources produced in this country began to increase significantly in number and, more importantly, in quality. The exhibition uses North Carolina maps to examine those trends and in doing so showcases works by notable surveyors, engravers, and publishers, such as Jedidiah and Sidney Morse, John Melish, Jonathan Price and John Strother, Mathew Carey, Henry Tanner, Jacob Peck, Augustus Mitchell, and Fielding Lucas, Jr. "Defining a State" also uses period maps to illustrate important innovations in printing that occurred during the "Golden Age of American Cartography," when reliance on copper-plate engraving gave way to less time-consuming and less expensive processes. Advancements in lithography, cerography, and in other printing technologies resulted in maps being more affordable and, as a consequence, more available to a growing clientele. For American cartographers, those technologies also made it easier to produce the frequent revisions of maps necessitated by changes wrought by the United States' rapidly expanding population and economy. <http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/gallery.html> [Jay Lester, William P. Cumming Map Society.]

November 25, 2006 - Ninety Six National Historic Site will host "A Backcountry Holiday" from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The past will come to life as you walk into the historic late 18th century Black Swan Tavern, where costumed interpreters will be demonstrating Backcountry life in the 1700s. Enjoy light refreshments in the park's historic Black Swan Tavern, which is only open to the public during special events. Relax by the fire or visit the park's Visitor Center for unique gifts. Musket fire will echo through the park during Ranger led talks. Children will be invited to help decorate the cabin and make colonial pomanders for

decoration. The event is free and visitors are invited to spend an hour or spend the day. The Park is located two miles south of Ninety Six on SC Highway 248. Contact the park for details at (864) 543-4068 or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/nisi.

December 9, 2006 – Simpsonville, SC - The SC Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Veterans Service Corps will be celebrating the **Battle of the Great Canebrake** that was fought December 22, 1775 near Simpsonville, SC. Color guards, a re-enactor rifle team for a 21-gun salute, vocalists, and bagpipes will be there for a wreath laying by several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution; guest speakers will explain the significance of this battle on the war effort in the SC upstate; re-enactors dressed in period uniforms will show their weapons and tools and explain how life was in the army at that time; and American Indians will be in ceremonial costumes and talk of the struggle they faced to survive. Events start at 10:30 am and are free and open to the public. Directions: from Highway 385, take the Fairview Road Exit, turn west and go 3 miles. Just past Unity Church, turn right on Harrison Bridge Road. Go 2.2 miles to South Harrison Bridge Road and go one mile to the battle site. There will be people to help with parking and directions. If you need further information, please call Charles Porter at (864) 201-3389.

December 9, 2006 – Southern Campaigns Roundtable - Pendleton, SC – upstairs meeting room at Farmers Hall on the old town square in Pendleton, SC at 10:00 am. The Roundtable consists of professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation; it is an active exchange of information on the Southern Campaigns' 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 states. Events will include brief introductions at 10:00 am our free flowing roundtable discussions. The public is invited and admission is free, but we will "pass the hat" to pay for the conference room rental and refreshments. A "Dutch Treat" lunch will be available at the Farmers Market Restaurant. You are also invited to join us Saturday night for some foot stomping bluegrass music and BBQ at Just More Barbeque. Interested participants should bring a short presentation, pictures, artifacts, maps, their research interests, and/or a request for help to share. For more information contact [SCAR](http://www.scar.org).

December 10, 2006 - Corps of Discovery - Pendleton, SC to site of Col. Andrew Pickens' Ring Fight and his Tamasee Mountain home site, extant Oconee Station, visit Gen. Andrew Pickens' and Col. Robert Anderson's graves at the Old Stone Church, tour Gen. Pickens' Hopewell House and the site of the Hopewell Treaty Oak, the sites of Fort Rutledge and Cherokee Wars battles. Hosted by Barbara Abernathy. This tour is free [\$2.00 per person State Parks fee.] and open to the public. We will gather to carpool on the square at Pendleton at 9 am. For more information contact [SCAR](http://www.scar.org).

January 13-14, 2007 – Pacolet, SC - Relive history on the **Victory March Trail** of General Daniel Morgan from his army's base camp at Grindal Shoals on the Pacolet River to Cowpens National Battlefield. The two-day hike of twenty-five miles through today's Cherokee County travels the old Green River Road through beautiful natural terrain and by many historic sites. The march includes supply wagons for those who cannot keep the pace all the way and will have interpretation programs at rest stops along the march. Hardy troops may camp overnight at the site where both Morgan and Tarleton's men camped, one night apart. Instead of a registration fees, hikers are encouraged to contribute at least \$20 to PCF's Battlefield Preservation Fund. For more information,

telephone 864-948-9615 or email gfield@palmettoconservation.org. Marchers should pre-register for the march with the Town of Pacolet, one of the march sponsors (email eharris@townofpacolet.com or telephone (864) 474-9504.

January 13 - 14, 2007 – Cowpens National Military Park - Annual battle anniversary celebration.

January 17, 2007 - Richmond, Virginia - at the University of Richmond - **New American Revolution Round Table, Richmond** initial meeting will be held beginning with an optional dinner at 6:00 pm in the Westhampton Room of the Heilman Dining Center. Under the mentorship of Dr. Harry M. Ward, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Richmond and a noted scholar of the revolutionary period, a small group of interested persons are in the beginning stages of forming an American Revolution Round Table in the Richmond, Virginia area. An organizational meeting and presentation by Dr. Ward will follow at 7:30 pm. He will be discussing his role in the recently published revision of Boatner's Encyclopedia of the American Revolution. Contact Bill Welsch at wmwelsch@comcast.net for more information or to note your intention to attend.

January 20, 2007 – Cayce, SC - the **Corps of Discovery** will mobilize again to explore little known Lexington County Revolutionary War sites with historian Dean Hunt. Beginning at the reconstructed Cayce House for a tour of the Museum we will carpool along the Old State Road and stop at site of Ft. Granby for a discussion on the Sieges on the British at Fort Granby. Visit the old Granby Cemetery by Congaree River; Fridig's (Friday's Ferry), site of two skirmishes; and discuss the site across Congaree River the camp of repose at Ancrum's Plantation. Drive to Congaree Creek bridge, site of Lee's Legion cavalry, commanded by Maj. Joseph Eggleston's ambush. See site of burial of heroine Emily Geiger at her husband's Threewitt's Plantation. Visit the sites of skirmishes at Tarrar's Springs, Muddy Springs and Cloud's Creek and tour the Lexington Museum. Also, visit the site of the running fight at Cedar Creek (Pelion) and the Juniper Springs skirmish (Gilbert). Meet at the Cayce Historical Museum 1800 12th Street, Cayce, SC at 9 am for this free, open to the public, car pool tour. For more information contact Dean Hunt.

Long Range Planning:

July 13, 2007 – York, SC - the Southern Revolutionary War Institute (SRWI) will host their biannual symposium on the Revolution in the Southern states.

July 13-15, 2007 – Brattonsville, SC – Battle of Williamson's Plantation (Huck's Defeat) reenactments.

August 31 - September 2, 2007 – Jacksonboro, SC - The Battle of Parkers Ferry. Dana A. Cheney 843-542-6222 dancer1776@msn.com

September 14-15, 2007 – Burnsville, NC – 2d Annual Carolina Mountains Literary Festival - Revolutionary War Authors' Forum. Will feature two moderated panels on historic fiction and historians discussing their and their predecessors' wordcraft. Plan to join Dennis M. Conrad, Seabrook Wilkinson, Charles Price, John Buchanan and Greg Massey discussing their craft as modern writers of engaging history on The Revolution.

December 1-2, 2007 - Saint Augustine, Fla.
www.britishnightwatch.org



4th Francis Marion Conference “1781, The War Changes, Victory Starts in the South”

The 4th Francis Marion Symposium was held at the DuBose Campus of Central Carolina Technical College in Manning, SC on October 27-28, 2006. Master storyteller Christine Swager set the stage and put into perspective the Southern Campaigns.

Patrick J. O'Kelley explained the series of unsuccessful attacks made by Gen. Thomas Sumter's troops demonstrating against British the outposts at Granby, Belleville and Fort Watson. This campaign was started after Lord Cornwallis left his winter camps at Winnsboro, South Carolina chasing Gens. Morgan and Greene across North Carolina and is sometimes called "Sumter's Rounds". Col. Francis Lord Rawdon, the British commander of South Carolina reacted to the SC State Troops and militias' February 1781 operations by dispatching three British/Loyalists detachments. British Col. John Watson left the fort he built and named for himself chasing Marion through the SC Pee Dee swamps in March 1781. Gen. Sumter demobilized his troops and withdrew so the British reaction refocused on trying to capture Gen. Francis Marion. Marion drew Col. Watson deep into the South Carolina swamps using fight-and-withdraw tactics at each swamp passage. This is often referred to as Marion's "Bridges Campaign". Col. Watson's chase of Gen. Marion started from the British camp at Fort Watson on Scott's Lake to Wyboo Creek, Canty's Plantation, Mt. Hope Swamp, Lower Bridge over the Back River, Whitherspoon's Plantation, and to the Sampit River Bridge by which time Watson's chase of Gen. Marion became an all out retreat into Georgetown, SC. Gen. Marion's sharpshooters harassed, killed and wounded Watson's men for over a month after which Gen. Marion again controlled the entire Pee Dee area of South Carolina, except the town of Georgetown. It is easy to see why Gen. Nathanael Greene detached Lt. Col. "Light Horse Harry" Lee's Legion to support Marion in April 1781 upon Greene's return to South Carolina.

Next on the program, Dan Bell of SC PRT discussed the three Revolutionary War burial sites the state cares for: Col. Isaac Hayne, Gen. Francis Marion and Gen. Thomas Sumter. Chief "Mingo" Vernon Tanner of the Indiantown community discussed the South Carolina Chaloklowa Chickasaw Indian participation in the Revolutionary War. [SCAR was fascinated to learn that the word "Mingo" is Chickasaw for chief.] Attorney Karen MacNutt of Boston presented antidotes on how we know about Francis Marion as a person. She adroitly outlined several factors known from Marion's youth that undoubtedly influenced Marion's personality and military service in the Revolution such as his social standing as a youth, his interest in maritime services, experiences on shipboard, and actually being shipwrecked.

Friday night, the sponsors provided a gracious reception at Silver Lakes Plantation Trophy Room, near Paxville, SC. We studied our hosts' African safari trophies mounted on the walls and fully mounted on the floor, saw a 3 pounder demonstrated, and enjoyed a drum and fife military music demonstration.

The conference bus tour went down the Santee River Road (the old Catawba Path) where Frances Marion's troops rode and fought on his Bridges Campaign. The tour stopped at several of Marion's chosen battle sites, at Wyboo Creek [immersed by Lake Marion], Mount Hope Swamp, and the area of Canty's Plantation. We also stopped at Fort Watson and the Eutaw Springs battlefield where it is said by some to be the site of Gen. Marion's finest hour as a military commander.



Nicki Sackrisson of Darien, Georgia, author of an upcoming book on non-traditional women in the 18th and 19th centuries, held the audience's attention as she morphed from a proper 18th century lass to a 18th century male-dressed tradesman. Her presentation was called, "The non-traditional 18th century woman". SCAR photo.

Attendees enjoyed a Saturday dinner and theatrical presentation of an evening in history with Joe T. Stukes as Francis Marion looking for Peter Horry and Linzy Washington as "Oscar" reminiscing about other Patriots; songs by Karen and Lenzy Washington; and Mary Richardson Briggs played the Richardson Waltz. ★

Delayed Republication of Logan's *History of Upper Country of South Carolina* Discount held until Thanksgiving

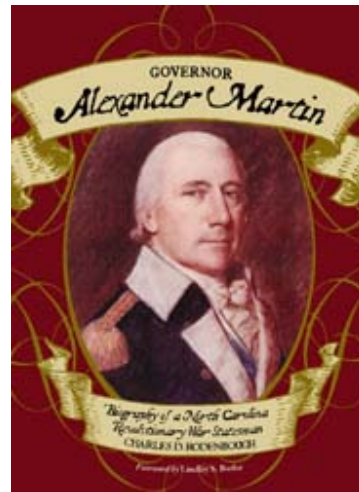
The Fairfield Museum of Winnsboro, SC announced that they are again running late on the fall 2006 prepublication deadlines on the Logan book. They will extend the \$25 price until Thanksgiving.

Long out of print, John H. Logan's *A History of the Upper Country of South Carolina from the Earliest Periods to the Close of the War of Independence* (1859) will be reprinted by the Fairfield Museum in Winnsboro, SC. The original work was designed to be published in two volumes; however, the second volume was never published. It is believed that historian Lyman Draper took the manuscript for the second volume from Mr. Logan's widow, which is largely about the Revolution; however, project coordinator Val Green reports, "we have not been able to locate the original manuscript. We do not think it still exists. We used Draper's notes that contained the material Dr. Logan collected as our source. They are however, very bad in that there are many, many mistakes,

particularly in spelling. We are dealing with that problem right now, and will have some kind of solution shortly. It may not be the best one for scholarship purposes, but will correct the misspellings."

Last reprinted in 1980, the book is in demand by scholars of the backcountry Southern Campaigns. This new publication will for the first time combine both volumes. Prepublication copies of the book, scheduled to be published fall of 2006, may be ordered for \$25.00 (sales taxes, s & h included) from The Fairfield County Museum, P.O. Box 6, Winnsboro, S.C. 29180. ★

***Governor Alexander Martin: Biography of a North Carolina Revolutionary War Statesman* by Charles D. Rodenbough**



In *Governor Alexander Martin: Biography of a North Carolina Revolutionary War Statesman*, author Charles D. Rodenbough sets out to burnish the reputation of one of North Carolina's founding fathers, a man whose many accomplishments are nevertheless unfamiliar to most of its citizens. Even many Revolutionary War enthusiasts are not likely to know that Alexander Martin served with the 2nd North Carolina Regiment of the

Continental Line for two years and led it into the battles of Brandywine and Germantown as its colonel. Nor do most know that after leaving the military, Martin worked tirelessly as a state delegate to supply North Carolina's war effort, was elected six times as its governor (the first time in 1782), served as one of the state's delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, and then as its U.S. Senator. Martin's neighbors and political peers obviously trusted him. So why is Mr. Rodenbough's book the first biography written about North Carolina's first post-Revolutionary War governor?

