

# *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*



# The JOURNAL



**MARCH 2026 | VOL. 26 NO. 3**

**The Dawn of Mobile  
Warfare in North America  
Part Four**



**INSIDE:**

**How Tory Captain Pearis Captured General  
Williamson's Brigade**

C. Leon Harris and Conner Runyan

*A publication of*



# The Journal

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## About Us

### For the People

SCART is on a mission to preserve, protect and promote (in perpetuity) the stories, artifacts and history of South Carolina's role in the American Revolution. South Carolina changed the world. The Trust's collections highlight the pivotal times, places and people that helped us win our independence and catalyze over 250 years of change.

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# From the Editor

Hello All,

March always feels like a turning point.

Winter loosens its grip, the ground softens, and the landscapes that once carried the weight of war begin to breathe again. It's a fitting time to reflect on something that doesn't change with the seasons: our responsibility to preserve the places, stories, and artifacts that define who we are.

Across the country, Revolutionary War battlegrounds sit quietly. At first glance, many are just open fields, wooded ridge lines, or gently rolling farmland. But beneath that calm surface lies something far greater. These are places where decisions were made, lives were lost, and a new nation struggled into existence. Without care and attention, those stories risk fading into the background, reduced to footnotes instead of lived memory.

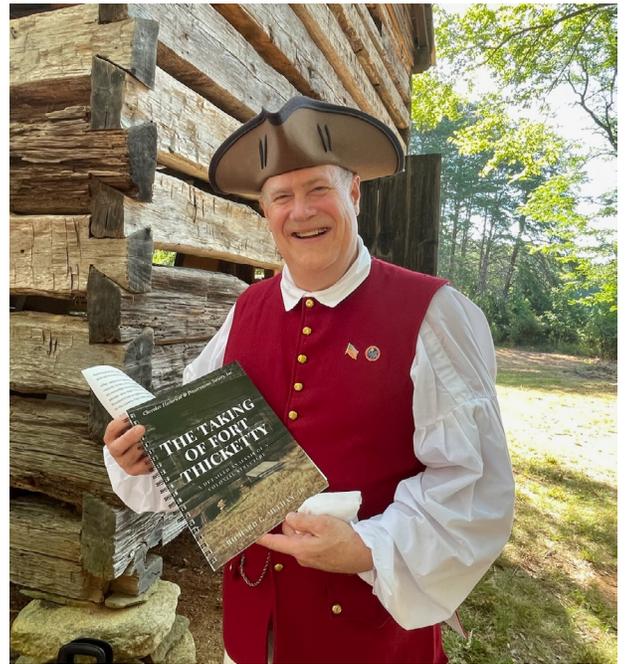
Preservation is not just about protecting land. It's about protecting meaning.

Every relic, whether it's a musket ball turned up in the soil or a fragment of uniform tucked away in a collection, connects us directly to the people who stood their ground in uncertain times. These objects are not just artifacts. They are evidence. They remind us that history is not abstract. It happened to real people who faced real choices.

The same can be said for the legends that surround these sites. Some are well documented. Others have been passed down through generations, shaped by memory and local pride. While not every story can be proven, they all contribute to the larger picture. They keep communities engaged with their past and give life to places that might otherwise be overlooked.

What matters is that we don't lose them.

Development continues to press against historic ground. Time continues to erode what remains. And interest, if not actively maintained, can quietly slip away. That is why preservation requires more than acknowledgment. It requires action. Supporting conservation efforts, visiting historic sites,



*Richard C. Meehan, Jr.*

documenting findings, and sharing knowledge all play a role.

This is our heritage. Not in a distant or symbolic sense, but in a very real, physical way. It exists in the land beneath our feet and in the objects we can still hold in our hands.

If we allow these connections to disappear, we lose more than history. We lose context. We lose perspective. And we lose a part of ourselves.

March reminds us that renewal is possible. It also reminds us that what survives into the future depends on what we choose to protect today.

That responsibility belongs to all of us.

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

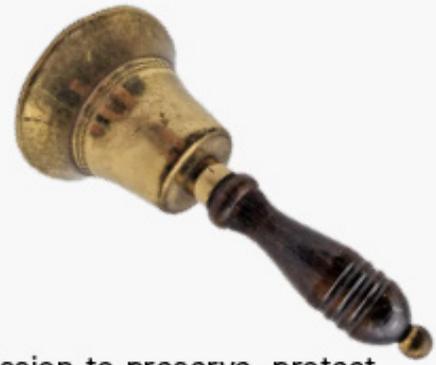
THE LIBERTY TRAIL—SOUTH CAROLINA

## Discover The Liberty Trail South Carolina

America's independence was secured in South Carolina across its swamps, fields, woods and mountains. These events of 1779-1782 directly led to victory in the Revolutionary War. We call this history The Liberty Trail.

The logo for The Liberty Trail S.C. is a dark blue shield-shaped emblem with a white star at the bottom. The text "THE LIBERTY TRAIL S.C." is written in white, with "THE" in a smaller font above "LIBERTY TRAIL" and "S.C." below it.

# 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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# Dragon

# The

by  
**C. Leon Harris**

It recently dawned on me that on April 4, I will have lived through one-third of American history since the thirteen colonies declared independence from Great Britain. I don't feel that old, although lately I've noticed that it now takes me two bounds to leap tall buildings. I prefer to think that the United States is still a young nation, as republics go. The oldest is the Republic of San Marino, still thriving after 1724 years. It's a country of less than 24 square miles in north-central Italy, with a population of 34,000, just a bit over half that of Vermont now. Vermont was an independent republic for only 14 years before becoming a state in 1791. The Republic of China has existed for 113 years. I mean the one in Taiwan, not the People's Republic of China, based in Beijing, which is a republic in name only.

Much depends on how one defines "republic." I see it as a representative democracy governed by law. The Founders of our republic despised a pure democracy at a time when most citizens were illiterate and had limited access to reliable information. It was even worse back then than it is now, when many can easily access and trust information but still prefer wild conspiracies and rants from online "influencers." The Founders entrusted legislation to representatives they hoped would be chosen for their competence, honesty, and patriotism—not for wealth or inherited

privileges. The Executive Branch was meant to enforce laws passed by these representatives, and the Judiciary Branch was tasked with ensuring neither the legislature nor the executive overstepped their bounds or usurped powers beyond what the law permits. To prevent the government or the majority from oppressing minorities, they amended the Constitution with the Bill of Rights. That's what Mrs. Clanton taught me seventy-two years ago, and she was someone you didn't disagree with without good reason.

Many of the Framers of the Constitution studied classical history, and they modeled the young nation on the Roman Republic, which began in 509 BCE and lasted until 27 BCE. Perhaps the Framers hoped, or at least expected, that their creation would enjoy a similarly long lifespan. Using those 482 years as a benchmark for republic longevity, the United States was still in its early stages in the early nineteenth century, growing quickly and heading toward an unknown destiny. The 1860s could be seen as its teenage years—rebellious and tumultuous. Today, the country might be compared to a person in their thirties—wise enough to learn from experience but still eager for change and sometimes impulsive, lacking the stability of middle age. Impulsiveness can lead to disaster. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, it's a republic, but only if we can keep it.

# Revolutionary War Day 2026

Saturday | March 28, 2026 10-4

More American Revolution battles/skirmishes were fought in South Carolina than in any other state. Everyone has something to learn from the conflict that founded our country, the Relic Room's full day of programs will offer something for everyone. Come spend a day immersed in history and bring the youngsters!

## Join us for:

- ★ Cannon crew with activities- see a live demonstration
- ★ Make your own: corn husk dolls, pomander balls
- ★ Quill pen writing
- ★ Touch table with replica objects
- ★ Scholarly talks
- ★ Historic Games
- ★ **And more!!!**



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Admission



south carolina  
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**LEXINGTON COUNTY  
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A story behind every door.



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM &  
MILITARY MUSEUM**



BATTLE OF COWPENS  
CHAPTER PRESENTS

# "HEROINES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR"

*With Dr. Gloria Close*

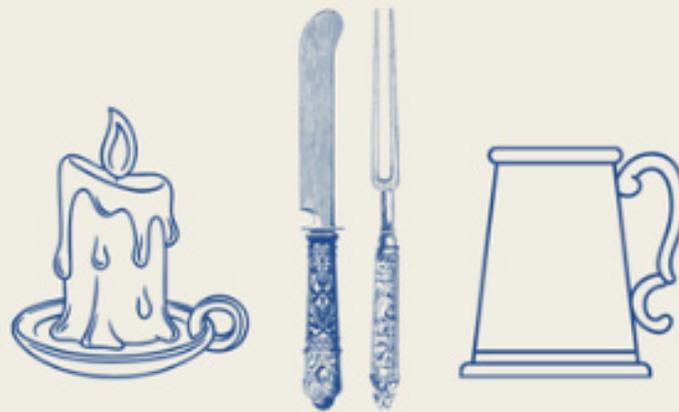
**MONDAY, MARCH 23 FROM 5:30-7:30PM  
CITIZENS & SOUTHERN 148 WEST MAIN ST.  
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29306**

From the fields of the South Carolina backcountry to the streets of Boston, these women defied expectations and changed history. Join us to learn more about Eliza Lucas Pinckney, Jane Thomas, Kate Barry, Sarah Fulton, Nancy Hart (Wahatche), Mary Ludwig Hays, Deborah Sampson, Mammy Kate, Phillis Wheatley, and Hannah Till.

A special gallery tour of the Johnson Collection's 25 for 25 exhibit to mark the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding will be offered at 5pm.

Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.  
RSVP for free on eventbrite.  
Questions? Email [spartrevwar250@gmail.com](mailto:spartrevwar250@gmail.com).





# 1776 TAVERN

## *Dinner*

Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm

**Walnut Grove Plantation**  
**1200 Otts Shoals Rd, Roebuck, SC 29376**

For one evening, Historic Walnut Grove transforms into an 18th-century colonial tavern. Gather by candlelight for dinner, drinks, music and dancing inspired by the food, fellowship, and traditions of the South Carolina backcountry.

TICKETS ON SALE 3/12



## The Dawn of Mobile Warfare in North America:

### Cavalry during the French and Indian War

Originally published in *The Cavalry & Armor Journal* as edited by Jim Piccuch and MG Julian Burns.

**Stephen L. Kling, Jr., Esq.**

*Editor's Note: In this essay on Cavalry in the French & Indian War, Stephen L. Kling demonstrates the power that the study of history can yield: what can be learned, or not learned - to advantage, or to painful disadvantage. The mounted formations employed in North America, first in the French and Indian War and later in the War for Independence, had their roots in European doctrine, employing French, Prussian, and British practices that were imperfectly suited to frontier conditions. The lessons derived about Cavalry operations in the varied and rugged terrain over which the French and Indian War was waged caused many leaders, including the great General George Washington, to disparage the value of a mounted force, and the struggle of the American Army during the Revolution to relearn the lessons of the earlier conflict proved costly at the outset, in both blood and material, as we shall see. **Jim Piccuch** Editor, **MG JB Burns, US Cavalry***

Cavalry tactics first developed in North America during the French and Indian War, although mounted soldiers served sporadically as scouts, messengers and guards for frontier settlers before the war.<sup>1</sup> However, neither side in the war used cavalry frequently, and while utilization was expanded as the war unfolded, rigid thinking and prejudices also developed that required a certain amount of relearning during the American Revolutionary War, particularly for the British officers but also for American officers with British training. Moreover, none of the cavalry units in the French and Indian War were regular units of the British or French armies. Rather, they were local or provincial units who were not always led by regular army officers and were mostly viewed as auxiliaries, and therefore did not figure prominently in military doctrine for North

American warfare. In other words, snobbery, stubbornness and inherent prejudice against "amateurs" kept both sides from using their cavalry troops to their greatest advantage.

This article will examine cavalry usage in the French and Indian War in three case studies: two British campaigns and one French campaign. Each analysis will include a description of the attendant history and an exploration of the tactical use or misuse of cavalry. In many respects, the early use of cavalry mirrored the early development of light armor, a similar mobile force using motorized and mechanized platforms instead of horses, albeit with more protection and firepower. Both cavalry use in North America and early armor would see continuous improvements in organization and techniques to

take advantage of advances in tactics, weaponry and equipment.

