

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution
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Colonial
Backwoods
Fashions

INSIDE:

**McCottry's
Rifles**

Ladson Frazer McCutchen, Jr.

A publication of



The Journal

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Richard C. Meehan, Jr.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Tis the season for reenactments and living history presentations—and they're popping up everywhere. Lately, my wife and I spent the weekend of October 4–5 at Walnut Grove Plantation in Spartanburg, SC, for the 33rd annual Festifall. The turnout was incredible: over 1,200 visitors and 100 reenactors.

As the Town Crier, I roamed the grounds announcing upcoming events—by the end, my feet, throat, and authentic-style clothing were all worse for wear. Meanwhile, Renee drew crowds all day as she spoke about the lives of women and children in the 18th century, sitting on the porch of a kitchen house in her period rocker. Her insights sparked constant questions and real engagement.

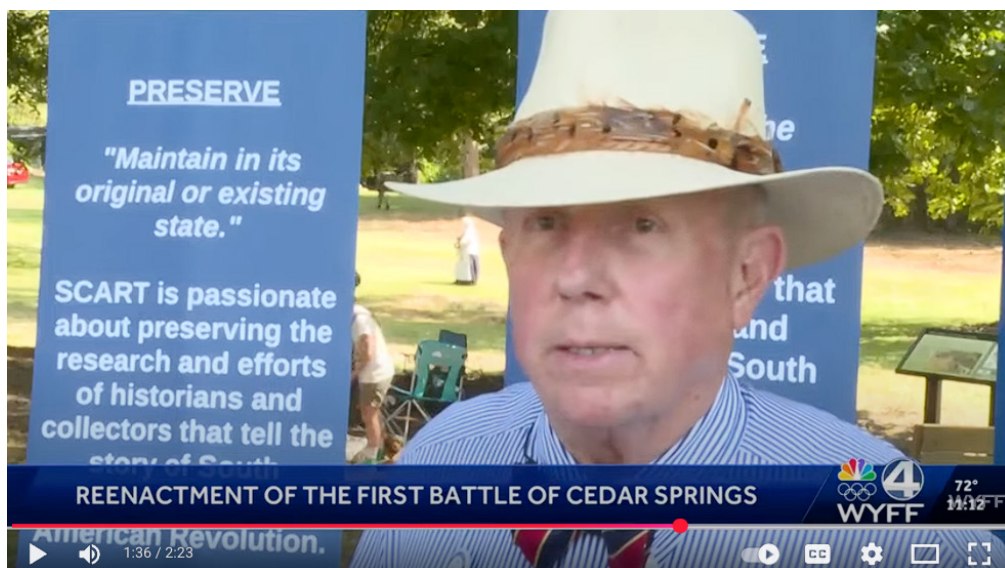
The strong attendance at Festifall, and similar Revolutionary War events across the state, shows that

South Carolina 250 and its local chapters are doing what they set out to do: raise awareness of our Revolutionary War heritage.

One recent highlight: I helped plan and execute the Battle of Cedar Springs Reenactment: How Spartanburg Got Its Name, held on September 20. This marked the third year of the “official” reenactment. Even with a Clemson home game and three other major events competing for attention, we drew a solid crowd through the end of the reenactment and the memorial service honoring the Spartan Regiment of Militia—Spartanburg’s namesake. Big thanks to my team at the Spartanburg 250 Committee for pulling it off. They did a whale of a job.

And a shout-out to the local media—WYFF TV4, Fox News, Spartanburg Herald-Journal, GoUpstate, MSN, and others—for their growing support and coverage. We couldn’t do it without you.

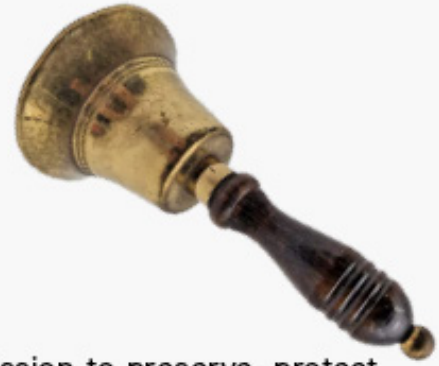
Looking ahead, my calendar is booked nearly every weekend through the end of the year with events either to attend or help. HUZZAH!



4 Brigadier General Julien JB Burns on WYFF TV4 - Click image to view

In Liberty,
Richard C. Meehan, Jr.
Editor, **THE JOURNAL**

Hear Ye, Hear Ye



The South Carolina American Revolution Trust is on a mission to preserve, protect and promote (into perpetuity) the stories, artifacts and history of South Carolina's role in the American Revolution. We take this work very seriously and have developed an effective system that acknowledges the donor's work, celebrates the story of your collection and honors the legacy this information represents.

We primarily work with donors that have information, stories or artifacts related to South Carolina's role in the American Revolution. The Trust exists to honor your life's work and build a repository of stories, data, facts and artifacts from this period so that this information can be preserved for and accessed by future generations.

Are you interested in donating, but have some questions? Contact us below, and we will happily answer your questions or concerns about your potential donation.

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The Dragon

by
C. Leon Harris

One of the ironies of the Revolutionary War is that those who fought for liberty had to sacrifice some of their own to secure it for the rest of us. One of the most extreme examples was Drewry Tann. Tann began his 1834 pension application (<https://revwarapps.org/s19484.pdf>) with an account of how he almost lost his freedom as a child:

...being born free in the county of Wake he was stolen from his parents when a small boy by persons unknown to him, who were carrying him off to sell him into Slavery, and had gotten with him, and other stolen property, as far as the mountains on their way, that his parents made complaint to a Mr. Tanner Alford who was then a magistrate in the county of Wake state of N. Carolina to get me back from those who had stolen me, and he did pursue the Rogues & overtook them at the mountains and took me from them...

This could have been a nice story with a happy ending, but there is more to it.

...my parents agreed that I should serve him (Tanner Alford) untill I was twenty one years old, when he had served Alford several years (six years) it came Alford's time to go in the army (or he told me so) and told me if I would go in the army he would set me free on which condition I readily listed under Capt. Hadley for eighteen months as he was told and marched to Charleston & thence to James's Island where he served out his tour of inlistment...

Tann's pension file contains a document from the North Carolina Secretary of State indicating that

"Drury Tan" enlisted in the North Carolina Continental line on August 1, 1782, likely under Captain Joshua Hadley. At that time, Tanner Alford, also known as Lodwick "Tanner" Alford (1749-1820), was a major in the militia, making it unlikely that Tann served as a substitute for him. More probably, Major Alford released Tann from his duties so he could enlist.

The British had lost control of James Island by the time Tann arrived there. Tann stated that "there was some English prisoners & he was sometimes stationed as a guard over them." The British evacuated Charleston on December 14, 1782, and over the following months Continental soldiers were conditionally discharged and sent home subject to being recalled if needed. But Tann faced one more obstacle to regaining liberty.

He had a discharge and was about returning home when a Capt. Benjamin Coleman who told me he lived in Bladen County N. Carolina took his discharge from him and tryed to compell him to remain in the service & be his waiting man.

Presumably Capt. Coleman failed in his attempt to make Tann his personal waiter. The 1835 census of pensioners lists "Dreury Tann" in Southampton County, Virginia, drawing \$50 per year for his services, and, one hopes, at last enjoying some measure of liberty.

7th Annual American Revolution Symposium

State of Rebellion:

*South Carolina's Place in
the American Revolution*



November 15, 2025

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November 15 for an insightful
exploration of South
Carolina's pivotal role in the
American Revolution. This
event provides an excellent
opportunity to connect with
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of this significant era.

Location:

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Lunch is included with the
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LOYALIST

THE



A HEYDAY FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR INTERPRETATION

by
Rev. Dr. Paul Wood, Jr.

Every direction you look, it seems South Carolina is putting on another commemoration of the American Revolution. Local TV outlets provide accounts of Revolutionary War events and participants—particularly the women who served the war effort. Lectures draw attendees to cities like Charleston and Greenville and to towns like Laurens and Camden. In recent months, attendees at college football games and at least one minor league baseball game have received mementos and warm greetings from reenactors in colonial attire.

Two hundred forty-five years after the July 12, 1780, Battle of Cedar Springs, attendees watched a reenactment of the pre-dawn victory made possible by Jane Black Thomas's famous ride from the Ninety Six jail. On a hilltop at Cedar Springs Baptist Church, observers saw a woman in colonial dress astride a beautiful steed. Horse and rider galloped into the Spartan Regiment's camp, where she warned the militiamen about an impending attack. The Spartan Regiment turned the tables and sprang a successful trap

on Captain James Dunlap's Loyalist militia and Provincial cavalry.

Two local TV stations covered the September 2025 event. One reporter interviewed a boy who was no more than twelve years old. Viewers that night watched him fire a musket and then speak eloquently about the importance of the American Revolution. Undoubtedly inspired by the youthful reenactor, the reporter turned her video camera on again, stepped into the field of view, and fired a musket for the first time in her life.

As someone already familiar with the historic action at Cedar Springs, my highlight of the day was the unveiling of a resplendent reproduction of the battle flag of the Second Spartan Regiment. Descendants of the regiment's commander, Colonel Thomas Brandon, had kept the original Charleston-sewn flag in a wooden box. Eventually, a Rhode Island couple came into possession of the box. In 2023, they lent the flag, box, and its other contents to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

Now the story becomes personal for my wife and me. We toured the museum in June 2023, less than a week after the staff put the flag on display. We may have been the first South Carolinians to lay eyes on it in fifty or more years. When the leaders of the SC250 Commission learned about the banner's existence, Spartanburg County took the lead in a quest to acquire it. At the Cedar Springs event in September, the director of the Spartanburg County Library described how he worked with the Rhode Island couple to establish a price and arrange for contributions to purchase it. With the standard now in the county's possession, the library has assumed responsibility for preserving the flag. Soon, it will go on permanent display where it belongs—in Spartanburg County.

The flag is tattered and worn, but it is the original. Kudos to Spartanburg County, which got its name from the Spartan Regiment of Militia.

Whether it's reenacting a Revolutionary War battle, teaching the public how to load and safely fire a musket, or displaying historic colors, the work of Revolutionary War interpretation is taking place in more communities—and





Spartan Regiment of Militia Reenactors. Boy Scout Cash Cook of Gaffney Troop 145 (front) made national news with his weapon demonstration and commentary. (Click image to view.)

in more creative ways—than ever before. Another example: Laurens County native Dicey Langston Springfield became a Revolutionary War heroine in 1781 at the age of fifteen. She and her husband spent most of their lives in Greenville County’s Travelers Rest. Almost two hundred years after her passing, the people of Travelers Rest made Dicey the highlight of their 2025 Independence Day drone show.

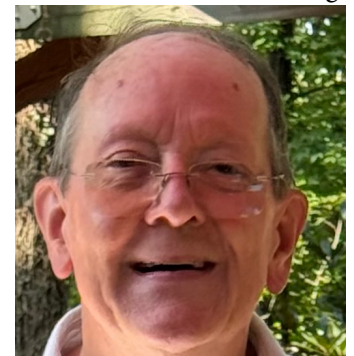
Many of the *The Journal*’s readers and writers focus their energy on the vital tasks of research, discovery, and academic-level writing. However, the interpretive task is equally important, and it is exciting to see so many hundreds of people involved in the work of interpretation and celebration.

In the September issue of *The Journal*, I wrote about the powerful fictional dialogues presented in August at an old farm in Cherokee County. I found the live presentations to be creative and effective teaching opportunities. In the spring of 2025, the Kershaw County SC250 Committee realized that the area has a close connection with the Snow Campaign. The commander of the Camden District Regiment of Militia, Colonel Richard Richardson, led the late-1775 effort to quell Loyalist activity.

Durant Ashmore, John Allison, others, and I conducted primary research on the Snow Campaign and confirmed that Camden’s own Joseph Kershaw accompanied Richardson through the arduous cold weather. As the foremost merchant in the backcountry, Kershaw bore responsibility for feeding the thousands of men who eagerly joined the effort to stymie those resisting the independence movement. With fictional dialogues resembling those on the farm in Cherokee County, we will help the public understand an important event that is largely unknown. The Revolutionary War Visitor Center in Camden will host the program (see advertisement in this issue).

My “window” on all the current interpretive activities is not wide, but the events I read about, hear about, and attend show me that these are breathtaking, never-before-seen days for Revolutionary War interpretation. Whether we are researching, writing, or helping John Q. and Mary Public understand the Revolutionary War, the 250th anniversary of the Revolution is a magnificent time for all of us in South Carolina. We are blessed to live where so many wartime actions took place and where victory was finally achieved.

* South Carolina’s Semiquincentennial Commission (SC250) convinced all forty-six counties to create committees tasked with leading local efforts. The committees’ accomplishments are already remarkable. Some counties have placed or enhanced interpretive signage. Others have carried out extensive research or taken the public on tours of local sites. Two or three times a week, a Revolutionary War lecture is presented in one county or another. For more information about the activities of the county committees and the SC250 Commission, visit <https://southcarolina250.com>.



Rev. Dr. Paul Wood, Jr.

The War Begins: The South Carolina Snow Campaign

November 22, 2025 | 10:00-12:00

Join us on November 22 for a commemoration of the Snow Campaign of 1775. Colonel Richard Richardson gathered patriot forces from across the Carolinas to march into the South Carolina backcountry to suppress those loyal to the King. Known as the Snow Campaign due to the heavy snowfall the militia encountered that December, this was the first major military operation in South Carolina. On December 22, patriots won the Battle of the Great Cane Brake and quelled loyalists' activities for three years.

The Revolutionary War Visitor Center hosts this 250th anniversary event. Our program features a dialogue between a patriot and a loyalist as they defend their reasons for choosing rebellion or loyalty to the King. Historian Durant Ashmore will interpret the participants, routes, and events of the Snow Campaign. Finally, the audience will experience the campaign through the eyes and ears of Richard Richardson and Joseph Kershaw. Afterwards, Historic Camden's Colonial Village will come alive with demonstrations of colonial life.

Event is free.

RSVP @
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REVOLUTIONARY WAR
VISITOR CENTER





PRESS RELEASE

Topic: American Revolution Battlefield Dedication

Earle's Ford-Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina

Saturday, October 25, 2025

11:00 am (EDT)

This event is co-sponsored by *Polk County America 250 NC and the Blue Ridge Chapter, North Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution*. The event will be held at the site of the Revolutionary War battle between British/Tory forces and Patriot militia on July 15, 1780 along the east bank of the Pacolet River where North and South Carolina share the state line.

The dedication event will consist of the unveiling of a monument honoring the Patriots who fought in the battle, live colonial-era musket firing/salute, color guard presentation of era Revolutionary flags, guest speakers, wreath laying, and Patriot military parade in uniform.

The location of the dedication is at the junction of Hunting Country Road and Carriage Road (on property owned by Chapman Sod Company).

McCottry's Rifles
in the
American Revolution

By Ladson Fraser McCutchen, Jr.
ladsonmccutchen@gmail.com

McCottry's Riflemen may have been the most effective rifle unit at the time. Most of the stories told of the riflemen in the American Revolution tend to be more myth than fact, but this is not the case with McCottry's men. Both American and British reports described the Rifle's deadly aim. Tarleton, Wemyss and Ardesoif reported to London McCottry's men's deadly skill with the rifle. ~ Patrick O'Kelley¹

Because soldiers usually referred to their officers only by their last names, it is not often recognized that there were two Captain McCottrys – brothers William and Robert. The goal of this paper is to describe the engagements in which McCottry's Rifles



Figure 1: Part of a 1773 map by James Cook showing the property of McCottry (“McCautry”) on the headwaters of Black Mingo Creek in present-day Williamsburg County. This property and related locations are highlighted in blue. In this and other maps in this paper, north is toward the top.

participated and to clarify that Capt. McCottry commanded McCottry's Rifles.

William McCottry (? – 1789) and Robert McCottry, Jr. (1748 – 1805) were sons of the Scotch-Irish immigrant Robert McCottry, Sr., and his wife, Jane Thomson McCottry. (Appendix A) The elder McCottry owned a farm in Williamsburgh District of South Carolina near Indiantown, more than 30 miles up Black River and Black Mingo Creek from Georgetown. (Fig. 1) During the war, Capt. Robert McCottry, Jr. occupied his father's property, and it is thought that Capt. William McCottry lived about 9 miles to the east. Living a short distance to the north was John James, under whom the McCottry brothers served during the war.

¹ O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 3 (Booklocker.com, 2005), 503, note 208.