One reason is that Martin contributed to the Revolution mostly in the political arena and not on the field of battle. Fame does not usually lie in building coalitions, negotiating political compromises, and chairing committees, but that is where Martin's talents lay. In fact, Rodenbough's broadest theme is that Martin and men like him constituted a vital "second level of founding fathers" and a "subset of leaders" who played secondary but vital roles in creating not only American independence, but sound and durable governing institutions. Without these men, the newly independent states might have broken into smaller warring groups, just as the British hoped. The present conflict in Iraq illustrates the importance of political compromises between rival factions if there is to be lasting peace.

Another reason Martin may be under-appreciated is that his relatively short military career was tainted. During the acrimony and finger pointing after the Battle of Germantown in October 1777, he was accused of cowardice under fire. He asked for a court-martial and was cleared of all charges, yet he was so worn down from political infighting in the North Carolina Line that he resigned and never again took the field. Then, to make matters

worse, while serving on North Carolina's Board of War, he made a life-long enemy of Revolutionary War hero William R. Davie. As Rodenbough notes, Davie left his papers to history, along with some caustic and belittling remarks about Martin, while Martin's papers were lost. Moreover, Martin never married and thus had no family to protect and cultivate his legacy.

Rodenbough suggests that Martin's character and political accomplishments place him in the first tier of North Carolina Revolutionary-era heroes. The author describes Martin's most important service to the Revolution and his state as building a political bridge between North Carolina's ruling eastern elite and its independent backcountry population.

Martin moved from New Jersey to the growing backcountry town of Salisbury, North Carolina in 1760 and quickly became an influential citizen there. He understood the backcountry folk's suspicion of authority and belief in individual freedom – he came from the same Northern Ireland Scotch-Irish stock as many of them. He was better educated than most, having graduated from Princeton in New Jersey. He started his career in the backcountry as a merchant, but like Davie, who also attended Princeton, he became a lawyer, later serving as justice of the peace, deputy King's attorney, and eventually judge of Salisbury district. When the Regulator movement erupted in the backcountry in the 1770's, Martin found a middle ground, insisting on law and order while calming Regulator anger and seeking remedies for some of their genuine complaints. These activities as detailed by Rodenbough earned Martin experience, reputation and trust that later allowed him to represent the backcountry and bring its support to the Revolutionary cause and later the new state government. It was a trust he enjoyed and used for political success from the 1770s almost to his death in 1807. Yet it was not a success for personal gain but for the benefit of the citizens of his state; a philosophy guided by his upbringing and values fully explored by Rodenbough.

One of this book's strengths is the way it weaves information on the social, economic and cultural growth of North Carolina into the story of Martin's life and career. Whether it is Governor William Tryon's comments "about one thousand wagons with families" passing through Salisbury in a few months, or details concerning Martin's brother's lime kiln, the reader feels the backcountry growing and developing. Special attention is given to Martin's unique and close relationship with the Moravian community at Salem. The book also details Martin's friendship with numerous famous figures. Martin's brother, Thomas, was tutor to James Madison, Sr.'s children, and it was Martin, passing through Virginia on a trip to New Jersey, who convinced the senior Madison to send his son James to Princeton for an education. Martin likewise served as Daniel Boone's lawyer in Salisbury. One of Boone's employers was Richard Henderson, who was also Martin's brother-in-law and one of colonial America's grandest land speculators (no 20th century boy raised on Count Dracula stories can forget Henderson's proposed state of "Transylvania" in what later became Kentucky). Martin escorted George Washington through western North Carolina during the latter's Southern tour.

Rodenbough wrote a book on the history of Rockingham County, North Carolina, as well as other articles on historical subjects. He lives in Madison, North Carolina. While *Alexander Martin* is well written showing much work, research and thought, readers should be warned that its language tends toward the academic. Two sentences from the preface give an idea of the author's style: "There is a considerable body of recent nonfiction advancing the critical importance and unique circumstances that gathered a particular 'band of brothers' in colonial America to initiate a

revolution and create the first democratic republic of the millennium," and "The passage of North Carolina from the domination of tidewater, mercantile elite to reflect the insular demands of an impoverished frontier majority materialized as a political reality in the course of the rebellion against British colonial rule." Apply this prose to an analysis of 18th century politics, and you've got the type of book not everyone finds interesting. But I did. I lament with the author that we do not know the precise location of Alexander Martin's grave and applaud his book's attempt to correct previous tepid assessments of the man's career.

David McKissack
SCAR Contributor
Blacksburg, Va.

Charles D. Rodenbough has written articles for such publications as *Russian Life*, *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*, *Religion in Eastern Europe* and *Rockingham County Journal of History and Genealogy*.

Governor Alexander Martin: Biography of a North Carolina Revolutionary War Statesman, by Charles D. Rodenbough, (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2004), 242 pp. <http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?isbn=0-7864-1684-X> ★

More Eutaws Conference Candids



Eutaws Conference Panel Discussion of scholars (l to r) Fields, Butler, Dunkerly, Swager, Rauch, and Piecuch.



Tired tourists pose under the live oaks at the Eutaw Springs Battlefield Park. Photo by Lanny Morgan.

Eutaw Springs 225th Anniversary Reenactment



A lady addresses a troop of the Continental dragoons. Gen. Nathanael Greene had both Lee's Partisan Legion dragoons and Lt. Col. William Washington's 3d Continental dragoons with him when attacking the British camped at Eutaw Springs. Photo courtesy of Robert Nance.

Eutawville, SC – Labor Day weekend saw several hundred spectators turn out to witness the first recreation of the Battle of Eutaw Springs near the actual battlefield since the bicentennial celebrations in 1981.

Great on-line photo gallery of the Battle of Eutaw Springs 225 Anniversary Reenactment by Robert Nance:

http://www.pbase.com/robert_in_sc/battle_of_eutaw_springs_reenactment&page=1 ★

"If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest for freedom, go home and leave us in peace. We seek not your council nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen."

--Samuel Adams

Eutaw Springs Conference Presenters



Dr. Lee F. McGee of Pittsburgh, Pa.



Eutaw Springs Archaeologist Scott Butler.



US Army Military Historian Professor Steven J. Rauch.



David Reuwer and Jim Picuch present on Gen. Greene's approach to Eutaw Springs along the old River Road. SCAR photo by Lanny Morgan.

Yorktown Report

by David McKissack

When Charles Baxley asked me to write a reenactor's report on the events surrounding the 225th celebration at Yorktown, I was excited. I anticipated the event would lend itself well to reporting in the epistolary form, where the reenactor writes a letter home as if he had actually participated in a great event of the 18th century. As things turned out, however, Yorktown 225 on Virginia's lower peninsula was not just a reenactment, but a celebration embracing the entire Colonial National Historic Park (<http://www.nps.gov/colo>). The event boasted a multi-faceted schedule for the attending public (afterwards calculated at 48,000 visitors) that included reenactments, military demonstrations from several historic periods, craft fairs, and modern musical performances. Most battle reenactments occurred off government property because of National Park Service rules, and those that did occur at the park required opposing lines to fire at each other from an unrealistic 500-600 yards.

Obviously, combining modern day activities with 18th century ones makes the epistolary style problematic. In addition, none of the units upon which Southerners base their reenacting organizations (such as mine, the 2nd North Carolina <http://www.2nc.org>) were really at Yorktown; they were fighting with Gen. Nathanael Greene at the time or had surrendered at Charleston.

Despite these obstacles, I will attempt the epistolary form and entrust myself to the reader's forbearance at any "rough spots." Likewise, I rely on the acumen of SCAR's elite readers to sort which events in my letter are real to the Yorktown campaign and which are products of my fevered imagination.

Anyone wanting to follow my adventures can consult on-line maps of the Yorktown area and battlefield at <http://www.nps.gov/york/planyourvisit/maps.htm>.

Likewise, an excellent website, with maps, detailing Gen. Lafayette's 1781 summer campaign before Yorktown, is available at http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/laf_va.htm.

Finally, there are many good books on the Yorktown Campaign, but my personal favorite is *Beat the Last Drum* by Thomas Fleming. It is an old one (1963), but I think it is an excellent combination of human-interest stories and campaign details. Many of the first-person accounts in my "letter" below can be found in Fleming's book.

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant,

David McKissack

My Dearest Son William:

October 29, 1804

I much rejoiced in receiving your letter of the 1st ultimo from St. Louis. I was disappointed to hear that your request to accompany Captains Lewis and Clark on their expedition westward was denied and that you must continue with the garrison in town. Ah well, there will be other adventures if you do your duty and bide your time. In his purchase of the Louisiana territories, President Jefferson certainly showed a streak of boldness and enterprise he'd never shown while Virginia's Governor. Perhaps next he will buy the Spanish territories to the south and send you with an expedition there – he is always looking for ways to expand his collection of old bones and odd plants. Ha! (You will forgive your Papa's attempts at humor, I am sure.)

You asked in your letter for an account of my service in the siege of Yorktown and the surrender there of General Cornwallis' army. As I am well-acquainted with the tedium of a soldier's life, and know full-well the diversionary value of letters from relatives and home, I have sat down near a warm fire on this cold day to write you an account of that happy event, and I will persevere to the end, suffering no one to turn me from my duty, just as I and my much-loved comrades, many of whom have departed this life, pushed on through 8 years of war to Liberty.

A bird in the hand

During the opening stages of the Yorktown campaign, I was serving in South Carolina with Colonel Lee's Legion. Shortly before our victory at Eutaw Springs (and I do call it victory – the British "won" by holding the field about as much as a beaver wins by his dam holding for one hour in a hurricane) word arrived that General Washington was marching his army from New York to surround Cornwallis at Yorktown. I remember well how, upon receipt of that intelligence, General Nathanael Greene commented, "We have been beating the bush, and the General has come to catch the bird."

To be clear, General Greene was not claiming the credit for Cornwallis' predicament. Even a brilliant strategist like General Greene could not have foreseen all the events leading to Cornwallis' ultimate fate at Yorktown (although, to be sure, a similar fate, using a similar plan, had been contemplated by General Washington for trapping the army of the arch-traitor, Benedict Arnold, when he led an invasion of Virginia earlier in the same year). No, General Greene's point was that Cornwallis' fate was a consequence of events not just in Virginia, but of the activities of our armies from South Carolina to New York. We in the South had done our part in the famous "Race to the Dan," drawing Cornwallis on, wearing his army out, and giving it a terrible wound at Guilford Courthouse. We left him no choice other than declaring victory and marching north to Virginia. Once in Virginia, his fortunes revived briefly as he united with more troops, but then General Washington's activities around New York City frightened British General Clinton into thinking an attack was imminent there. Anxious, Clinton ordered Cornwallis to send many of his men to reinforce New York, then to fortify a Virginia port with his diminished army and wait. Considering these events, I would extend General Greene's analogy to say that he beat the bush, General Clinton built the coop, and General Washington shot the bird.

At any rate, what permitted my presence at Yorktown was a dispute arising from Colonel Lee's part in the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Colonel Lee felt slighted for praise by General Greene (the details need not detain us), and I think this may be the reason he requested permission to return to Virginia. I was allowed to accompany the Colonel on furlough on order to visit your mother, yourself and your sister in Southwest Virginia. I would later rejoin Colonel Lee at Yorktown.

My furlough ended far too soon. Duty called in the form of a dispatch from Colonel Lee. I marched for Yorktown, where, according to my orders, I would be detached for duty with an infantry regiment.

At this point, I knew the British were hemmed-in and going nowhere. Clearly, there was no need for me to hurry to the front. My hearty comrades in the infantry were better suited for digging approaches than a genteel and refined cavalryman such as myself. Moreover, I felt it would benefit my country if I went into battle well fed and refreshed, so I approached the front through easy

marches, and stopped in Williamsburg, Virginia. By such judicious decision-making you will note that by then I was thoroughly a veteran soldier.

Williamsburg – A Town Unchained

In my youth, Williamsburg was the state capital. (<http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com>) I'm sure you remember from your studies that the seat of government was moved in 1780 from that place to Richmond to avoid British raids, all for naught, of course, since the arch-traitor Benedict Arnold, at the head of an army of redcoats, burned the city in 1781. (I remind you, William, of the charred and cracked teacup your grandmother still retains as a relic of that unhappy event.) Much of the town was still in ashes as I passed through on my way to Williamsburg.

When I arrived in Williamsburg, recently liberated from British occupation, I was delighted to encounter those few members of the Second South Carolina Regiment (<http://www.2ndsc.org>) not captured at Charleston. They were camped on Market Square and had been in Williamsburg the entire week, enjoying life – comfortable quarters, meals provided by the town, and no duty other than showing residents the particulars of a soldier's life and guarding against attempts by spies or Tories to aid Cornwallis. I say this partly in jest – while their duty might seem trifling, you must remember that Williamsburg is no more than 7 miles from Yorktown and at this point contained a substantial stock of supplies for our siege. We learned after the surrender, mostly from Butcher Tarleton's self-serving memoirs, that in the previous month, General Cornwallis planned to launch a lightning raid on the city as a way of disrupting our preparations and gaining time for himself and a rescue force. Tarleton boasted of riding through our lines around Williamsburg in the dark of late September, when General Washington was in town, but before his troops had joined Lafayette's. Providence smiled on us yet again when Cornwallis cancelled his attack at the last minute -- letters from General Clinton assured him reinforcements would land within days. Wisely, General Washington kept a regiment-sized guard in Williamsburg to protect our supplies even once we began our advance. We could not spare time in replacing the supplies. The French admiral De Grasse had given General Washington only until the end of October to compel Cornwallis' surrender, on which date the French would sail away. Any moment could bring word of a British rescue fleet trying to force an entrance into the Chesapeake Bay.

Fortifying myself for battle

Upon hearing that I intended to meet friends for supper and frolics, my South Carolina friends offered me quarters for the night in the event I contracted "barrel fever." I do not know if young gentlemen still use this term, but during my time of service it was a malady caught by a too-free association with a barrel of spirits. Symptoms included a rolling stomach, morning headache, and on occasion, blackened eyes and lost teeth. Most sufferers recovered, but in some the illness recurred all too frequently.