#### The Disastrous British Defeat at the Battle of Monongahela

This battle came to be more commonly known as "Braddock's Defeat." France and Great Britain had been fighting over the Ohio Territory since 1754, and Great Britain formally declared war against France in 1756. The war in North America was commonly known as the French and Indian War as the French and their Native American allies fought against the British. At the time, France controlled most of Canada and huge swathes of land on both sides of the Mississippi River while Great Britain controlled the Thirteen Colonies and some Canadian territory, leaving a long and winding border ripe for aggression by both sides.



George Washington's Retreat from Monongahela in 1755 by Howard Pyle, 1890-1896, Boston Public Library, <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:c247gh10n>. The blue-faced red uniforms of the Virginia provincial regiment are clearly seen.

In 1755, British Major General Edward Braddock arrived from England with two regiments of British infantry. He had a long career as an officer in the British army. Braddock soon planned a major offensive against French Fort Duquesne, on the site of present-day Pittsburgh. The British saw the recently-established Fort Duquesne as an intrusion into their territory. The attack force gathered for the offensive was large for the time, consisting of around 2,100 men and 10 cannon. Two-thirds were regular soldiers, all infantry, and one-third were so-called "provincial units" (local recruits). The bulk of these provincials for the expedition came from Virginia, loosely organized into a unit known as the "Virginia Regiment" which consisted of several companies, one of which was mounted and referred to as "light horse" under Captain Robert Stewart. The light horse company (or troop) was authorized on February 15, 1755, to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, two sergeants, two corporals, and thirty privates.<sup>2</sup> In a very short time, the troop was fully raised. Twenty-nine men of the troop were assigned to Braddock's command, and they were mostly fully equipped and dressed in uniforms of blue-faced red.

How much training these mounted troops had is not fully known, and likely as provincial troops, training in European methods was limited. However, virtually all of the men owned their own horses and were experienced riders. The inclusion of a mounted company in the Virginia Regiment was probably due to the previous success on the Virginia frontier of irregular mounted ranger units that patrolled between frontier forts.

Braddock's expedition could not simply march to the fort; they had the difficult task of clearing a road capable of accommodating horse-drawn cannons and supply wagons through the rough and often heavily wooded terrain. The fighting force had to perform even more extensive road work as they wanted to ensure the road would remain clear enough to accommodate future supply trains once Fort Duquesne was captured. This process slowed the advance to little more than a crawl. A contemporary sketch by British engineer Patrick MacKellar shows the rough deployment of the light horse troop



Sketch of the Field of Battle with the Dispositions of the Troops in the Beginning of the Engagement of the 9th of July [1755] on the Monongahela 7 Miles from Fort Duquesne by Patrick MacKellar, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.ar303900/>. The long procession of the British army as well as the rugged terrain is clearly depicted on the map.

as they marched through the forest to the site of the battle, and some post-battle reports and correspondence helps fill in the gaps. Six men of the light horse troop were in the front of the column along with a few Native American scouts and a few volunteers. A few more, including Captain Stewart, were part of the personal guard of General Braddock. The remainder rode at the head of the main column toward the front.<sup>3</sup>

The surroundings soon proved to be more than inconvenient. The British officers were entirely unfamiliar with the wilderness, and while their cannon would give an advantage on open ground, they were useless in the forest. The French, who knew the area and had excellent scouts, planned to take the British by surprise and eliminate any advantage the cannon provided. As the expedition crossed the Monongahela River and entered into a heavily forested area, several hundred French and Native Americans attacked, firing at Braddock's men from behind trees and other protected terrain. The resulting battle was a disaster of the greatest magnitude and a costly lesson on wilderness warfare for the British. Over 500 men were killed, including Braddock, and almost as many were wounded. George Washington, acting as one of Braddock's aides, led the retreat.

Twenty-three men of Stewart's light horse troop were killed. Stewart himself was wounded and had two horses shot from under him. The absurdly high mortality rate was either an indication of their bravery, or improper deployment. George Washington later commented that the regulars behaved poorly but the "Virginia Companies behaved like Men, and died like Soldiers."<sup>4</sup> This leads to the conclusion that Stewart probably did possess superior leadership qualities and he and his men possessed and exhibited exceptional courage.

So, the question is: could the light horse troops have been used more effectively? One of the traditional roles of light horse was to act as scouts. While Braddock deployed light infantry several paces out on either side of the main column, any warning they provided was not far enough in advance to allow for a better defense. Information is key to appropriate reaction on the battlefield and Braddock clearly had none. While Braddock pushed to the front of the column to direct the defense after a light horse messenger gave warning of the initial attack, he largely only managed to get himself killed. Had Braddock positioned his light horse scouts farther afield, assuming the terrain permitted, he might have had more warning

and his response may have been more effective. The light horse may also have provided some cover to the retreating forces, but it seems likely the troop was virtually destroyed in the early stages of the battle given their deployment and could provide no further assistance.

### The Forbes Expedition and the Capture of French Fort Duquesne

Great Britain made a second attempt against Fort Duquesne in 1758 commanded by Brigadier General John Forbes. He, too, would need to construct a road as he advanced through the wilderness by a different route than the one that Braddock had taken. Forbes's force was considerably larger than Braddock's had been, consisting of around 6,000, of which over two-thirds were provincial units.

Three troops of light horse were included in this expedition: Stewart's reconstituted Virginia troop and two new troops raised in Pennsylvania that were each attached to a Pennsylvania battalion. Forbes approved the issuance of carbines, pistols, swords, saddles, tents, haversacks, canteens and camp kettles to the reconstituted troop but refused the request for fancier uniforms. In that regard, Forbes noted, "they were not to be clothed like the troops of the Kings Guards."<sup>5</sup> At least the Virginia troop must have looked sharply enough as George Washington was asked to send several of them and an officer to provide an example to the Pennsylvanians. However, it seems not all of them were equipped to the satisfaction of British Colonel Henry Bouquet. Bouquet requested that Forbes authorize the purchase of curved sabers for the Pennsylvania mounted troops, noting that their existing small, straight swords were a "joke" and that they "could not kill a chicken."<sup>6</sup>

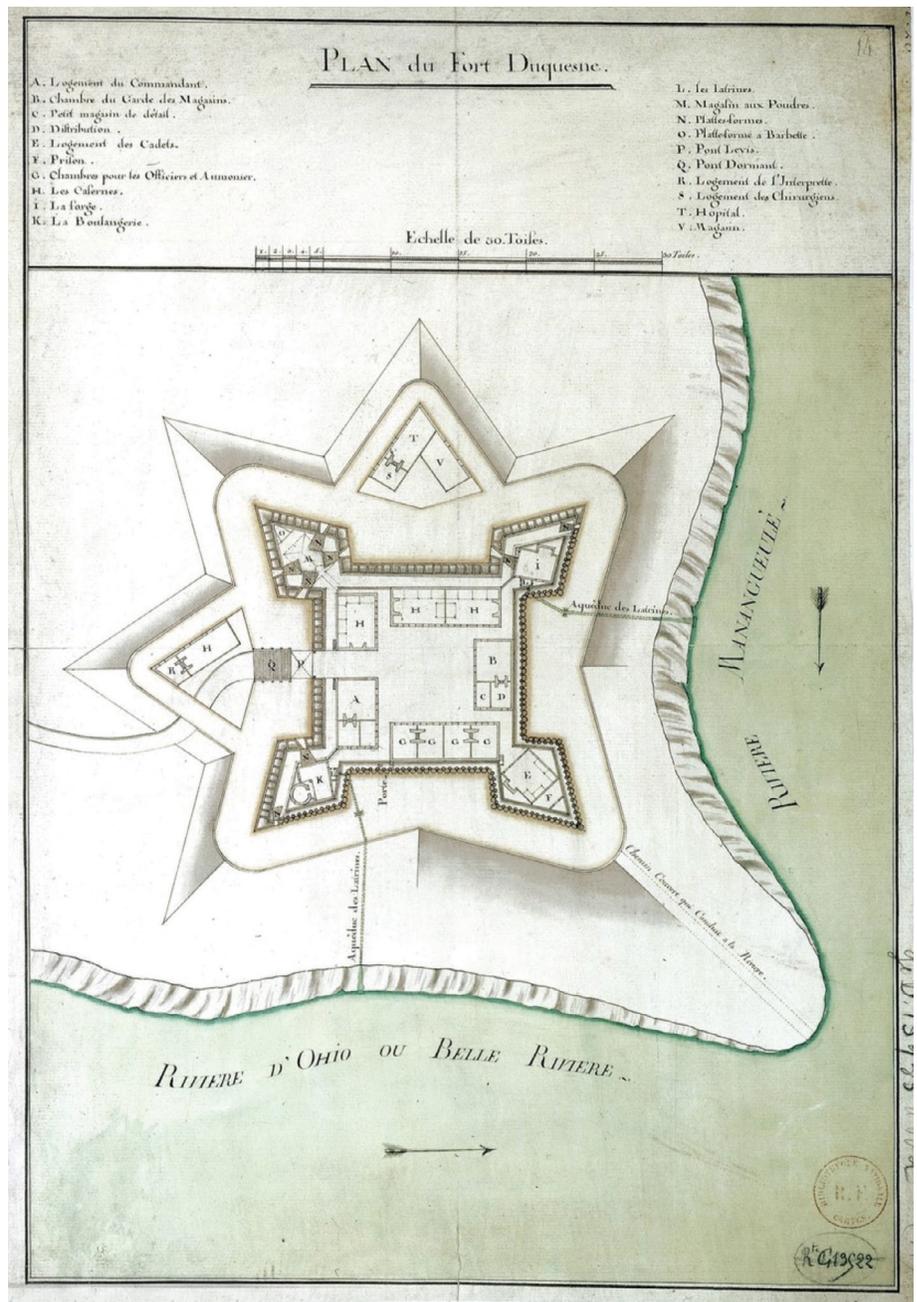
The ignominious first action of the Forbes expedition began when Major James Grant, leading an advance force of 750 men, ignored his orders to fully reconnoiter. Instead, he led his soldiers in a full-out attack against Fort Duquesne, marching a decoy detachment with drums beating and flags flying to draw the French into battle. Unfortunately for Grant and his men, the French and their Native American allies quickly overwhelmed the decoy detachment and outflanked the rest of the British force. In the process, the French

secured the strategic high ground forcing the British into the woods where the wilderness fighting expertise of the French and their allies took its toll. The result was a devastating defeat with over 300 British casualties and minimal French losses. Stewart's light horse suffered eight casualties, including two officers.<sup>7</sup>

In this case, Stewart's light horse troop bravely kept the French forces from totally encircling the rest of Grant's men, allowing them to retreat. They were the last to

leave the field of battle, a clear improvement from their lack of any real contribution in the Battle of Monongahela. While the loss of 300 men was significant, Grant's defeat could have been much more calamitous if there had been no covering cavalry, which would have allowed the French to harry the British in their retreat back to Forbes's camp.