THE MCCOTTRY BROTHERS OPPOSE THE 1779 INVASION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

When the Revolutionary War started, Robert McCottry, Jr. was twenty-seven years old, and it's likely he and William joined their Kingstree Regiment of militia at age 16. Aside from a failed attack on Sullivan's Island at Charleston Harbor on June 28, 1776, the British did not pose much threat to South Carolina until December 29, 1778. On that day, they captured Savannah, Georgia, and a month later, Augusta. Clearly, South Carolina became the next target. In early 1779, the Southern army led by Gen. Benjamin Lincoln established a post near Purrysburg, about 15 miles north of Savannah, and militiamen from across the state gathered to join him. Among them was William McCottry, who was then a lieutenant in the state troops commanded by Col. Daniel Horry, according to pension applicant Straughan Conyers. After some time at Purrysburg, William was promoted to captain, and his company moved to Orangeburg.² Robert was also at Orangeburg, serving as a lieutenant in Capt. John James's company from the Kingstree Militia Regiment, as shown by a document he signed on April 27, 1779, acknowledging a debt from South Carolina for

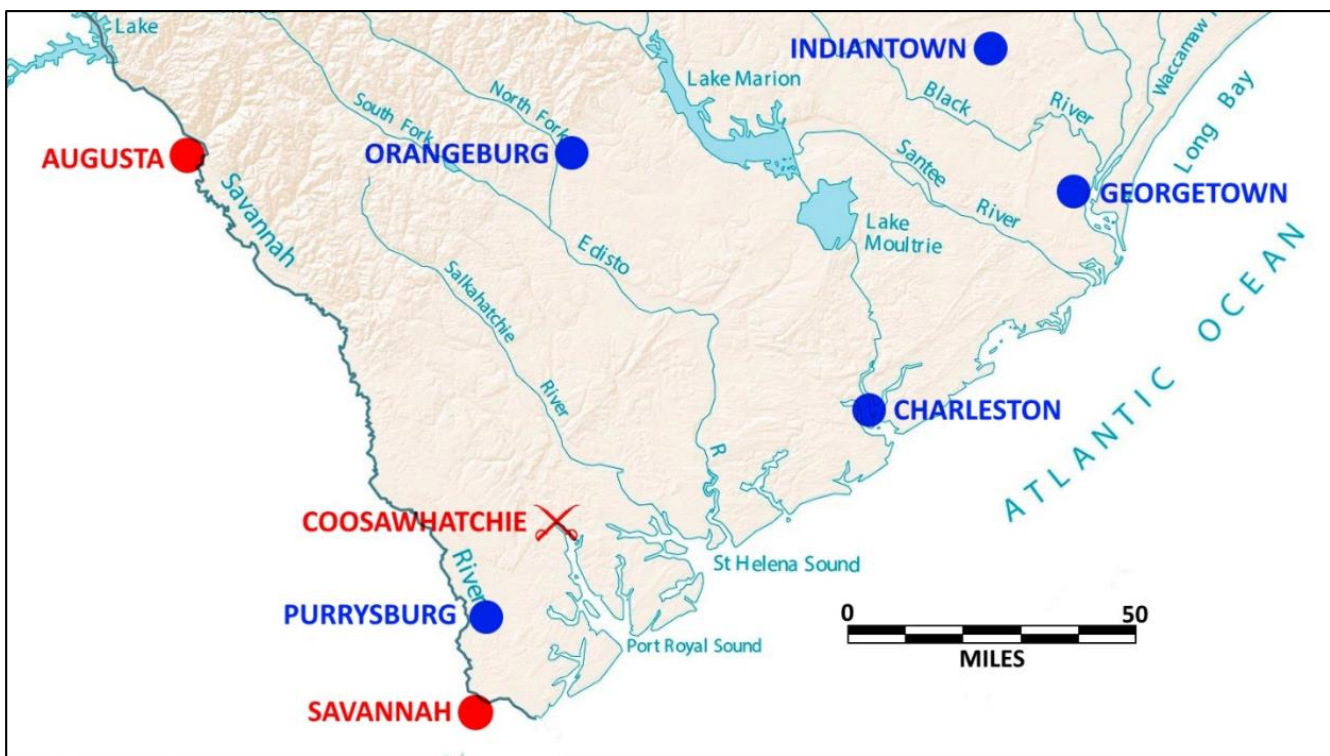


Figure 2: Outline map of modern South Carolina showing significant locations in the early services of William and Robert McCottry. American posts are shown in blue; British posts and victories are in red.

² Federal pension application of Straughan Conyers S18357, <https://revwarapps.org/s18357.pdf>.

“two pair of traces and cast lines seized from Henry Menely, for the use of the Publick, by a detachment of Capt. James's company on an expedition to Orangeburg.”³ (Fig. 2)

On April 23, Gen. Lincoln decided to attack the British at Augusta, leaving some of the South Carolina militiamen at Purrysburg under Gen. William Moultrie. Gen. Augustine Prevost seized the opportunity to march against Charleston, pushing Moultrie's troops ahead of him. Moultrie chose to make a stand at Tullifany Hill, believing he could prevent Prevost from crossing the bridge over the Coosawhatchie River just to the west. After learning that the surrounding swamps were so dry the British could go around the bridge, Moultrie decided to remove the rear guard at the bridge and continue his retreat toward Charleston. Col. John Laurens volunteered to lead the rear guard, with 150 riflemen under Capt. John James guarding his flanks. Lt. Robert McCottry was presumably still with James at this time. Capt. James's son, Judge William Dobein James, provided the following description of the action, possibly based on information from his father:

*After reconnoitring the fords of Coosawhatchie, and Tulifinny above the bridges, the general found so little water in the swamps, from the excessive drought which then prevailed, that he determined not to risk an action at this post. He was about to send one of his aids to bring off his rear guard, when Col. John Laurens offered himself as a volunteer for that service; he was readily accepted, and captain, afterwards Major John James, with 150 picked riflemen, was sent to cover his flanks: these, with the rear guard, made near a fourth of the retreating army. Instead of bringing off the rear guard, Col. Laurens drew them over to the east side of the river, posted the riflemen at the bridge, threw off the planks, and engaged the enemy. The British occupied the houses on the west bank, from which they kept up a galling fire; a number of Laurens' men were killed and wounded, and, as he was very conspicuous on horse back in regimentals, with a large white plume, he was soon wounded himself, and his horse killed. Laurens then retired, and captain, afterwards Col. Shubrick, ordered a retreat.*⁴

The action at Coosawhatchie Bridge wasn't an American victory, but James's riflemen probably prevented it from being an even bigger disaster. Historical writer Robert D. Bass called James the hero of Tullifinny.⁵

³ Account Audited of claims growing out of the American Revolution of Henry Menely (file no. 5190 1/2) transcribed from original at South Carolina Department of Archives and History by Roberta McCutchen on September 14, 1996. The online image of this document at archivesindex.sc.gov is illegible.

⁴ William Dobein James, *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion and A History of his Brigade* (Charleston SC: Gould and Rily, 1821 [1848]), 23-24. “Col. Shubrick” was probably Capt. Thomas Shubrick. For concise descriptions of the skirmish at Coosawhatchie River and actions mentioned in this paper, see the following: Patrick O’Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vols. 2 and 3. (Lillington, NC: Booklocker.com, 2004, 2005). John C. Parker, Jr., *Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina*, 4th ed. (Columbia, SC: Harrelson Press, 2022); and J. D. Lewis, [carolana.com. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/SC_Revolutionary_War_Known_Battles_Skirmishes.htm](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/SC_Revolutionary_War_Known_Battles_Skirmishes.htm).

⁵ Robert D. Bass, *Swamp Fox, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion*, (Orangeburg SC: Sandlapper, 1974), 33.

THE SURRENDER OF CHARLESTON ON MAY 12, 1780 AND THE ORIGIN OF MCCOTTRY'S RIFLES

Gen. Prevost continued his march almost to Charleston and was ready to capture the city until he learned that Lincoln had abandoned his plan to attack Augusta and was coming toward him. One year later the British under Gen. Sir Henry Clinton besieged the city, and on May 12, 1780 Lincoln was forced to surrender Charleston and about five thousand troops. Almost the entire Continental army of the South was made prisoners of war, while militiamen were released as prisoners on parole, risking hanging if they again aided the American cause. The British soon established posts at Georgetown and farther inland, and it appeared that South Carolina was firmly under British domination. On June 6 Gen. Clinton confidently departed for New York, leaving Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis in command. Unfortunately for Cornwallis, Clinton also left a proclamation that undid much of what he had achieved militarily. His June 3 proclamation stated that South Carolinians who surrendered as prisoners on parole would be "freed and exempted from such paroles, and may hold themselves restored to all the rights and duties belonging to citizens and inhabitants."⁶ It was not clear whether those duties included taking up arms against their Patriot neighbors. In early August the citizens of Williamsburgh District sent John James to Georgetown to get clarification from British Capt. John Plummer Ardesoif, who was charged with carrying out Clinton's proclamation. William Dobein James described the meeting, possibly as he heard it from his father. (Fig. 3)

He [John James] proceeded to Georgetown, in the plain garb of a country planter, and was introduced to the captain, at his lodgings, a considerable distance from his ship. An altercation of the following nature took place. After the major had narrated the nature of his mission, the captain, surprised that such an embassy should be sent to him, answered, "the submission must be unconditional." To an inquiry, whether the inhabitants would not be allowed to stay at home, upon their plantations, in peace and quiet he replied, "although you have rebelled against his majesty, he offers you a free pardon, of which you are undeserving, for you ought all to be hanged; but as he offers you a free pardon, you must take up arms in support of his cause." To Major James' suggesting that the people he came to represent would not submit on such terms, the captain, irritated at his republican language, particularly, it is supposed, at the word _represent_, replied, "you damned rebel, if you speak in such language I will immediately order you to be hanged up to the yard-arm."—The captain wore a sword, and Major James none, but perceiving what turn matters were likely to take, and not brooking such harsh language, he suddenly seized the chair on which he was seated, brandished it in the face of the captain, and making his retreat good through the back door of the house, mounted his horse, and made his escape into the country. This circumstance, apparently trivial, certainly hastened the rise of Marion's brigade. The story narrated, as now told, or embellished, always concluded in the same way: "you must take up arms in support of his majesty's cause." Many of the people of Williamsburgh had submitted and taken paroles, but to be obliged to imbrue their hands in the blood of their countrymen, was in their minds a breach of one of the commands of God, and they shuddered at the very thought.⁷

⁶ Lieutenant-Colonel [Banastre] Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America* (London: T. Cadell, 1787), 73.

⁷ James, *Sketch*, 42-43.



Figure 3: John James discusses paroles with Capt. Ardesoif.⁸

Patriots now had to decide whether to take up arms against their like-minded comrades or leave their families and property to the depredations of Loyalists and fight against the British. If they chose the latter course, it would be “with the most solemn assurance” that if captured, they would “instantly be hanged without any form of trial.”⁹ Many from Williamsburgh District, including the McCottry brothers, nevertheless made that choice. They elected John James as their major to command four companies. They chose William McCottry, Henry Mouzon, John James (a second cousin of the major, who lived on Lynch’s Lake, shown in Fig. 1), and John McCauley as captains.¹⁰ The decision to continue fighting came at a most personal and painful cost. No particular battle lines were drawn. The war was fought everywhere in Williamsburgh District and became a bloody civil war.

⁸ W. Gilmore Simms, *The Life of Francis Marion* (New York: Henry G. Langley, 1845), 219.

⁹ Cornwallis to Maj. James Wemyss, July 15, 1780 in Ian Saberton, Ed. *The Cornwallis Papers*, Vol. 1 (Uckfield, East Sussex, England: The Naval & Military Press, 2010), 305.

¹⁰ James, *Sketch*, 44.

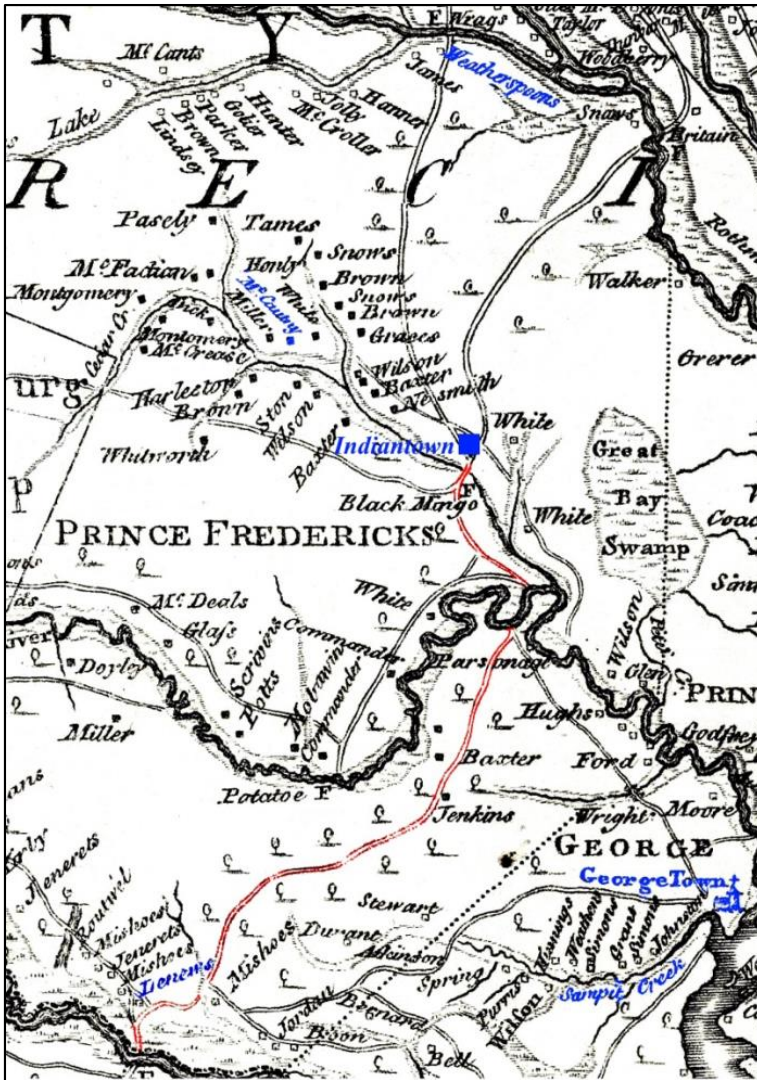


Figure 4: Possible route of Tarleton from Lenud's Ferry on the Santee River toward Witherspoon's Ferry on Lynch Creek (now Lynch River). Lenud's is labeled "Lenews" near the bottom left, and Witherspoon's is labeled "Weatherspoons" near the top. Note that Kingstree would not have been on Tarleton's route.

Soon after John James's meeting with Ardesoif, Capt. McCottry nearly engaged in battle with Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, whose British Legion was feared and despised for their massacre of surrendering Americans at Waxhaws on the previous May 29. Tarleton, having crossed the Santee River at Lenud's Ferry on August 6,¹¹ heard of James's meeting and decided to capture him at Witherspoon's Ferry. Capt. McCottry was at Indiantown between Tarleton and James. (Fig. 4)

After arriving at Indiantown, Tarleton decided to leave instead of engaging McCottry.

Capt. M'Cottry was now posted in advance of Witherspoon's ferry, at Indian town, and Col. Tarleton, having crossed at Lenud's ferry, and hearing of the Williamsburgh meeting, advanced, at the head of seventy mounted militia and cavalry, to surprise Major James. M'Cottry, first receiving notice of his movement, sent back for a reinforcement, and immediately marched his company, of about fifty mounted militia, to give him battle. Tarleton had been posted at dark, at the Kingstree, and M'Cottry approached him at midnight, but Tarleton marched away a few hours before he arrived. By means of the wife of Hamilton, the only tory in that part of the country, he had gained intelligence of M'Cottry's approach, as reported to him, with five hundred men.--The latter pursued, but, perhaps fortunately, without overtaking him.¹²

¹¹ Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers* 1:230

¹² James, *Sketch*, 24. Lenud's Ferry is labeled "Lenews" at the bottom of Figure 1, and Witherspoon's Ferry on Lynch River is labeled "Weatherspoons" near the top. Note that Kingstree would not have been on Tarleton's route.

Late in the afternoon on August 17, 1780, Col. Francis Marion arrived at Witherspoon's Ferry to take charge of the Williamsburg militia. Many of the men remembered Marion from the past when their militia units served under him as Continentals. Maj. James announced Marion and addressed his officers with great fanfare. After Marion became familiar with his new corps and was inspired by the brave spirit of the men, he began executing his orders from Gen. Horatio Gates,

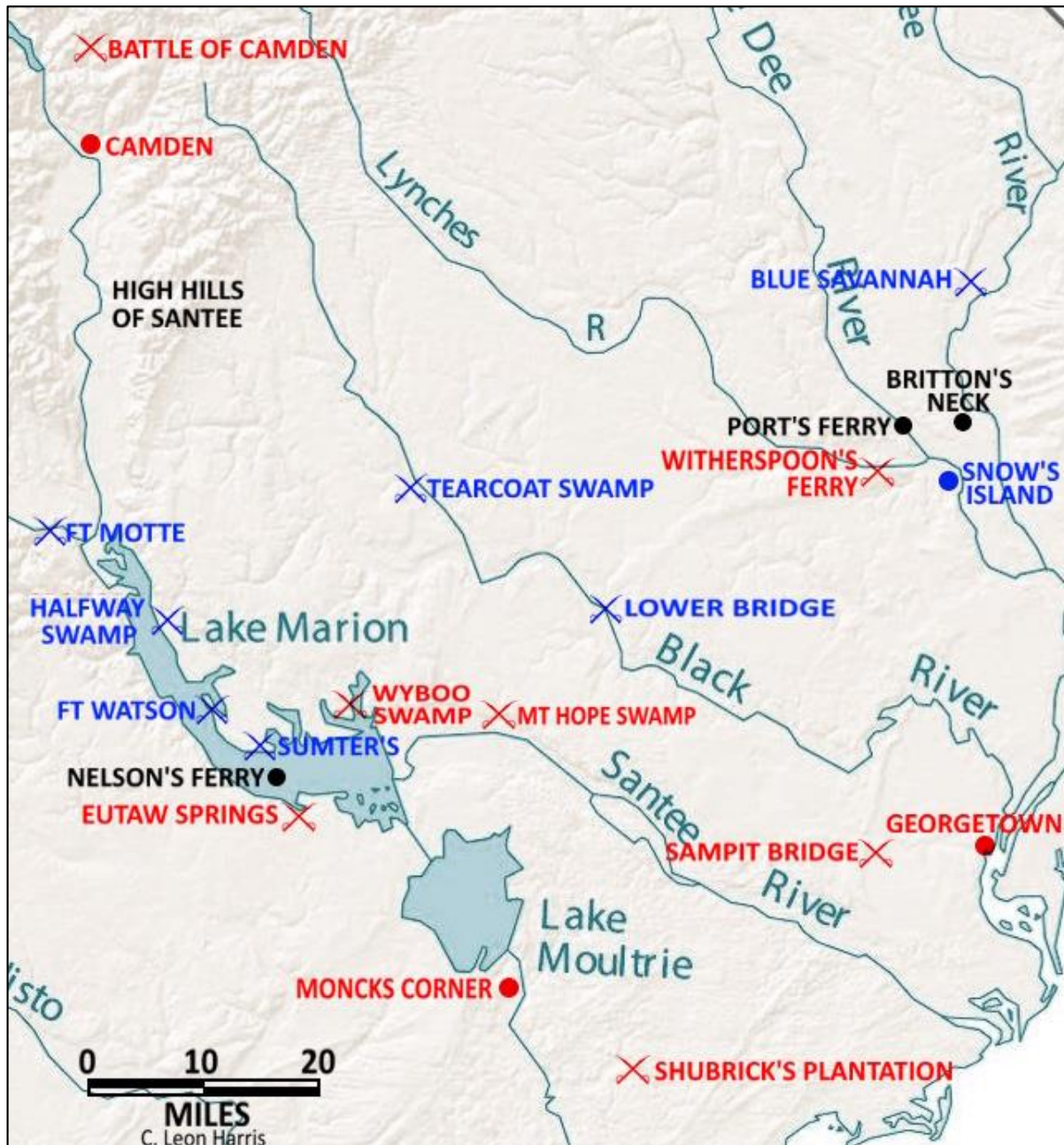


Figure 5: Locations of the Battle of Camden and other engagements mentioned in the rest of the paper. American victories and posts are in blue; those of the British are in red.