Heedless of that danger, I sallied forth to join my friends in nearby Chownings Tavern (http://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/josiah_chownings_tavern.htm). One friend was Lieutenant Mike Cecere, an officer who'd served with the 7th Virginia Regiment. After the war, Mr. Cecere became a schoolteacher and authored five books on the Revolution (an example is at <http://tinyurl.com/v7d7jh>). After a hearty meal of Brunswick stew and fresh bread, we sang songs both patriotic – like "Free Amerikay" (to the tune of the British Grenadier), "Yankee Doodle," and "Chester" and more rollicking drinking

songs like "Down Among the Dead Men" and "Froggy Went A' Wooing." By evening's end, having cut the leashes on our youthful enthusiasm, we launched into the bawdy ballad "The Lusty Young Smith" but stopped abruptly upon the unexpected late arrival at an adjoining table of a family including children (I did not ask, but assumed they were French. Who else would allow children to be out in a public house at so late an hour?). The night ended in a peanut-throwing war with a group of wenches whom we suspected of being British camp followers. Fortunately, neither the tavern's wandering fiddlers nor dining civilians were hit in the exchange of fire.

Near the midnight hour, I bid my companions adieu and stepped out upon Williamsburg's quiet streets, refreshed. Thus far, I had avoided "barrel fever" and other dangers to a soldier's health. Seeing as how beds in Williamsburg were beyond the means of an unpaid soldier, I heeded my pocketbook (and, of course, the clarion trumpet of battle) and sought my post. As the wagons carrying the tents of my regiment would not arrive until the next day, I bedded down on a blanket under the stars in our staging area, Endview Plantation (<http://www.endview.org>) a few miles from Yorktown.

Here I slept soundly, visions of the British wenches in Chownings dancing in my head (you will not repeat that to your mother), until about an hour before sunrise. Splashes on my face signaled either rain or a soldier who'd mistaken my bed near the bushes for a convenient latrine. Luckily, it proved the former less-irksome event, and I ducked into shelter only moments before a raging storm.

Arrival at the front

Shortly after sunrise, I marched toward Yorktown and the front. Soldiers along the way warned me to take care. There had been several incidents between our troops and the sentinels of our French allies, mostly because of language differences, and men had almost been shot. Nevertheless, I arrived at the front without incident, and was immediately impressed with the size of the Yorktown battlefield and the British inner line. Our foe's works described a half moon curving out toward us, with the river forming its back. From the "Fusilier redoubt" on the British right to Redoubts 9 and 10 on their left, the works covered about two miles. These works encompassed the village of Yorktown, which sits on a bluff overlooking the York River. The ground being uneven along the river, it was impossible to see from one end of the line to the other. Vast, almost flat fields lay between us and our enemies, a landscape that has been preserved to this very day. (For clarity, you might wish to consult the map <http://www.nps.gov/york/planyourvisit/maps.htm>. I have enclosed with this document.)

As I had hoped, my friends in the infantry had dug the trenches and our first parallel that allowed our siege guns to begin battering the British works. A Massachusetts soldier named Joseph Plumb Martin helped dig the approaches under cover of night and reported General Washington's presence out in that dangerous area between the lines:

"One-third part of all the troops were put in requisition to be employed in opening the trenches. A third part of our Sappers and Miners were ordered out this night to assist the engineers in laying out the works. It was a very dark and rainy night. However, we repaired to the place and began by following the engineers and laying laths of pine wood end-to-end upon the line marked out by the officers for the trenches. We had not proceeded far in the business before the engineers ordered us to desist and remain where we

were and be sure not to straggle a foot from the spot while they were absent from us. In a few minutes after their departure, there came a man alone to us, having on a surtout, as we conjectured, it being exceeding dark, and inquired for the engineers. We now began to be a little jealous for our safety, being alone and without arms, and within forty rods of the British trenches. The stranger inquired what troops we were, talked familiarly with us a few minutes, when, being informed which way the officers had gone, he went off in the same direction, after strictly charging us, in case we should be taken prisoners, not to discover to the enemy what troops we were. We were obliged to him for his kind advice, but we considered ourselves as standing in no great need of it, for we knew as well as he did that Sappers and Miners were allowed no quarters, at least, are entitled to none, by the laws of warfare, and of course should take care, if taken, and the enemy did not find us out, not to betray our own secret.

In a short time the engineers returned and the aforementioned stranger with them. They discoursed together some time when, by the officers often calling him 'Your Excellency,' we discovered that it was General Washington. Had we dared, we might have cautioned him for exposing himself too carelessly to danger at such a time, and doubtless he would have taken it in good part if we had. But nothing ill happened to either him or ourselves."

I should mention there are several accounts of General Washington's placing himself in danger at Yorktown while scouting our enemies' lines or hastening the progress of our works. I think he worried that this enormous chance to defeat the British, a chance he'd been waiting on for 6 years, might slip through his fingers if he did not personally supervise almost every aspect of the campaign. Whatever the reason, he was totally heedless of danger and drove the work relentlessly.

The great guns open fire

The fire of our great guns from the first parallel announced the siege had begun in earnest. While our trenches provided protection from enemy fire, they were no perfect sanctuary. In connection with this I should mention an incident involving Alexander Hamilton and General Henry Knox which I heard from a friend in the artillery. With the first parallel complete and the initiation of battery fire, General Knox ordered his artillerymen, upon sighting an approaching shell, to shout "Shell!" at which point the soldiers in the vicinity would lay flat until the shell exploded. Being rather full of himself in his recent appointment as commander of a light infantry battalion, Colonel Hamilton approached Knox and told him such behavior was unsoldierly. As the two men argued the point, there came the cry "A shell! A shell!" and two projectiles landed in the trench nearby. Knox and Hamilton scrambled for cover. In the panic, the diminutive Hamilton grabbed the portly Knox and twisted the general into position between himself and the bomb. Knox threw Hamilton off and the two men buried their faces in the dirt as the shells exploded. Knox rose and snapped, "Now what do you think, Mr. Hamilton, about crying, 'Shell'? But let me tell you not to make a breastwork of me again."

About dusk, to the symphony of cannon bombarding British lines, the wagons carrying my regiments' camp equipment arrived and we erected an enormous camp by the standards of our particular army – 32 tents, not including those of the Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant, and the kitchen. We knew where to set up our tents because, as usual, quartermasters had preceded us and laid out the

camp, indicating with stakes and twine the tent lines for each regiment. It was late night and very chilly by the time we finished our new home.

And so, having arrived within sight of the enemy, I lay down in my tent to rest for the next day's fighting. A British band, invisible somewhere down the bluff behind Yorktown, played along the waterfront. The band played music the likes of which I'd never before heard. Their drums beat emphatically, driving music that I can only describe as harsh, savage and not of this world. This persisted late into the night, no doubt to enlarge the spirits of the surrounded British. My tent mate told me he recognized one of the tunes – an ancient Spanish piece called "The Macarena."

The second day

The next morning, before sunrise, the fifes and drums of our music banged and squealed us awake. Ah, the joys of starting a fire -- in the dark, in freezing weather, with green wood and the wind blowing -- then waiting, waiting as water in kettles slowly comes to a boil – I need not tell you, my soldier son, that under such conditions a considerable amount of time lapses between dressing in the dark in your tent and sitting with a cup of hot coffee or tea in your hand. We were fortunate to have several industrious wives in the regiment help with this. Perhaps you have read Mrs. Sarah Osborne's account of bringing food to her husband and his messmates in the trenches.

We formed for inspection after our breakfast. Sergeants checked our muskets for proper functioning and distributed ammunition. We steeled our hearts and marched for battle.

Over the course of the day, our army launched assaults on three British redoubts – The Fusiliers' Redoubt on the British extreme right (so-called because it was held by the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers), and redoubts 9 and 10 on the British extreme left. My regiment participated only in the attack on the Fusiliers' redoubt, a rather desultory affair in which we were repulsed with heavy loss, especially among the French troops. We fared better at the other end of the line, with our American light infantry overrunning redoubt 10 and the French taking redoubt 9.

An aside – a gathering of many races

The presence of so many French troops was an unusual aspect of the siege of Yorktown. In fact, the French army outnumbered our American army. Only those of us who'd fought at Savannah in 1779 (and we were precious few) had had any opportunity to meet French soldiers. At Yorktown, their uniforms and flags intrigued us and added new colors to our camp. On Saturday morning, one of my comrades said, "Look, the undertakers are here," and I turned to see three soldiers dressed in what appeared to be completely black smallclothes and shortcoats. When I asked these soldiers their regiment, they answered in French accents and said they were of the "Oxen regiment." From that answer, I assumed they must be wagoneers, but asked them to spell their regiment's name; it was "Auxonne," a French artillery unit, and their clothes were an extreme dark blue, not black. Along with this letter, I am enclosing a document giving you my best recollection of all the French (<http://www.xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/regmts.htm>) regiments in service with us. While we owe them a debt for Yorktown, I do hope President Jefferson's enthusiasm for things French does not involve us in their bloody revolution, the goals of which bear no resemblance to ours, and which has ended in the enthronement of the tyrant Napoleon.

To be sure, the French were only one aspect of a siege that involved men of nearly every race from around the world. A

French officer, Souvenir du Chevalier Ville Bresme, later wrote:

"That gathering of soldiers from so many nations was very curious to see because of the differences of uniforms; English, Scots, Germans, French, and Americans formed a singular assembly, but those who attracted the most attention were the Marquis de Lafayette's riflemen, recruited among the trappers and woods runners of the Indian frontier-- all men of gallows countenances, but very adroit [marksmen] with their long rifles and recognized by their headgear which were ornamented with high black and red plumes."

And even that remark does not include everyone. I should mention here seeing a most unusual group -- the black troops of the First Rhode Island Regiment (<http://www.6thusct.org>). Like many of the French, they wore white uniforms. The General Assembly of Rhode Island had voted in 1777 that every able-bodied Negro, Mulatto and Indian slave could enlist for the duration of the war. Bounties and wages would be the same as those of free men and the recruits would be free.

You may remember South Carolina's Colonel John Laurens suggested raising a regiment of black troops earlier in the war, but the proposition was dismissed as unwise. In support of Colonel Laurens (long may his name be honored), I must say these negroes fought as well as white troops. A sign of their value was that they were brigaded with General Lafayette's Light Infantry. It is a cause for concern that now, my son, 20 years after winning our freedom under the Declaration's claim of "all men are created equal," we have not yet found a way to solve the problem of slavery. To be sure, it is an issue that admits of no easy solution, with so much capital invested in human chattel, and likewise the problem of turning an uneducated, enslaved people into the world (having the "wolf by the ears" as Mr. Jefferson once put it). John Laurens said, "I think we Americans, at least in the Southern Colonies, cannot contend with a good Grace, for Liberty, until we shall have enfranchised our Slaves. How can we whose Jealousy has been alarm'd more at the Name of Oppression sometimes than at the Reality, reconcile to our spirited Assertions of the Rights of Mankind, the galling abject Slavery of our negroes . . ."

William, we postpone addressing this conundrum at our peril. Even now I see tiny fissures in our union that can only grow into an alarming chasm if we do not address it. Your generation must resolve this problem lest it destroy all my comrades and I fought for in the Revolution.

But your Papa is wandering off the main trail of his story, as he is wont to do these days.

The British play for time

Our successful seizure of redoubts 9 and 10 removed the last obstacles between the main British lines and us. That night, our Sappers and Miners incorporated the redoubts into a new trench line even closer to our enemies. Once our big guns were moved into these lines, they bombarded the British fortifications like angry giants hurling rocks at a child's castle of dirt and sticks.

As the sun set on Saturday (some sources say it was in the middle of the night), British troops, led by their Colonel Abercrombie, launched a sortie into our lines to disrupt our approaches and spike our cannon. Cornwallis hoped yet again to buy time for the British fleet and reinforcements, which he anticipated every hour, and indeed, which General Clinton had promised him. Alerted to the attack, our troops stood in the trenches exchanging volley after volley with the British who fired from their main lines to cover Abercrombie's retreat. Gunpowder smoke spread like a thick fog

and soon covered the wasted land between our lines. Soon, we could see nothing of the British except their volleys in the smoke, which from our vantage point looked like the rapid opening and closing of lines of hundreds of orange chrysanthemum blossoms. Citizens local to the area told me that the sight was magnificent.

Abercrombie's men succeeded in spiking our cannon, but to little purpose; his men did not possess the spiking nails and could only break their bayonet tips off in our cannon touchholes. Once we regained the trenches, our artillerymen extracted these impediments and their cannon fired again by the next day.

The "bird" attempts to fly

At this point General Cornwallis still controlled the upper York River, as our French friends could not ascend it due to uncooperative winds and their navy's reluctant spirit. In the early stages of our investment of his army, Cornwallis mysteriously abandoned his outer line without a shot in defense, the capture of which would have cost our army much blood. (We discovered later that General Clinton had sent yet another message to Cornwallis, telling him a rescue force, including 4000 fresh troops, would arrive within the week.) Cornwallis' unaccountable withdrawal from his outer lines worried General Washington. He thought Cornwallis might be planning a bold escape by crossing the York River to Gloucester, and leaving our army to try and catch him as he marched north. His Excellency had himself escaped disaster by stealing his army across rivers twice -- at Brooklyn and Trenton. You will remember that the geography around Yorktown would have made it a very difficult maneuver to defend against, as it would have placed several rivers between the British and us. Cornwallis definitely had the boats and the intrepid character to attempt this scheme.

His Excellency was prescient, for the night before Cornwallis surrendered, that worthy adversary did indeed attempt to ferry his army across the York and escape via Gloucester Point. And he almost succeeded. He had managed to convey a part of his army across the river when, completely without warning, a lashing (I would say Providential) storm broke, so churning the waters and scattering his boats that he had to abandon his plan of escape. Daylight found many of the craft, full of soldiers, still on the York River and our artillery played havoc upon them.

The bird is bagged

The failure of Cornwallis' plan of escape gave him no choice but to surrender. Our siege guns in the second parallel had gotten so close to his lines that the next day they would knock his works down around his ears. Then our men, at least twice his number, would assault his decimated and exhausted troops as they stood on, not in, their flattened works.