Despite Grant's defeat, Forbes's army marched on. While his large army moved as slowly as Braddock's expedition, Forbes



Plan du Fort Duquesne 1755, BnF Gallica Digital Library, by unknown creator, Bibliothèque nationale de France, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8016442z>. The fort was built in the classic style of the times to allow multiple fields of fire against attacking forces.

was more organized and methodical. He had fortified supply depots built periodically along the newly constructed road. As they arrived near Fort Duquesne, Native American scouts informed the British command that the fort was in the process of being abandoned and its supplies destroyed. A number of Native Americans had suddenly deserted the French cause due to a British diplomatic coup in securing a peace treaty with 13 Ohio tribes, and the French command rightly realized they could not hold the fort against the approaching British juggernaut. Forbes issued orders to "immediately march & reconnoiter the French fort [and] if they find it abandoned, they are to take it." Galloping forward, a troop of Pennsylvania light horse arrived in time to save the gunpowder and hog meat, though the fort itself was in flames. While the fort could not be taken intact, the capture of these supplies was a significant benefit to the British, who had been experiencing ongoing supply problems.<sup>8</sup>

The expansion of light horse troops and their inclusion in the Forbes Expedition despite the losses at Monongahela shows that some British officers were beginning to understand their potential in frontier warfare, not only as scouts but as a quick reaction force. Of course, the light horse officers were quick to sing their own praises. Stewart noted on August 9, 1759:

"I'm perswaded even a few properly equipt & well mounted [light horse] will clearly evince the vast utility of a Body of them would be Off, as they are certainly capable of performing many essential Services the best foot in the Country are unequal to."<sup>9</sup>

General Forbes was also eventually persuaded of their value, remarking a few days before the capture of Fort Duquesne, "I think some of the light horse might now be usefully employed, particularly in gaining all of the heights and reconnoitering the grounds on the flanks, and bringing quick intelligence of whatever happens."<sup>10</sup>

As provincial units they did have some deficiencies, particularly with regards to discipline in the early years of the war. During a Shawnee raid, Washington sent some men to relieve one of the beleaguered settlements that had a small garrison of light horse. When he arrived, he found



**French Corps de Cavalerie protecting the St. Lawrence River shore from British landings in 1759.** (Painting by Mitchell Nolte, courtesy of THGC Publishing)

that the men were drunk, "carousing, firing their pistols and uttering the most unheard-of imprecations."<sup>11</sup> Of course, he had them were arrested on the spot, but the incident exemplified some of the problems with the provincial cavalry, particularly those who were often the more propertied men who could afford a horse and thought of themselves as above infantry soldiers. Washington would later write some profound words on the matter, "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to us all."<sup>12</sup>

#### **The French Defense of Quebec**

The French did not consider cavalry until the later stages of the French and Indian War. While initially the war went well for the French, the tide soon began to turn. The British grand strategy directed military operations toward the capture of

many of the important French forts and towns. As the British and their colonial auxiliaries outnumbered the French and their remaining Native American allies several times over, the end was inevitable. By 1759, it was clear that Quebec, the most important city in French North America, would soon be attacked.

In 1759, General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, the French military commander-in-chief, proposed a new kind of fighting force to Pierre de Rigaud, marquis de Vaudreuil-Cavagnial and governor general of New France. Montcalm was an experienced cavalryman having commanded a French cavalry regiment during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748). A cavalry regiment was named after him in 1749 and command of the regiment went to Montcalm's son after the senior Montcalm was ordered to take

command in North America. Recognizing the vulnerability of the French towns along the St. Lawrence River, Montcalm contemplated raising a "Corps de Cavalerie" from the local inhabitants in and around Quebec. A detailed proposal submitted to Governor Vaudreuil gives considerable insight into Montcalm's intended role for this unit:

"The formation of a cavalry unit has been proposed and it is believed that this could be of some use.

"There is no doubt that very good cavalry, well trained in the long run could be useful in fighting on the flat plain, especially if it had a thousand or six hundred horses. It is not possible here to have such a number. If we had them, it would be of the wrong kind, and, if we make it a large unit, it could only ever be at the expense of the army, which is not the strongest; and, the larger this unit, the worse this cavalry will be, because it is easier to compose well a small number than a large one, secondly, because officers are needed and there aren't any leftover in the corps and one should attach to this cavalry only those who have at least some experience in this type of service. You will ask what this small cavalry can be used for:

1st To patrol along the coast;

2nd To move quickly to a dis-embarkment with an infantryman riding double to oppose it, if any barges or longboats want to attempt one, as long as there are no cannons; because if there were, I assure you this cavalry would not hold out. It could also serve to surprise the enemy, and for this purpose it must be kept during combat either behind the troops, or behind some bunch of trees or behind blockhouses, to lead with audacity and impetuosity, once the enemy is charged and shaken by infantry fire; because if one makes the mistake of placing it in line or in a forward position, it is to bet that instead of contributing to our winning the battle, it will cause it to be lost, because a heavy infantry fire from the enemy would before long put it in a state of disarray and there is nothing as contagious in warfare as disorder."<sup>13</sup>

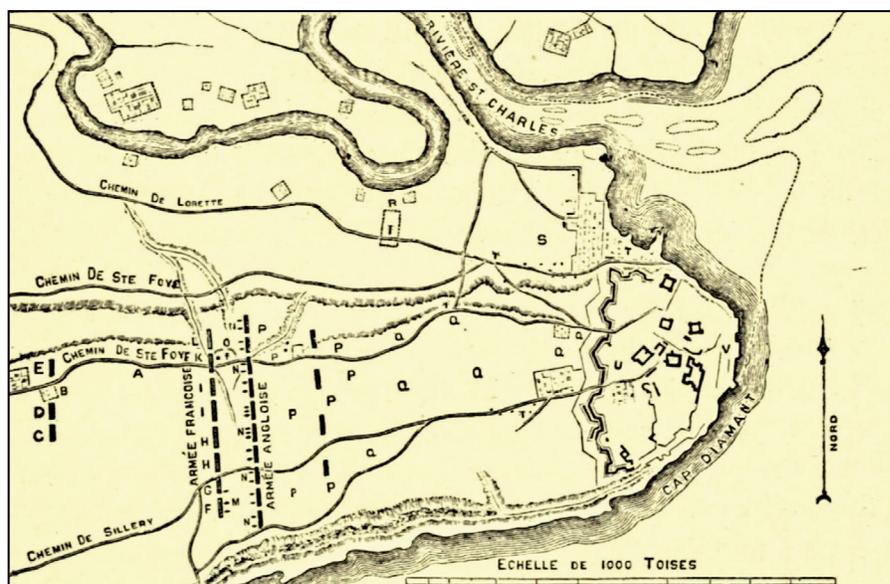
Of interest is the very European thinking of Montcalm on this matter. He already

believed that regulars were the answer for most warfare in North America, having limited respect for the militia and woodsmen. In his vision, the Corps de Cavalerie was to be used on the "flat plain" – the open deforested areas around Quebec. There is also mention of them carrying an infantryman mounted behind the cavalry trooper to provide additional mobility for some of his infantry. While noting the aid these troops could provide, Montcalm for all his brilliance seems to have had little regard for their use outside of shore defense or in a pitched battle.

Unlike the British provincial units, this French unit would be captained by experienced soldiers in the French regular army. However, the actual amount of cavalry experience of these officers was limited as noted by Montcalm in his proposal, as there were no cavalry units in North America from which to draw officers. Four troops of fifty men each were formed, with the first troop ready for action on June 13, 1759. They were assigned to patrol the shores of the St. Lawrence River to warn of expected British landings, to deliver messages to subcommanders and to fight on foot if circumstances required. To "give them an air of war," they were to be armed

with tall bearskin hats (usually reserved for elite units), blue uniforms, sabers and good guns.<sup>14</sup> These decisions demonstrate that the French recognized the elements needed to instill some élan as well as discipline through their choices of equipment and troop commanders.

Once the British entered the St. Lawrence River with a large invasion force, they took their time in deciding where an effective landing could be made. The French in turn were busy fortifying and patrolling the numerous expected landing points. On August 8, 1759, the British made a surprise landing at Pointe-aux-Trembles and conducted a major forage operation. While they succeeded in rounding up two to three hundred cattle, a French reaction force including the Corps de Cavalerie quickly recaptured the cattle, with many of the cavalry troops dismounted at the shore line to stop the British embarkment. The British returned to Pointe-aux-Trembles on August 10, landing with 27 barges and a larger force of soldiers, but the well-prepared French defenders (including many dismounted cavalry troops) won that day as well. 140 British soldiers were killed or wounded, a stinging rebuke that effectively dissuaded the British from attempting any further



Plan de Quebec et de la bataille de Sainte-Foy sous les murs de Québec le 28 avril 1760 by unknown creator, from *Guerre Du Canada 1756-1760: Montcalm and Levis*, 1891, by l'abbé Henri-Raymond Casgrain, BnF Gallica Digital Library, Bibliothèque nationale de France, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k63549294/f367.item.r=Moncalm%20Levis.zoom>. The Corps de Cavalerie is stationed in the rear designated as "E" on the map

landings at Pointe-aux-Trembles.<sup>15</sup> For a brief moment, France was triumphant.

The French had heavy patrols at every conceivable landing point surrounding Quebec, so on September 12, 1759, the British took the chance of debarking at the base of the dangerous heights leading to the Plains of Abraham. Twenty-four scouts scaled the heights first. They were met in the darkness by a few French sentries, who did not suspect trickery when a British officer spoke to them in French to allay any suspicion. After the sentries were subdued, 4,000 British soldiers followed, hauling up a few pieces of artillery with them. The majority of the French patrol forces, including the Corps de Cavalerie, were nowhere nearby when the British formed their ranks outside Quebec the following day.

In response, a shocked Montcalm attacked immediately instead of waiting for the various detachments scattered along the St. Lawrence River, and the resulting battle was a resounding British victory. Many French soldiers were killed during the battle and Montcalm was seriously wounded, dying a few days later. Historians have long debated Montcalm's decision to attack since he could have waited to gather all the men scattered in and around Quebec guarding the potential landing spots and would then have had a substantial numerical superiority. Likely he hoped and gambled on a quick lightning strike that would catch the British unprepared and undersupplied.

British purser Thomas More wrote in a letter following the battle that some 300 men of the Corps de Cavalerie were cut to pieces by British Highlanders.<sup>16</sup> However, no other contemporary sources verify they were even present.<sup>17</sup> Such an incident would also be contrary to the known actions of the corps after the battle and during the subsequent battle at Sainte-Foy.<sup>18</sup> In reality, the Corps de Cavalerie was patrolling so far away that they did not arrive in time to participate in the battle at the Plains of Abraham.

Quebec did not immediately surrender after the battle. A troop of the Corps de Cavalerie managed to circle around the British and deliver several thousand pounds of badly needed food to the starving French inhabitants and garrison at



Sir Jeffrey Amherst, victor at Montreal. Field Marshall and "... the raising of Company's of light horse, it is quite unnecessary..." in America.

Quebec. The cavalry commander and additional troops followed shortly thereafter to bolster the defenders, hoping to prevent a panic-induced capitulation. However, they were minutes too late, as a delegation had already been dispatched to the British camp to conclude a surrender.<sup>19</sup> Rather than wait for the British to capture them along with the garrison, the cavalry troops left the city to join other men who had previously guarded the St. Lawrence River.

Their next task was to round up the various St. Lawrence River detachments to form a new army that would attempt to recover Quebec. The Corps de Cavalerie served once again in a reconnaissance and foraging role, but were kept in the rear in the subsequent Battle of Sainte-Foy, outside Quebec, on April 28, 1760. While the French won the battle, the British expected reinforcements so they did not surrender immediately. When a large British relief fleet arrived, the French lost any hope of recapturing Quebec. The British regrouped and soon captured Montreal in 1760, virtually ending the war on the North American continent. The Corps de Cavalerie was disbanded following the French surrender. The war continued in Europe with a final peace in 1763, whereby the French lost almost all their North American colonies.

While hardly garnering a mention in most histories, the Corps de Cavalerie rendered

valuable service in both the defense of the St. Lawrence River landing sites and the relief of Quebec. The fact that they were not used in a battlefield role may have been a grand error. The British had no cavalry of the Battle at Sainte-Foy. While Montcalm correctly concluded that the cavalry could not stand in a formal line of battle, there were other viable options. An enveloping action or a pursuit of the retreating British could have had a much more impactful result on the Battle at Sainte-Foy in terms of casualties and prisoners, which may have forced the British to an immediate surrender. Montcalm's vision of cavalry was limited and he had little confidence in them as fighters because they were not regular soldiers. Montcalm's successor commanding at the Battle of Sainte-Foy, François-Gaston, Chevalier de Lévis, shared Montcalm's limited vision for these men, at least in terms of use on the battlefield. It would not be until the next war in North America that local irregular and semi-regular cavalry would demonstrate their usefulness.