Lincoln's replacement as commander of the Southern Department.¹³ Marion did not yet know that Cornwallis had defeated Gates at the disastrous Battle of Camden the day before.

It may have been during this time that McCottry's Rifles became a distinct unit, although the name doesn't appear until 1845, when William Gilmore Simms referred to "M'Cottry's rifles."¹⁴ Captain William McCottry was likely the first commander. Marion used McCottry's Rifles as an independent, mounted, and highly mobile company of sharpshooters capable of riding fifty miles in a night. Their skill as riflemen, capable of firing at long distances, helped the Patriots in many skirmishes and battles. (See Appendix B)

GREAT SAVANNAH, AUGUST 25, 1780

On August 24, Col. Francis Marion was near Nelson's Ferry, close to Eutaw Springs (now submerged under Lake Marion), burning flatboats as he had been ordered to do to slow British troops moving between Charleston and Camden. When Elias Horry learned from his slaves that his boats were being destroyed, he rode to the river and confronted his nephew, Col. Peter Horry, who was busy burning boats. With his fowling gun in hand, the uncle gave a sharp reprimand. Elias Horry also told his nephew about Cornwallis's victory over Gates on August 16. This may have been how Marion first heard of Gates's defeat. That night, Marion's rangers brought in a Loyalist deserter with intelligence that British Capt. Jonathan Roberts and members of the 63rd Regiment of Foot held 150 Continental prisoners from the battle at the home of Gen. Thomas Sumter on Great Savannah, also called Farrar Savannah. (Fig. 6) Marion felt compelled to free the

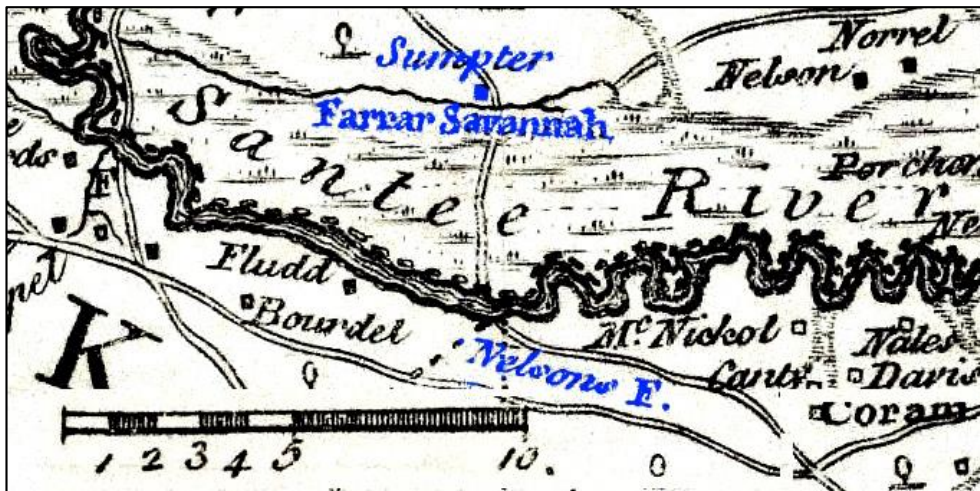


Figure 6: A section of Cook's 1773 map shows Great (Farrar) Savannah, Gen. Thomas Sumter's home, and Nelson's Ferry on the Santee River, all highlighted in blue.

¹³ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 40-42. Hugh F. Rankin, *Francis Marion: The Swamp Fox* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1973), 59-64

¹⁴ Simms, *Swamp Fox*, 216.

prisoners, and that evening or early the next morning, he made the short trip from Nelson's Ferry to Sumter's home.¹⁵

Marion ordered Col. Hugh Horry and 16 men to attack from the front, while he circled the house with men to attack from the rear. A sentry encountered Horry's men and fired a shot at them, prompting a rush to the front of the house by Horry. Marion and his force were already positioned attacking from the rear. The British muskets were stacked, leaving them no time to react. Twenty-two British regulars and two loyalist guides were killed or captured. Marion's men released 147 of the Continentals who had been captured at Camden. Eighty-five of the freed men refused to follow Marion due to the ragged appearance of his men, choosing instead to be transferred to a British ship in Charleston. Afterwards, Marion departed for Port's Ferry on Great Pee Dee River.

It is likely that Capt. William McCottry stayed with Maj. James for several weeks after his close call with Tarleton.¹⁶ If so, McCottry's Rifles could have taken part in the engagement at Great Savannah. Capt. Robert McCottry may also have been there, though probably not with McCottry's Rifles. James Armstrong stated in his pension application that he was with Capt. Robert McCottry when he joined Marion at Kingstree (August 22) and was with him when they learned of Gates's defeat.

He entered the service as a volunteer in the year 1780, in what was then Camden, now Sumter District, South Carolina, under one Robert McCottry a Captain, with this company he joined, then Colonel, afterwards General Marion, while lying at the Kingstree bridge on Black River, Williamsburgh District, South Carolina; Shortly after this they heard of the defeat of General Gates, which caused the men under General Marion to scatter; the General himself retreated, as well as applicant recollects into North Carolina [September 8].... he entered the service of the United States as stated in his original Declaration on the first of September 1780 -- he remained with his Captain Robert McCottry one month, when he became sick & left him.¹⁷

KINGSTREE, AUGUST 27, 1780

McCottry's Rifles may have stayed with Major James during the encounter at Kingstree on August 27.¹⁸ Major John James was scouting with 150 men from the Kingstree Regiment and captured stragglers from the command of Major James Wemyss. Wemyss [pronounced Weems] had been sent from the High Hills of Santee by Cornwallis to destroy Francis Marion. Cornwallis's orders were clear: "I would have you disarm in the most rigid manner, all persons who cannot be depended on and punish the concealment of arms and ammunition with a total demolition of the

¹⁵ The date of August 25 is given by Marion in a letter to Gates dated August 29. David Neilan, Ed., "The Francis Marion Papers, Volume 1 1759-1780," 201. Cornwallis said the attack occurred in "the night of the 24th." Cornwallis to Lt. Col. John Harris Cruger, August 27, 1780, *Cornwallis Papers* 2:172-173. <https://southcarolina250.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Francis-Marion-Papers-Volume-One.pdf>.

¹⁶ J. D. Lewis lists either or both captains William McCottry and Robert McCottry as being at the engagement at Great Savannah described here. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_great_savannah.html.

¹⁷ Pension application of James Armstrong S2926 transcribed by Will Graves, <https://revwarapps.org/s2926.pdf>.

¹⁸ Some sources give the date at September 7, 1780.

plantation.”¹⁹ Cornwallis was aware of the weakened men under Wemyss and that many of his 63rd Regiment, possibly numbering around 400 men, had contracted malaria. Cornwallis sent out Camden Major John Harrison's Provincials and Col. Samuel Bryan's North Carolina militiamen and asked for the 100 men under Col. John Hamilton at Ratcliffe's Bridge, now Bishopville, to reinforce Wemyss. Hamilton responded positively to the request. During this sortie, Wemyss burned houses and captured horses. James's night attack against a remnant of Wemyss' troop resulted in the Patriots having 5 killed, 15 wounded, and 10 captured. The British had 15 killed and wounded and 15 captured.²⁰

BLUE SAVANNAH, SEPTEMBER 4, 1780



Figure 7: William Tylee Ranney's depiction of Marion crossing the Pee Dee River.

After his exploits at Great Savannah, Marion crossed Port's Ferry to Britton's Neck, nestled between the Great Pee Dee River and the Little Pee Dee River. (Fig. 7) Marion might have felt safe there among the Whigs who had united under Col. John Ervin. However, danger still lurked in the form of Maj. Micajah Ganey, who had organized a Tory militia regiment. Ganey lived on a large plantation between Catfish Creek and the Little Pee Dee River. Known to be intelligent but sometimes hot-tempered, he was a formidable figure. Capt. Jesse Barfield, Ganey's second-in-command, resided between Drowning Creek and the Little Pee Dee River. Educated and wealthy, Barfield has served under then Capt. Marion in the Second Regiment in

¹⁹ Cornwallis to Wemyss, August 28, 1780, in Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*. 2208.

²⁰ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 44-48

1776, but after an officer and his appeal snubbed him, he finished his enlistment and pledged loyalty to the King. Barfield then raised 80 horsemen and joined Ganey. News of Marion's camp at Port's Ferry spread quickly, prompting Ganey to call his Tories to the muster field on the Little Pee Dee. Two hundred and fifty men responded to the call. Before dawn on September 4, these troops moved out to confront the Patriots.

Marion learned of Ganey's forces approaching and understood his options for deploying his fifty-two men. He could wait for Ganey to attack, launch a surprise attack himself, risking his men's lives, or withdraw from the area. He decided to attack. Before dawn, he rallied his men and had them pin white cockades on their caps to distinguish themselves from Ganey's men, whose clothing was similar to Marion's. They broke camp and cautiously departed, with Maj. James leading his small contingent, likely including McCottry's Rifles. Marion followed with the rest of his forces. Two hours later, James's men reached a small Tory settlement near the Pee Dee, where armed horsemen blocked the road. James spurred his horse Thunder and charged, shouting for his men to follow. He saw Ganey and headed straight for him with his sword drawn. Panicked and caught off guard, Ganey and his men fled. James pursued Ganey for half a mile until Ganey and a few men took cover behind a thicket. James realized he and Thunder were alone, but he charged anyway, yelling for his men, who were nowhere to be seen. The deception worked, and the Tories did not stop until they reached the safety of the Little Pee Dee Swamp. Prisoners told Marion that Tory foot soldiers were three miles away. Marion then headed after the Tories and found Capt. Barfield with two hundred men armed with muskets. Deciding he stood little chance against Barfield, Marion retreated to Blue Savannah, left the road, circled, and hid his men behind pine trees. Barfield advanced, walking right into Marion's ambush. (Marion's own account does not mention an ambush but rather a frontal attack by his troops.)²¹ When Barfield reached the position opposite Marion, he attacked with fifty horsemen, pistols blazing and swords drawn. Barfield fired a volley, killing three men and two horses. Unable to reload, the Loyalists retreated to the safety of the Little Pee Dee Swamp. After chasing Barfield and his men to the edge of the swamp, Marion ordered his troops back, treated the wounded and prisoners, then headed to Port's Ferry. A patrol Marion sent out returned to Blue Savannah the next morning and confirmed that the Loyalists had fled the swamp.²²

Marion quickly realized he was in danger at Britton's Neck with enemies surrounding him on three sides. On September 8, he retreated to White Marsh in Bladen County, NC. There, Marion's troops spent their time hunting, fishing, and sleeping under a blanket if they had one or beneath leaves and pine needles. They formed small groups and ate meals of cornmeal, beef, pork, hominy grits, cowpeas, and sweet potatoes. Salt was a rare luxury. The rainy summer had affected the men by bringing mosquitoes, which made them more uncomfortable and increased their risk of contracting malaria. William Dobein James, Maj. James's fifteen-year-

²¹ John Oller, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution* (Boston MA: Da Capo Press, 2016), 60-61, 73.

²² James, *Sketch*, 24. Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 50-52, 67.

old son, and Col. Horry were among those affected by malaria. After about two weeks, Maj. James brought the sad news that Maj. James Wemyss had led a brutal and fiery march through Williamsburg, destroying the Indiantown Presbyterian Meeting House²³ and some nearby farms, including Maj. James's own.²⁴

THE SURRENDER OF CAPT. MCCOTTRY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1780

Maj. James Wemyss's raid might have been successful in discouraging the Rebels. On September 15, one of the McCottry brothers and twenty of his men surrendered, according to a Charleston newspaper.

*Last night a party returned from a little excursion towards Lynch's Creek. They came down Peedee from Britton's Ferry. All that part of the country appears to be in perfect peace. On Friday a Capt. McCottry with 20 of his adherents, surrendered themselves to Major Moncrief. McCottry has been an active person in the rebellion, and is said to have considerable influence in the Township Williamsburgh. This timely submission on their part, has prevented re-course being had to disagreeable measures. The small remains of Marion's party crossed Little Peedee on Monday last, and have gone to North Carolina.*²⁵

Capt. McCottry was likely held prisoner for some time and pressured to serve with the British forces in line with Clinton's proclamation. However, it's possible that if he surrendered peacefully, he was allowed to go home on parole. Capt. McCottry would have faced hanging if he later aided the Americans. The report does not clearly specify whether this Capt. McCottry was William or Robert. Still, based on James Armstrong's pension application, it appears that it was Capt. William McCottry who surrendered, since Robert McCottry served as Armstrong's captain throughout September 1780.

Two sources indicate that Capt. William McCottry was soon back in service. William Dobein James wrote that in January 1781, "Capt. Wm. M'Cottry commanded a company of riflemen who were the dread of the enemy." The second source is John Boyd, who applied for pay owed for "30 days duty done in [Marion's] Brigade in Captain Wm McCottry Company" beginning or ending on July 24, 1781.²⁶ It seems likely, therefore, that William McCottry was in command of McCottry's Rifles after January 1781 and possibly for the rest of the war. Capt. Robert McCottry may have commanded McCottry's Rifles during his brother's captivity, and apparently he commanded McCottry's Rifles or a different company at other times. William Dobein James, however, never referred to Capt. McCottry as Robert. On the following pages, I summarize only

²³ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 55, 56. Parker, *Guide*, 435.

²⁴ N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives* Vol. 3 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), 376-377.

²⁵ South-Carolina and American General Gazette, Sept 17, 1780, The newspaper extract was copied by Jim Picuch at the David Library of the American Revolution and brought to my attention by the late Charles Baxley.

²⁶ John Boyd account audited, <https://revwarapps.org/sc738.pdf>.

the actions in which captains William McCottry, Robert McCottry, or both are said to have participated.

TEARCOAT SWAMP, OCTOBER 25, 1780

On September 24, Marion and his men disbanded at White Marsh in North Carolina and relocated to Britton's Neck. From there, he led multiple expeditions, including skirmishes at Black Mingo on September 28 and at Georgetown on October 9. There is no evidence that McCottry's Rifles participated, and it's unclear if Captain McCottry was still a prisoner at that time. However,

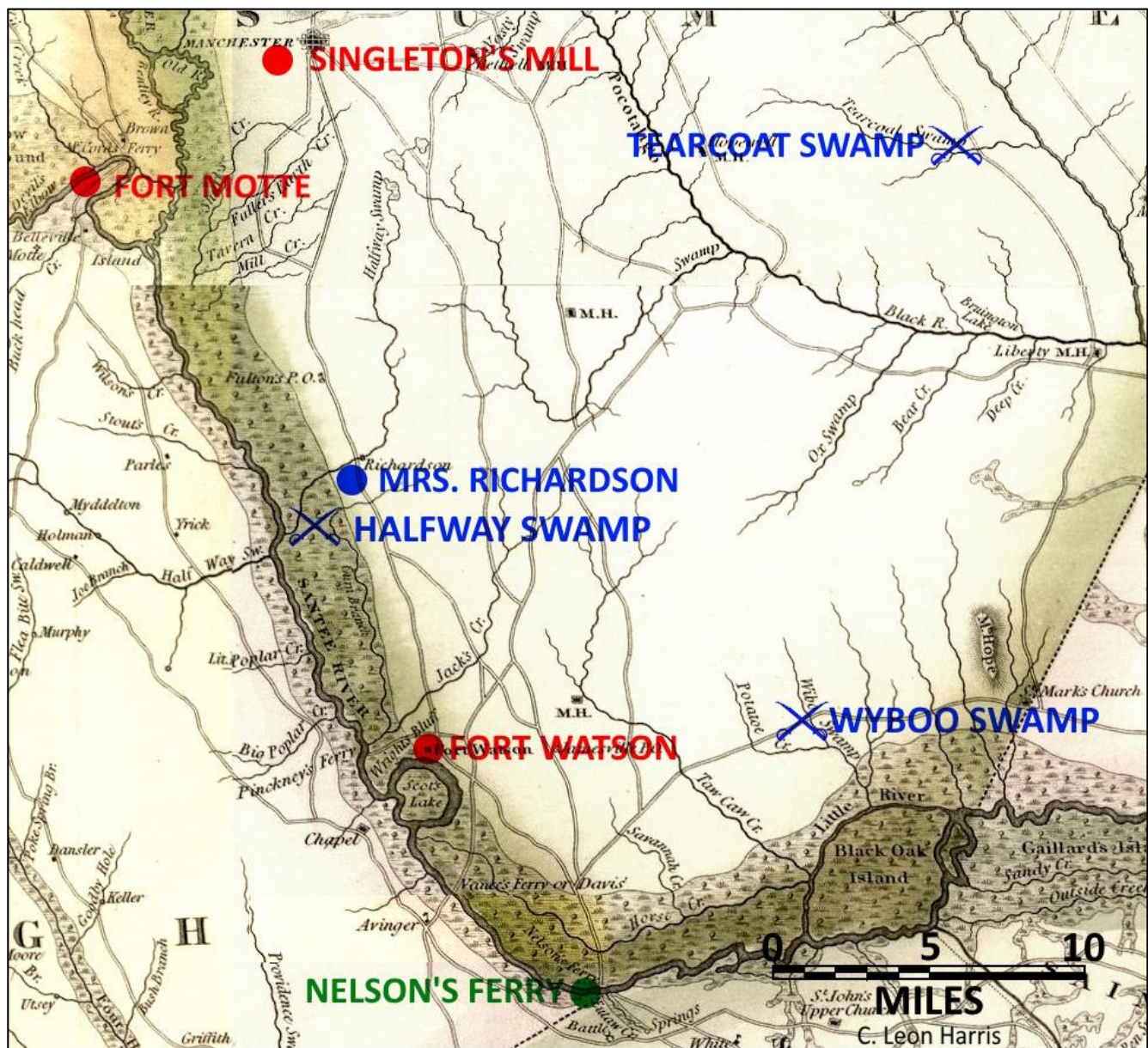


Figure 8: Tearcoat Swamp and nearby locations mentioned in this paper. Base map by John Wilson, 1822.

it's believed that Captain William McCottry and/or Captain Robert McCottry took part in a skirmish at Tearcoat Swamp on October 25.²⁷ Marion learned that Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Tynes was encamped at a muster ground near Tearcoat Swamp and recognized the need to seize the opportunity to find and attack Tynes. Tynes's 200 troops had recently been issued muskets, powder, shot, bridles, and saddles from the Camden Depot.