I know Deism and other philosophies have some currency with you and your friends, and we have argued that issue in the past, but to those who doubt the active hand of Providence in our lives, I point to the fact that General Cornwallis' request for terms of surrender came on October 17 -- the very day when, four years earlier, Burgoyne had surrendered at Saratoga. I argue to you that this (along with the fortuitous storm mentioned above) is evidence Providence is not only active in our affairs, but enjoys a delightful sense of irony.

As you might expect, the surrender ceremony was quite moving. Appropriately, a gentle rain began falling as our regiments and others formed to march to the surrender field. (Oddly, no accounts of this rain appear in any of the accounts of the surrender, *but I was there*, and I tell you it happened.) Many of our troops' musket

barrels turned a bright orange from rust. I need not tell you that we soldiers hate war more than anyone else and I recall looking at those orange barrels and praying that if all the swords and arms in the world could not be turned into plowshares, maybe at least one day they would rust and disappear into dust.

The Crown's forces played their part manfully. They passed between our lines at a slow march in their best uniforms. The British regiments passed first. German regiments came next. No jests or jeers issued from our lines. All proceeded in a quiet broken only by the weeping of their camp followers, who brought up the rear. Those of us lining the road did not see them ground their arms in surrender. This occurred at the far end of the field in the presence of mounted hussars. I am told it was a hard moment for our foes.

As you can imagine, we celebrated our victory. However, within an all-too short time, we packed up camp and I accompanied General Mad Anthony Wayne's Pennsylvania Brigade south for the final fighting of the war. General Washington returned to New York with most of the army. And that was that.

Conclusion

Reading back over my letter, I see it is mostly a collection of gossip and play – not what I had intended when I sat down to write. I apologize, William, but over the years I have pushed many of the horrible scenes of battle into the background and focused on those less painful. The privations we suffered, the terrible fears and comrades lost... Ah, there – you will see that smudge of water in the ink above. My memories have unmanned me. The tears do flow. Perhaps I will make another try at some future time at writing down other memories for you, not just from Yorktown, but other battles as well. Or better yet, I will buy a copy of the book Colonel Lee is planning on the war in the South and add my perspective on its contents for you.

In closing, let me say that you have often heard me jest that I give all glory to your mother for bringing you and your sisters and brothers into the world. Hers was the pain and effort in giving you life. If she gave you life, you will forgive me if I claim a tiny portion of the credit for giving you a country. Some people say that your Captains Lewis and Clark carry forward our nation's destiny of filling up this continent. I do not know. I am no prognosticator. I do know that the character of our nation is as important to me as its eventual size. And now, our nation's future is more in your hands than it is in mine, William. Whatever your choices, my son, please remember, its early years were watered not just with your Papa's tears, but his blood and that of his friends.

Your Proud and Affectionate Father,
Papa

Greg Urwin: This URL will bring up clips from the documentary that Lionheart Film Works is fashioning from the footage it shot at the 2006 Yorktown Reenactment: <http://ralphadeus.blogspot.com/2006/11/yorktown-2006-reenactment-clips.html> ★

THANKSGIVING – 1782

By the United States in Congress assembled. Proclamation.

It being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to Almighty God, the giver of all good, for his gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give him praise for his goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of his providence in their behalf: Therefore the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of divine goodness to these States, in the course of the important conflict in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs; and the events of the war, in the course of the year now drawing to a close; particularly the harmony of the public Councils, which is so necessary to the success of the public cause; the perfect union and good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between them and their Allies, notwithstanding the artful and unwearied attempts of the common enemy to divide them; the success of the arms of the United States, and those of their Allies, and the acknowledgement of their independence by another European power, whose friendship and commerce must be of great and lasting advantage to these States: ----

Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request these several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of Thursday the twenty-eighth day of November next, as a day of solemn Thanksgiving to God for all his mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify their gratitude to God for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience to his laws, and by promising, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.

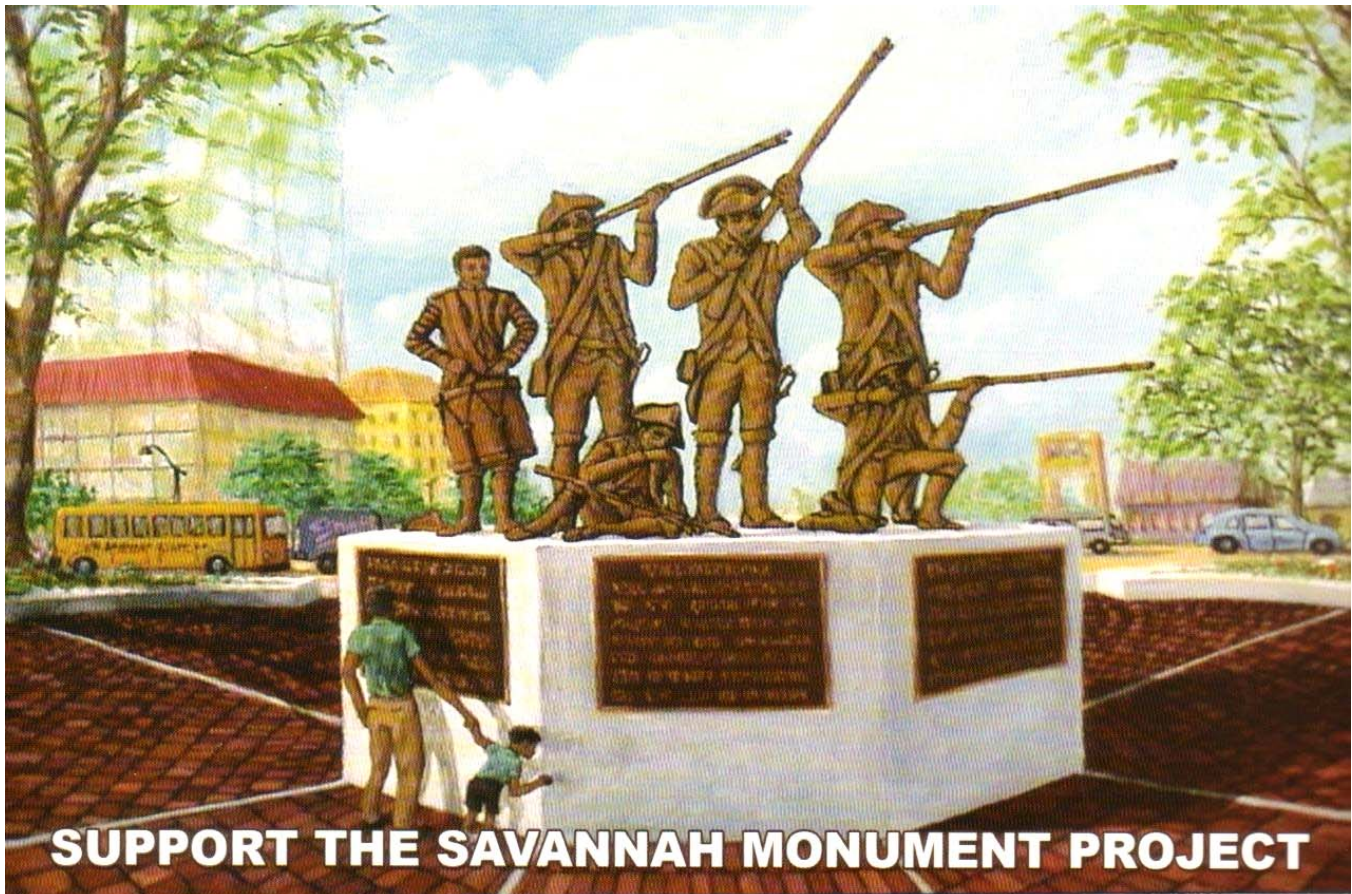
Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred eighty-two and of our Sovereignty and Independence, the seventh.

John Hanson, President

Charles Thomson, Secretary
transcribed by David P. Reuwer ★



After the Eutaw Springs Conference, attendees joined Maj. Bill Connor of the Eutaw Springs Chapter SAR who presented a commemorative program marking the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs at the battlefield park. He was assisted by SAR Regional Vice President General Greg H. Ohanesian of Bennettsville, SC [in Continental uniform] and Douglas B. Doster of Cameron, SC. SCAR photo by Lanny Morgan.



SUPPORT THE SAVANNAH MONUMENT PROJECT

THE SAVANNAH MONUMENT PROJECT

MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Haitian American Historical Society (HAHS) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization with the support of numerous public officials at the local, state, and federal level. HAHS is dedicated to fully investigate any past instances where Haitian contributions have been identified. This organization seeks to establish truth and accuracy in historical events pertaining to Haitians and those of Haitian descent.

This bold and ambitious goal will allow current and future generations to understand and appreciate the role and contributions of Haitians to American society and other parts of the world. This is especially important for the next generation who are on the verge of losing their identities and connection to Haiti.

It is our hope that HAHS will promote understanding and positive cooperation between Haitians, Haitian-Americans, and others of African descent toward a better appreciation of our common heritage.

CURRENT PROJECT

The Haitian American Historical Society (HAHS) is leading a project to honor our forefathers who fought for American Independence at the Siege of Savannah in 1779. One of the major goals of Haitian American Historical Society (HAHS) is to continue researching, documenting, and archiving the historical events in which Haiti and Haitians have contributed to the United States and the world. This compilation of information will greatly benefit researchers, historians, and the general public. Another noble goal is to erect a monument in Savannah, Georgia to honor our forefathers, "Les Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue", a platoon of Haitian soldiers who fought for American Independence at the "Siege of Savannah" in 1779.

Savannah remembers the contributions of our forefathers and is cooperating with the HAHS by reserving a site for the monument and providing technical assistance. Savannah officials, by a resolution on February 6, 2003, reserved Franklin Square in the Savannah Historic District as the site for the HAHS to erect the monument.

The monument will be implemented into two phases by renowned sculptor James Mastin. Phase I will consist of three greater than life size statues representing the "Chasseurs-Volontaires", including the 12-year-old drummer boy Henri Christophe, who became commander of the Haitian army and later King of Haiti. Also, young Christophe was the second head of state in the Western Hemisphere to be of African heritage. Subsequently, Phase II will be constructed to represent the remaining three statues of these Freedom Fighters who fought in the battle.

FUNDING

We need an additional \$200,000 to complete the "Grand Unveiling of Phase I of the Savannah Monument Project". The Unveiling will include three greater than life size statues, outstanding plaques, as well as traditional red clay memorial bricks engraved with sentiments from our various contributors. These vibrant bricks will be in-laid from the monument's pedestal to the surrounding courtyard and connecting walkways. You will be invited to attend this wonderful event. We are asking everyone to contribute to the success of this endeavor by making a monetary donation.



The festivities for the "Grand Unveiling of Phase I of the Savannah Monument Project" will be held from October 6-9, 2006, at Franklin Square in Savannah, Georgia.

HAHS would like to thank you in advance for your financial support and participation. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Haitian American Historical Society
9822 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 3A
Miami Shores, Florida 33138

or: The Savannah Community Foundation, Inc.
7393 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Suite 204
Savannah, GA 31406
(Account of Haitian American Historical Society)

Phone: (786) 621-0035 * Fax: (305) 759-0800
Website: www.haitianhistory.org
E-mail: haitianhistory@bellsouth.net

The Battle of Briar Creek, Georgia

by Robert S. Davis

In answer to repeated pleas from the Continental Congress for troops to be sent south, North Carolina dispatched 250 Continentals and nine month levees along with some 1,000 militiamen in late 1778, commanded by fifty-four year old Maj. Gen. John Ashe to act in the defense of South Carolina or in an invasion of British East Florida.

The march south faced many problems. These largely raw troops were badly supplied and the soldiers with weapons were indifferently armed. Their officers ranged from experienced Continentals to men who were hardly more knowledgeable in military affairs than the rawest recruits, including political appointees and the corrupt. Ashe achieved something of a military success just in getting 900 of his troops, with their cattle and pigs herded before them, to Southern Department Patriot Commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's camp in Charleston by January 1, 1779. Unforeseen events changed their objective, however. An expedition of 3,000 British, Loyalist and Hessian troops from New York under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell captured Savannah, Georgia, on December 29, 1778. After being reinforced by 900 men of the British garrison from East Florida under Brig. Gen. Augustin Prévost, Campbell led a detachment of some 1,000 troops into the Georgia backcountry and captured Augusta by the end of January 1779.

South Carolina leaders warned Lincoln that the British plans involved invading South Carolina to rally the thousands of frontier Americans believed to still support the King, men known as Loyalists or Tories. Benjamin Lincoln responded with a strategy of trying to block this presumed invasion.

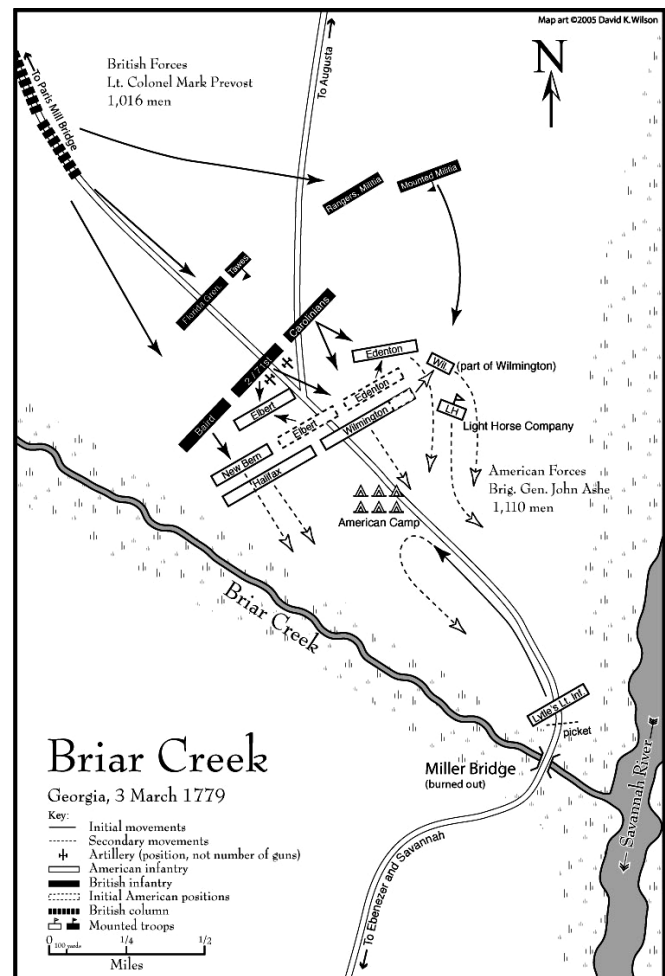
As part of this plan, Ashe took his men first to Purrysburg, South Carolina, and from there to Fort Moore bluff, across the Savannah River from Campbell's British and Loyalist forces in Augusta, Georgia. Ashe found that holding what remained of his command together grew steadily more difficult as the rank and file grumbled that their enlistments would soon expire and as South Carolina recruiting agents tried to lure away men for their own commands.