### Postwar Thinking

Few British officers who had direct experience in wilderness fighting remembered the lessons of the French and Indian War. Colonel Henry Bouquet was one of them and appreciated the effectiveness of light horse in Forbes's campaign. He later wrote that the light horse "were found of good service, and... I am of the opinion that we might employ horses with success."<sup>20</sup> In addition to his service in the French and Indian War, Bouquet served as active commander in Pontiac's Rebellion, which broke out in 1763 and lasted until 1765. Afterwards, he recommended establishing two companies of light horse. These would be armed with a short musket, a hunting sword, and a long-handled hatchet and uniformed in a short brown-lapelled coat, leggings and moccasins. Training was not to be ignored, either. The men would be taught to ride, mount and dismount while holding weapons, and to gallop through the woods. Interestingly, Bouquet also recommended that bloodhounds be used in conjunction with the mounted troops, to more effectively conduct military operations in the wilderness and counter the irregular warfare of the Native Americans. At least Bouquet realized the need for cavalry

tactics to evolve as circumstances or needs changed.

These forces were proposed to be stationed in the newly-acquired and largely unsettled French territories on the east side of the Mississippi River. However, Bouquet's recommendations were largely ignored. Instead, the British high command took the advice of French and Indian War hero Sir Jeffery Amherst. Amherst, commander-in-chief of the British army in North America during the French and Indian War, refuted any need for light horse in a published document in 1766:

"In regard to the raising of Companies of light Horse, it is quite unnecessary. The Regiments [of infantry] in America are the best Troops to answer all Purposes for the effectual security of the Colony in its Infancy, and the best foundation for the Colony for the Benefit of Great Britain, is the Establishing a Seat of Government."<sup>21</sup>

Amherst's standing in the military practically ended further discussion of the topic. His opinion was generally shared by other senior military officers, and the post-French and Indian War garrisons in the west consisted solely of infantry and were largely withdrawn in the years following. The British did not further consider raising cavalry units in North America until the American Revolutionary War.

### Conclusion

The foregoing events demonstrate the potential usefulness of lightly armed mounted units. But Great Britain's unwavering pride and belief in her infantrymen, combined with prejudice against irregular troops, ensured that cavalry companies were effectively discontinued in North America at the end of the French and Indian War. This coupled with the lack of an ongoing war on the North American continent with a European power, precluded any further assessment or development of mounted troops. It would take a new war to revisit the use and value of cavalry on the North American continent by the British and their adversaries.

At a broader level, these episodes demonstrate how useful a mobile, lightly armed force can be in rugged terrain. Mounted troops would provide valuable battlefield intelligence, perform reconnaissance,



**Montcalm, French Commander in defense of Quebec. Killed in battle 14 Oct 1759 as his foe British General Wolfe was also killed.**

capture key terrain, deter hostile activities, cover tactical retreats, and have many other benefits known to more modern forces that were yet to be developed.

*The next article in this series will examine the first large-scale mounted operations of the War for Independence, as practiced by the Cherokees and the militia of the southern colonies in 1776. Ed.*

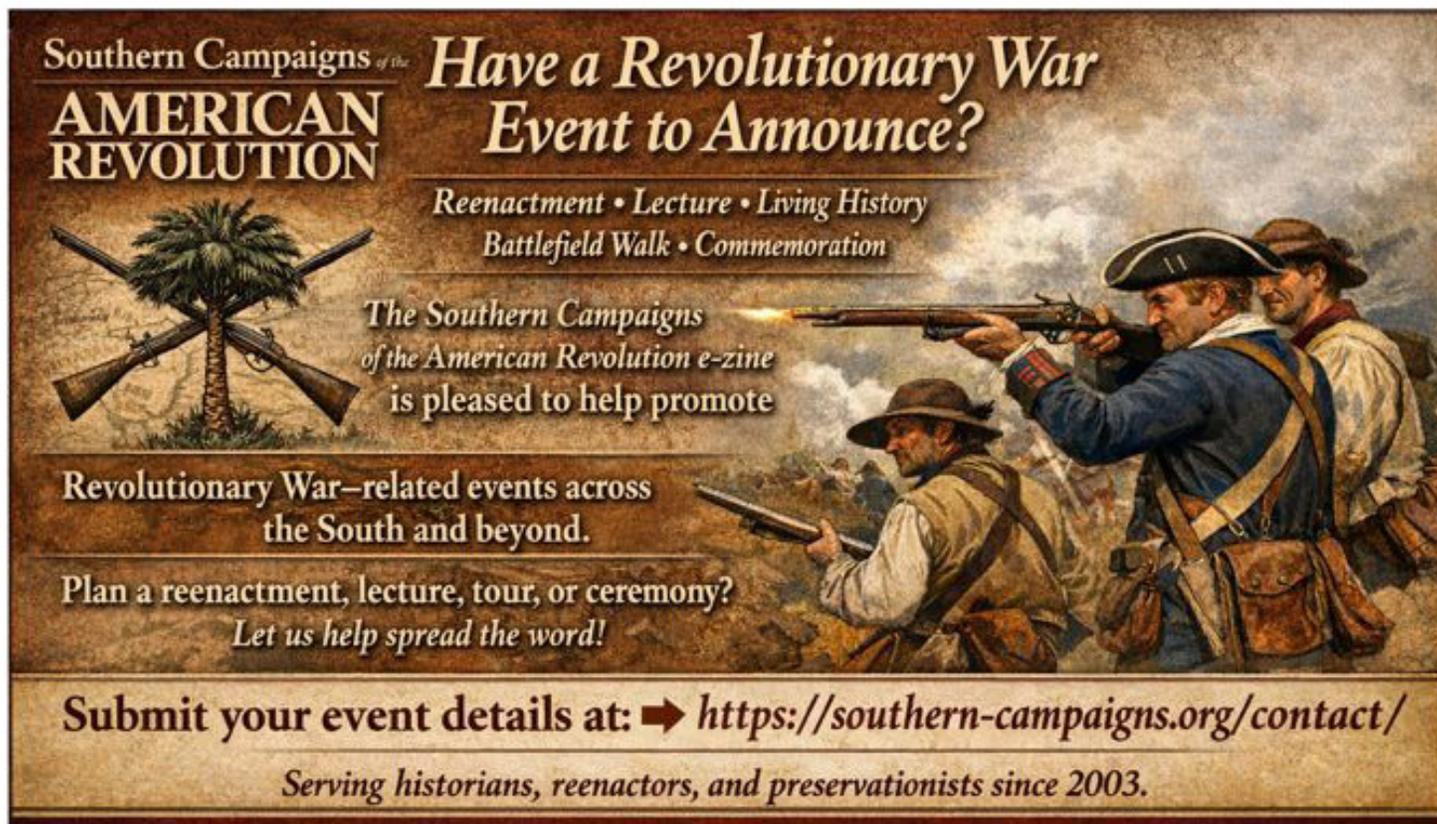
**Stephen L. Kling, Jr.** is an independent researcher focusing on the western theater of the American Revolutionary War. He is the co-author of *The Battle of St. Louis, the Attack on Cahokia, and the American Revolutionary War in the West*; *Cavalry in the Wilderness: Cavalry in the Western Theater of the American Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War*; and *James Colbert and His Chickasaw Legacy*. He edited and contributed to *The American Revolutionary War in the West*. He was also the primary historical consultant for the award-winning "House of Thunder" documentary on the Battle of St. Louis and is the co-curator of the new American Revolutionary War in the West museum exhibit. Both of his parents jumped horses in competition and his father was a cadet officer in the cavalry company at New York Military Academy in the 1940s. His *Cavalry in the Wilderness* book has much greater coverage of cavalry

usage in the French and Indian war for those who wish to know more.

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# L O Y A L I S T

# THE



by  
Paul Wood



**NOTE:** *This month's Loyalist column supplements the February 2026 feature article on Brigadier General Robert Cunningham.*

The monumental defeat at Kings Mountain (October 7, 1780) left Charles Lord Cornwallis with a mountain of headaches. Along with losing Major Patrick Ferguson and several hundred other men to death, capture, or injury, Cornwallis needed new leadership for Loyalists-in-arms in the Ninety Six District. His Regulars and Provincials lacked the numbers needed to both protect their posts and establish control of the surrounding countryside. No part of South Carolina provided him with more Tories willing to risk their lives for King George III than the Ninety Six District, home to numerous outspoken Tory leaders, among them Robert Cunningham and Moses Kirkland.

Kirkland was the sensible choice for Cornwallis. Differing reports put his birth in 1715 and 1730, but Kirkland owned land in the Ninety Six District by the 1750s. Before the war, he “accumulated numerous tracts, built a sawmill, and ran a ferry on the lower Saluda.”<sup>1</sup> By 1775, he was serving as a justice of the peace and as an officer in the colonial militia. Despite his vociferous speeches against the rebellion, Kirkland avoided imprisonment in 1775. The ardent Loyalist went to South Carolina’s last Royal Governor, William Campbell, who dispatched him to Boston. After a capture and escape, he traveled to Pensacola and acted as John Stuart’s deputy to Native Americans. Next, Kirkland went to Philadelphia to (erroneously) assure General Henry Clinton that he could count on thousands of Loyalists to join the war effort if Clinton would invade the South. Kirkland then returned south and helped the British defend Savannah in the siege of 1779. He was present when Charleston fell and was then made a lieutenant colonel of the militia.

Robert Cunningham also opposed the revolutionists in 1775, but he was arrested and jailed for eight months

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<sup>1</sup> Ian Saberton, *The American Revolutionary War in the South*, (Surrey, England: Grosvenor House, 2022), 2: 138; “Colonel Moses Kirkland”, accessed March 10, 2026, at [carolana.com](http://carolana.com).

in Charleston. After his release, he returned to his home on the Saluda River and played no visible part in the conflict. Only when the British took control of Ninety Six did Cunningham offer his services. He was made a colonel over the militia. With the loss of Patrick Ferguson, Cornwallis had to decide who would have charge of the Tory militia in the Backcountry.

Kirkland craved to fill the position. He wrote several telling letters to Cornwallis in the weeks following Ferguson's death. From his post at Fort Williams on October 31, Kirkland warned Cornwallis of the strength of the rebel forces and also complimented himself: "Head I not come hear with my regiment and taken the command of the militia, the hole fork wolde have bean in posesion of the rebels in a very days time."<sup>2</sup> He recommended his superior relocate a substantial part of the Provincial force based at Fort Ninety Six to his smaller base at Williams Fort. With increased numbers Kirkland promised to take Wofford's Iron Works, build a fort there, and establish control of the upper Ninety Six District.<sup>3</sup>

On November 6, Kirkland informed Cornwallis that Colonel Nisbet Balfour promised to give him charge of a regiment. Alas, Balfour did not put such an order into writing. He continued: "If your Lordship is pleas's to give me command of all the militia in this district... I should soon be the head of a very beautiful regiment."<sup>4</sup> Two days later, Kirkland accused Robert Cunningham and his brother Patrick of incompetence: "But [with] Colonel Faugerson's defeat, and Colonel Cunningham, his brother and other leading men refusing to take any command over their regiments and companys...."<sup>5</sup> Kirkland undoubtedly knew that Robert Cunningham was his primary competitor for the vacant command position.

Cornwallis's reasons for choosing Cunningham over Kirkland remain a mystery. Kirkland had much more military experience and had remained active throughout the war, while Cunningham stayed at home. On November 6, Cornwallis received an "Address" from sixteen militia officers with this plea: "The person that we crave leave to represent to your Excellency is Colonel Moses Kirkland." Quite remarkably, Robert's own brother Patrick was one of the sixteen signers!<sup>6</sup> Yet on November 22, Cornwallis made Robert Cunningham a brigadier general in charge of the entire Ninety Six Brigade.<sup>7</sup> Writing again from Fort Williams, Kirkland claimed to be "happy" that Cunningham had received the position. But a few sentences later, he resigned from His Majesty's service.<sup>8</sup>

The consequences of Cornwallis's decision are more easily identified. It profoundly affected Kirkland's later service, the conduct of the war in the South, and how both men carried out their post-war lives. As for Kirkland, he avoided further service under Cornwallis by joining Loyalist forces based in East Florida and taking part in their subsequent actions in Savannah and Augusta.<sup>9</sup> Cornwallis could have well-used Kirkland's experience and leadership expertise.

Cunningham, though a man of proven character who had the public trust, was a weak military leader. One writer called him "incompetent."<sup>10</sup> He led men in only two recorded actions, Long Cane and William's Fort. The British prevailed on December 12, 1780, at Long Cane when Provincials quartered at Ninety Six came to the rescue of Cunningham's militia.<sup>11</sup> Two weeks later, some Loyalists managed to escape the swords of William

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2 Ian Saberton, ed., *The Cornwallis Papers: The Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Theatre of the American Revolutionary War*, (East Sussex, England: The Naval and Military Press), 3: 377 ("CP").