One hundred fifty men answered Marion's call for muster. The assembly crossed the Pee Dee at Port's Ferry, then crossed Lynches River at Witherspoon's Ferry before marching to Kingstree. On the morning of October 25, Marion left Kingstree heading toward Salem. He sent out scouts ahead and to the sides to look for possible ambushes. They rode until dark, then Marion and his men turned back and crossed Black River. Two young men were sent to find Tynes and gather intelligence. They returned successfully and told Marion that Tynes was off the road, camped in a field with Tearcoat Swamp behind them. (Fig. 8) The scouts also reported that the men were sleeping on their blankets, playing cards, and laughing. Some were "hooping and halloing and saying they wished they knew where Marion was, they'd make a riddle of his hide."²⁸

At midnight, Marion launched his attack. Quietly, he sent detachments to flank the camp on both sides. The main force, led by Marion, attacked from the center at the sound of his pistol. The three groups charged on horseback, shouting and firing. The Tories were caught completely by surprise and fled into the woods along the Tearcoat. Col. Tynes disappeared. Marion's men killed three, wounded fourteen, and captured twenty-three. They also seized eighty muskets and eighty horses with bridles, saddles, blankets, and other supplies. Afterwards, many of Tynes's men joined Marion. Capt. William Clay Snipes was sent to the High Hills to pursue a fleeing Tynes. Snipes captured Tynes and several Loyalist officers and Justices of the Peace. Lt. Col. George Turnbull couldn't believe Marion could do this without being noticed, so he asked Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton to find him. Surprisingly, Marion learned of this through his network of spies. Tarleton had set a trap for Marion, but the widow of Brig. Gen. Richard Richardson warned him. Tarleton chased Marion as far as Ox Swamp in present-day Manning until Cornwallis ordered him to pursue Sumter instead. On his return, Tarleton went on a rampage, burning and plundering thirty plantations, houses, and livestock from Jack's Creek to the High Hills of Santee. At Mrs. Richardson's home, Tarleton was especially loathsome, forcing Richardson's wife to feed him dinner, then having his men drive all the livestock into the barn and burn it. Marion and Tarleton kept setting ambushes for each other but never fought.²⁹

HALFWAY SWAMP, DECEMBER 12, 1780

In an effort to open the supply route from Charleston to Camden and keep it safe from Marion, Lieutenant Colonel Nisbet Balfour sent 200 fresh Royal Fusilier recruits from England. To protect

²⁷ J. D. Lewis, "Tearcoat Swamp," https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_tearcoat_swamp.html.

²⁸ Loftus R. Munnerlyn pension application S18136, <https://revwarapps.org/s18136.pdf>.

²⁹ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 76-78. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 103-105. C. Leon Harris, "[Francis Marion's Attack at Tearcoat Swamp and Tarleton's Revenge](#)," *academia.edu*, 2023.

them after crossing the Santee at Nelson's Ferry, they were to rendezvous with Major Robert McLeroth and his 64th Regiment of Foot at Thomas Sumter's house, then travel to the High Hills of Santee to meet a detachment from Camden. Marion's extensive intelligence network informed their colonel of the mission. Marion called in his militia, and 700 horsemen responded. According to J. D. Lewis, either Captain William McCottry or Captain Robert McCottry, or both, were among them under Major John Vanderhorst.³⁰ On December 12, Marion suddenly confronted McLeroth at Halfway Swamp and sent McCottry to harass his rear. (See Fig. 8.) McCottry's Rifles killed several British pickets.³¹ McLeroth sent a messenger under a flag to protest Marion's men shooting pickets, since that action was against civilized warfare. Marion responded that Wemyss's and Tarleton's practice of burning Patriot houses was much worse than shooting pickets.

According to William Dobein James, McLeroth then dared Marion to leave the sanctuary of the woods and fight fairly in the open field. It was agreed that each side would send twenty men to fight. Marion chose twenty sharpshooters under the command of Maj. Vanderhorst, most likely including some from McCottry's Rifles. Marion supposedly sent them into the contest with the following speech: "My brave soldiers! You are twenty men picked this day out of my whole brigade. I know you all, and have often witnessed your bravery. In the name of your country, I call upon you once more to show it. My confidence in you is great, and I am sure it will not be disappointed. Fight like men, fight as you have always done, and you are sure of the victory."³² The next morning, the contestants were to meet on the field of honor, but it was discovered that the British contestants had marched off. Apparently, McLeroth had slipped away the previous night. Upon discovering the deception, Marion dispatched a hundred horsemen under Maj. John James, mounted on his horse Thunder. They caught up with McLeroth at Singleton's Mill, 12 miles to the north. James's men fired a single volley, then quickly remounted and fled from a threat worse than bullets. The Singleton family had smallpox!³³

WYBOO SWAMP, MARCH 6, 1781

Lt. Col. Francis, Lord Rawdon, took command of the King's army in South Carolina after Cornwallis's departure in January 1781. Rawdon was determined to eliminate Marion, who had by then been promoted from colonel to Brigadier General of the militia. Rawdon sent Lt. Col. John Watson Tadwell-Watson down the Santee Road to attack Marion from the front, while Lt. Col. Welbore Ellis Doyle moved down the Pee Dee to cross Lynch's River and wait for Marion's retreat. On March 5, Watson, with his Guards regiment and Maj. Samuel Harrison's Provincials, left Fort Watson and headed down the Santee Road. Late that afternoon, Capt. Zach Cantey spotted

³⁰ J. D. Lewis, "Halfway Creek," https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_halfway_swamp_1.html.

³¹ Parker, *Guide*, 171.

³² James, *Sketch*, 55.

³³ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 107-112. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 125-134.

Watson camped below Nelson's Ferry. He watched the camp and immediately rode to Marion with the news.

Marion recognized that this was the greatest threat to his command. He knew he would face one of the British Army's best regiments and that the fight would be fierce, with no reinforcements in sight. Knowing his men's resolve, he ordered an immediate attack. Marion gathered 250 men in the muddy Wiboo Swamp and had them wait. (See Figs. 8 and 9.) Soon, Watson's Loyalist militia dragoons met Lt. Col. Peter Horry's cavalry in a brief clash, then both forces withdrew. Unsatisfied, Marion sent Horry again and again. Watson's artillery pushed Horry back. The Loyalists of the SC Rangers (Harrison's Corps) charged the Patriots, but they were stopped by Gavin James, a brave and strong rider, one of Horry's best horsemen. On his gray horse, armed with a musket and bayonet, James charged Harrison's men, dropping the front man with buckshot. He then stabbed the next soldier and then another with his bayonet. The last unlucky one grabbed James's musket barrel and was dragged fifty yards before James let go. Marion then brought in Capt. Daniel Conyers and Capt. John McCauley's horsemen pushed the Loyalists back. Conyers killed Maj. Harrison. Watson's Guards then joined the fight, and that's when Marion decided to retreat.³⁴

That night, both Marion and Watson camped on Canty's Plantation, about 8 miles east of Wyboo Swamp. Marion's main concern was that Watson might push east to suppress the Patriots

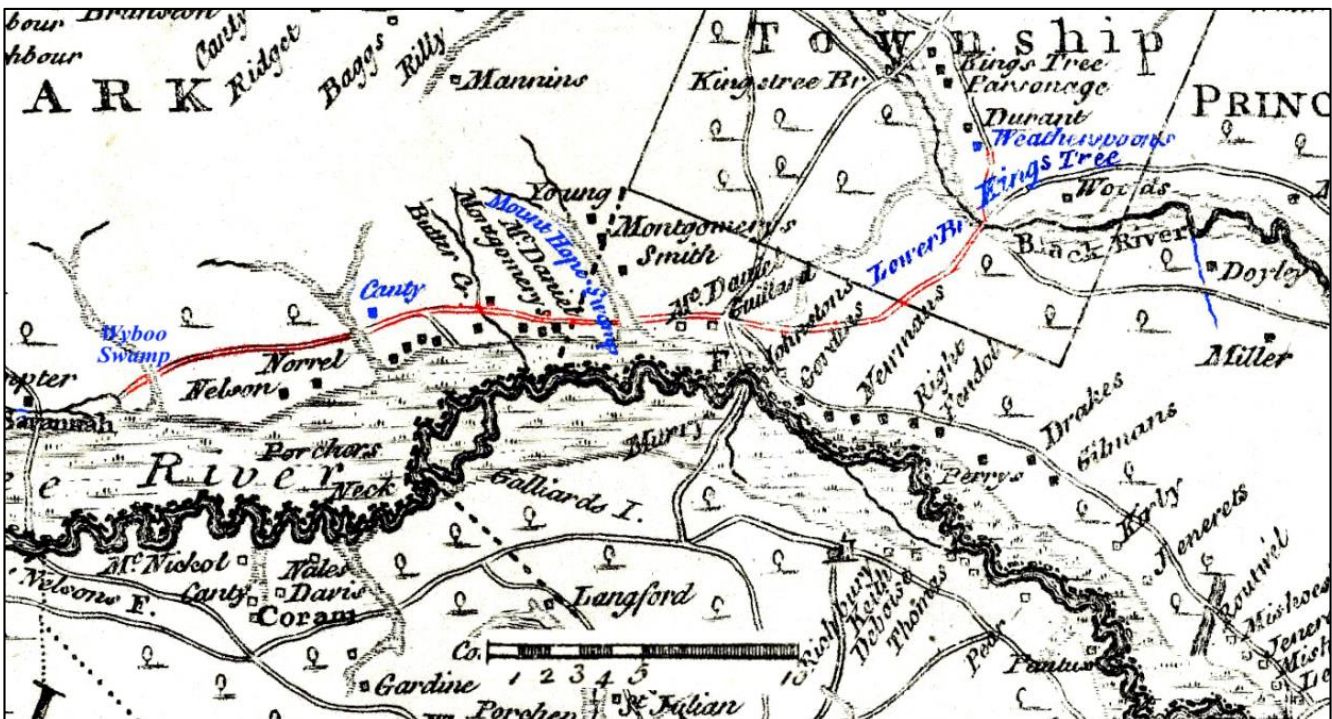


Figure 9: The skirmish at Wyboo Swamp and the first phase of the Bridges Campaign from Mount Hope Swamp to the Lower Bridge of Kingstree.

³⁴ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 107-112. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 125-134.

in Williamsburgh District and possibly head to his camp at Snow's Island. (See Fig. 5.) Marion decided to stop or at least slow this down by destroying bridges and skirmishing as Watson crossed the streams. This so-called Bridges Campaign included three separate skirmishes at Mount Hope Swamp, the Lower Bridge of Kingstree, and the Sampit River Bridge.

MOUNT HOPE SWAMP, MARCH 9 OR 10, 1781

Marion's shrewd duel with Lt. Col. John Watson and his Third Regiment of Guards started at Mt. Hope Swamp a day or two after the skirmish at Wyboo Swamp. Watson had planned to go to Georgetown, but his plans were interrupted when he reached Mt. Hope Swamp, where Marion had destroyed the bridge and left Lt. Col. Hugh Horry and McCottry's Rifles to delay Watson. McCottry's Rifles were no match for Watson's cannon firing grapeshot, and they retreated to the east.

LOWER BRIDGE OF KINGSTREE, MARCH 11, 1781

Marion kept heading east on Santee Road with Watson close behind. The stakes were high for Marion's men. They knew that if Watson and his troop from the 64th Regiment crossed the Black River at the Lower Bridge, they could reach the Indiantown community and crush Whig activity in its strongest area. They might even raid Marion's base at Snow's Island. If Capt. Robert McCottry was there, he would be especially worried because his wife, Mary, was at home in Indiantown waiting to have their sixth child. (William McCottry arrived on March 14, 1781.) Tarleton and Wemyss had shown the British that they didn't care about women and children left homeless after farms and livestock were destroyed. Maj. James got to the bridge before Watson and ordered his men to remove the planks from the middle and burn the supports at the eastern end. He placed men with muskets loaded with ball and goose shot near the supports to support McCottry's riflemen, who were beyond the 75-yard effective range of the British muskets. Capt. Thomas Potts and his Pee Dee company arrived and were positioned to support Maj. James. Marion, expecting Watson to try a flanking move, sent a group of men downstream to block any crossing attempt.³⁵

According to William Dobein James, who may have heard it from his father:

"When he (Watson) came to the Black river road, which crosses at the lower bridge, he made a feint of still continuing down the Santee; but soon after wheeling took that road on which the lower bridge was, distant twelve miles. His manoeuvre did not long deceive Marion. He detached Major James at the head of seventy men, thirty of whom were riflemen under M'Cottry, to destroy the remnant of the bridge, which had been partially broken, and to take post there, while the general kept an eye on Watson.... As soon as the breach in it was effected, Maj. James drew up M'Cottry's riflemen on each side of the ford and end of the bridge, so as to have a fair view of the ravine, and disposed the rest of his little band on the flanks".³⁶

³⁵ Charles Baxley, "Bridges Campaign," Francis Marion Symposium, October 24, 2015, YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5-ulapBstY&ab_channel=CaroleSummers.

³⁶ James, *Sketch*, 55-59.



Figure 10: Black River at the site of the Lower Bridge. Left: The high western bank. Right: Downstream from the west bank showing the low eastern bank. (Ladson McCutchen)

Watson arrived to find a destroyed bridge with no access to Kingstree unless he could defeat his opponents on the far bank and cross the river. The western bank at this point of the river is unusually high, while the eastern bank is low and marshy. (Fig. 10)

Watson deployed his cannon, called a “grasshopper” because of its recoil, at the top of the bluff bank. The cannon could fire a three-pound ball, but on this occasion, it was loaded with grapeshot and used like a large shotgun. Watson ordered the crew to aim as low as possible toward the opposite bank, but the grapeshot went over the Patriots’ heads without effect. Watson sent an officer to the front to lead his men across the river. “M’Cottry fired the signal gun, and the officer clapped his hand to his breast and fell to the ground.”³⁷ Four more troops rushed forward and met the same fate.

William McCottry is widely credited with firing the shot that killed the first officer at Lower Bridge. I believe this is accurate and suggests that William McCottry was back in service after surrendering. One story states that William raised and lowered his rifle to fire three times, and when asked by one of his men why he didn’t shoot, he replied, “That is my neighbor John Brockington, and I cannot shoot him.” While the story may be false, it illustrates how fighting against friends and neighbors was part of our first civil war.³⁸

Again, quoting James:

“Watson succeeded in removing his dead and wounded, and took up his head quarters at John Witherspoon’s, a mile above the bridge [“Weatherspoon’s” in Figure 9]. Here he was overheard to say, “that he never saw such shooting in his life.” To men fighting for their homes, wives, families, and their very existence, “nothing appeared difficult;” and good shooting, if not a virtue in them, was highly commendable. Gen. Marion took a position on a

³⁷ James, *Sketch*, 57-58.

³⁸ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 148-151. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 168-170. James, *Sketch*, 57-60. Simms, *Life*, 141-145.

ridge below the ford of the river, which is still called the general's island. Next day he pushed M'Cottry and Conyers over the river, and recommenced shooting Watson's pickets and sentinels."

It was here that Archibald McDonald is said to have climbed a tree and shot British Lt. George Torriano in the knee while he sat with his legs propped on the rail of the front porch of Thorntree house, effectively ending his career.³⁹ The shot was fired from 300 yards away. One source states that McDonald used a German Jäger rifle with a one-ounce ball. Young Mary Witherspoon, a captive in her father's home, watched her beloved Capt. Daniel Conyers as he circled her house. Lt. Col. Watson was a gentleman, but some of his officers insulted Miss Witherspoon's fiancé after Torriano was wounded. The feisty girl removed a walking shoe and smacked one of the officers in the face, saying, "There's Capt. Conyers now. Go out and fight him, you coward!"⁴⁰

Watson needed a better position than what the Witherspoon house provided. That afternoon, he moved half a mile to Blakeley's Plantation, which was surrounded by open fields. Watson's command was under constant harassment from Marion's sharpshooters, but he had a few days to rest before moving on to Georgetown. Watson requested a pass for Lt. Torriano, a servant, six wounded soldiers, and two other soldiers to assist the wounded. Marion approved the pass for Nelson's Ferry and Charleston. During Watson's stay at Blakeley's, his men raided local farms for food and fodder, slaughtering livestock. Watson expected relief from Col. Doyle, but no messenger could reach him because the area was hostile toward the British. On March 15, in desperation,

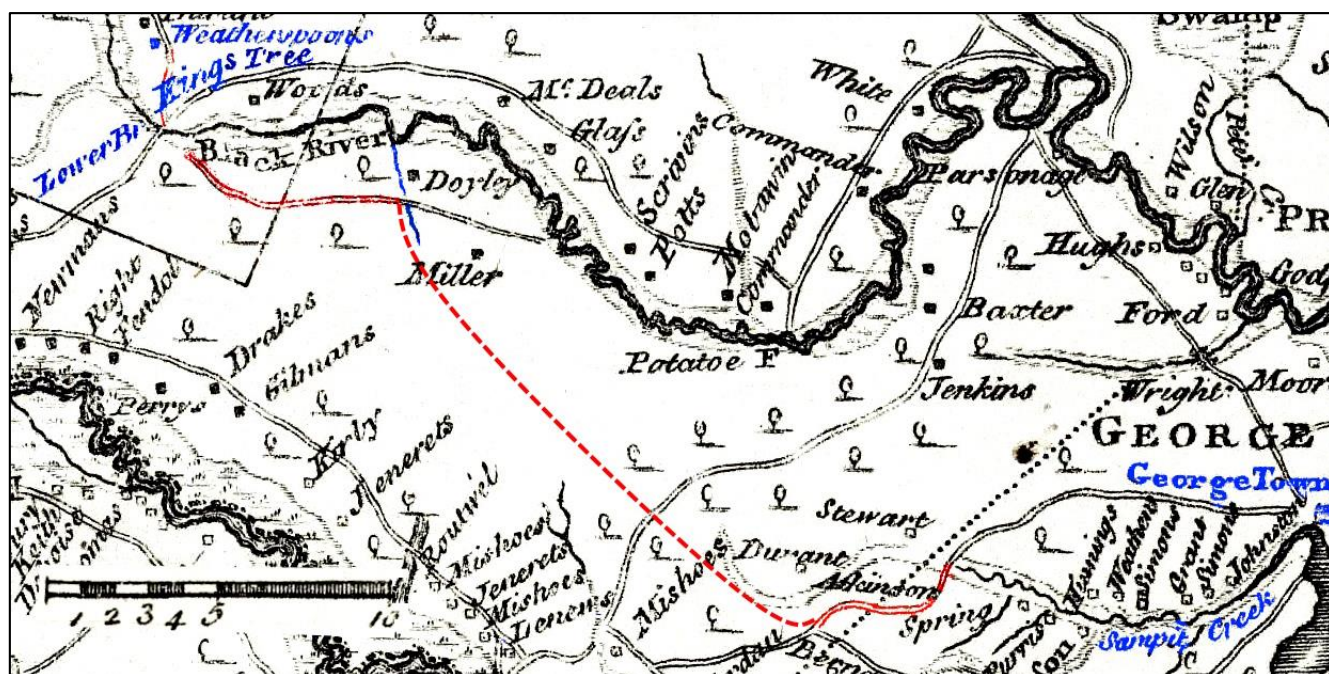


Figure 11: Possible Route of the Bridges Campaign from Witherspoon's to Sampit River Bridge.