Archibald Campbell had actually brought his command to Augusta for a planned rendezvous with a force of Loyalists being gathered for him by South Carolina Loyalists militia Col. James/John Boyd* on the North Carolina-South Carolina border. They were supposed to have achieved the almost impossible task of reaching Augusta by February 9, 1779. Campbell claimed that he planned to attack the junction of Ashe's army with Patriot militiamen - Brig. Gen. Andrew Williamson's South Carolinians and Brig. Gen. Samuel Elbert's Georgians, but an accident alerted the Americans to his plans. A British diversionary raid against Port Royal, South Carolina, went badly and the outposts that Campbell had set up began to fall to American raiders. The Scottish officer, not having heard anything from Col. Boyd had his command quietly withdraw from Augusta on February 14, 1779 and started a retreat towards Savannah. (Unbeknownst to Campbell, Boyd and the 600 men still with him were only hours away and would be defeated on that same day at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia.) [*See article on the Battle of Kettle Creek in Vol. 3, No. 2, February 2006 SCAR. Ed.]

Ashe ordered a pursuit but by the time he managed to move his troops across the Savannah River some two weeks later, he had no real idea as to which route his enemy had taken in a largely

unhindered retreat. His men did take as compensation a dozen head of cattle that the British had slaughtered and then left in their retreat. Campbell and his command had actually traveled southwest from Augusta and crossed Briar Creek on a pontoon bridge at Odom's Ferry. From there the King's men marched southwest, along Briar Creek to the Savannah River at Hudson's Ferry before reaching the British base camps at Ebenezer and Savannah. By contrast, when John Ashe and his North Carolinians finally set out "in pursuit," they marched southeast along the northeast side of the deep Briar Creek with its adjoining swamps.

Eventually these Americans reached what British Lt. John Wilson had described as a farm house and a few out buildings that likely belonged to Anderson or Andrew McCorrie/McCorrie near where Briar Creek and its swamps joined the Savannah River. Ashe could go no further for the Freeman-Miller bridge across Briar Creek, then swollen with Spring rains, had been destroyed. Who burned the bridge and, therefore, unintentionally caused the events that followed? British Lt. Col. Jacques Marcus Prévost destroyed it to prevent a march upon Savannah after Prévost had learned that Campbell would not need it in his retreat.

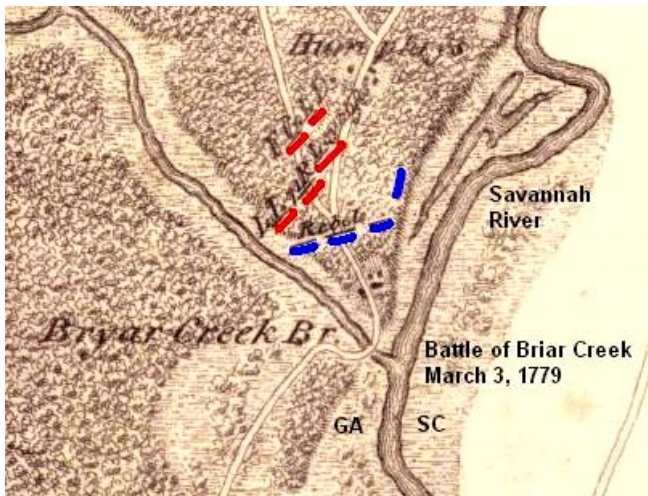


Map of action at Briar Creek on March 3, 1779 by David K. Wilson

Gen. John Ashe had reasons to feel secure. His camp had deep waters and swamps on all sides except to the northwest. He ordered the bridge repaired and sent out detachments on various missions as he waited for the arrival of other American forces. Ashe did leave his supply train nine miles north of his camp, however. Brig. Gen. William Bryan, in Ashe's absence, would

move the camp one mile above the bridge site. Thousands of men under Gens. Lincoln, Williamson and other American commanders prepared to march to a rendezvous at Ashe's camp on Briar Creek.

Lt Col. Prévost determined to prevent that gathering from happening. He selected the best troops from the British army in Georgia for a long march and attack. His regulars included the Second Battalion of the 71st Scots (Fraser's) Highlander Regiment; the Light Infantry, Grenadiers of the 60th Foot; the Georgia Dragoons (forty mounted British infantry); and artillery. Accompanying these redcoats was a collection of Loyalist units, including frontiersmen guerilla fighters known as Loyalist Col. Thomas Brown's King's Rangers; more than 200 of the survivors of Boyd's defeated command at Kettle Creek; and Captain John Hamilton's North Carolina horsemen. The first battalion of the 71st and two artillery pieces approached the burned bridge at the mouth of Briar Creek as a diversion.



Map by British Lt. Col. Alexander Campbell, although not an eyewitness to the battle, he was in the area and had access to interview the troops and commanders. The British diversionary attack was on Buck Creek approximately 3 miles south of Briar Creek.

Prévost marched his mixed assault force northwest for fifty miles, largely along the southwest side of the Briar Creek. They crossed the creek at Paris' Mill on March 2nd and then proceeded southeast towards Ashe's camp. The once seemingly impregnable American position now became a trap. South Carolina cavalry under John Ross spotted the British advance but then fled without sending any warning to Ashe.

At the 3:00 pm on March 3, 1779, Prévost began his final approach to Ashe's camp with three columns, each six men wide. Maj. Sir James Baird and his light infantry formed on the west side along Briar Creek. Lt. Col. John Maitland, commanding the Second Battalion of the 71st Regiment took the center and the Loyalists marched on the east side towards the Savannah River. The grenadiers and the dragoons formed the reserve. Prévost divided his artillery among each of his columns.

By contrast, the American army did not know of the British presence until their enemy started forming for battle only 450 feet from Ashe's camp and the pickets came running in with the news. Each army had roughly 900 men present; Prévost chiefly led well prepared and largely disciplined British regulars but his opponent had almost all raw troops. Due to not having cartridge boxes, the Americans had to grab ammunition from their wagons by hand, under their arms and in their shirttails. Some soldiers were given

the wrong cartridges. Two lines quickly formed to face the British and Loyalists in time to fire once and maybe twice inflicting most, if not all, of the British casualties: five privates killed and one officer and ten privates wounded. Only two of Ashe's three cannon went into action. Men posted at the bridge remained out of range to help. Elbert had moved his Georgians out of position, thus accidentally blocking the fire of some of the troops. When the British charged, most of Ashe's command broke and fled in little more than five minutes, taking him with them. Members of the 71st yelled to remember their Sergeant McAllister, a comrade killed by an American in Augusta. They took few, if any, captives.

Samuel Elbert, colonel-commandant of the Georgia Continentals and brigadier general of the Georgia militia, held his ground until he and some eighty of his men were finally overwhelmed. Almost every one of them fell either killed or wounded. The often-tragic history of Georgia's Continentals thus came to an end in this valiant last stand with Elbert becoming a prisoner of war. The British found signed paroles in the pockets of the Georgia militiamen that promised not to support the rebellion, given by civilians to Campbell during the march to Augusta.

Overall American casualties at Briar Creek were 150 to 200 men killed and 173 officers and men captured. Most of the dead had drowned trying to escape. That night the British searched the swamps for their enemy in hiding and set fire to brush, resulting in the deaths of more Americans. An unknown number of Ashe's troops made their way across the Savannah River and "continued the flight until they reached the safety of their own firesides." Georgia Patriot militiamen under Col. John Dooley arrived on the battlefield the next day and buried the dead.

Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell (in his memoirs) took complete credit for planning and promoting the attack on Ashe's camp. However, he did not participate in it and letters of Gen. Augustin Prévost (British commander in Georgia and the older brother of Jacques Marcus) to Campbell on the Briar Creek march and battle make no mention of any contribution by the lieutenant colonel. His claims may have been only self-promotion.

The first attempt by the American forces to drive the British from the deep South thus ended. However, had the thousands of American troops succeeded in consolidating at Ashe's camp, they would still have lacked numbers, equipment and training to have been any threat to their enemy at Savannah, or even to have protected themselves from a devastating attack by their professional foe with cumulative forces of equal or superior numbers.

Today a small park and an elaborate historical marker in Screven County commemorate the site of Briar Creek battlefield.

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General John Ashe, NC Patriot Militia

by Robert S. Davis

A major military defeat [he was largely not to blame] clouded the career of Gen. John Ashe of Wilmington, North Carolina, undoubtedly one of North Carolina's most important Revolutionary War leaders. His father, English born attorney John Baptista Ashe, became prominent enough in the Cape Fear region of North Carolina to serve as a long time member of the Governor's council. John Ashe was born March 24, 1725 to him and his wife Elizabeth Swann Ashe. The elder John died in 1734 leaving specific provisions in his will for his son's education.

Young John entered Harvard for the class of 1746 but did not remain long. He found the discipline of the university too confining. In later years, however, friends would remember him as one of the most literate men in North Carolina as he could read French, Latin and Greek. Ashe took on minor civil posts and participated as a captain of a militia company in the repulse of the Spanish attack at Brunswick in 1747. In 1752, he replaced his Uncle John Swann in the colonial legislature and on his first day he took on the task of responding to the Governor's opening speech, which he did with a call for the promotion of religion, education and trade. John Ashe became speaker of the assembly in 1762. Other highlights of his long career in the colonial legislature included campaigns for free public schools and support of American rights in the gathering crisis with Great Britain. John Ashe also helped lead in the growing resistance to the Royal government, including in opposition to Governor Tryon and the Stamp Act in 1764. However, Tryon made Ashe a major general in the colonial militia in 1768 to help in crushing the Regulators, frontiersmen in opposition to corrupt local Royal officials. This campaign, which Ashe also helped to finance, ended this rebellion in 1771.

John Ashe also became one of the major political and military figures in North Carolina's revolutionary movement. At the head of 500 men, he captured Fort Johnston [Southport, North Carolina] on July 12, 1775. He also commanded a regiment at the significant Patriot victory over North Carolina's Scots Highlanders and their Regulator allies at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on February 9, 1776. As a major general of militia, Ashe maneuvered his troops to keep the British from landing and the local Loyalists from rising in their support.

In answer to constant pleas from the Continental Congress for troops to be sent south, Ashe received command of an army of poorly trained and badly equipped Continentals and militiamen raised to help in the war in Georgia and East Florida. However, they were taken by surprise and thoroughly defeated by British and Loyalist forces under Lt. Col. Jacques Marcus Prévost in the Battle of Briar Creek, Georgia, on March 3, 1779. Ashe demanded and received a court of inquiry from which he was acquitted of any dishonor. His military career was over, however, and his many contributions to the American cause in North Carolina became buried by the infamy of Briar Creek. (Ashe County, Asheville and Asheboro, North Carolina are not named for Gen. John Ashe, but for his brother Governor Samuel Ashe (Sr.).)

John Ashe returned to North Carolina and, after being captured by the British in 1781, died in October of that year from smallpox he contracted while in prison; not specifically, as one writer claimed, of a broken heart. Ironically, Lt. Col. Prévost died at almost the same moment from sickness in Jamaica. An equally odd coincidence is that Ashe's grandson, Joseph Alston, married Theodosia Burr, the daughter of the famous Aaron Burr by the widow of the same Jacques Marcus Prévost. The eventual disappearance of Theodosia, and the ship she traveled on, in 1812 became one of the great mysteries of the Nineteenth Century.

Theodosia introduced a young Thomas Sumter, Jr. to his future bride Natalie deLange. Gen. Ashe's nephew, Lt. Col. John Baptist Ashe, commanded the North Carolina Continentals at the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781.

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The Prévosts of the Royal Americans

by Robert S. Davis

The names of the various British regiments raised before and during the American Revolution can be misleading. For example, Fraser's 71st Scots Highlander Regiment enlisted men in no small part from Ireland and western England. Some regiments even had problems with being called British. The Royal Americans (the 60th) Regiment, now the King's Royal Rifle Corps, did include some Americans, although it also carried on its rolls men from many European nations and its command became dominated by a Swiss family of officers.

The Prévosts can be traced to Poitou, France although, from at least as early as 1570, they were prominent in the affairs of Geneva, Switzerland. The descendants of Augustin Prévost (1695-1740) one branch of this family came to so dominate the Royal Americans Regiment in America that this unit came to be known as the Prévost regiment.

The oldest of the Prévost brothers, Jean Louis (b. 1718) is believed to have died in the British service in India in 1748. His younger brother, Augustin (1723 - 1786), served against the French at Fontenoy in 1745, apparently in the Dutch service. Augustin, however, received a commission as major in the Royal Americans on January 9, 1756 and was dangerously wounded serving with Wolfe at the British capture of Quebec from the French in 1759. The scar from his wound earned him the nickname of "old bullet head" from his men. In 1761, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and served in the sieges of Martinique and Havana before

returning to England in 1763, where his battalion was disbanded. In 1774 - 1775, Augustin went to Europe to raise a new battalion of the Royal Americans for service in British East Florida.

Augustin Prévost and his command arrived in East Florida when they were needed most. They were the largest part of the British Regulars that defended the province when Georgia joined the American Revolution. Together with South Carolina Continentals and militia, the Georgians began a series of invasions into East Florida. Prevost's command was difficult. His troops worked with undisciplined irregular and provincial soldiers, as well as Indians. Relations between Prévost, Royal Governor Patrick Tonyn of East Florida, and British Indian Commissioner John Stuart were always strained. In addition to defending East Florida, Prévost also had to direct offensive operations against Georgia and provide support for cattle rustling operations by the irregular units of loyal Americans (called Loyalists or Tories); a necessity to keep the civilians and military in East Florida from starvation. His position would have been difficult even for more subtle and tactful commanders but Augustin Prévost was reported to have not been popular with his men. Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell regarded him as too old for much more than garrison duty.