3 CP 3: 377-378.

4 CP, 3: 379.

5 CP, 3: 380.

6 CP, 3: 395-396.

7 CP, 3: 391-392.

8 CP, 3:385-387.

9 "Colonel Moses Kirkland"; Saberton 2: 139.

10 Harry Schenawolf, "Skirmish at Long Canes and Pickens' Return to War," *Revolutionary War Journal*, March 9, 2026; John C. Parker, Jr., *Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., (Patrick, SC: Hem Branch Publishing, 2019), 297.

11 Conner Runyan and C. Leon Harria, "Colonel Andrew Pickens and the Long Cane Skirmish," *The Journal of the American Revolution*, August 15, 2023.

Washington and Joseph Hayes at Hammond's Store. Hayes chased them toward the shelter of Williams Fort, where Cunningham had command. He ordered an immediate evacuation, which was almost complete when Hayes arrived at dawn. Hayes killed several Loyalists and captured about twenty. So, despite being warned, Cunningham suffered a humbling defeat at the hands of the Patriots. The remainder of his force found refuge at Fort Ninety Six.

In July 1781, Cunningham and most of his militia left Ninety Six with Cruger and joined the burgeoning number of refugees. His name appears in the written accounts of only one other engagement following his relocation to Charleston. In November 1781, Balfour made Cunningham commander of the foraging mission which transformed into The Bloody Scout. After only a few miles of travel, Cunningham returned to Charleston. This left Colonel Hezekiah Williams and Major William Cunningham, a relative of Robert, in command of the six-week expedition of murder and destruction. Responsibility for the suffering fell solely on William Cunningham's shoulders. Balfour's orders have not been found, but it appears Balfour never intended for Robert Cunningham to lead the foray.

Given his rank, in February 1782, the Patriot legislature confiscated all of Robert Cunningham's properties and banished him permanently from the state. He settled into British East Florida but was forced out when the Treaty of Paris returned East Florida to Spain. He spent the last twenty-nine years of his life in Nassau, The Bahamas. Kirkland also lost all his properties and was banished. But unlike Cunningham, he died soon after the fighting ended. He left Savannah during its evacuation and moved his family to Jamaica. Sailing to London in 1787 to present his case to the Loyalist Claims Commission, Kirkland drowned at sea. Might Kirkland have provided better wartime leadership for South Carolina's Loyalists than Robert Cunningham? Undoubtedly yes. Why did Charles Lord Cornwallis not give Kirkland the opportunity? That question remains unanswered.





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# How Tory Captain Richard Pearis Captured General Andrew Williamson's Brigade Without Firing a Shot

by

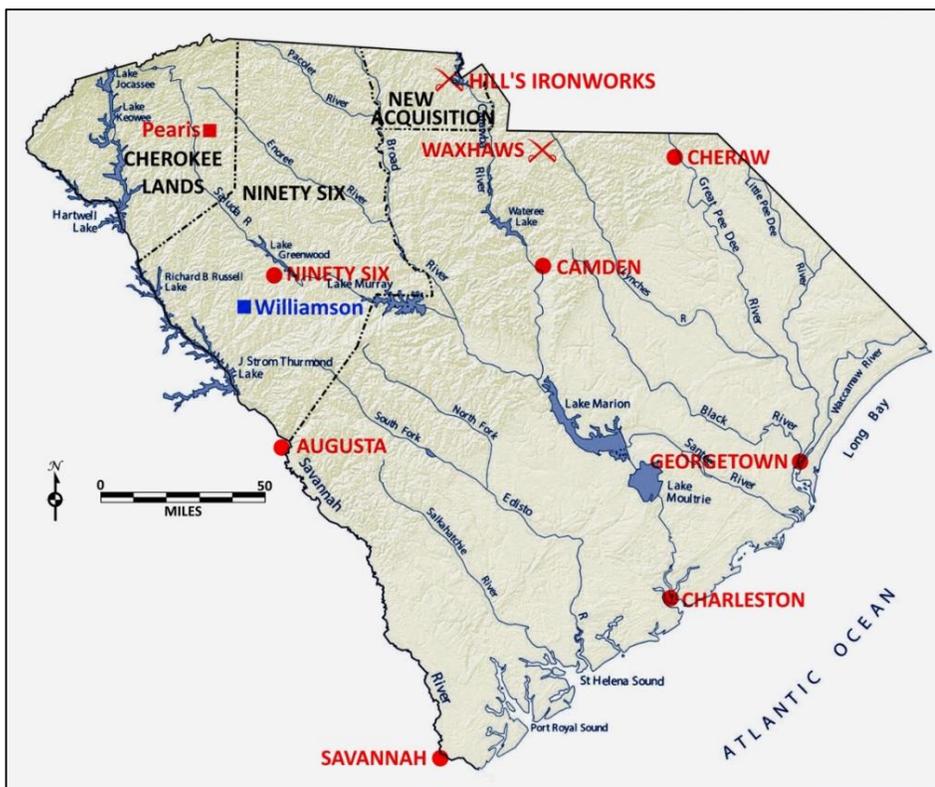
C. Leon Harris and Conner Runyan



**Effigy of Richard Pearis in the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, South Carolina.**

*The submission of General Williamson at Ninety Six, whose capitulation I enclose with Captain Paris's letter, and the dispersion of a party of rebels, who had assembled at an iron works on the north west border of the province, by a detachment of dragoons and militia from Lt Colonel Turnbull put an end to all resistance in South Carolina. Gen. Cornwallis to Gen. Henry Clinton, June 30, 1780.*<sup>1</sup>

When Cornwallis wrote these words, he had good reason to be optimistic. Charleston had surrendered to Clinton on May 12, 1780, and virtually the entire Patriot army of the South was taken prisoners.<sup>2</sup> Continental soldiers were confined, while militiamen were sent home as prisoners on parole, risking hanging if caught interfering with British operations. At Waxhaws Settlement on May 29, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion cut to pieces a detachment that had come to relieve Charleston. The British were establishing posts in the South Carolina Backcountry, which, together with posts at Savannah and Augusta in Georgia, should have secured their control of the entire state. (Fig. 1) Many Patriots who had not been captured at Charleston saw no option except to surrender. Among them were the militiamen of Ninety Six District under Gen. Andrew Williamson, as well as two companies of state troops attached to his brigade, who voted to surrender on June 6. One of the most remarkable things about the surrender of Williamson's brigade is that it was arranged by a little-known captain of doubtful reputation, Richard Pearis – the "Captain Paris" in Cornwallis's letter.



**Figure 1.** Present South Carolina showing locations of British posts and the Battle of Waxhaws. Also shown are the homes of Richard Pearis on Cherokee lands and Andrew Williamson in Ninety Six District, and Hill's Ironworks in the New Acquisition District.

<sup>1</sup> Ian Saberton, ed., *The Cornwallis Papers* (hereafter CP) Vol. 1 (Uckfield, East Sussex, England: Naval & Military Press, 2010), 161.

<sup>2</sup> Concise descriptions of the siege of Charleston and other actions mentioned in this paper can be found in the following: Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 2 (Lillington NC: Booklocker.com, 2004). John C. Parker, Jr., *Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Sumter, SC: harrelsonpress.net, 2022). J. D. Lewis, Carolana.com.

If others had followed the example of the Ninety Six militiamen, the Revolutionary War in South Carolina could have been over by mid-1780. Instead, major battles, bloody skirmishes, and civil conflicts between Whigs and Tories continued for more than two years. Among those who continued the Patriot struggle against tyranny in South Carolina were militiamen just east of Ninety Six District in the New Acquisition District.<sup>3</sup> Cornwallis, in his letter to Clinton, was confident that this pocket of resistance had been put down on June 18, when Capt. Christian Huck, under orders from Lt. Col. George Turnbull, destroyed Hill's Ironworks, a major supplier of arms and a Rebel stronghold.

## ANDREW WILLIAMSON

Nothing in Williamson's background suggests that he would surrender to Capt. Pearis. The little that is reliably known about Williamson's early life is compiled in two papers by Llewellyn Toulmin.<sup>4</sup> Williamson was born in Scotland, but when and where he arrived in America and how he came to South Carolina are unknown. According to Alexander Bowie, the son of fellow Scotsman John Bowie, Williamson's brigade major and Aide-de-Camp, "General Williamson, although a Scotchman, was an illiterate man. He was able to write only his name, and that he learned to do mechanically, without any knowledge of the letters he was making. His manner of writing his name was WmSon. He was, nevertheless, by nature a man of uncommon intellect."<sup>5</sup> Henry Laurens, President of the South Carolina Council of Safety and later President of the Continental Congress, wrote of Williamson that, "He is undoubtedly a brave man, and not a bad general. You know his deficiency in education; what heights might he have reached if he could have improved his genius by reading."<sup>6</sup> In spite of his lack of formal education, Williamson amassed "considerable wealth, to which, as was not unnatural, he was much attached."<sup>7</sup> Much of this wealth came from selling cattle and other supplies to frontier forts, including the one at Ninety Six. Williamson acquired large tracts of land, beginning in 1759 with 250 acres, with a home named White Hall that became a military depot and gathering place.<sup>8</sup> (Fig. 2) Williamson was also co-owner of 9350 acres with John Lewis Gervais and Henry Laurens. Williamson might have acquired some of his social standing by marriage to Eliza "Betty" Tyler, daughter of John Tyler of Essex County, Virginia.<sup>9</sup> Her sister, Mary Anne Tyler, married Col. LeRoy Hammond. Another sister, Frances, married Capt. George Whitefield, who will be mentioned later.

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<sup>3</sup> Districts are according to J. D. Lewis, "South Carolina Districts & Parishes 1775 – 1783," [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/sc\\_revolution\\_districts\\_parishes.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/sc_revolution_districts_parishes.html). New Acquisition District, essentially present York County, was the area acquired from North Carolina in 1772 after an adjustment of the border.

<sup>4</sup> Llewellyn M. Toulmin, "Backcountry Warrior: Brig. Gen. Andrew Williamson: The 'Benedict Arnold of South Carolina' and America's First Major Double Agent—Part I," *Journal of Backcountry Studies* 7, no. 1 (Spring 2012), 1-46. Llewellyn M. Toulmin, "Brigadier General Andrew Williamson and White Hall: Part II," *Journal of Backcountry Studies* 7, no. 2 (Fall 2012), 58-98.