³⁹ The restored [Thorntree House](#) is now owned by the Williamsburg Historical Society.

⁴⁰ Bass. *Swamp Fox*, 150.

Watson buried his dead in a rock quarry, loaded his wounded onto wagons, and quickly marched toward Georgetown.

Seven miles southeast of Blakeley's, he reached Ox Swamp on the south side of Black River (shown in blue in Figure 11), where the Patriots had destroyed the bridge and placed trees in the causeway, blocking the crossing. Additionally, there was swamp on both sides of the road. Marion kept the pressure on Watson by staying close, forcing Watson to choose between fighting or escaping. Watson chose to run, heading south and crossing fifteen miles of pinelands to the Santee Road. The Patriots under Horry fired nonstop at the retreating British. As the British approached closer to the Sampit River (Sampit Creek in Figure 11), Marion sent Peter Horry ahead to remove

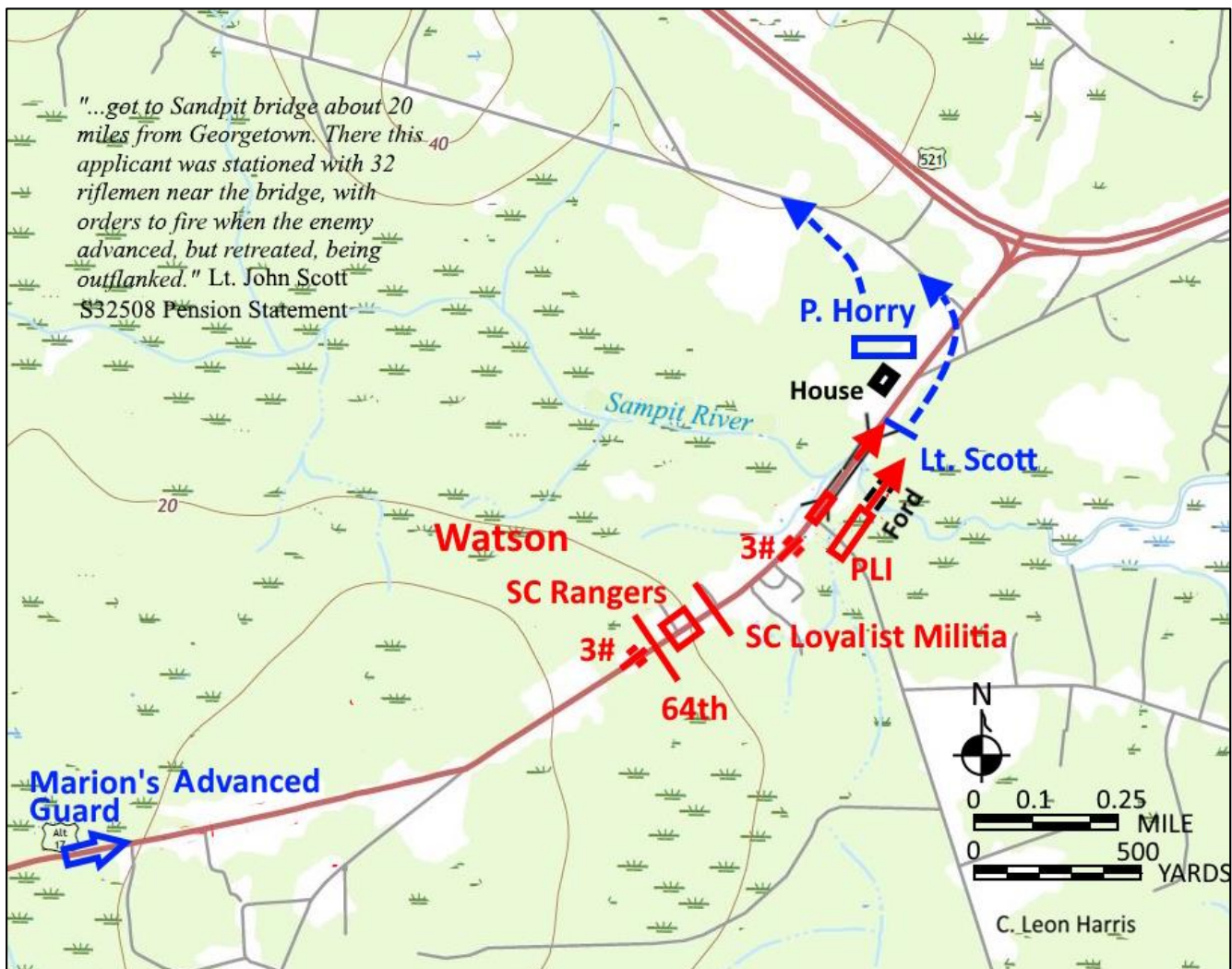


Figure 12: The action at Sampit River Bridge depicted on the current USGS Top Map, based on information from Rick Wise and Charles B. Baxley.

the planks from that bridge. Lt. John Scott and thirty-two riflemen were stationed beyond the river.⁴¹ (Fig. 12)

Scott inexplicably ordered his riflemen to hold their fire, perhaps afraid of the Guards' bayonets as they splashed across the stream. Horry, upset at Lt. Scott's lack of leadership and lost opportunity, supposedly called out, "Infamous poltroon, where is that hetacombe of robbers and murderers due to the vengeance of your injured country?"⁴² Watson was able to cross the river at a nearby ford, and Scott, "being outflanked," was forced to retire, and Horry with him. While the front component of Watson's Guards crossed the Sampit River, Marion attacked the rear. (Fig. 12) Watson's horse was shot from beneath him but he remounted and ordered his artillery to fire grapeshot at Marion, who withdrew from the cannon fire. Watson hurriedly loaded his wounded in wagons and left twenty dead on the battlefield. As he made camp that night he is said to have angrily commented, "They will not sleep and fight like gentlemen but like savages are eternally firing and whooping around us by night, and by day waylaying and popping at us from behind every tree."⁴³ Watson later remarked, "I have never seen such shooting before in my life."⁴⁴

Marion lost one man while Watson had to deposit his dead in a black water pit above Lower Bridge. Watson returned to Georgetown with two wagon loads of wounded men and the remembrance of the dead shackled to the bottom of a Williamsburgh District stream.

During the Bridges Campaign, men were deployed where they were needed. McCottry's Rifles were with Hugh Horry at Mt. Hope Swamp and then with Major John James at Lower Bridge, before being sent back across the river with Capt. Daniel Conyers. While the British were retreating through the pine land, they were pursued by Lt. Col. Peter Horry and his riflemen, presumably members of McCottry's Rifles. At times, a company might consist of only five men.

WITHERSPOON'S FERRY, APRIL 3, 1781

Lt. Colonel Welbore Doyle had managed to locate and destroy Marion's camp on Snow's Island and was resting at Witherspoon Ferry on the north bank of Lynches River. Marion was camped at Indiantown with all but seventy men at their homes planting crops. On April 3, Marion sent Lt. Col. Hugh Horry and his mounted infantry to find Doyle. When they arrived at Witherspoon's plantation, they encountered foragers collecting food. Horry attacked, killing nine and capturing sixteen. From there, they pursued the others to Witherspoon's Ferry. According to William Dobein James, "Doyle had taken a position on the north side of the ferry, and when M'Cottry, in advance, with his mounted riflemen, arrived at the creek, the British were scuttling a ferry boat on the opposite side. He took a position behind trees, and gave them a well directed and

⁴¹ Pension application of John Scott S32508 transcribed by Will Graves, <https://revwarapps.org/s32508.pdf>.

⁴² Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 154.

⁴³ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 153-155. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 172-175.

⁴⁴ Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 170.

deadly fire.”⁴⁵ Doyle lined his men along the bank and fired with muskets on the Patriots. Afterward, they headed for the Pee Dee. The total loss for Doyle was nine killed or wounded and fifteen or sixteen taken prisoner. The number of patriot casualties is unknown.

Marion knew his men were disheartened. Many of their friends and relatives had been killed or wounded. A hundred homes and plantations had been burned. The horrendous Loyalist Maj. Micajah Ganey had recovered and was seeking revenge. Marion's lair on Snow's Island had been destroyed by Doyle, who had taken the few remaining stores after Col. Hugh Ervin, unable to stand against a superior force, dumped ammunition and guns into Clark's Creek. Marion gathered his men together to rally their support with such urgency that by the time he finished, his men were cheering for his brigade. A messenger then arrived with good news that Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee was coming from North Carolina with his Legion and supplies. Lee soon arrived with orders from Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene to work together and seize all possible British posts.⁴⁶



Figure 13: Fort Watson. (C. Leon Harris)

⁴⁵ James, *Sketch*, 60.

⁴⁶ Bass, *Swamp Fox*, 156-161. Rankin, *Francis Marion*, 173-179.

FORT WATSON, APRIL 16-23, 1781

Fort Watson, named for its British Commander, Lt. Col. John Watson Tadwell-Watson, was built on an ancient Indian mound 23 feet high at Wright's Bluff in Orangeburgh District, an area in today's Clarendon County now partially covered by Lake Marion.⁴⁷ (Figs. 5, 8, and 13.) Gen. Thomas Sumter had attempted to capture Fort Watson on February 24, 1781, but without artillery, Sumter was repelled by Watson's 400 men protected by abattis (sharpened tree limbs).

On April 16, 1781, Gen. Francis Marion and Lt. Col. Henry Lee with 400 men launched what became a legendary assault known as the Siege of Fort Watson. Inside the fort, British Lt. James McKay and a garrison of about 80 British and 40 Loyalist soldiers had food and ammunition. His men dug a well for water, supplied by nearby Scott's Lake, an oxbow south of the mound. They cleared the land around the mound and the fort, creating fields of fire that would leave the patriots exposed. McKay expected reinforcements and was content to wait. Without artillery, the siege seemed hopeless until Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham approached Marion with a plan. Maham suggested building a 40-foot tower of pine trees, from which riflemen could fire into the fort.



Figure 14: Artist's depictions of Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham and his tower at Ft. Watson. Portrait of Maham by Virginia "Gingi" Martin, 2013, based on a copy of a black-and-white miniature in the Hezekiah Maham file at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston. The color drawing was created after studying the Huguenot people, learning about their skin tones and uniform colors. Courtesy of Keith Gourdin of Pineville, SC. Painting of Ft. Watson from the American Battlefield Trust. (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/siege-fort-watson>).

⁴⁷ Steven D. Smith, *The Battles of Fort Motte and Fort Watson 1781*, (Yardley PA: Westholme Publishing, 2024), 4-5.

Marion approved the plan. Over five days, the men cut and notched trees (Fig. 14). On April 22, after dark, they assembled the tower, complete with a shooting platform. At dawn on April 23, McCottry's Rifles began firing into the fort.⁴⁸ It is documented that Capt. Robert McCottry was present at the siege.

On April 23, Lt. McKay recorded in his journal, "we were reduced to the disagreeable necessity of Capitulating, by the Cowardly and Mutinous behaviour of A majority of the Men—having grounded their Arms and refused to defend the Post any longer, notwithstanding every Exertion made by the Officers to encourage and force them to their duty."⁴⁹ Gen. Marion had two

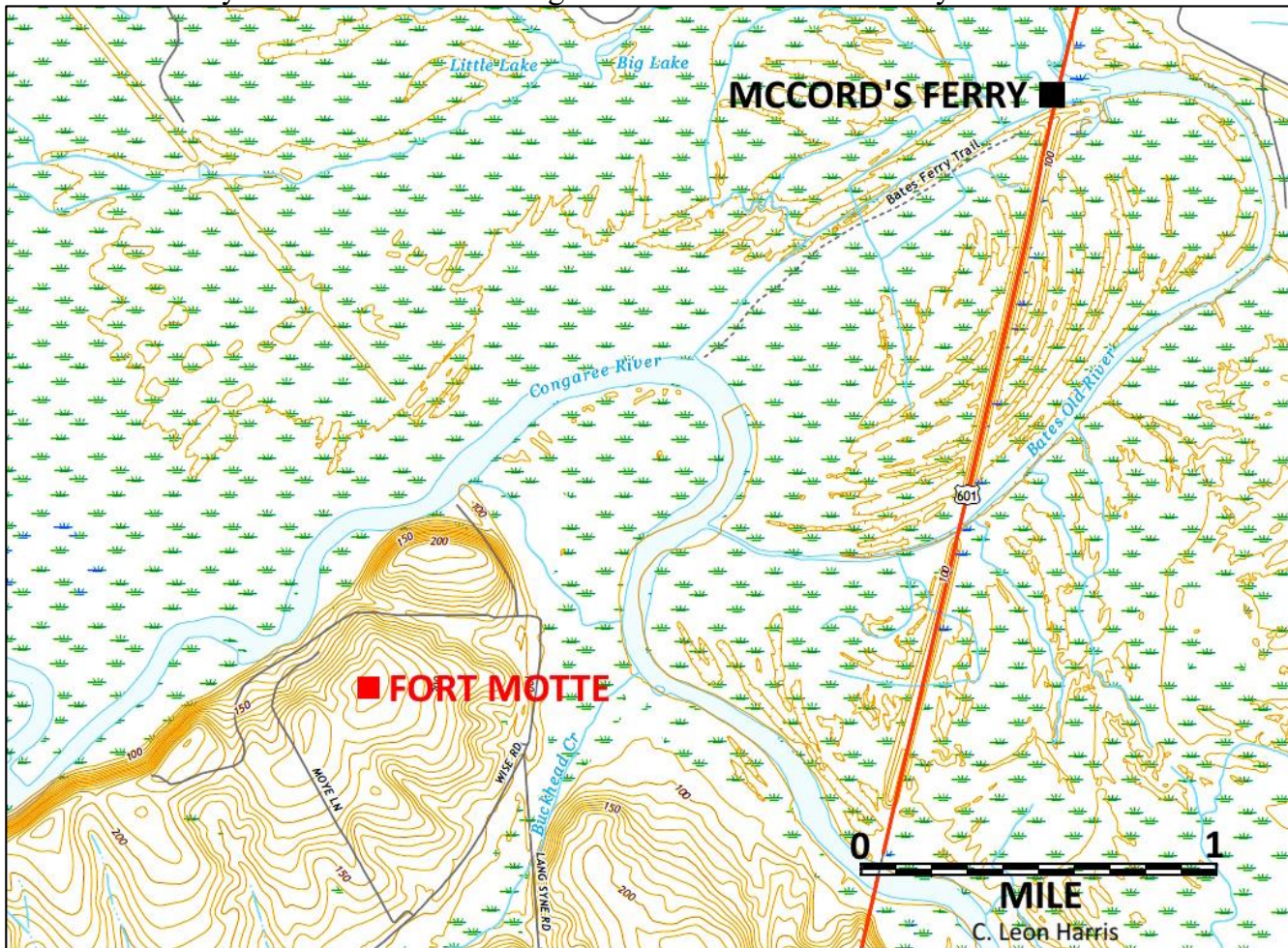


Figure 15: The location of Fort Motte appears on the current USGS Map (Wateree Quadrangle). During the Revolutionary War, the Congaree River flowed past McCord's Ferry. The site of Fort Motte is on private property.

⁴⁸ J. D. Lewis, "Fort Watson," https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_watson_2.html.

⁴⁹ James McKay, "The Journal of the Blockade at Scott's Lake," on file at South Carolina Department of Archives and History, quoted in Leland G. Ferguson, "Archeology at Scott's Lake: Exploratory Research

men killed and six wounded, while all of McKay's 114 surviving men were captured. The Siege of Fort Watson cut off an important supply line for the British between Camden and Charleston. Because of this success, the Maham Tower design was later used at other battles during the Revolution, most notably at the Siege of Ninety Six.

FORT MOTTE, MAY 7-12, 1781

Marion and Lee then shifted their focus to Fort Motte, the home of recently widowed Rebecca Brewton Motte, located on a hill overlooking the key crossing of the Congaree River at McCord's Ferry. (Figs. 8 and 15) The British had fortified the home with a fosse, earthworks, abattis, and palisades. Lt. Donald McPherson commanded the fort with 140 men. Lee had 300 regulars, and Marion had 150 militia. After several days, Lee—who had been given the initiative by Marion—sent Capt.-Lt. Ebenezer Finley with his six-pounder to fire at the northern face of the parapet. A trench was dug to within 400 yards of the enemy's earthworks. By May 10, Marion was in a position to invite Lt. McPherson for a conference, but he refused. McPherson hoped for reinforcement, and indeed, the previous day, Lt. Col. Rawdon had destroyed and abandoned his base at Camden and was seen heading toward McCord's Ferry.