When Savannah, Georgia, fell to a British invasion force under Campbell from New York, Prévost and his Royal Americans Regiment marched to Savannah, where he then assumed command. He was promoted to major general on February 19, 1779. In the spring and summer of that year, he directed an aggressive attack against Charlestown, South Carolina, that left his command dangerously divided. In September of 1779, a French fleet and army arrived in Georgia under the command of the Comte d'Estaing. The French count demanded surrender, which Prévost reportedly was ready to do when the timely arrival of the forces he had left in South Carolina saved Savannah for the King. Prevost's command successfully repelled a massive joint French and American assault upon fortified Savannah on October 9, 1779.

Gen. Augustin Prévost returned to England in 1780 and was awarded a Baronetcy for his contributions to the Crown. He died in 1786 at his estate at Hertfordshire, England, reportedly from tropical diseases he had acquired during his American service. His son Augustin Prévost (1744 - 1821) was a major in the Royal Americans.



Sir Christopher Prevost, Bt. and Lady Delores Prevost at Fort Morris, Georgia with SCAR Editor/Publisher Charles B. Baxley. SCAR photo.

The next younger brother of the above Gen. Augustin Prévost was Jacques Marcus Prévost (1725 - 1778), another veteran of the British victory at Quebec. He was eventually promoted to

lieutenant general in 1772 and became Royal Lieutenant Governor of Antigua.

The last of these four Prévost brothers was also named Jacques Marcus (or James Mark) Prévost (1736 - 1781). He signed his correspondence as J. Mark to prevent confusion. Despite his youth, he had served in the Dutch army in the War of Austrian Succession and later received a commission as a captain in the Royal Americans on January 17, 1756. Wounded in the disastrous British attack against French Fort Ticonderoga in 1758, he survived to distinguish himself further in the French and Indian War. In the early 1770s, he was serving in Georgia, Florida and the West Indies. Under his brother Augustin, J. Mark rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and won a major British victory at the Battle of Briar Creek against the American troops of Gen. John Ashe. Older brother Augustin was relentless and blatant in seeking favors for his brother. J. Mark did serve as Royal Governor of Georgia until the return of Governor James Wright in the summer of 1779. J. Mark then traveled to Jamaica, where he was seriously wounded putting down a local uprising in 1779 and where he died from illness in 1781. His widow, Theodosia Bartow Prévost, was regarded as one of the most beautiful and accomplished women in America. Their two sons even as teenagers served as officers in the Royal Americans. They were later adopted by their stepfather, the famous Aaron Burr, and would become prominent United States citizens.

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Biography: General Samuel Elbert

by Robert S. Davis

Despite being the son of William Elbert, one of Georgia's first Baptist ministers and settlers, Samuel Elbert was allegedly born in Prince William Parish, Virginia, in 1740. Orphaned at a young age, he still grew up to become an ambitious and successful planter, trader with the Indians, and West Indies merchant in Savannah, Georgia. The young man added to his success and wealth by marrying Elizabeth Rae, daughter of prominent trader with the Indians and merchant John Rae in 1769. The young man started what became a large family. He became active in the colony's early Baptist church.

Samuel Elbert's great interest, however, became military affairs and, as a result, he would serve Georgia well in a war that the state otherwise proved ill prepared to fight. Following the Stamp Act Crisis of the 1760s wherein Georgia almost devolved into a state of civil war, British colonial authorities let the province's military establishment deteriorate to almost non-existence and thus left it vulnerable to Indian attack and to internal threats such as rebellion, bandits, and slave uprisings. Elbert as a captain of the militia appealed to Royal Governor James Wright for permission to raise a company of grenadiers. Wright declined, knowing of Elbert having been previously sympathetic to the rebels. Acting governor James Habersham, however, approved the company and Elbert's commission of captain to command it, during Wright's absence in 1772. Elbert traveled to England for formal military training and equipment for his new unit. Wright eventually approved the new

company and Elbert even founded a corresponding Masonic lodge that would come to include many of Georgia's most notorious rebels as members.

The march of this company, "The Georgia Grenadiers," would be carried on British books of music for many years despite the fact that Elbert's volunteers took the lead in physically overthrowing the colonial government of Georgia in 1775. That year, Samuel Elbert served on Georgia's Patriot Council of Safety and in the Provincial Congress. He, and likely most of the members of his company, helped seize the ship *Phillipa* and its cargo of gunpowder. The company later took over Augusta for the Georgia rebels when the militia colonel there refused to recognize rebel authority. Elbert also served on the committee for Georgia's defense and commanded rebel forces in defending Savannah from a British fleet in what came to be known as the Battle of the Rice Boats. He received a commission as lieutenant colonel of the First Georgia Continental Infantry Battalion on January 30, 1775 and colonel of the Second Battalion the following July 15 at almost the same time that he became grand master of the Georgia Lodge of Masons.

Brigadier General Lachlan McIntosh became embroiled in Georgia's partisan and divisive politics, leaving Samuel Elbert to command the state's Continentals in an ill-fated 1777 invasion of British East Florida. He also, however, led these same men, while aboard Georgia's fleet of galleys, in capturing the British East Florida fleet off the coast from Frederica, Georgia, in April 1778.

Between the few major battles, Elbert served as the officer primarily responsible for protecting the state. He had to deal with the threat of the Creek Indians to the west; Americans in South Carolina who supported the King (Loyalists or Tories); and the British forces in East Florida to the south. At the same time, he contended with disobedience, mutiny, and desertion within his own ranks and the increasing dominance of South Carolina in all of his state's affairs. Georgia's politicians and the Continental Congress failed to provide Elbert and his men with adequate pay, clothes and equipment. He worked hard, however, to instill discipline and training in troops depleted by desertions and deaths from battle and disease.

Samuel Elbert rallied what remained of Georgia's military to fight the British invasion of December 1778. At the battle for Savannah, he correctly forewarned Major General Robert Howe that the enemy would land at Brewton's Bluff but the general disagreed and left there only a small force that offered little resistance to the British landing when it came. In the ensuing battle for the town of Savannah, Elbert managed to lead most of his Continentals to safety.

With the enemy's capture of militia Colonel Commandant George Walton in that battle, Samuel Elbert continued as colonel commandant of what remained of the Georgia Continental battalions but he also accepted the rank of brigadier general and commander of the state militia. He worked tirelessly to rally the state's military resources before he and most of what remained of the Georgia Continentals fell to the British at the Battle of Briar Creek on March 3, 1779. Elbert remained a prisoner in Savannah when French and American forces suffered a disastrous defeat in besieging the town in the autumn of 1779. Allegedly British leaders tried to persuade Indian allies to murder him. In June of 1781, he finally received an exchange for Brigadier General Hamilton. Promoted to brigadier general of the Continentals, he served under George Washington at the Siege of Yorktown.

In 1785, Elbert received almost unanimous election to governor by the resurrected Georgia legislature. Despite ill health, he dealt with the new state's many problems of banditry, threats of Indian attacks

and limited finances with the same determination and efficiency that he had brought to his military commands. While serving as sheriff of Chatham County, Samuel Elbert died on November 1, 1788. Elbert County, Georgia, was named in his honor in 1790.

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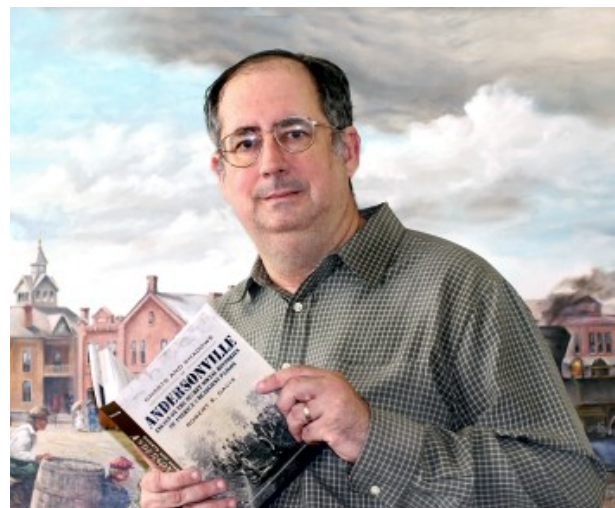
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Bob Davis pictured with his new book *Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville: Essays on the Secret Social Histories of America's Deadliest Prison*.

Robert S. Davis is director of the Family and Regional History Program, Wallace State College in Hanceville, Alabama, a program that pioneers local and family history research in a college environment. Bob has more than 1,000 publications. His Revolutionary War research began with his report on the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield in 1974 and include a number of books and more than 70 articles in professional journals. He is the author of *Cotton, Fire, and Dreams: The Robert Findlay Iron Works and Heavy Industry in Macon, Georgia, 1839-1912* (Mercer University Press 1998) and *Requiem for a Lost City: Sallie Clayton's Memoirs of Civil War Atlanta* (Mercer University Press 1999). Bob's latest book is *Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville*. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2006. Home (205) 429-5251; office (256) 352-8265; office fax (256) 352-8228; office e-mail genws@hiwaav.net.

http://www.wallacestate.edu/bobdavis/docs/Biography_and_Bibliography.pdf

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Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

The ambitious project by William T. Graves and John A. Robertson to make Revolutionary War soldiers' pension statements available on-line, fully searchable is well underway. With over 1,000 now available, many for the first time, you are invited to tour and mine these sites for useful information on individuals and campaigns. These affidavits allow a glimpse into military campaigns, individuals' service, family history, and military organization.

Pension application of James Fergus W25573¹

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

[Minor grammar, punctuation and spelling corrections made for clarity.]

Amended Declaration
State of Tennessee, Carroll County

On this 13th day of June personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County, now sitting, James Fergus, a resident of said County and State aged 76 years in November last, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

This declarant, after being duly sworn aforesaid, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection, he served (under the circumstances as stated in his original declaration) not less than the periods mentioned below in the following grades: for six months as a private volunteer on foot; for six weeks as a private volunteer in the mounted infantry finding my own horse; for two months and two weeks, I served as an orderly Sergeant; for one month I served as a Wagon Master; for six months as a private partisan volunteer against the Tories as explained in the conclusion of my original declaration; and for such services I claim a pension. For the tours during which the above services were performed, this applicant was not employed in any civil pursuits. This claimant has no documentary evidence and knows of no person (other than those whose affidavits he transmitted with his original declaration and will again transmit with this) whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/James Fergus

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid.
S/Edward Gwin, Clerk

Quest. 1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: From the account of my parents, I was born in the County of Chester & Province of Pennsylvania in the year 1756 & month of November, the day not recollected.

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have a record of my age taken from my Parents in my Family Bible which I left with my son James in Cumberland County Kentucky before I moved to this place & have a copy of it with me here.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?
Answer: I was living with my Father in a part of Cumberland called Sherman's Valley in the State of Pennsylvania & after the summer campaign of '76 & winter campaign of '76-7 (account of which will be given hereafter) I undertook to study Physic under Dr. William Clunie, who at that time boarded at my Father's and in December 1777, I went with the Doctor into Virginia & in Augusta County we stopped. The Small Pox had broke out there & appeared to be fatal. In Augusta & Albemarle Counties, I assisted the Doctor in the Inoculation of the Small Pox of several hundred Persons, none of whom died. In the spring of 1778, we went to South Carolina, where I had a Brother living in what was then called the New Acquisition, Camden District. The Doctor taking to hard drinking, I quit him & returned to Pennsylvania. My Father, at the encouragement of my Brother who lived in Carolina, had sold his land & had determined to move there, which we did in the fall of '78. (At this time the Tories were getting very troublesome). I continued to live in this state until the death of my Father & Mother. I married in the year 1783. In 1794, I moved to Kentucky near Lexington where I lived three or four years & then moved to Cumberland County Kentucky where I continued to live until December last. I then moved to this place, viz., Carroll County, W. Tennessee where I arrived in March [of] the present year 1832.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Answer: The Militia of Pennsylvania; to what Regiment I do not recollect; was called out and out of one Battalion of Colonel Watts' Regiment of Cumberland County of the Pennsylvania Militia Eighty four men of us turned out volunteers to march to camp, no drafted men nor substitutes among us.

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: Being in the 76th year of my age, I find my memory very defective & having no written documents preserved of the transactions or campaigns of which I am now about to give an account, after the lapse of so many years, I may in some things be mistaken but I will give a statement of the tours of duty to the best of my recollection in which I have served my country. I think it was in the month of June '76 that we enrolled ourselves as a volunteer Rifle company, 84 in number including Officers in Colonel Frederick Watts' Militia Regiment; every Officer in the Battalion enrolled themselves as privates & then we elected by vote our Officers to command us in the present tour. Our uniform was a dark purple coloured Hunting shirt & pantaloons, a good Rifle & Powder horn & shot pouch, Tomahawk & butt were our equipment, all furnished by ourselves. Our marching Officers were Thomas Clark, Capt; Lieutenants Samuel Ross, James Fisher & a third one I do not now remember for we had no Ensign. From Sherman's Valley we marched to Carlisle Town, the seat of our County. We lay there five days to complete our equipments; thence moved on to Harris's ferry on Susquehanna [River]; thence to Middleton, Lancaster & to Philadelphia; thence went on a sloop up [the] Delaware River to Trenton; thence to Maidenhead, Princeton, Kingston, Brunswick & to Perth Amboy where we joined a number of Troops who lay there watching an English Camp on Staten Island opposite to Amboy. It appeared to me these troops were chiefly Militia. If there were any Regulars I do not now recollect. Col. Watts who commanded our Regiment was here with us. General [Daniel] Roberdeau, I think from Philadelphia, is all the general officer whose name I can now recollect. While we lay here one evening we received orders to prepare with the rest of the

Troops to march in the night & cross the sound into Staten Island in order to surprise & attack the British camp. I would here observe that we did not lie in Town but about half a mile out on the West side. About dusk, we moved into Town but a heavy cloud with thunder & a strong wind & torrent of rain put a stop to our going on; the scheme was abandoned, nor was it attempted afterwards while we lay here. The enemy sometimes incommoded us by firing from two Field pieces off the Island into the Town, but fortunately did us little damage. How long we lay here I cannot now say, it was however until the Battle of Long Island; we heard the firing of the Cannon all day although at 30 miles distance. The next day an express came to us with orders to march to New York & I think in the evening we went on, past Elizabeth Town & Newark & to Bergen where our company was stationed. We here lay until the British took possession of New York, doing duty at Powles [Paulus] Hook. We had a fair view of the British Frigates firing on our boats that were bringing the Ordinance & stores off from Governor's Island in the day. I think two days were spent before the Island was fairly evacuated. We had a Galley stationed to cover our boats who fired incessantly so that the smoke while the air was calm enveloped the boats & they escaped wonderfully.