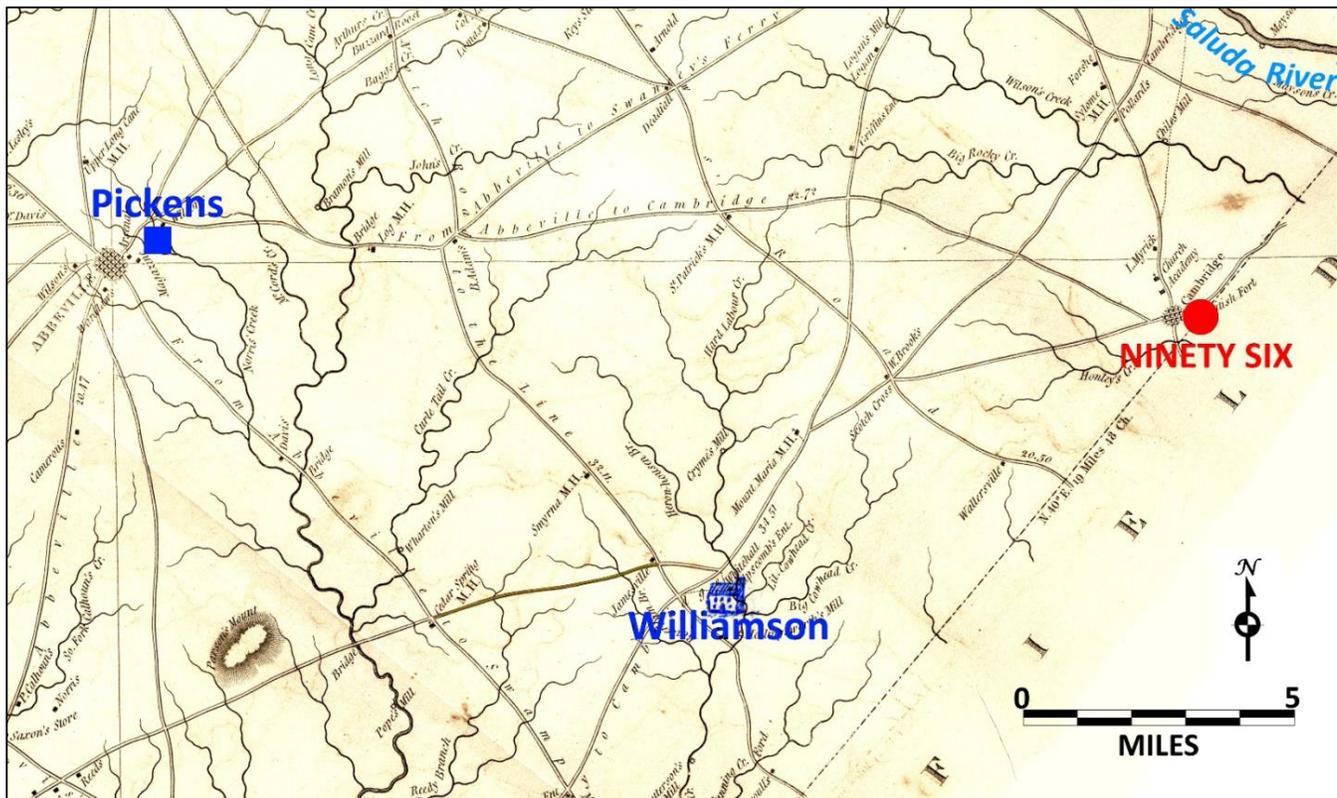
<sup>5</sup> Extract from a December 22, 1856 letter by Alexander Bowie transcribed by Will Graves with the Audited Account of John Bowie, <http://revwarapps.org/sc12.pdf>. Also the federal pension application of William Clark W8610: "We rendezvoused at Sinico [Seneca], and there joined General Andrew Williamson (who was an illiterate scotchman)." (<http://revwarapps.org/w8610.pdf>). This and other pension applications and audited accounts mentioned in this paper are transcribed mainly by Will Graves at [revwarapps.org](http://revwarapps.org).

<sup>6</sup> Henry Laurens to John Laurens, August 14, 1776, in *A South Carolina Protest Against Slavery* (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1861), 28. <https://archive.org/details/southcarolinapro00laur/page/28/mode/2up>.

<sup>7</sup> Alexander Bowie, <http://revwarapps.org/sc12.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> "Williamson, Andrew, Memorial For 250 Acres On Stephens Creek, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To William Simpson. Date: 5/15/1759," South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. This property also appears on a plat referred to here as the "Livingston plat," a copy of which was obtained with much difficulty by Chuck Watson from the Charleston County Register of Deeds, having been erroneously catalogued. This plat is labeled in part as a "copy of one made by Patrick Calhoun Esq'r. on a Resurvey of 50,000 Acres of land situate in Ninety six district, granted to William Livingston Esq'r. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1752 & now owned by James Parsons & John Rutledge Esq'rs. Within [page torn] tract are included one of 2900 acres granted to John Hamilton Esq'r. on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of [page torn] owned by the s'd James Parsons & John Rutledge (250 acres distinguished in this plat by [page torn]ing to Andrew Williamson Esq'r. & 9350 acres distinguished by the letter B belonging to the [page torn]; "said Williamson & Henry Laurens, John Lewis Gervais Esq'r. & others." This copy was recorded and examined on October 17, 1789.

<sup>9</sup> Anonymous, "Tyler Family of Essex, Spotsylvania and Caroline Counties," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 19, No. 4 (Apr., 1911), 280-281.



**Figure 2. Part of the Mills Atlas 1820 map of Abbeville District showing the locations of the fort at Ninety Six, Williamson’s White Hall, and the home of Andrew Pickens near present Abbeville. The depiction of White Hall is from the Livingston plat in footnote 8.**

Gervais, who solemnized this marriage, noted that she was “A charming bride that would have looked well in Charleston, and a Justice less grave than myself might have been tempted now and then to give a sly look.”<sup>10</sup>

As an occupant of land that had recently belonged to the Cherokee Indians, Williamson faced the constant threat of attack. One occurred on February 3, 1760, at the fort at Ninety Six in reprisal for taking two young Cherokees prisoners.

*about 40 Indians attacked that fort... firing on it incessantly for two hours; but were bravely repulsed and had two of their gang killed, whose bodies they carried off... Mr. Andrew Williamson, as he was mounting a horse, to rescue from them a negro man and a boy, a waggon and five horses, which the Indians had taken, belonging to doctor Murray, was shot through the sleeve of his coat, in at the shoulder and out at the elbow without receiving any hurt himself.*<sup>11</sup>

By the time the Revolutionary War began, Williamson had risen to the rank of major in the Ninety Six District militia. In November 1775, he led Patriot militiamen in one of the first military engagements of the war in the South, when Ninety Six was besieged by Maj. Joseph Robinson, Capt. Richard Pearis and others.<sup>12</sup> Aside from whatever political or ideological inclinations Williamson and Pearis may have had, each had pecuniary interests in Ninety Six, which protected the trading path between the Lower Cherokee Towns and Charleston. Williamson

<sup>10</sup> *The Charleston Daily Courier* September 10, 1858, page 2, describing an October 2, 1771 letter from Gervais to Henry Laurens. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/604520770/?match=1&terms=whitefield>. Henry Laurens was later the first president of the Continental Congress.

<sup>11</sup> *The South-Carolina Gazette*, February 16, 1760, 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/605075569/>.

<sup>12</sup> Robert M. Dunkerly, “Chaos in the Backcountry: Battle of Ninety Six,” *Journal of the American Revolution*, (June 24, 2013), <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/06/chaos-in-the-backcountry-the-battle-of-ninety-six/>.

sold provisions to the fort at Ninety Six, and Pearis was a major trader with the Cherokees who needed to keep the trading route open.

In December 1775, Maj. Williamson was one of the leaders in a campaign to stop Loyalist recruiting in the Backcountry. The main event of this campaign occurred on December 22 at Great Cane Brake on Reedy River, 14 miles below present Greenville. The campaign became known as the Snow Campaign because heavy snowfall hampered the return of the Patriot troops with their prisoners.<sup>13</sup> On August 1, 1776, Maj. Williamson led mounted riflemen in a retaliatory raid against Cherokees at Esseneca (Seneca). He was ambushed, and his horse was killed under him, but he rallied his men and destroyed the town. Nevertheless, fifty-six years later, James Sherer claimed that even at this early date, Williamson “was then suspected of Treason.”<sup>14</sup> Williamson later built Fort Rutledge there as a defense against future raids. The Cherokees sued for peace, and on May 20, 1777, they and a delegation led by Williamson signed the Treaty of DeWitt’s Corner, by which the Cherokees ceded most of their land in South Carolina. In the summer of 1777, Williamson sent parties after captains Richard Pearis and John Lindley, who were recruiting Loyalists.<sup>15</sup> Williamson was soon promoted to the rank of colonel, and in March 1778 to brigadier general. In the same month, Gen. Williamson led the South Carolina militia in an expedition to East Florida that was aborted, in part because Williamson and Gov. John Houstoun of Georgia refused to yield command of their militia troops to Continental Gen. Robert Howe.<sup>16</sup>

Early in 1779, Gen. Williamson was camped on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River opposite British forces under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell in Augusta. Thirty-two years later, Andrew Pickens, who had been present as a captain, made the following accusation against Williamson: “There was not a gun fired between him [Campbell] & Williamson all this time opposite each other at Augusta – Here I believe Williamson was corrupted.”<sup>17</sup> The accusation is strange because Pickens also stated that Williamson’s mission was only “to oppose Campbell’s crossing of the Savannah River.” Campbell’s troops made no attempt to cross the Savannah into South Carolina, so there was no reason for Williamson to waste ammunition shooting at them across a river more than 200 yards wide. (It should be noted that until late in 1780, Pickens remained friends with his neighbor Williamson, and he seriously considered joining the British as Williamson had done, but instead chose to become a general in the Patriot militia.<sup>18</sup>) Even less credible than Pickens’s accusation about Williamson at Augusta is one by Joshua Spears:

*General Williamson was then and had for some time been suspected of disaffection to his country – that it was reported and believed among the Soldiers that the General had his washing done at the house of a Tory on the other side of the River – and had correspondence with the enemy – that the said General Williamson intended to march his troops into Georgia and there lead them into an ambuscade or in some way betray them to the British and Tories.*<sup>19</sup>

Often overlooked is the fact that Williamson, along with his militiamen, helped Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, commandant of the Southern Department of the Continental Army, save Charleston from a planned siege in May 1779.<sup>20</sup> On the following June 20, he joined Gen. Lincoln in an unsuccessful attack on three British redoubts at

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<sup>13</sup> William McGarity stated in his pension application (R6713 <https://revwarapps.org/r6713.pdf>) that the Tories and Indians were “under the command of Col. Cunningham & Paris,” meaning Patrick Cunningham and Richard Pearis. Patrick Cunningham was present, but Richard Pearis was already a prisoner in Charleston.

<sup>14</sup> Pension application of James Sherer (W4512), <http://revwarapps.org/w4512.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Gervais to Laurens, August 16, 1777, in David R. Chesnut *et al.* Eds., *The Papers of Henry Laurens* Vol. 11 (Columbia, University of South Carolina, 1988), 462.

<sup>16</sup> Wayne Lynch, “John Houstoun and the 1778 Expedition to East Florida,” *Journal of the American Revolution* (December 9, 2013), <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/12/john-houstoun-1778-expedition-east-florida/>.

<sup>17</sup> Andrew Pickens to Henry Lee, August 28, 1811 transcribed by C. Leon Harris in C. Leon Harris and Conner Runyan, “How the Long Cane Skirmish Kept General Andrew Pickens from Becoming the Benedict Arnold of the South,” *academia.edu* (2023), 32-38. [https://www.academia.edu/106533350/HOW\\_THE\\_LONG\\_CANE\\_SKIRMISH\\_KEPT\\_GENERAL\\_ANDREW\\_PICKENS\\_FROM\\_BECOMING\\_THE\\_BENEDICT\\_ARNOLD\\_OF\\_THE\\_SOUTH](https://www.academia.edu/106533350/HOW_THE_LONG_CANE_SKIRMISH_KEPT_GENERAL_ANDREW_PICKENS_FROM_BECOMING_THE_BENEDICT_ARNOLD_OF_THE_SOUTH).

<sup>18</sup> Harris and Runyan, “Long Cane Skirmish.”

<sup>19</sup> Pension application of Joshua Spears R9965, <https://revwarapps.org/r9965.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> See for examples the pension applications of George Martin W24132, <https://revwarapps.org/w24132.pdf> and Redden McCoy S7198, <https://revwarapps.org/s7198.pdf>.