Marion resorted to the extreme step of asking Mrs. Motte for permission to burn her house. Mrs. Motte is said to have not only agreed but also provided a bow and arrow for the task. After the roof was set on fire by a flaming arrow, McPherson surrendered. J. D. Lewis lists both Capt. William McCottry and Capt. Robert McCottry as participants in the siege of Fort Motte, but it is unclear what role, if any, they played.⁵⁰

SHUBRICK'S PLANTATION, JULY 17, 1781

Gen. Greene hoped to replicate the successes of Marion and Lee at Fort Watson and Fort Motte by besieging the British post at Ninety Six. He began the siege on May 22, but the approach of Gen. Rawdon forced him to abandon it on June 19. Nevertheless, Greene decided to request Sumter to keep up the pressure on the British during what is now called the Dog Days Campaign.⁵¹ On July 9, Greene, Sumter, Marion, and Lee met near Orangeburg, intending to attack Rawdon there, but they concluded that the town was too heavily fortified. On July 12, Greene and his troops retreated across the Santee River to the High Hills of Santee to escape the worst heat of summer.

1972, 1973" (1975), *Research Manuscript Series*, Book 141, page 21.

[https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth-books/141.1972, 1973](https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth-books/141.1972,1973)" (1975), *Research Manuscript Series*, Book 141, page 21. https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth_books/141/.

⁵⁰ J. D. Lewis, "Fort Motte," https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_fort_motte.html.

⁵¹ C. Leon Harris and Charles B. Baxley, "Thunder Even at the Gates of Charlestown: Thomas Sumter's Raid of the Dog Days of 1781," *The Journal of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* (August 9, 2024), <https://southern-campaigns.org/thunder-even-at-the-gates-of-charlestown-thomas-sumters-raid-of-the-dog-days-of-1781/>.

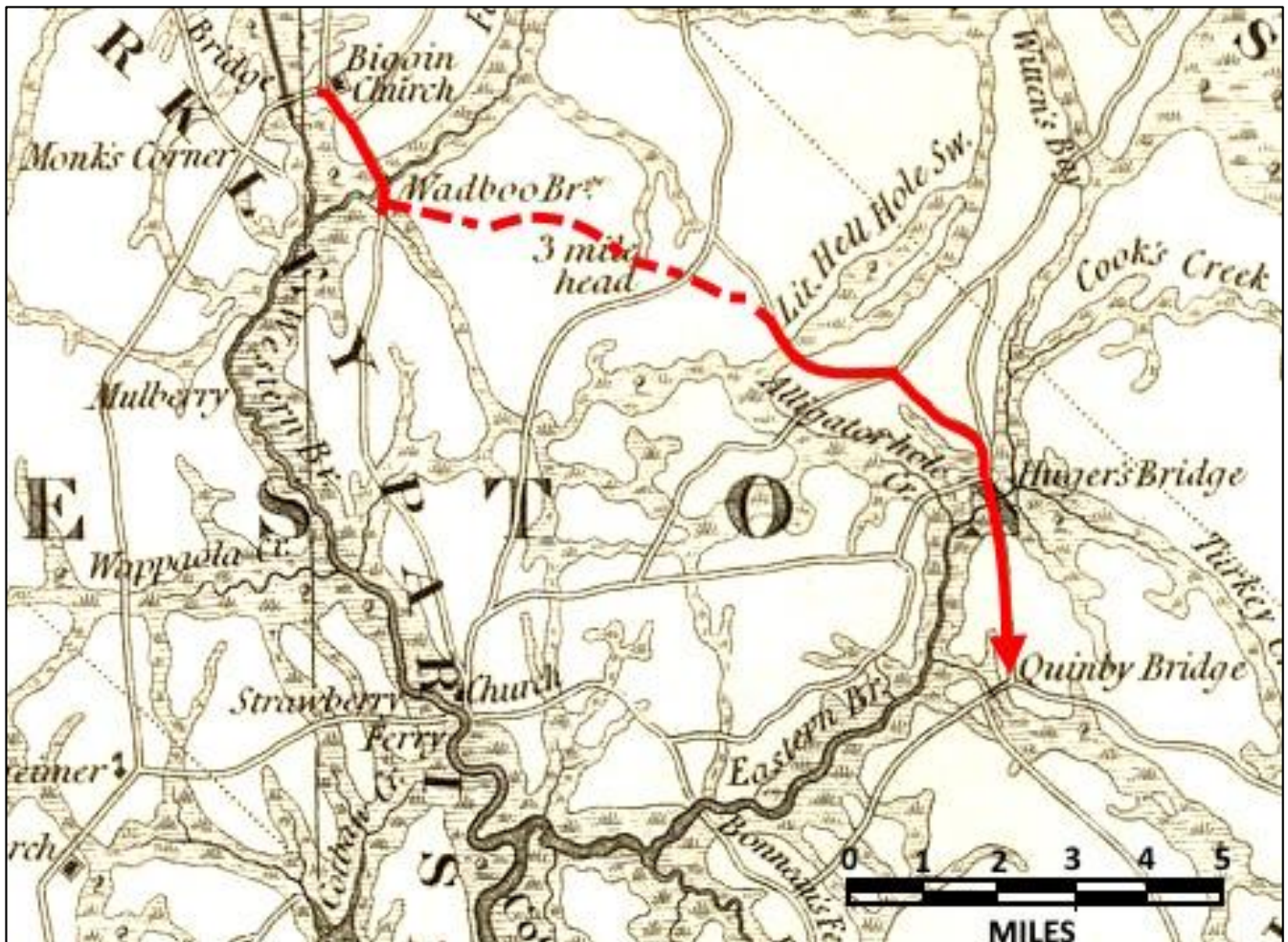


Figure 16: A possible route of Coates from Biggin Church across Wadboo Bridge to Quinby Bridge, shown on Wilson's 1822 map. The dotted line corresponds to the present Witherbee Road, which is not on the map.

Marion and Lee, under Sumter's command, continued southward to dislodge the British from Moncks Corner. (See Fig. 5.)

When Lt. Col. James Coates learned of Sumter's approach, he moved his Nineteenth Regiment from Moncks Corner to Biggin Church on the east side of Biggin Bridge, the southernmost dry crossing over the Cooper River. (Fig. 16.) On the evening of July 16, Sumter, Marion, and Lee camped about 2 miles north of the church, expecting to attack Coates the next morning. However, they were surprised to find the church on fire and Coates nowhere nearby. The Americans pursued him to Quinby Bridge, where a skirmish occurred. Marion stated that on "The 17 Ulto we over took Colo Coats at Quinbey Bridge in St Thomas Parish. Lt Colo Lee & some of my Malitia horse Charged their rear & took some prisone the number I do not know prcisely on

this Occasion. I had Lt Postell & one private wounded.”⁵² Besides Marion's cavalry under Maham, Capt. William McCottry and Capt. Robert McCottry were present, according to J. D. Lewis, but it's unclear what role, if any, they played in the skirmish.

After the brief skirmish at Quinby Bridge, Coates led his men to a stronger position 500 yards northwest on Capt. Thomas Shubrick's plantation. (Fig. 17) Sumter advanced through the outbuildings, while Horry climbed the hill from the right, and Marion attacked from the left along a fence. (Fig. 18) There is no record of Captain McCottry being present, but it's quite possible they were among Marion's riflemen. Numerous artifacts found by John Allison, Sr. and John Allison, Jr. indicate intense fighting in front of Shubrick's house, into which the British retreated. The Americans, short on ammunition, couldn't drive them out. Sumter reported his losses as seven killed and twelve wounded. A British source recorded six killed and thirty-eight wounded on their side.



Figure 17: Quinby Creek with the present Quinby Bridge on the left. Shubrick's Plantation was on the elevation in the distance on the right (private property). (C. Leon Harris)

⁵² Marion to Greene, July 19, 1781, in Dennis M., Conrad ed., *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 9:47.

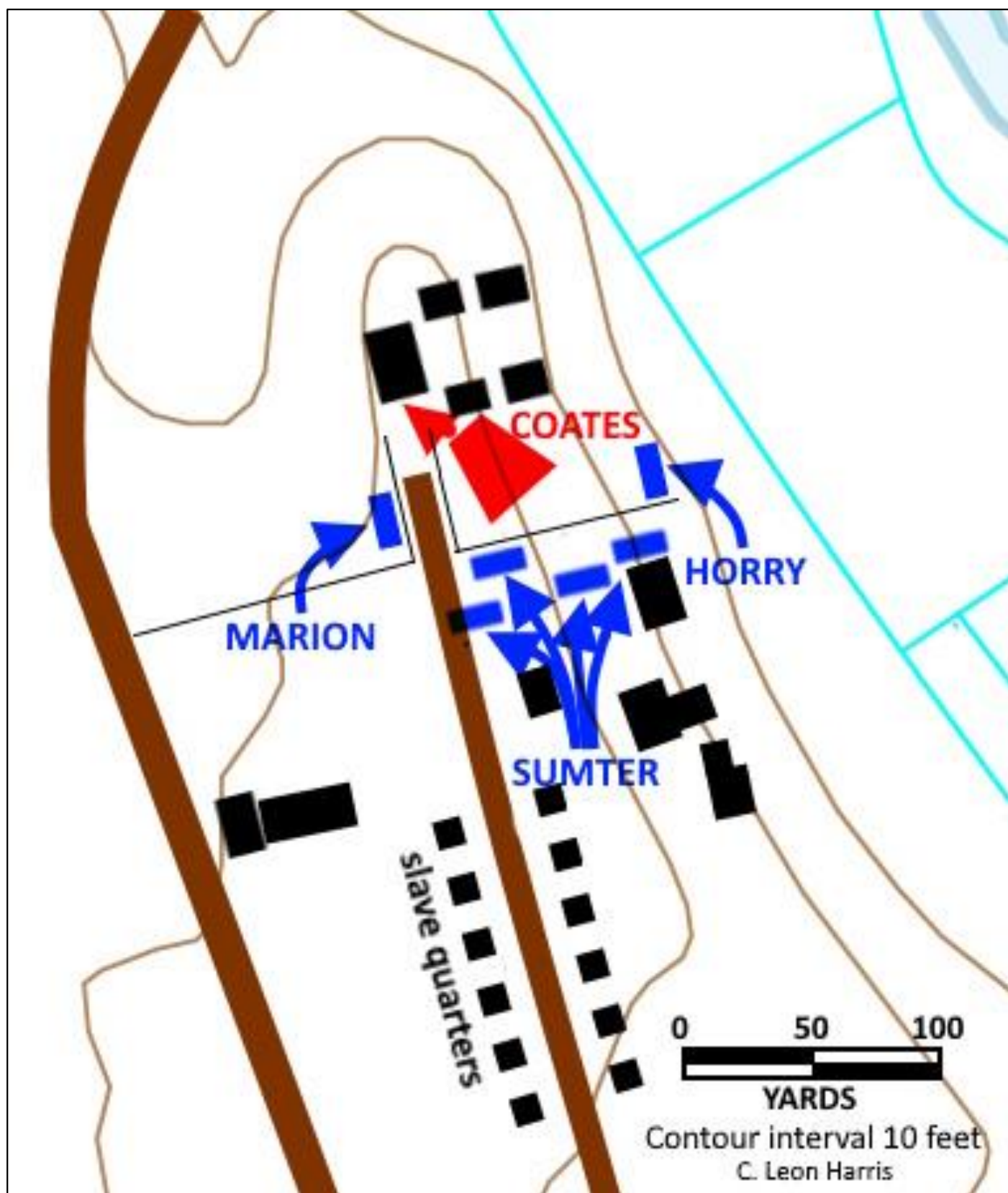


Figure 18: The fighting at Shubrick's Plantation. The initial position of the British (red) is shown where John Allison, Jr. and John Allison, Sr. found artifacts. Buildings and roads are according to a 1791 survey by Joseph Pucell.

EUTAW SPRINGS, SEPTEMBER 8, 1781

Neither the British nor the Americans were eager to engage in much fighting during the heat of August. Greene excused Sumter from active service because he was still recovering from a gunshot wound to the right shoulder received at Blackstock's Plantation on November 20 of the previous year. Marion ambushed a British foraging party at Parker's Ferry on August 31, but there is no evidence that either of the McCottry brothers was involved in the engagement. With the arrival of cooler weather in September, Greene decided it was time to march his rested Continental troops from the High Hills of Santee to continue pushing the British out of their posts.

Rawdon, sick and exhausted, had received permission to return to England. He left the command to Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart, who moved his army of about two thousand men to Eutaw

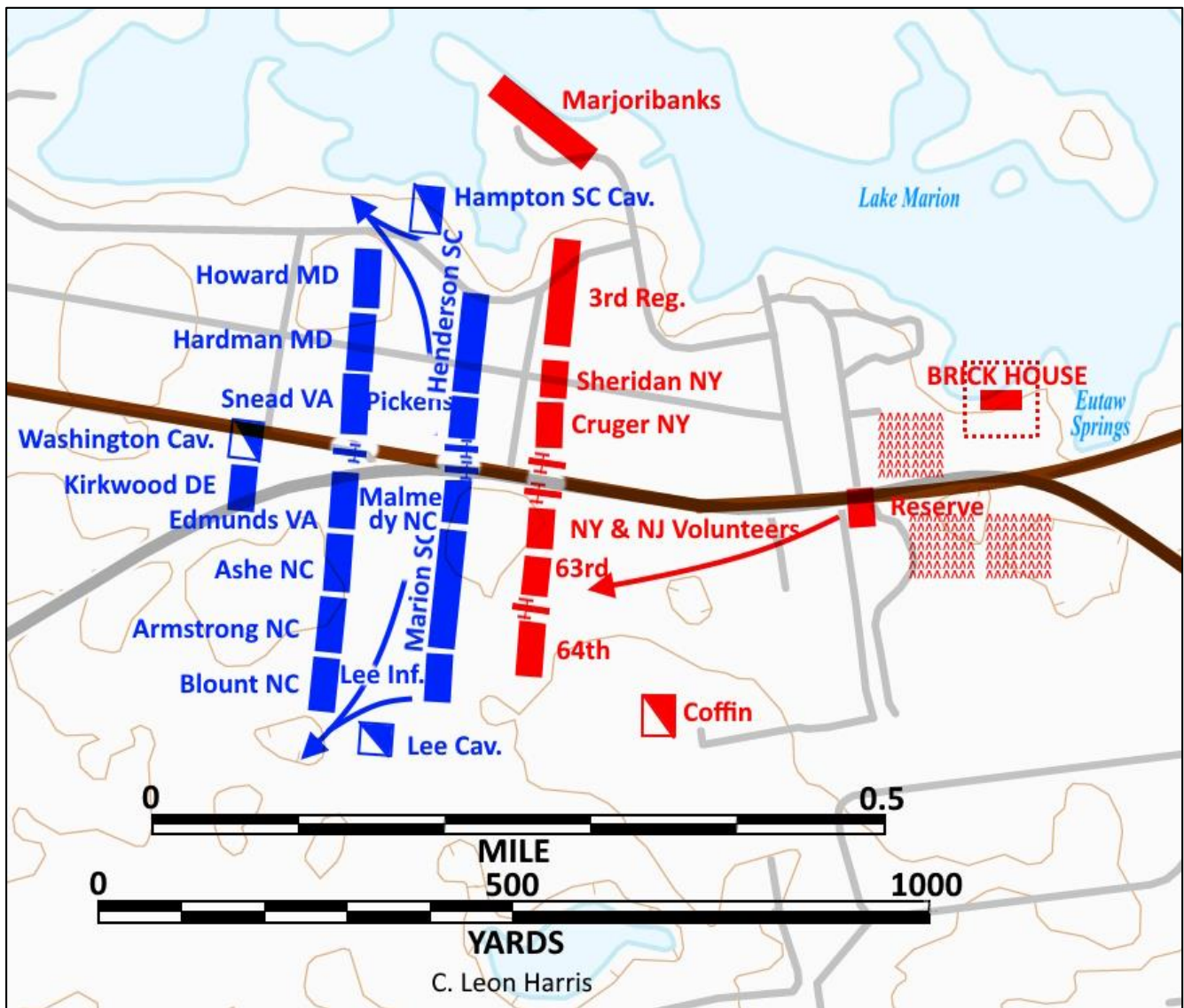


Figure 19: Positions early in the Battle of Eutaw Springs shown on the current USGS map.

Springs near the vital crossing of Santee River at Nelson's Ferry. Greene had about a thousand Continentals with him, including Lt. Col. Lee. There were another thousand militiamen under Sumter's replacement, Lt. Col. William Henderson, as well as Gen. Andrew Pickens and Gen. Marion with 360 men. According to J. D. Lewis, Marion was accompanied by Capt. William McCottry and Capt. Robert McCottry in the Berkeley County Regiment of Militia, led by Col. Richard Richardson, Jr., and Lt. Col. Hugh Horry.⁵³ When his troops were ready, Greene moved down the Congaree Road to Burdell's Tavern, 7 miles west of the enemy. At four o'clock the next morning, September 8, he marched toward Eutaw Springs. Col. Henderson led the advance with his South Carolina State troops and Lee's Legion. Marion followed with his militia. Gen. Jethro Sumner came next with the Continentals, and Lt. Col. William Washington brought up the rear with his cavalry, supported by Delaware Continentals.

Stewart was caught off guard by the Patriots' arrival. He felt so secure that he had sent out a hundred of his men to dig sweet potatoes. Two American deserters arrived to warn him. He sent out Maj. John Coffin, with a detachment of horse and foot, who met the Patriots 4 miles from Eutaw Springs. He believed the Patriots were only a small force. After failing to turn the Patriots back, he raced back to Eutaw. Their arrival sparked chaos among Stewart's unprepared men. Stewart hastily countered by pushing a detachment of infantry forward with orders to stop the Patriots. He positioned his troops in a single line across the Congaree Road. On his far right, he placed Maj. John Majoribanks (pronounced "Marshbanks") and a flank battalion behind a thicket, 100 paces in front of Eutaw Creek. He put the 3rd Guards and Lt. Col. John Harris Cruger's Loyalists in the center. On the left, he placed the 63rd and 64th Regiments, supported by Maj. Coffin and the cavalry. In a brick mansion overlooking the British camp, Stewart positioned marksmen from the New York Volunteers. (Fig. 19)

After arriving at the battlefield, Greene set up his forces in the way that had worked well at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, with the militia and state troops in front to wear down the enemy before they faced the Continentals. In the front line were Henderson's state troops on the left and Marion's militia on the right. It would have been suicidal for riflemen to form a line against an enemy armed with smooth-bore muskets and bayonets, so Greene also equipped these men on this line with muskets and bayonets. The men under both captains, McCottry and others, may also have traded their rifles for muskets. It is possible, however, that they kept their rifles. Sometimes riflemen were used as skirmishers and sharpshooters to push the enemy into engaging before they were fully prepared.