While we lay at the Hook, two Frigates passed us up the River. Our Battery opposite the City opened [fire] on them & they [fired] on us, until they entirely passed; what damage we did them, we knew not, if any & we received none to speak of. When the British took possession of the city, our company was the last on the ground at Bergen & the Hook, the rest of the Troops were gone. While we knew not what to do, a gentleman came to us who announced himself Major Josephs [?], a supernumerary who had no special command; he asked our Captain why we stayed here. The Captain said we were stationed there & could not retreat without orders. The Major replied it was a pity so find a company should be lost which undoubtedly would be the case if we stayed much longer where we were & though he had no special authority, he would take the responsibility on himself to order us off & we accordingly marched off to Hackensack old Town.

After we left Bergen & Powles [Paulus] Hook & got to Hackensack old Town, I cannot recollect how we maneuvered about afterwards except I very well remember we were encamped at Newark at the time of the fire in New York. It shone very bright & we were in hopes it was the British fleet on fire but we soon learned otherwise. How long we lay here, or what time we were dismissed, I cannot now recollect. I think it was sometime in October we got home, but what time of the month I cannot say. Before we arrived at home many of the Company were ill of the Yellow Jaundice, myself among the rest, but in course of about three weeks I got it removed.

About the last of November, I think it was, news came to us Genl Washington with the Army was flying before the enemy through the Jerseys & for all in Pennsylvania that would volunteer their service to come immediately. No draft was talked of & I think a bounty was offered to such as would be in Philadelphia before Christmas. 30 of us in the Company to which I belonged turned out, most of whom had been out in the summer campaign with our brave Captain Clark at our head. We equipped ourselves for the winter campaign with all the speed in our power & moved on to Philadelphia. The weather was very severe between Carlisle and Susquehanna. We met Genl [Thomas] Mifflin on his way through the state to hurry the volunteers on that were on their way & to encourage others to turn out. There was snow on the ground; we crossed the River at a Ferry below Harris's & in the afternoon it came on a thick and heavy snow, but we went on through it till we got into Middletown. We lay there all night & it continued to snow all night & near the middle of the day it cleared up. This was the

deepest snow I ever had seen, it was near 4 feet deep on the level ground. Our baggage wagon could not move till we broke the road before it. We labored on through it with all possible diligence. The first day we went 3 miles, the next 7 miles and the third 9 miles. By this time we got into Lancaster. The snow now got shallower & the road somewhat broke. We arrived in Philadelphia between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Hessian prisoners taken at Trenton were yet in the city, but shortly after they were sent on to Lancaster. The weather [being] severe, we rested a day or two & then moved on to Trenton. The Battle of Princeton was over. Trenton was evacuated & partly desolate, I think it was General [Nathanael] Greene we met here, we lay all night in the Town & next day we were ordered on to a little village or hamlet called Crosswicks where we lay in the snow a few days, perhaps a week, with some Troops & then moved to Princeton & lay under the command of the brave old veteran General [Israel] Putnam until near spring. There was but one company of Regulars with us here, the rest [were] volunteers or militia. There was some Jersey Artillery with us, also some Light Horse, perhaps 60 or 70. The ground was frozen so hard and deep we could not bury the dead; the sick and wounded some of whom died every day or night, we had to throw in the trenches of the redoubts until the ground thawed in the spring. We however buried Colonel [John] Haslet of the Delaware line who fell in the Battle of Princeton with the honors of War & I think a Major Fleming [sic, Captain John Fleming] of Virginia, if I mistake not. The British lay at Brunswick that winter & we had a picket guard placed at Kingston then about 3 miles from us on the Road to Brunswick. One day the British drove in our picket & the General expected we would be attacked. The alarm guns were fired, the drums beat to arms, the wagons were quickly loaded with baggage & stores & drove off towards Trenton, all was hurry, but not confusion. We were marched out of Town into the Plain on the side next to Kingston, the way we expected the Enemy to meet us & formed into a line of battle. One company of Regulars with muskets & bayonets; one Regiment & Colonel Tarbott's [?] volunteers with rifles and some others with the Jersey artillery & our few Light Horse comprised our line. We were in expectation of an attack & kept on the ground until dark. No enemy appeared & then returned to our quarters; lay on our arms all light and were in the line of battle in the morning by daylight & continued on the ground till eight or nine o'clock of the day. We continued this course for a week or more. We understood afterwards by deserters what saved us from an attack was the fear that the firing might bring General Washington who lay in Morristown with the Army on their backs & intercept them before they could get back to Brunswick. Numbers of Hessian deserters came to us while we lay here. The spotted Fever & the small Pox prevailed among us & many of our men died. The winter was extremely severe, but we had good quarters in Town, however we frequently went in parties and drove in the British sentries at Brunswick and harassed them more than they did us. What time we were dismissed from here, I do not recollect. Several of our company died here, two of the smallpox and others of the spotted Fever, one in Philadelphia where the Fever was raging & very fatal, another on the road before we got to Lancaster, some got home with the Fever in them & died shortly afterwards. I think it was sometime in March when we arrived at home, but cannot ascertain the particular time. Of the 30 who marched out of our home Company in December, 16 died, 14 survived.

I served as orderly sergeant on this tour. I have no documentary evidence neither of this nor the former tour nor do I know any Person in this part of the country who can testify to my having served the aforesaid tours. There was I understand last summer a Mr. Robinson living not far from Lexington, Kentucky, who if he is alive must be now about 80 years of age, who knows of my serving as above. Lexington is upwards of 300 miles from this place where

I now live. A Brother of the said Robinson was living last summer in Tipton County about 100 miles from here, as I have understood, who served with me in the same company the summer campaign of 76. He was about one year older than myself. These are all I have any knowledge of that may yet be living that could testify of my above services & whether they are yet living, I know not. As I went out with Captain Clark in both the aforesaid tours & returned home with him, I received no discharge in writing. The discharge was oral. I do not recollect the names of any of the officers here this winter but what I have mentioned above as they were strangers to me then & perhaps I never saw them afterwards. I find my memory has failed more in recollecting names than any thing else.

In the Autumn of the year 1778, my Father moved to South Carolina and settled in what is now York County, then called New Acquisition, Camden District. Late in the season the Tories hearing of the British coming to Savannah were in a place called Thicketty, south of Broad River & embodied under a Tory Captain Colman [sic, Coleman?]. A Whig Colonel Brannon [sic, Thomas Brandon?] of Fair Forest settlement collected a company to oppose Coleman, but unfortunately Brandon was surprised in his camp by the Tories & defeated with the loss of 4 men killed. As soon as we heard of this defeat, about 300 of us collected under the command of Captain Andrew Love,² to whose company I was attached & marched to support Col. Brandon. On the way before we got to Broad River, we met Colonel Brandon with about 20 men flying from the Enemy & all the wit of Captain Love could not prevail with the Colonel to turn back with us & pursued the Tories, nor did he, but went on over the Catawba River into North Carolina before he halted. We pursued on over Broad River to Thicketty & Fair Forest but found Coleman & his Tories had gone off to join the British in Georgia & was too far ahead of us for us to overtake them, as we were not prepared for a long march.³ After burning a number of the Tories houses that were gone, we returned home. In January 1779 there was a called for men to go to Georgia to assist that State against the English who had got possession of Savannah & to suppress the Tories who were joining them there. Colonel Neal [sic, Thomas Neel],⁴ Lieut. Col. [Samuel] Watson⁵ & Major Francis Ross⁶ were the field officers who commanded the Regiment of militia at this time to which I belong. Mounted men to scour the country & reconnoiter [were] the kind of troops called for. 200 men were quickly enrolled for marching in this company. I went as a volunteer; whether any were drafted or not, I do not now recollect. This detachment was commanded by Lieut. Col Watson & Major Ross. Captain James Martin was my company officer. There were besides the mounted man a number of foot with the wagons loaded with provisions and baggage. It was a very wet winter, the roads exceedingly deep. We had 200 miles from where we started to Augusta where we were to join General Williamson.⁷ We had a very uncomfortable march & tedious time on the Road. I think there was eight days on the way. The sun never appeared to us. It sometime rained incessantly and frequently showery. This I can well remember: all that time the shirt on my back was not dry nor had I them off for we had generally to encamp in the Woods & always to take care of all horses. What time we got there, I cannot now recollect, however, General Williamson sent us on from Augusta to join Genl Ash [sic, John Ashe]⁸ at Briar Creek, time enough to get defeated. Some days after we got there we got intelligence of the English coming up the opposite [south] side of the Creek from Ebenezer where they lay between us & Savannah. The River was very full by reason of the late rains. The back water extended up the Creek 12 miles at least to where it was fordable from where we lay. To ascertain the truth of this report, 40 of us were ordered up the Creek to reconnoiter; with this party I went. We set out late in the evening with a guide. About midnight, we came to a house where was a woman & children. We pretended to be a party of Loyalists from

North Carolina coming to join the British & wished to know if she could inform us where they lay & how we could get to them. The woman seemed delighted & told us they were encamped about half a mile from us on the bank of the Creek; that they were on their way to drive the Rebels out of the Forks & would make us very welcome. Her husband was then with them at the Creek; that it would be best to wait until morning before we joined them or at least till her husband came home for fear they might mistake us for Rebels. From her we got all the intelligence we wanted & after giving our horses plenty of oats we returned to Camp. The next day & gave General Ashe the above account & that we might expect them on us the next day at farthest. Notwithstanding this, General Ashe the next morning ordered the balance of our detachment that had not been out the day before reconnoitering of 160 men under Major Ross to cross the [Briar] Creek & proceed toward Ebenezer & make what discoveries they could. A bridge was repairing but not finished. Ross & the men swam their horses over and went on. Two young men were likewise sent off with an express to General [SC Patriot militia] [Andrew] Williamson at the same time with an old man who had liberty to return home. By this time the British had got into the road between us & Augusta & were coming down on us when they met our men that carried the express and took them prisoners. The old man that was with them being some distance behind and riding a swift mare escaped & came back to Camp with the information that the Enemy was coming on us. It appeared that Genl Ashe took no notice of this, nor was there any preparation made for action till the British vanguard was fired on by our sentries. What of us that belonged to Major Ross' detachment that had been on the scout up the Creek and were left in Camp lay about a quarter off from the main Camp to take care of our horses in an old field, had orders sent us to get our horses, mount them & come into Camp. This we did. The line was just formed as we arrived. The left wing [was] commanded by Colonel [Samuel] Elbert⁹ who had a Company of Georgia Regulars. We rode close along the rear of the line when the first general fire was made. As we were on lower ground than the enemy, it passed chiefly over our heads. We had got to the extremity of the right wing where General Ashe commanded by the time the second fire was made. This was our post, but we had not time to give more than one fire when the General wheeled & fled & the whole wing with him. He was gone 150 yards or more before our little party followed. The British left wing was advancing rapidly & as Colonel Elbert afterwards informed me, he knew not that the Right wing was gone till he found the enemy in his rear killing his men. Of coarse he & all his men that escaped death were made prisoners. (It was after Col. Elbert was released that I met him in Virginia & he gave this account & added that he fully believed Genl Ashe betrayed us to the British & declared that if he ever met with him one of them should die before they parted.) Genl Ashe rode a good horse, left his men & got round the enemy & made to a Ferry above, crossed & escaped, while the rest of us were drove into the swamp between the Creek & the River. There were several Cuts or Lagoons that crossed between the Creek & the River. The banks of these were so steep & deep that the horses that went in could not get out again & some man could have been drowned had not canes been put into their hands & helped them out. Here I left my horse & furniture, threw off my coat & swam. We now got into a thick canebrake & the enemy pursued us no further. This was late in the evening. 12 of us got together & as it was moonlight in the night, we formed a small raft of driftwood in the mouth of a lagoon on which 3 of us with danger & much difficulty got over the [Savannah] River after being carried about a mile down before we landed. We got out of the Bottom and wondered up the River till daylight and fortunately in the mouth of a branch, we found a large Perogus¹⁰ loaded with corn. In the bar opposite to us on the other bank we discovered a great number of the North Carolina men. We quickly rode over & took in as many

as the boat would bear & caused them to throw out the corn while we crossed back. By this means we got all our men that were there off before the enemy came down to the River. Major Ross who had crossed the morning before came in the night to the camp, not knowing of the defeat. They were fired on & driven back over the Creek, passed the River below the mouth of the Creek & there crossed at a Ferry & the next day the remains of our detachment got together & moved up the River to Genl Williamson's Camp & joined the troops there.¹¹ Many of our men were half naked having stripped to swim the River. The 3rd of March, we were defeated & that night there was a light frost & many suffered with the cold having nothing on but a shirt or breeches. Here we lay I know not how long. Here I had the command of a brigade of 12 wagons given me & was sent with them to Saluda [River] for Flour which I brought to Camp. About this time a party of our men with Major Ross crossed the [Savannah] River above Augusta in pursuit of some Indians & came up [on] them, had a small skirmish in which the Major received a Mortal wound, was brought into Camp & died in a few days. Shortly after this, we were discharged & returned home under the command of Lieut. Col. Watson, I think in the beginning of April [1779]. When we returned we found a part of our Regiment under the command of Col. Neal [sic, Thomas Neel] was called out & gone on what was called the Stono Campaign.¹² As soon as I got clothes for the summer campaign, I volunteered again with a few others and followed on to Orangeburg & fell in with our Regiment under Col. Neel. There Colonels Wynn [sic, Richard Winn] & Brown & some others were there with their men, all under the Command of Col. [Johannes Christian] Senf, a foreign Officer who it was said was sent out to discipline our Southern men.¹³

While we lay here [in Orangeburg?], Col. Senf laid off the ground for a Fort, and employed our men in cutting turf & working on it until we heard that the British had crossed Savannah River & got to Purysburg. I now for the first time began to keep a small journal in a memorandum book which I continued until I was taken with the Fever & carried to Charleston.