Stono Ferry. According to pension applicant John Floyd, “Gen’l Williamson called out for volunteers to carry a picket of the enemy & bring on the engagement; he [Floyd] volunteered among others and was honored with the command of about 30 or 40 men to drive the Picket from their position, which was soon done and they retreated to the fort.”<sup>21</sup> In the following September and October, Williamson assisted Lincoln in the unsuccessful siege of British-occupied Savannah.<sup>22</sup>

Williamson and the seven regiments in his Ninety Six District militia brigade were not at the siege of Charleston, which began in late March of 1780. The reason appears to be that the men of his district were more concerned with defending themselves from their Loyalist neighbors. Eventually, however, according to pension applicant James McCleskey,

*Williamson give orders to Colo. Pickens to turn out and March with two divisions of the militia to its [Charleston’s] relief. the Colo. finding the militia backward in turning out called on Capt. James McCall to raise a Company of Volunteers into which company I volunteered as a private Soldier We marched to and rendezvoused at a place called White Hall the Residence of Genl. Williamson about two hundred miles from Charleston and from there Started on to Charleston but were informed before we got there that the City had been Surrendered to the enemy [on May 12]. We then returned to White Hall this was a place where the public stores and arms were kept. We remained at this place to Guard the Stores until the enemy had taken possession of the surrounding settlements.*<sup>23</sup>

Williamson, in the meantime, was a few miles from Augusta, conferring with the governor of Georgia and others. Historian Joseph Johnson, using notes provided by Samuel Hammond, who was a captain under Williamson, wrote that they conceived a plan to “concentrate a force from the militia of the upper part of South-Carolina and Georgia, to be employed under the command of... Williamson... to make a diversion upon the outer posts of the enemy, near Savannah, with the view of drawing away a part of the British force employed before Charleston, in the hope of giving aid to General Lincoln. On 16 May, Williamson received news of Charleston’s surrender, and they gave up the plan and decided to meet on the following day to decide what to do.”<sup>24</sup>

Up to this point, Williamson’s behavior gives no hint that he would ever surrender to British forces without firing a shot—certainly not to a mere captain, and least of all to Capt. Richard Pearis. Alexander Bowie summarized Williamson’s service up to June 1780 as follows: “before, and during a large portion of the Revolutionary War, he was a decided patriot and Whig. He held a high command in the Provincial militia, and his skill and bravery were undoubted.”<sup>25</sup>

## **RICHARD PEARIS BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

Richard Pearis was born in 1725 or 1726, but little else can be said with confidence regarding his origins and early years.<sup>26</sup> By the 1750s, Pearis was apparently engaged in trade with Cherokee Indians while living in Augusta

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<sup>21</sup> John Floyd W8817, <https://revwarapps.org/w8817.pdf>. See also Samuel Hammond S21807, <https://revwarapps.org/s21807.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> See for examples the pension applications of William Smith W22272, <https://revwarapps.org/w22272.pdf> and Alexander Patterson S7288, <https://revwarapps.org/s7288.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> Pension application of James McCleskey S16475, <http://revwarapps.org/s16475.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South*, (Charleston: Walker & James, 1851), 149. Hammond’s pension application S21807, <http://revwarapps.org/s21807.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> Alexander Bowie to John H. Logan in 1856, in the Audited Account of John Bowie SC12 transcribed by Will Graves <http://revwarapps.org/sc12.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> “Nassau [Bahamas]. November 11, [1794] died. On Friday evening, in the 69th year of his age, Col. Richard Pearis, formerly of South Carolina.” Mabel L. Webber, “Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette (Continued),” *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 22, No. 4 (Oct., 1921), 122.

Pearis is discussed in the following works:

Jeff W. Dennis, *Patriots & Indians: Shaping Identity in Eighteenth-Century South Carolina* (Columbia: University of South Carolina, 2017).

Archie Vernon Huff, Jr., *Greenville: The History of the City and County in the South Carolina Piedmont* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1995).

County, which at that time included most of present-day western Virginia and West Virginia.<sup>27</sup> He fathered a “natural son,” George Pearis, by a Cherokee woman, who by 1769 was of legal age to enter into a contract. Pearis also had two daughters: Sarah, to whom on April 16, 1757, he deeded slaves, and Margaret, to whom he deeded on the same date “one Indian wench named Pratchey,” on condition that they marry with his consent.<sup>28</sup>

In 1754, Pearis had the attention of Gov. Robert Dinwiddie, who directed him “to interest the Cherokees in preventing the building of forts by the French.”<sup>29</sup> In 1755, early in the French and Indian War, Pearis was “honored with a Company of Provincials in the Virginia Service” and “appointed by Governor Dunwiddre [Dinwiddie] to take the charge of conducting all the Southern Nations of Indians.”<sup>30</sup> Pearis was one of three officers who signed a letter on January 16, 1756, asking Catawba Indians to join them in an expedition against the Shawnee Indians.<sup>31</sup> Apparently, Pearis had a better reputation with Indians than with the British. In a letter dated February 16, 1756, Dinwiddie thought it necessary to advise Major (later General) Andrew Lewis to “take care that Mr. Pearis behaves well and keeps sober.”<sup>32</sup> Three days later, Lewis, Capt. (later Col.) William Preston, and Capt. Pearis were among 340 men who set out from present Salem, Virginia, on the Sandy Creek Expedition against the Shawnee Indians. Pearis commanded a company of eighty-two Cherokee Indians, who joined him after he cancelled a debt of 2586 pounds of deer leather the tribe owed him.<sup>33</sup> The Sandy Creek Expedition was abandoned after about a month due to severe weather and lack of provisions.<sup>34</sup>

Together with Maj. Andrew Lewis, Pearis joined Col. George Washington at Winchester late in 1756<sup>35</sup> and was on Gen. John Forbes’ expedition to wrest Fort Duquesne at Pittsburgh from the French. The French destroyed and abandoned the fort before Forbes’s men arrived on November 24, 1758. Pearis claimed to have been the first British subject to enter the remains of the fort.<sup>36</sup> During the withdrawal from Fort Duquesne in the late winter of

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E. Alfred Jones, Ed., “The Journal of Alexander Chesney, a South Carolina Loyalist in the Revolution and After,” additional note on “Colonel Richard Pearis,” *Ohio State University Bulletin* 26, No. 7 (October 30, 1921), 102-104.

Robert Stansbury Lambert, *South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Clemson SC: Clemson University Digital Press, 2010), 29-31 *et passim*.

Jim Piecuch has written on the main topic of this paper in the following works:

Jim Piecuch, *South Carolina Provincials: Loyalists in British Service During the American Revolution* (Yardley PA: Westholme, 2023), *passim*.

Jim Piecuch, “Richard Pearis and the Mobilization of South Carolina’s Backcountry Loyalists,” *Journal of the American Revolution* (October 27, 2014), <https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/10/richard-pearis-and-the-mobilization-of-south-carolinas-backcountry-loyalists/>.

<sup>27</sup> David E. Johnston, *A History of The Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory* (Huntington WV: Standard Printing, 1906), 21-23, <https://dn720305.ca.archive.org/0/items/historyofmiddle00john/historyofmiddle00john.pdf>.

<sup>28</sup> Extract from the original court records of Augusta County, Book 7-450, published in Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, 1745-1800*. [https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7832/records/93562?tid=&pid=&queryId=81bf7c6d-304d-480c-a885-30fccfbfe810&\\_phsrc=SUU311&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7832/records/93562?tid=&pid=&queryId=81bf7c6d-304d-480c-a885-30fccfbfe810&_phsrc=SUU311&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>29</sup> F. B. Kegley, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier*, Part 1 (Roanoke: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938; facsimile reprint by Heritage Books, Bowie MD, 1993), 208.

<sup>30</sup> Richard Pearis, “Account of Losses,” UK American Loyalist Claims [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939\\_307058-00477?queryId=360924fd-98b4-45ff-a05a-a07a10cbfc71&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SUU293&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=19089](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307058-00477?queryId=360924fd-98b4-45ff-a05a-a07a10cbfc71&usePUB=true&_phsrc=SUU293&_phstart=successSource&pId=19089). Transcribed in Appendix A to this paper.

<sup>31</sup> *Documents Relating to Indian Affairs, 1754-1760*, SCDAH, 98-99. [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Research%20and%20Genealogy/Resources/Native%20American%20Resources/Ch1\\_Pgs66\\_137.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Research%20and%20Genealogy/Resources/Native%20American%20Resources/Ch1_Pgs66_137.pdf). Pearis was then at Fort Frederick on New River, now under Claytor Lake.

<sup>32</sup> *The Official Records of Robert Dinwiddie Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Virginia* Vol. 2 (Virginia Historical Society, 1884), 337, <https://archive.org/details/officialrecordso02virg/page/n111/mode/2up>.

<sup>33</sup> Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, 229. The colonial government reimbursed Pearis £100.

<sup>34</sup> The purpose of the expedition was retaliation for a raid in the previous summer during which Mary Draper Ingles and others were abducted and taken to Ohio. Mrs. Ingles escaped and made a famous 500-mile return to her home near present Blacksburg, Virginia, whereupon her husband, Capt. William Ingles, reported the Shawnee’s location to Dinwiddie.

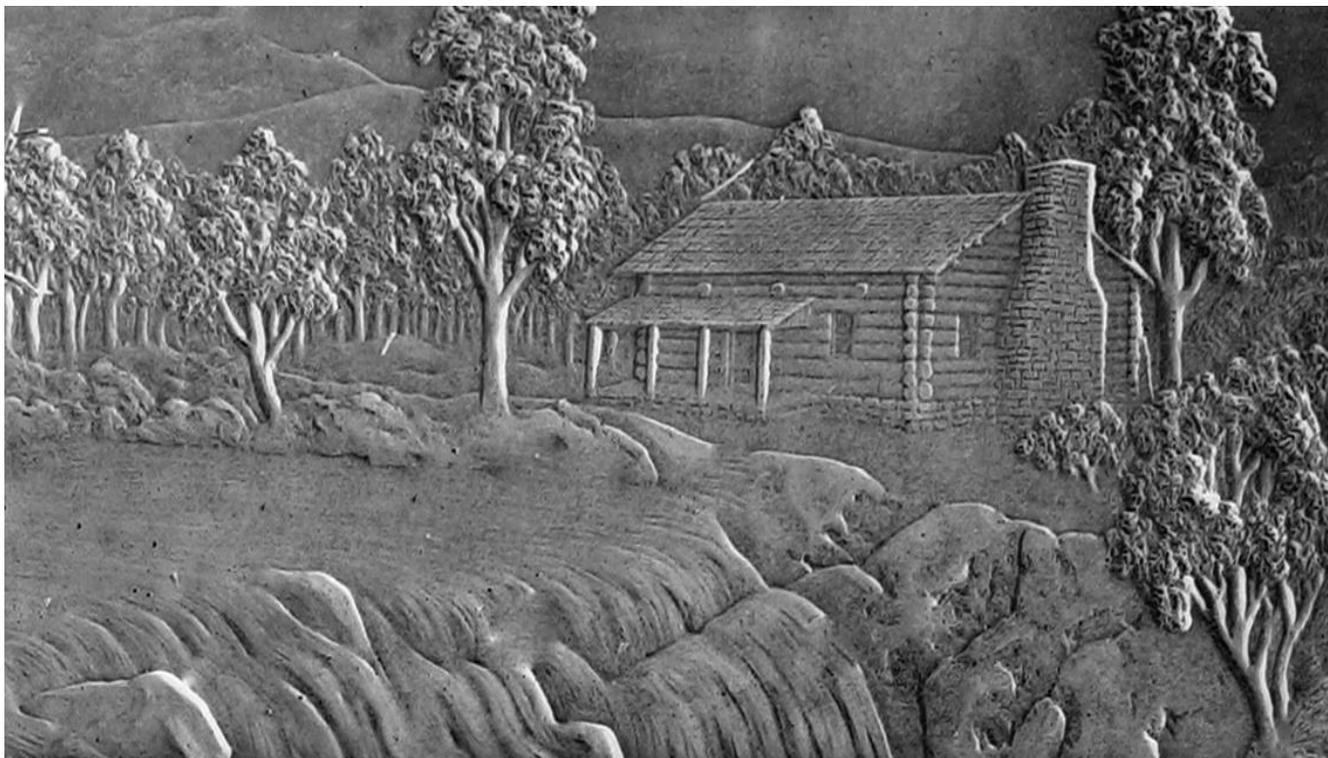
<sup>35</sup> Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, 246.

<sup>36</sup> Pearis, “Account of Losses.”

1759, Capt. Pearis was at Fort Cumberland, now Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, where he wrote several letters concerning deserters and the construction of a bridge.<sup>37</sup>

After the French and Indian War, Pearis moved to the falls of the Reedy River in South Carolina, where he built a home, a grist mill, and a trading post. The city of Greenville still honors him as a founder. (Fig. 3) At that time, the area was Cherokee land where British subjects were not allowed to own property, but Pearis tried to get around the restriction by a deed granting the land jointly to him and his Cherokee son, George. One-third of the land was to go to Jacob Hite, a fellow Indian trader, “gentleman of great respectability, and one of the first families in Virginia,”<sup>38</sup> who will appear again in this narrative.