Marion's men, in homespun and buckskin, attacked the redcoats ferociously, advancing steadily under the enemy's withering fire. As Greene later reported to Congress, "The fire redoubled; our officers behaved with the greatest bravery, and the militia gained much honor by their firmness." Marion's men are said to have fired seventeen rounds before retiring along the

⁵³ J. D. Lewis, "Eutaw Springs," https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html.

flanks of Gen. Sumner's advancing North Carolinians. Later, Marion wrote Col. Peter Horry, "My brigade behaved well."⁵⁴

The Patriots advanced, and the British left retreated. Lt. Col. Lee's Legion infantry created more chaos. Cruger's line held in the center, and British Regulars fought hand-to-hand with the Continentals. Soon, the entire British line except Maj. Marjoribank's flankers began to retreat. Stewart responded by positioning his men in front of the brick house. Greene ordered Washington to turn on Marjoribank's right flank. Washington charged but found himself in a thicket where he and his cavalry were exposed to deadly fire. A sharpshooter shot Washington's horse, which fell on top of him, holding him in place until he was captured.

At this point, the British retreated back through their camp and beyond. In their tents, there was abundant food and rum. The thirsty Continentals took advantage of this, and with their line no longer steady and their officers unable to command them, Greene ordered a retreat. Greene gathered his troops, collected his wounded, and departed for Burdell's Tavern. Four miles up the Congaree Road, there was a pond, now filthy from traffic, where the men threw themselves in. James said they drank "with an avidity which seemed insatiable."⁵⁵

Casualties were heavy on both sides. Greene had 251 killed and 367 wounded, and Stewart had 85 killed, 351 wounded, and 430 captured. Since Greene was the first to leave the battlefield, Stewart claimed himself a victor, but his army was broken. Leaving his dead unburied and seventy wounded under a flag of truce, he left for Moncks Corner. When Greene learned of this retreat, he sent Marion and Lee after them, and although they rode through the night, they missed them. Greene moved slowly up the Santee from Burdell's, crossed over, and returned to the High Hills. Marion also crossed the Santee to camp at the Canty plantation and dismiss his men.

Eutaw Springs was the final major battle in South Carolina, but skirmishes and intense fighting between Tory and Whig factions continued for another year until the British evacuated Charleston on December 14, 1782. Marion's troops took part in several skirmishes, but there's no evidence that Robert or William McCottry were involved.

⁵⁴ Quoted in Oller, *Swamp Fox*, 198.

⁵⁵ James, *Sketch*, 179.

APPENDIX A: THE MCCOTTRYS

Scotch-Irish immigrant Robert McCottry first appears in public records in a signed petition to the Governor's Council on January 19, 1742. The petition addressed grievances such as land speculation by outsiders and requested assistance to keep local rivers open for commerce. Robert and his wife, Jane Thompson, had three children: William, Robert, and Jannet McCottry. After Robert McCottry, Sr. died in 1752, an estate inventory from the upper reaches of Black Mingo Creek valued his estate at £1,674.10.0, indicating he was an established farmer long before his death. The estate seems to have mainly been a livestock farm, as was common in Williamsburgh District. The inventory included cattle, sheep, hogs, along with plantation tools, a stone mill, and a rice sieve—suggesting rice cultivation. There were four casks of butter produced for sale and farm use. A pair of cards was used to spin yarn from sheep wool. Notably, the McCottry estate included six slaves valued at £1120—two-thirds of the estate's total value. The skilled labor of slaves was vital for rice production and indigo manufacturing. Robert McCottry, the immigrant, died before June 1752, while his children were still infants.

On March 5, 1754, William Thompson (Thomson), the brother of Mary Thomson McCottry, petitioned the South Carolina Council in Charles Town for land on behalf of his orphaned nephews, William and Robert McCottry. Their mother, Jane Thomson McCottry, had, by the date of this petition, remarried to George Cooper and was again widowed. Thompson expressed his desire to keep the McCottry farm active for the children's benefit and also requested that the 300-acre farm on one of the northern branches of Black Mingo Creek be surveyed and granted to the children. A plat of this property can be found in Figure A1. The council approved Thomson's plan, and the children were raised under his care.

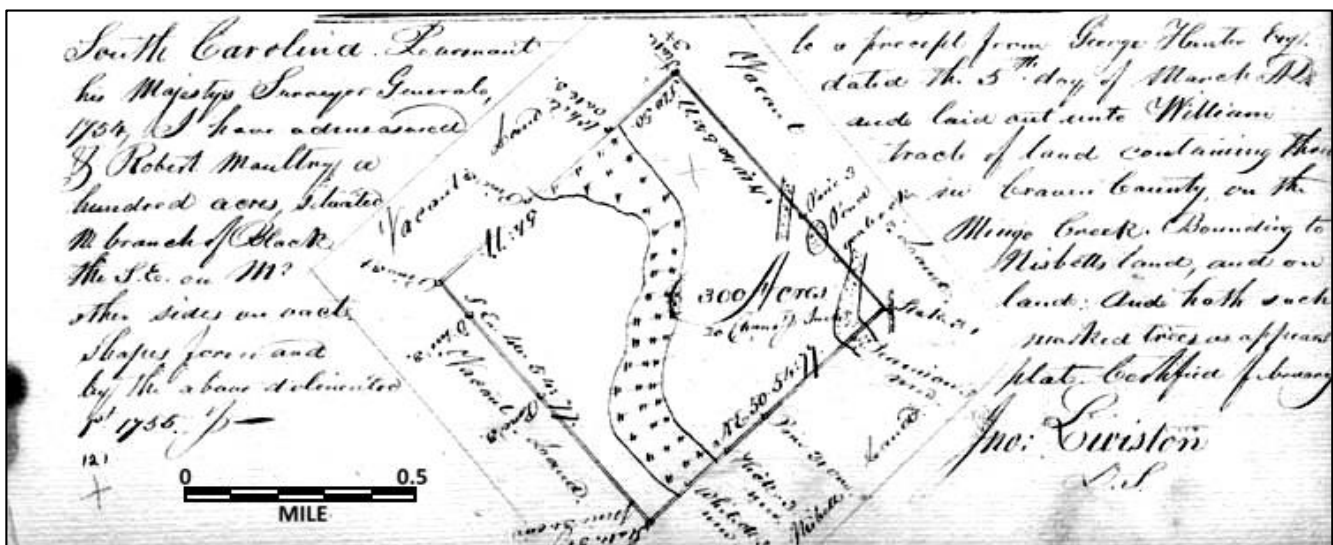


Figure A1: A plat showing the property surveyed in 1754 for William and Robert McCottry (erroneously written as “Moultry”) on a branch of Black Mingo Creek. (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, archivesindex.sc.gov).

William Thomson's will was written in 1763 and proved on February 16, 1768. He died without a wife or child. His will clearly states the names of the children of his sister Jane and her husband Robert McCottry, as well as the name of her second husband. Thomson left one slave each to his brothers William and Robert, and to their sister Jannet McCottry. His horses and mares, neat cattle and sheep, hogs, and household furniture were left to the McCottry children and to children in the care of his brother Alexander Thomson of Indiantown. Thomson also left one hundred and fifty pounds in trust to John James and Hugh Ervin for the use of the newly built Presbyterian Meeting House on the high road near Indiantown. The interest from this sum was to be used by the dissenting Presbyterian minister who adhered to the doctrines, discipline, and worship of the Church of Scotland. It is important to note the significance of the dissenting Presbyterian Meeting House to the Williamsburghers, who had been under the control of the Anglicans for generations in Scotland and Ireland.

In the name of God, Amen, I William Thomson of Prince Frederick parish in the province afore- said, being now/by the Mercy of Almighty God/ of Sound Reason and Judgement, but consider- ing my Mortality do this Twenty third day of May in the Year of Our Lord God One thousand seven hundred and sixty three, declare and make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following/Vist: Imprimis it is my Will that the plantation on which I do now dwell consisting of Five hundred Acres together with a Tract of One hundred Acres, Joining to the said five hundred Acres, and the following Slaves Named Anthony, Toney Dick, Pompey, Peter Alen, Sambo a Boy, Venus, Dina, Peg, Phebe Women being Ten in Number, with all the plantation Tools and Utensils thereon, continues Occupied together without any division until the youngest Child of Alexander Thomson my [brother?] Arrives at the age of Eighteen Years.

Item I will and desire that the profits arising from the Crops which shall be made Yearly upon said plantation, by said Slaves after payment of all Necessary Charges and Expenses shall after the payment of my Lawful debts, together with the sum of Four hundred pounds current lawful Money which I will and desire to be paid to the Children of my Brother John Thomson late in Ireland deceased upon their arrival to this province share and share alike or to of to the survivor of them, be employed for the only use and benefit of the Children of my said brother Alexander Thomson, or the survivor of them Until the Youngest One of said Children shall arrive at the age of Eighteen Years as above said, Item it is my will and desire that upon finishing the Crop upon said plantation standing when the Youngest Child, then in being of my Said Brother Alexander Thomson shall have arrived at the age of Eighteen Years of age, that then, or so soon as conveniently can be the whole of said plantation consisting of Six hundred Acres, the whole of the ten slaves with their Increase thereupon, together with the whole of the profits of said plantation and slaves remaining after payment of said debts and of the sum of four hundred pounds Currency as above said be divided equally share and share alike between the Children of my said Brother Alexander or to the survivor or supervisors of them and to his her or their heirs forever.

Item I will and bequeath to **William McCaughtry** son of Robert McCaughtry and my sister Jane, now the widow of George Cooper deceased and to his heirs for ever, my slave named Sharpers.

Item I will and bequeath to **Robert McCaughtry** brother of the above William McCaughtry and to his heirs for ever my negroe Slave Named Short Jack. Item I will and bequeath to **Jannet McCaughtry** Sister of the above William and Robert McCaughtry my Negroe Slave named tall Jack to her and to her heirs forever.

Item I will and bequeath to the Children of my said Brother Alexander Thomson, to the above named **William McCaughtry**, **Robert McCaughtry**, and **Jannet McCaughtry**, the whole of my stock of Horses and Mares, of Neat Cattle, of sheep, of Hogs and household Furniture to be divided equally between them share and share alike,

Item I leave and bequeath to my Sister Jane Cooper the sum of Twenty Pounds Currency to be paid three months after my decease,

Item I leave and bequeath the sum of thirty pound Currency to Samuel Cooper and Jane his wife and to the heirs of their bodies forever to be paid in the space of three months after my decease,

Item I leave and bequeath the one hundred and fifty pounds Currency to John James and Hugh Ervin Trustees for the desenting Presbyterian Meeting House Lately built upon the High Road near to Indian Town and to the Succeeding Trustees of said meeting forever, that is to say in Trust only and for the sole use and benefit of the Dissenting Presbyterian Minister professing the Doctrine discipline and 'worship of the Church of Scotland as by Law their Established who shall duly perform religious service in said meeting House from time to time and to his successor forever that is to say the yearly profits or interest of said sum of one hundred and fifty pounds Currency, there original sum I order to be let out upon Bond with good security for the Sole purpose above mentioned.

Item I order my funeral Expenses and Charges to be paid out of the first Ready money belonging to my Estate And hereby and constituting and appointing John Gregg and William Cooperr both of said Parish Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. I do revoke all former Wills by me made, and this I declare to be my Last Will and Testament consisting of two sheets of paper in- dented and joined with a Seal between my Christian and Surname marked WT William Thomson, his mark. LS

Signed, Sealed, published and declared

To be the last Will and Testament of William. Thomson in presence of us the Word/Women. And utensils/being first interlined First

By Virtue of a Dedimus from Wm Burrows Esq. and to Wm Wilson to Qualify William Cooper Senr to said Will 28th March 1777

He was qualified accordingly

Sarah Baxter John Ingram. John Baxter.

Proved by Virtue of a Dedimus directed by His Excellency the Rt
Ho Ld Chal: Grevl Montagu. To Samuel Nesmith Esq.: 8th February 1768. At the same
time Qualified John Gregg Executor to the said Will.⁵⁶

A McCottry Family Bible was mentioned in letters written by Ella McCutchen, but the whereabouts of the Bible were unknown. My wife thought that if she traced the female descendants of Robert McCottry the Bible could be found, and that proved to be the case. A family member was in possession of the 1772 Bible and shared its contents with us. (Fig. A2) Careful study of the family record in the Bible and of many other records clearly shows that, contrary to some reports, there was never an individual named William Robert McCottry alive during the Revolutionary War. The family bible shows that published biographical information on William McCottry was often incorrect.

Recorded in the Robert McCottry Bible's pages are the birth and death dates for Robert McCottry and the names and birth and death dates of his wife and many of his children. The entry for William McCottry includes his death date, but there is no entry for his birth date. William McCottry married Tabitha Green Futhey after the death of her first husband, John Futhey, according to the John Thompson Green Family Bible. Incomplete public documents and family records suggest this was a second marriage for William. Some evidence suggests William had children by a first wife and with Tabitha, but these relationships have not as yet been fully traced. There was a Robert McCottry whose dates and plats for land would indicate he was the son of William. A Robert McCottry, son of William was also mentioned in the 1804 will of Benjamin Screven, clearly being named as the son of William. This Robert, also called Captain Robert McCottry, but of a later generation than the Revolutionary-era captain, was married to an Elizabeth and had a daughter Sarah who married an Easterling and died at age 17 in 1817. Sarah is buried in the Old Prince Frederick graveyard. Until more work is complete on William's children no more will be added here. An impediment to the history of those who lived in Georgetown and Williamsburg at the time is that the county records for the years 1790 - 1805 for these districts were burned when they were sent to Columbia during the Civil War.

⁵⁶ Charleston Public Library, Charleston Will Book R, pp 186-188. William Thomson 1768. 1763.

Robt. McCottry & Mary White has married May 2^d 1751.
 Robert McCottry was born March 2^d day 1748.
 Mary McCottry was born March 6th day 1753.
 John McCottry son to Robt & Mary McCottry was born
 February 16th day 1770. Friday.
 Robert McCottry was born Sept^r 1st day 1771.
 And Departed this Life October 26th day 1779. Saturday.
 James McCottry was born January 12th day 1774. Tuesday.
 Anne McCottry was born July 12th day 1776.
 Mary McCottry was born Sept^r 14th day 1778. Monday.
 William McCottry was born March 14th day 1781. Wednesday.
 And Departed this Life May 12th day 1784.
 George White McCottry was born June 2^d day 1783. Monday.
 And Departed this Life October 9th day 1784.
 Mary McCottry was born April 12th day 1786. Wednesday.
 Sarah McCottry was born February 22^d day 1789. Sunday.
 And Departed this Life Sept^r 17th day 1791. Saturday.
 Joseph McCottry was born February 14th day 1791. Monday.
 Robert McCottry's second son Robt was born Nov^r 16th 1793.
 Monday Evening.
 Elizabeth White McCottry was born Monday 12th Dec^r
 1796 about 2 o'clock in the morning.
 Robert McCottry Departed this Life March 14th 1805.
 Monday about 2 o'clock. Aged 57 years and 2 days.
 Joseph McCottry Departed this Life July 24th 1810.
 Tuesday Morning after 11 o'clock Aged 19 years 6 months.
 George Cooper Brown Saturday evening 3^d December 3^d 1811.
 John McCottry Departed this Life

Figure A2: Part 1 of the McCottry Family Register

Wm. James Cooper and Sarah M. McCottry was Married
 May 16 Day 1798 — Samuel J. Bradley and Sarah M. McCottry
 was Married June 25. 1800
 Martha McCottry Daughter to Samuel James Bradley
 and Sarah Bradley was Born Sept. 2nd Day 1801
 Sarah Bradley Wife of Samuel James Bradley
 Departed this Life Sept. 14 Day 1801 on Monday Morning
 at four O'clock —
 Arthur Bradley was Married to Mary McCottry
 May 4 Day 1807 —
 Mary McCottry Daughter to Arthur and Mary Bradley
 was Born Wednesday March 14 Day 1809 —
 Samuel J. Bradley Departed this Life
 May 10. 1804. Thursday. about one O'clock
 James Cooper Departed this Life December 23. 1810
 Friday about three O'clock in the afternoon
 Thomas Whitchen and Nancy McCottry was Married May 25 1811
 George Whitchen and Eliza White McCottry was Married
 December 22. 1814.
 Elizabeth to Whitchen departed this Life 25 O'clock after noon
 on the 11th after married Aug. 8th 1814. Age 27 years 11 months 23 days
 Mary McCottry Bradley Departed this Life
 September 14th 1812 Monday Evening aged 3
 Mary Bradley Wife of Arthur Bradley Departed this
 Life September 14. 1812.
 Robert McCottry departed this Life Aug. 25. 1814
 Monday evening half after 9 O'clock. Aged 25
 years 9 months & 14 days —
 Robert H. McCottry and Mary B. McCottry
 Married June 15th 1815 —
 Robert James McCottry Was Born June 22. 1817.
 Mary. Elizabeth McCottry was Born March 6. 1819.

Figure A2: Part 2.

Robert McCawtry (McCottry) in 1775 and William McCawtry (McCottry) in 1777 served as commissioners to maintain roads and ferries in the Indiantown area. William McCottry was a commissioner for clearing the Pee Dee River in 1785. The first census of the United States in 1790 lists Robert McCottry as the Head of the Family. It records two free white males 16 years or older, including heads of families, and six free white females, including heads of families, which agrees with the McCottry family Bible. The census also lists thirty slaves. There is no entry for William McCottry in the census, since he died in 1789. A plat drawn for William James Cooper on April 20, 1790, shows one of the adjoining landowners as the Estate of William McCottry. Captain William McCottry died on July 31, 1789, according to the McCottry Family Bible. "Robert McCottry (Captain) Departed this Life March 4th 1805 Monday about 2 O Clock. Aged 57 years and 2 days," according to the McCottry Family Bible.