On the **first of May '79**, we received intelligence that the enemy had got possession of Purysburg. **2nd of May**, preparation for marching to meet the enemy was made to set out on the following morning. Towards evening 28 or 29 wagons from Charleston arrived loaded with Arms, ammunition, entrenching tools, 2 Howitzers, shells & cannon balls &c &c. [SC Patriot] Governor [John] Rutledge¹⁴ arrived also. **3rd**: the General [alarm] was beat early this morning & orders given for marching at a minute's warning; preparations for marching completed. In the evening the Governor reviewed us. **4th**: Paraded & marched off early this morning. Took with us a great number of Tory Prisoners & some of the Queens' Rangers that were taken in Georgia & sent here. There were about 300 of us commanded by the Governor & Col. Senf. Went about 10 miles & encamped. **5th**: Marched down Edisto [River] about 15 miles to the saw Mills & crossed the River back again, finding that the enemy were likely to get between us & Charleston on this route; cooked fresh Beef & marched all night. 3 of the prisoners made their escape, one was a Lieut. of the Queens' Rangers (who came & gave himself up to us the next day). **7th**: about 9 o'clock [we] halted & took Breakfast; moved on to the Four Holes Bridge; the carriage of a field piece broke down. The piece was hid in the swamp. This evening, the Artillery that was with us left us & pushed on for Town, fearing the enemy might get [there] before them. Note: They were part of the Charleston Train. I pass over the **8th & 9th** days. On the **10th** we got into Town & hoped to have a night's rest after our fatiguing march but an alarm took place & we had to lie on the lines all night. **May 11th**: This day Count Pulaski¹⁵ with his Troop of Horse arrived and in the evening the Enemy came before the lines, after they had driven in our picket

guard & Pulaski's Horse together with a company of light Infantry, who had a severe skirmish with the van [sic, vanguard] of the British Army in which it was said we lost of Horse & Foot about 85 men. Straight a little after dark, a party of our men went out to set fire to Tar Barrels that were placed in front of our lines to give light during the night. At this time an alarm was given & a heavy firing of Cannon & small arms took place on the lines from one River to the other [Ashley to Cooper Rivers, the Charles Town Neck], also from the armed vessels in Cooper & Ashley Rivers. This was unfortunate for the party out firing the Tar Barrels; Major Huger¹⁶ & two others I think were killed & several wounded by our firing.

12th: Flags of truce passed between us and the enemy the chief of this day nothing done. Four men, two white & a mulatto & Negro were taken outside the lines & brought in [it being] supposed [that these 4 men were] to be deserting to the enemy; the Governor coming by at the time was asked what should be done with them. He said hang them up to the beam of the gate by which they were standing. This was immediately done & there they hung all day. **13th**: last night the enemy retreated silently & crossed Ashley [River] before morning; our Light Horse brought in a number of deserters & some prisoners that were straggling behind this day. From this time to the **25th** of this month we lay here & kept guard on the lines, & then marched off to join Genl [Benjamin] Lincoln,¹⁷ which we did on the **23rd** at Dorchester. **May 24th**: this morning, perhaps two hours before day, I joined a Regular Company of 40 men who went as the advance guard of the Army. The Army followed in the morning. In the evening we got to the church at Beacon's Bridge [sic, Bacon's Bridge?], the plank of which was taken off; drove the British picket from the opposite shore; slept under arms all night. **25th**: this morning a Party from our Army with a Field piece came down and repaired the bridge; returned back & we the advance guard passed over to the side next [to] the British Camp; set out sentries & remained there till evening when Pulaski with his Horse came over with 40 Foot who joined us. The Light Horse passed us on the road leading to the British Camp. We quickly formed & ran after them till the British picket fired on them & killed one of Pulaski's men; he charged on them & killed four of the guard & drove them in. At this time we were formed in his rear to cover his retreat & he came slowly back by us & we wheeled about & followed after. Before we got to the bridge, we found our Army had passed it & was formed in an old field on our right. The British, however, did not choose to quit their entrenchments but laid still. We did not stop or joined the Army but marched by and kept marching & countermarching all night, often formed in line & again moving on till near daylight when we came to our Army drawn up in a line of Battle in front of the British entrenchments. We were then formed with the line on the extremity of the right wing & had liberty to sit down. At this time Genl Lincoln was examining the situation of the British & it no doubt appeared to him that they were too strongly posted for him to force their works without losing too many men, perhaps failing altogether. And so he moved back over the Bridge to the old Camp early in the morning. This was the third day from [when] we left Dorchester before day & had no sleep or rest, drinking bad water & enduring the scorching sun by day & the chilling dews by night. **21st**: this day in the evening I was taken with a high Fever & was carried over the River to our baggage wagon by Captain Andrew Love & his brother. **May 27, 1779**: here ends my journal. I went in to Charleston to Dr. David Ramsay,¹⁸ who I understood was Principle of the hospital and the City for some medicine. He sent it but advised me to be brought into the hospital. I replied I had seen the hospitals in Philadelphia, Princeton and Newark and would prefer dying in the open air of the woods rather [than be] stifled to death in a crowded hospital. I had a relation living in the City who hearing of me, sent for me to be brought to his house to live there. I was taken there in a wagon & by the time I got in I was partly

insensible. My friend brought the doctor to see me and he ordered what he thought proper & called duly morning and evening to see me until the Fever was broke; how long that was, I know not now. It appears like a dream to me now. To the great care & attention of the humane & kindhearted Dr. Ramsay, under God, I am indebted for my being a living, though infirm, old man at this day.

This Fever was broke on me at the time there was a sham burying of Count Pulaski with the honors of War in this City for I can recollect the firing of Cannon all day & what it was for I was told. I continued in a convalescent state a long time. I left the City sometime in the winter to go to see my Parents in the upper part of the State & was told afterwards that the British landed about a week after I left it. Thus I have given in detail an account of the four Tours I served in the Army Regularly. After the fall of Charleston to the end of the war, I did duty as a partisan under Genl Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & others in the upper part of the State, dispersing & keeping down the Tories. Of the time I spent in this way, I am now unable to give a particular account. It was a perilous time & we were in a continued state of warfare until after Cornwallis' surrender in which warfare I had my share. He relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and that he has no documentary evidence.

S/James Fergus

Sworn to and subscribed in open court.
S/Edward Gwin, Clerk

¹ James Fergus (1756-1837) was of Scotch-Irish descent.

² Andrew Love was a captain under Colonel Thomas Neel in the New Acquisition militia. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983) (hereinafter cited as Moss, *SC Patriots*) 582.

³ It is not clear which engagement Fergus is describing in the foregoing text. While the Tories were active early in the war in the South Carolina backcountry as evidenced by the first battle of Ninety Six [November 18-21, 1775] and the Snow Campaign [late December 1775], they remained relatively subdued until the invasion of South Carolina by Sir Henry Clinton's forces in early 1780 and the subsequent fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. This transcriber is unaware of any confrontation between the Tory and Whig forces "late in the season" of 1778. Although a Tory officer by the name of Robert Coleman did serve in John Harris Cruger's forces defending the star fort while under siege from the Nathanael Greene' at the siege of Ninety Six in May-June 1781, no reference could be found of a "Captain Colman" or "Captain Coleman" attacking forces under Col. Thomas Brandon in late 1778. Brandon was attacked by Tories led by Loyalists militia Maj. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham in June 8, 1780 and it is possible that Fergus is making some sort of very muddled reference to that engagement.

⁴ Thomas Neel (1730-1779) was a militia colonel commanding Patriot forces from the New Acquisition territory of South Carolina, killed at the Battle of Stono Ferry. Moss, *SC Patriots*, p. 719.

⁵ Samuel Watson (1731-1810) served as Lt. Col. of Thomas Neel's New Acquisition regiment of SC Patriot militia. He succeeded to command of the regiment upon Neel's death at the Battle of Stono Ferry on June 20, 1779. Moss, *SC Patriots*, p. 971. See, also, the biographical sketch posted at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hookersbend/bio_colonel_samuel_watson.htm.

⁶ Francis Ross (1744-1779) served as a captain under Col. Thomas Neel on the Cherokee Expedition in the summer of 1776. Moss,

Roster, p. 831. In the spring of 1779, Ross was wounded in a skirmish with the Cherokees and died from his wounds on March 31, 1779. William A. Graham, *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History*, Raleigh: 1904.

⁷ Andrew Williamson (1730-1786) was the commanding officer of the South Carolina backcountry militia from the inception of the war until the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. He led the South Carolina militia not only during the Cherokee Expedition in 1776 but also at Briar Creek, Stono Ferry and other engagements before taking parole at Ninety Six in June 1780. He took parole along with such other notable backcountry Whigs as Andrew Pickens and LeRoy Hammond. Unlike Pickens and Hammond, however, Williamson never resumed active participation in the Whig militia causing him to be labeled as the "Arnold of the South." This label is unjust because, unlike Benedict Arnold, Williamson never took up arms against his country and he did provide Nathanael Greene with intelligence regarding British activities in and around Charleston until the end of the war. His spying on behalf of the Whigs lead the South Carolina legislature to lift the confiscation order against Williamson's estate, but his estate was amerced. Mark M. Boatner III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1994), (hereinafter cited as Boatner, *Encyclopedia*), p. 1210.

⁸ John Ashe (1725-1781) was brigadier general of the North Carolina State Troops set by General Richard Caswell to reinforce General Benjamin Lincoln in his assault on Savannah. A surprise attack on his troops at the Battle of Briar Creek resulted in its almost total loss. Ashe was court-martialed (General William Moultrie was the preceding officer) and severely censured for "want of sufficient vigilance." Greatly depressed from this experience, Ashe returned to North Carolina and died there from smallpox in 1781. Powell, Ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, pp. 51-52. See article by Robert S. Davis in this edition of SCAR.

⁹ Samuel Elbert (1740-1788) as a Savannah merchant who served in the Georgia militia rising to the rank of Major General in the militia. Wounded and captured at the Battle of Briar Creek, he was exchanged in June 1781. Toward the end of the Revolution, he was brevetted as a brigadier general in the Continental line. He was elected Governor of Georgia in 1785. See article by Robert S. Davis in this edition of SCAR or

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.com/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-672>

¹⁰ Traditionally spelled "pirogue," the term describes a flat-hulled boat or canoe intended for use on still water such as in the Louisiana swamp or marsh areas. The Lewis and Clark expedition used pirogue because their lightweight allowed for easy portage between rivers.

¹¹ The battle described by Fergus is the Battle of Briar Creek that occurred on March 3, 1779. Patrick J. O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume One: 1771-1779*, (N.p.: Booklocker.com, Inc., 2004)(hereinafter cited as O'Kelley, *Slaughter One*) pp. 253-262. In January 1779 British Southern Theatre Commandant, General Augustin Prévost, had his headquarters in Savannah and had two field detachments operating: Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell had captured Augusta on January 30, 1779, but withdrew two weeks later and Lt. Col. J. Mark Prévost, was operating out of Ebenezer, Georgia.

¹² The Battle of Stono Ferry was fought near Rantowels, SC on June 20, 1779 with the American Whig forces under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln and the British forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Maitland. O'Kelley, *Slaughter One* 291-299. Col. Thomas Neel of the New Acquisition Patriot SC militia was killed in this battle along with 33 other Whigs.

¹³ Col. John (Johann) Christian Senf (?- 1808) was a Hessian engineer originally employed in the service of British General

John Burgoyne. Senf was captured at the Battle of Saratoga and decided to switch his allegiance to the American cause. He was assigned to serve in the Southern Department of the Continental Army under General Horatio Gates. He was detached to meet with SC Patriot militia Gen. Thomas Sumter during the ill-fated Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780. After the war, he remained in South Carolina. In 1793, he engineered and supervised the construction of America's first summit canal, the 22-mile long Santee Canal that connected the Santee and Cooper Rivers. Senf died in Great Falls, South Carolina in 1808 and is believed to be buried on one of the islands created by the impounding of the Catawba River for hydro-electrical production in the early 1900s. [Ed. Lt. Col. Senf was probably not in SC during 1779.]

¹⁴ John Rutledge (1739-1800) was the first president of South Carolina under the new constitution passed in 1776. He later served terms as the Governor of the South Carolina under the Constitution passed in 1778, U. S. Congressman, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and as the interim Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. See, David Paul Reuwer, "South Carolina's Supreme Court Nominee Rejected," *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*, August 2005, Vol. 2, No. 8, posted at www.southerncampaign.org and James Haw, *John & Edward Rutledge of South Carolina*, The University of Georgia Press, Athens and London, 1997.

¹⁵ Casimir Pulaski, c 1748-1779, a Polish nobleman who volunteered to serve in the Continental Army. Appointed by Congress as a brigadier general, he commanded a brigade of dragoons serving under George Washington. He was killed during an ill-fated cavalry charge of the Spring Hill Redoubt at the Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, pp. 900-901.

¹⁶ Benjamin Huger (1746-1779) was a major in the First Regiment of South Carolina State Troops. Moss, *SC Patriots*, p. 470.

¹⁷ Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810, was the commander of the Southern branch of the Continental Army from September 25, 1778 until his surrender of his army at Charleston on May 12, 1780. David B. Matten, *Benjamin Lincoln and the American Revolution* (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1995).

¹⁸ Dr. David Ramsay (1749-1815) was a physician (educated at Princeton and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's medical school), Continental Congressman and historian (author of histories of South Carolina in the Revolution, a 3-volume history of the United States and a biography of George Washington, among other works). He practiced medicine in Charleston and served as a surgeon during the Revolution. ★



A Corps of Discovery, well spent, at the Kings Mountain Monument. November 19, 2006. SCAR photo.



8th Generation descendants of NC Patriot militia Col. Frederick Hambright, a hero of Kings Mountain, with the Corps of Discovery at the Old Shiloh Presbyterian Church Cemetery.



Met at the 2002 Tarleton Symposium in Camden, married in Charleston, SC on November 15, 2006, both good friends of the Revolution: Congratulations to Carol Buckler and Calvin Keys.