Figure A3: Tombstones of Capt. Robert McCottry and his wife, Mary White McCottry. (Ladson McCutchen)

In 1996, I was searching for the grave site of George McCutchen II, a ruling elder of the Indiantown Church (1819-1834), whose gravesite had disappeared. On a neighbor's advice, we contacted William H. Chandler of Hemingway, SC, a local historian in Williamsburg County. My wife called Bill, informing him of our dilemma, and he said, "Sure, come over this weekend, and I'll take you right to him." A wealth of information and a good friendship followed. Bill had surveyed the cemetery along with many other lost cemeteries in high school. He was also a local attorney and a facilitator for those interested in Williamsburg County history. At the time, he was involved in all aspects of the religious life at Indiantown Church. Bill Chandler passed away in 2006, leaving a legacy to his family, church, community, and state that is incalculable. We discovered not only the grave of George McCutchen II but also the grave of his wife Elizabeth and two of his children, Robert and Martha. A few feet away lay the stones of Capt. Robert McCottry and his wife, Mary White McCottry. (Fig. A3) They were the parents of Elizabeth McCutchen. Once the cemetery restoration was complete, an event called McCutchen Reconciliation Sunday was held to dedicate the small cemetery and reconcile the George McCutchen family, who had left the Indiantown community in 1835 as a result of a trial concerning dancing that had resonating effects in Indiantown and in the district presbytery.



Figure A4: March to the cemetery.

It was a warm Sunday morning when members of the McCottry and McCutchen families gathered with the Indiantown Presbyterian Church congregation, three miles from Indiantown, at 9:00 a.m. on July 27, 1997. The McCottry-McCutchen Cemetery is located in a field across from a farmstead. The group followed a bagpiper, a drummer, and five young flag bearers as they marched across the highway to the cemetery. (Fig. A4) The purpose was to view the recently refurbished cemetery for the first time and to dedicate it by Dr. Joseph McCutchen, a McCottry descendant from Farmville, Virginia. After a short ceremony and a firearms salute by re-enactors, the crowd headed to the Indiantown Presbyterian Church for the eleven a.m. service, followed by a meal provided by the congregation.

APPENDIX B: RIFLES

As mounted troops under Francis Marion, McCottry's Rifles were deployed to ambush the British from hidden positions at distances of up to 200 yards. The British were trained in the European style of fighting, where two or three lines of men, one behind the other, were formed. Each line would fire, and while they reloaded, the next line took their place. This created a wall of unaimed balls heading toward the enemy. The British muskets were only accurate for shots under 100 yards. They could be quickly reloaded and often carried a bayonet for charges against the foe.

The expert American rifleman, armed with a rifled barrel and experienced in hunting, could hit a target at 200 yards. These long rifles were accurate and had good range but were slow to reload and couldn't carry a bayonet. Men of the backcountry relied on their rifles to defend themselves, protect their families, and hunt game for the table. Accuracy meant survival. Backcountry American riflemen played a vital role in winning against the British by combining long-range marksmanship with guerrilla tactics championed by Gen. Francis Marion. Amazingly, they could hit a man at 200 yards with open sights, requiring a steady hand, a steady eye, and knowledge of how a ball drops over distance and how wind affects the slow-moving projectile. "The best American riflemen could, in a good light and with no wind, hit a man's head at 200 yards and his body at 300."⁵⁷ The Virginia Gazette of September 9, 1775, reported: "A man held between his knees a board 5 inches wide and seven inches long, with a paper bull's eye the size of a dollar. A rifleman at 60 yards, without a rest, put eight bullets in succession through the bull's eye."

Robert W. "Bob" Hill, III, of Plantersville, SC, has made reproduction rifles since the 1980's and can attest to their accuracy. (Fig. B) Hill maintains his revolutionary war replicas with rifled barrels are capable of making 200 yard shots.

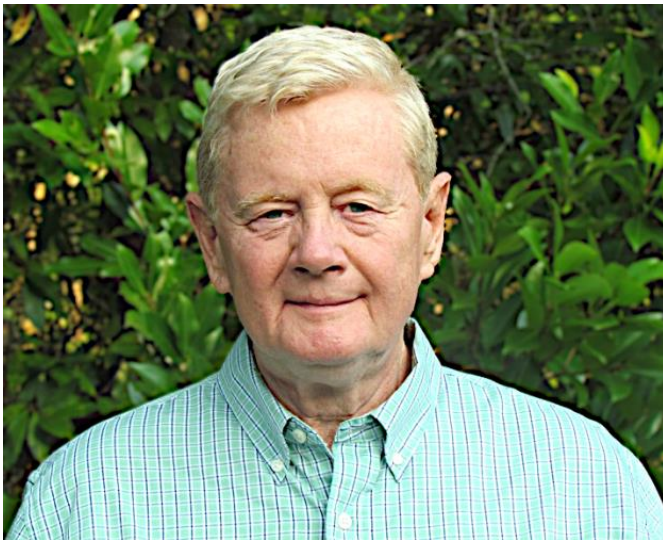


Figure B: Rifle and powder horn made by Bob Hill. (Bob Hill)

⁵⁷ John W. Wright, "The Rifle in the American Revolution," *American Historical Review* 29, No. 2 (January 1924), 294.

Dr. Steven D. Smith, a University of South Carolina Archaeology professor, has conducted extensive research on Francis Marion. From excavations at the Snow's Island area and more specifically at Dunham's Bluff, he believes that Marion's men were armed with "rifles and/or trade guns."⁵⁸ Rifles had various bore diameters, all smaller than British or French muskets. Each rifle required its own mold to make lead bullets, limiting its use to one gun. Trade guns were smooth-bore firearms of the same caliber, and they could fire buckshot. They were used for trade with Native Americans, and many colonists owned them. The excavation by Smith found that 30 percent of the ammunition was lead shot of rifle or gun size. In excavations at Port's Ferry, Black Mingo, Parker's Ferry, and Wadboo, the same pattern was observed.

It appears that the sharpshooters of McCottry's Rifles used long rifles with rifled barrels and used smoothbore muskets with ball and buck, sometimes known as ball and goose or swan shot. They always fought with a scarcity of ammunition and powder. The riflemen were well practiced in the use of these weapons and wreaked havoc on the enemy.



Ladson Fraser McCutchen, Jr. graduated from Camden High School in 1966 and from the Baptist College at Charleston (now Charleston Southern University) in 1972. In 1968, he joined the Navy Reserves, learned Morse Code in Pensacola, Florida, and then served on Terceira Island in the Azores for 14 months as a Communications Technician Third Class. He returned to South Carolina to complete his college education and continued his reserve service until 1973, when he was honorably discharged. In 1981, he became the manager and part-owner of a hardware store in Georgetown, SC. When the business was sold

in 2010, Ladson moved from McClellanville to Kingstree, SC. He has studied family history since the late 1980s and researched McCottry's Rifles since 1996. He is also interested in the histories of the Anderson, Benton, Boone, Bradley, Brewton, Dowling, Fraser, Frierson, Kolb, Ladson, Lynch, MacDonald, McGill, McCottry, McCutchen, Montgomery, Robertson, Wilson, and Witherspoon families, from which he descends. He married Roberta Pryor in 1983, and they have been married for 43 years. They have one son, Trey, and two granddaughters, Leona Pearl McCutchen and Abigail Jo McCutchen. He enjoys reading, fishing, and deer hunting in an area below Camden. He and his wife spend as much time as possible outdoors and, when possible, on trips to the Francis Marion National Forest, where they bird-watch, search for butterflies, and learn about pollinator plants along the roadside that attract butterflies.

⁵⁸ Steven D. Smith, *Francis Marion and the Snow's Island Community: Myth, History, and Archaeology* (Asheville NC: United Writers Press, 2021)

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[Hammers & Harmony Period Musicians entertained at the Battle of Cedar Springs Reenactment this past September.](#)



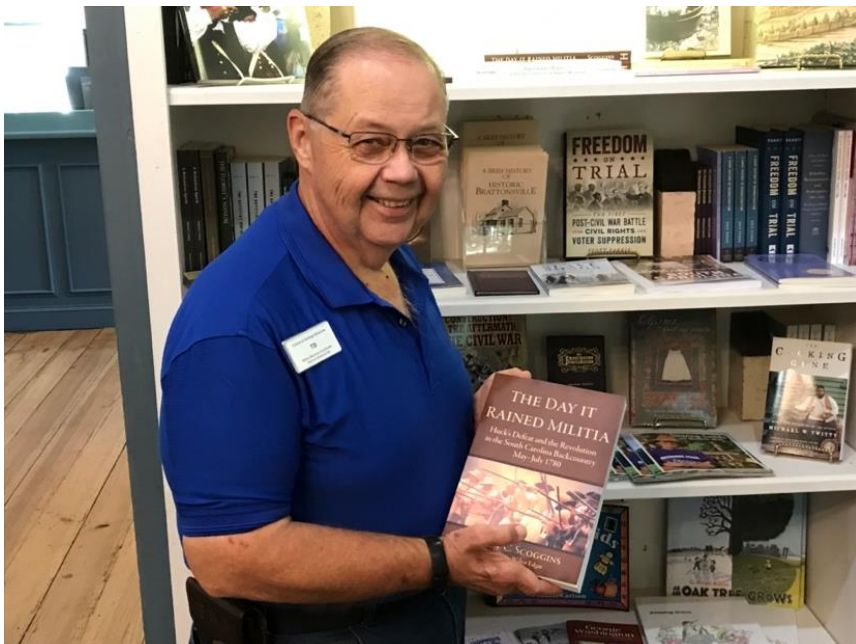
COLONIAL BACKWOODS FASHIONS AT HISTORIC BRATTONSVILLE

by

Richard C. Meehan, Jr.

My wife and I have visited the 775-acre living museum, [Historic Brattonsville](#), in McConnells, South Carolina, several times. This Piedmont area site, a stop on the [Liberty Trail](#), offers an immersive look into our Southern Revolutionary and Civil War history. Visitors can view preserved buildings, including William and Martha Bratton's homestead, built around 1766. Here, the [Battle of Huck's Defeat](#) (also known as Williamson's Plantation) was fought and won on July 12, 1780, by Colonel William Bratton and his Patriot militia. This victory lifted the spirits of Patriots across the state when defeat by the British seemed unavoidable.

Upon arrival, we are usually greeted by "T.D." Austin. Born and raised in Brattonsville, T.D. is like a walking archive of the area's rich history. He teases us with enough stories to spark our curiosity for more. Then, we head out into a world where manual labor was common, and only the sweat of one's brow could bring about change. Our goal is to research the history of the Revolutionary War at Brattonsville to improve our offerings as living history presenters. In addition to discussing the authenticity requirements for interpreters, we learn about eighteenth-century clothing and fashions in Backcountry South Carolina. No matter the weather, the on-site interpreters, dressed in period clothing, work hard to give us a glimpse into how pioneer dirt farmers used to live.



"T.D." Austin at the Visitor's Center

On our latest trip, we explored period fabrics and the techniques used to make clothing. What stands out immediately is how much people today take for granted, especially our comfortable socks. Oh, and air conditioning, light bulbs, cell phones, television, cars, and more—Renee and I followed the lush trail to our first stop—the McConnell House. It is a typical Scots-Irish A-frame, one-room log cabin that was moved to its current location in 1983 to show what the original Bratton house would have looked like before additions and upgrades. We met living history interpreters Emmy Gillespie, Katie Quinn, and Luke Hammond, who were gathered around an outdoor cooking fire. They were sweating, especially as they stoked



Living history interpreters Emmy Gillespie (left) and Katie Quinn (right)

the fire and tended a large copper kettle filled with water and indigo dye. A demonstration on how backcountry women colored linen cloth was about to begin. Fabrics were available for purchase in some trading posts during the late eighteenth century, but most backcountry farms produced their own. By “Backcountry,” I mean any land more than fifty miles from the coast. We’re talking about a hundred eighty-eight miles from Charles Town to Brattonsville, near the Cherokee and Catawba Indian Nations. The pioneers who lived here were tough, making do and rarely spending money on things like cloth. While the men planted the fields, hunted, and pushed Native Americans westward, the women, children, and perhaps, if the family could afford them, an enslaved person or two harvested flax and sheared sheep. The creation of fiber from plant matter or sheep’s wool, spinning thread, weaving, dying, and hand-sewing garments were women’s work. They would enlist their children (as young as three) and enslaved persons to help. Turning raw fiber into thread, darning socks, and mending clothes could be done by the fireside in the evening. Cloth production was a months-long activity piled on top of the daily chores of cooking, cleaning, mending, soap-making, candle-dipping, food preservation, feeding animals, harvesting, and child-rearing. No matter how you cut it, the eighteenth-century woman was a heroine.



Katie Quinn demonstrating how indigo turns linen blue

Linen, wool, and a blend of both, called linsey-woolsey, were popular homemade fabrics. Further north, farmers experimented with raising silkworms. Cotton had not yet become a cash crop in South Carolina. Wealthy landowners along the coast near Charleston were importing printed cotton bolts from India. However, the cost of these fabrics was too high for most Backcountry families.

Dyes for cloth that could resist the sun and washing without fading were expensive. Boiling black walnut hulls and indigo for their natural colorants was a cheap method. Tannin from the black walnut hulls produced shades from light beige to dark brown. Indigo

gave blues from the color of the sky to the shade of today's blue jeans.

Without getting into too much chemistry, Katie explained that lye water, made by soaking fireplace ashes in a barrel of water, was used to increase the alkalinity of the dye mixture at the first step of dyeing. This alkalinity helped the cloth better hold the dye. As she stirred a piece of linen in the large pot of steaming, murky indigo, she mentioned that the most important part of dyeing fabrics was making sure no air bubbles stuck to the material if you wanted an even color. Bubbles would cause undyed spots in the fabric. This process would take about twenty minutes. The fabric had to be pushed beneath the surface and gently stirred until all the air bubbles disappeared. She used her stir stick to lift the wet fabric and held it up for us to see. The material looked slightly green.

"Now that I have exposed the cloth to the air, watch what happens," she said. Before our eyes, the material started to turn blue. "The longer I hold the linen in the air, the darker it will get. Oxygen activates indigo. To stop the reaction at the shade I want and set the dye, I will dip the fabric in a bucket of water, vinegar, and table salt solution."

Renee and I were impressed with the demonstration, although we still had more questions. We wanted to learn about our options for obtaining or creating authentic clothing. It quickly became clear that Colonial Americans had more refined styles than we had thought. They made a variety of colors from natural sources like lichens, roots, berries, nuts, flowers, sumac, and more. By mixing dyes, weavers could produce everything from primary colors to pastels. Fabrics were printed, streaked, striped, and tie-dyed for decoration. Other embellishments, such as lace and embroidery, could be added if time permitted.

Instead of high-speed sewing machines, clothes were handmade from start to finish. The stitching alone was an art form. With no zippers, buttons and pins were essential. Not only did buttons and pins serve as closures, but they also added decorative touches. Made from bone, nut shells, thread, brass, silver, and sometimes even gold, these buttons and pins were practical. Whalebone, wood, or iron rods stiffened women's stays (pre-corsets). In other words, pioneer clothes were quality pieces that lasted through tough conditions.



Richard and Renee Meehan, a merchant, and his wife

Tough fabrics were what the Backcountry farming community needed. Dirty clothes were boiled in lye soap (hard soap) and water, a harsh solution that would give dishpan hands to anyone scrubbing them clean against a rippled washboard. To remove excess water, they were wrung out and then hung on lines, laid across tables, or placed on racks to air dry in the sun. Rips, tears, and burst seams were resewn. Clothes were worn for years until they were in tatters, fit only for the rag collector.

Rag collectors sold their materials to paper mills. At the mills, rags were shredded and beaten into pulp again. The pulp was treated with lime, flattened, dried, and became "linen" for writing paper. Recycling is not a modern concept.

Renee and I acquired authentic handmade clothing for our new speech project about Backcountry living during the Revolutionary War. An excellent seamstress, Renee made her bonnet and my market bag (slung across my shoulder). The bonnet alone took more than forty hours of hand-stitching. We bought the rest from a reputable reenactor supplier. They weren't any more expensive than modern store-bought suits and dresses. From our handmade leather shoes to our hats, these garments

are comfortable. I especially like my felt (made from rabbit fur) tricorn hat!

Through our many visits to Historic Brattonsville, we have developed a deep respect for our South Carolina pioneer ancestors and today's history interpreters. Thanks to the passionate individuals who gave us a glimpse of the past, Renee and I reaffirmed our desire to share our colonial heritage with others. We believe it's essential to recognize that America wouldn't have won the War for Independence without South Carolina's brave pioneers, including boys and girls, fighting in volunteer militias against the Tories and British army.

On July 4, 2026, our country will celebrate the 250th anniversary of signing the Declaration of Independence. During this festive time, the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) promotes educating residents and visitors about our state's Revolutionary War heritage. An essential part of this effort is encouraging the use of our Liberty Trail. Thanks to dedicated conservationists, our historic Southern battlegrounds are being preserved for future generations. One notable stop on the Trail is Historic Brattonsville, part of the Culture & Heritage Museums of York County. Renee and I believe you'll find it worth visiting our state's historic sites. While you're there, talk to the passionate interpreters—they will make your experience more meaningful!

For more information about our Backcountry South Carolina Revolutionary War ancestors, read Ford the Pacholet, an American Revolutionary War Novel Culminating in the Pivotal Battle of Cowpens. Find the book at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Hub City Books, and most other booksellers. You may contact Richard Meehan through his publisher, Noggin Universe Press (www.nogginuniverse.com).



Historical interpretation at a Boy Scout camporee by Rick and Renee Meehan at Camp Croft, the former home of Col. John Thomas Sr., of the Spartan Regiment of Militia and his extended family.

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~ Richard C. Meehan, Jr., Editor

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12. News stories about Revolutionary War projects are accepted and should follow the same format as described in #4.

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WILLIAM T. GRAVES

Introduction by Dr. Bobby Gilmer Moss

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