*in and by a Deed of Gift duly made and executed, and bearing date on or about the twenty ninth day*



**Figure 3. Depiction of the home of Richard Pearis, from the “Cradle of Greenville” monument at present Historic Falls Park.**

*of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine, The Warriors and Headmen of the Lower Cherokee Indian nation, did Give Grant convey and Confirm unto Richard Pearis and George Pearis, his son by an Indian Squaw; wife of the said Richard Pearis, their Heirs and Assigns for Ever; a certain Tract of Land, twelve miles Square [92,160 acres], situate lying and being on the waters of Saluday,[Saluda] Enoree and Reedy Rivers<sup>39</sup>*

Pearis was accused of “obtaining the land by plying the Cherokees with liquor.” John Stuart, the superintendent of Indian affairs, and his deputy, Alexander Cameron, strongly objected to the land transfer.<sup>40</sup> In 1773, a circuit court at Ninety Six nullified the 1769 deed,<sup>41</sup> but on December 21, 1773 Pearis got around that

<sup>37</sup> Sylvester K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, Eds., *The Papers of Col. Henry Bouquet*, (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1941), <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015070207405&seq=116>.

<sup>38</sup> Johnson, *Traditions*, 458.

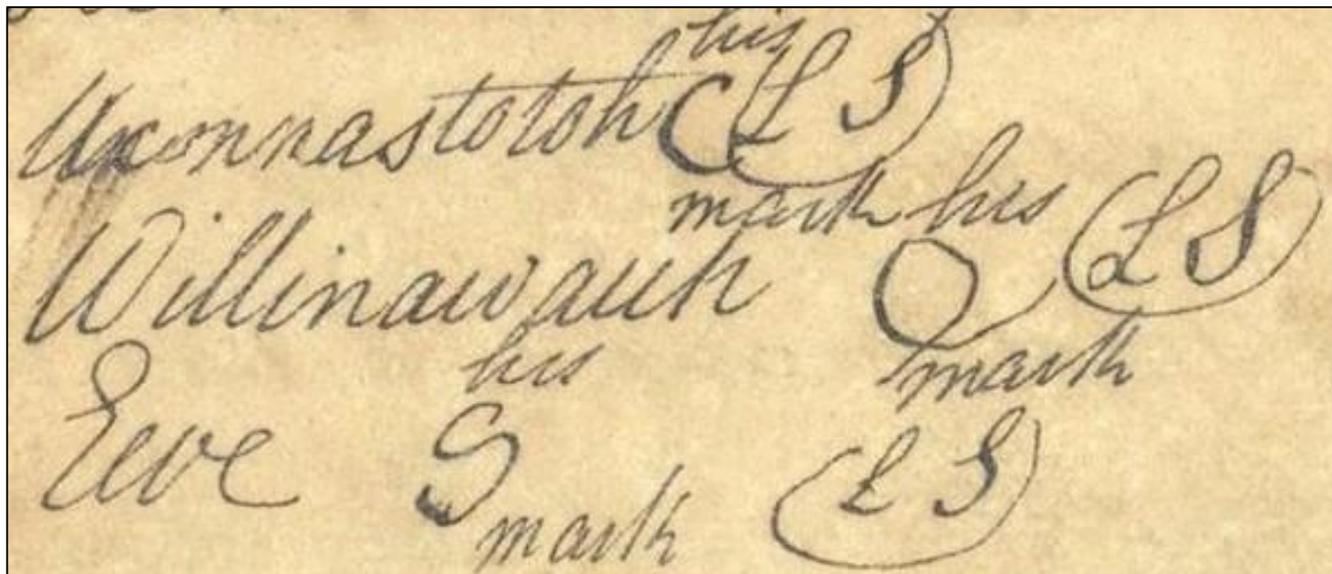
<sup>39</sup> “Hite, George, Petition Concerning Disputed Indian Lands Owned By His Late Father, And Asking That The Legislature Pass A Law To Confirm The Title To Hite And Other Relatives. (8 Pages) Date: 2/3/1784.” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>40</sup> Huff, *Greenville*, 15.

<sup>41</sup> Huff, *Greenville*, 16.

encumbrance with a new deed giving that land plus an adjoining tract solely to his son George as a Cherokee. (Fig. 4)

*Uconnastotoh, Willinawauh and Eeve as head Warriors and for and in the Name of the rest of the Cherokee Nation & for and in Consideration of the Sum of one hundred pounds Lawful Money of the province of South Carolina... and in Consideration of the love and affection which they bear unto the said George Pearis (He being the son of a Woman of their own Nation)...*<sup>42</sup>

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten document. It features three lines of cursive text, each followed by a circled 'LS' mark. The first line reads 'Uconnastotoh' with 'his' written above it. The second line reads 'Willinawauh' with 'his' written above it. The third line reads 'Eeve' with 'his' written above it. The 'LS' marks are large and clearly visible, indicating the locations for seals.

**Figure 4. Signatures (by their marks) of Cherokees on the December 21, 1773 deed to George Pearis. (“LS” means “locus sigilli” – place for the seals.)**

George Pearis then became a naturalized citizen of South Carolina and transferred the property to his father on the following April 27. One-third of the original grant was still reserved for Jacob Hite.

*George Pearis of the Cherokee district & province of South Carolina (Natural Son of Rich'd Pearis Esq'r. of the district and Province aforesaid by a Cherokee Woman)... in consideration of the Sum of five hundred pounds currant Money of South Carolina... and also for & In Consideration of the and [sic] Affection which the said George Pearis bear Unto the said Richard Pearis his Father... on the Waters of Saluda Reedy River and Tyger River... (being a Tract or grant of Land given and Ceded to the said George Pearis By a Deed therof made under the hands and Seals Uconnastotoh, Willinawaugh and Eeve three principal Cheifs or Head Men of the Cherokees in Behalf of themselves and the rest of the Cherokee Nation Agreeable to the usage and Custom of the said Nation the said Deed bearing date the twenty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Seventy Three... said Reservation in and to one third of the said tract or Grant of Land Shall in no ways Hinder let, Molest, or Obstruct a bargain formerly made between the aforesaid Richard Pearis Esq'r. and Jacob Hite Esq'r. of the Colony of Virginia relative to twelve Miles Square of the said land on which the said Richard Pearis Esq'r. now lives and which was formerly laid out by some of the Cherokee Cheifs unto the said Richard Pearis Esq'r. and the said George Pearis.... Said George was an alien and in Effect no other than a Cherokee Indian but since... has*

<sup>42</sup> “Eve And Other Head Men Of The Cherokee Indians To George Paris Deed Of Release. Date: 12/21/1773,” SCDH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. Uconnastotoh is usually spelled Oconostota. The deed estimated the area of land to be 150,000 acres, but it was actually 135,929.92 acres.

*been duly Naturalized and has become a free Denison and free Subject of his Sacred Majesty King George the third of Great Brittain.*<sup>43</sup>

The 1773 and 1774 deeds give the metes and bounds of the property, from which it is mapped in Figure 6 below. The legality of this transaction is questionable, but the Cherokees did not drive Pearis away, as they certainly had the means to do if they objected to his presence. As in Virginia, his reputation among Whites was not so good. He was said to be “a very dangerous fellow who will breed great disturbances if he is let alone, for he will tell the Indians any lies to please them.”<sup>44</sup> John Stuart scolded the Cherokees for “constantly listening to Richard Pearis, who cheats you of your Land,”<sup>45</sup> and Alexander Cameron alleged that Pearis “is well known to be a person who will not stick to truths or any thing, to accomplish his designs.”<sup>46</sup> Arthur Middleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, considered “Capt. P. not to be one of the best sort of Folk.”<sup>47</sup>

## **RICHARD PEARIS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

In his Loyalist Claim for compensation by the British government for losses during the Revolutionary War (transcribed in Appendix A to this paper), Richard Pearis stated that he “took the earliest opportunity of exerting myself in behalf of the King and Government.” In September 1775, however, he tried to win the Cherokees to the Patriot side, and he applied to Henry Laurens for a commission as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Congress.

*We [William Henry Drayton]... hope... that you [Laurens] are now on your way to meet those Indians who led by Capt Pearis came from the Cherokees at your Command & who have in the utmost anxiety & impatience been many days waiting for you.... Pearis applies for a Commission to the Good Warrior if one is granted is [sic] must be especial & you will be the best judge of the necessary terms we have therefore refered him to you.*<sup>48</sup>

Henry Laurens at that time evidently considered Pearis a “fast & steady friend to American Liberty,” entrusting him in October 1775 with delivering ammunition to the Cherokees so they would not be dependent on the British for it. At the same time, Pearis was undermining his rival for the post of commissioner to the Indians, Edward Wilkinson.<sup>49</sup> (Appendix B) After the position was awarded to Wilkinson, Pearis switched from Whig to Tory. He is then said to have circulated the rumor that the ammunition he delivered to the Cherokees for the Council of Safety was intended to massacre Loyalists.<sup>50</sup> Loyalist Capt. Patrick Cunningham, acting on the rumor, captured the wagon loaded with the ammunition on October 31, on its way from Charleston, 17 or 18 miles before

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<sup>43</sup> “Pearis, George To Richard Pearis, Deed Of Release A Tract Of Land On The Waters Of The Saluda, Reedy, And Tyger Rivers Date: 9/20/1774,” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>44</sup> Huff, *Greenville*, 15.

<sup>45</sup> “Stuart, John, Speech To The Cherokee Indians Regarding Gunpowder And Protection (4 Pages; Copy Of An Intercepted Speech; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 159-61) Date: 8/30/1775,” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>46</sup> “Cameron, Alexander, Letter To William Henry Drayton Politely Refusing Draytons Request To Remove Himself From The Colony (4 Pages; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 207-08) Date: 10/16/1775,” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>47</sup> “Letter from Arthur Middleton to William Henry Drayton, August 12, 1775, <https://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/lcdl/catalog/289228>.

<sup>48</sup> “Laurens, Henry, Letter To William Henry Drayton Transmitting Commissions For Officers And Intelligence From Charleston (2 Pages; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 192-93 And Papers Of Henry Laurens, Vol. 10, Pp. 411-13) Date: 9/21/1775,” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>49</sup> Huff, *Greenville*, 21-22.

<sup>50</sup> Marvin L. Cann, “Prelude to War: The First Battle of Ninety Six,” *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 76, No. 4 (October 1975), 207.

it reached Ninety Six.<sup>51</sup> Williamson raised 500 troops at Ninety Six to attempt to recover the ammunition, but they did not succeed against Cunningham's force of about three times that number.<sup>52</sup>

Later in November 1775, Pearis helped raise a large force of Loyalists under Maj. Joseph Robinson to seize the fort at Ninety Six. Having learned of their approach, Williamson sent word to neighboring Patriot militias, who rushed to his aid, bringing the total of Williamson's force to 523 men.<sup>53</sup> Williamson gave an account of the ensuing action in a letter excerpted as follows:

*I learned their numbers amounted to at least fifteen hundred men<sup>54</sup> and understood that it was chiefly owing to an affidavit made by Captain Richard Pearis that so many men embodied.... On the eighteenth in the evening I received certain information that they were crossing Saludy [Saluda] River on their march to towards us... I immediatly ordered the men under arms and took the resolution of marching to meet them and demand their intentions and if they were determind to come to action to be ready before them, and on acquainting the officers & men thereof found them all chearful and willing to proceed, but afterwards, reflecting on the fatal consequences should we have been defeated, proposed in a Council of war consisting of Major [James] Mayson and all the Captains to march from the Camp near Ninety Six in to the cleared ground of Colo. Savages [John Savage's] Plantation where we could use our Artilery with advantage and there fortify our camp till we should receive more certain information of their strength (being in immediat expectation of being join'd by Colonel [William] Thompson and the Rangers at least and also some men from the lower part of this Regiment and Augusta) which was unanimously approved of, and early next morning we marched to Ninety Six with all our provision and Bagage and in about three hours Erected a kind of Fortification of old Fence Rails join'd to a Barn and some out-Houses, which before we had quite compleated they had surounded us with a Large body of men with Drums and Colours... a warm engagement ensued, which continued with very little intermission from 3 oClock in the afternoon of Sunday [November 19] untill Tuesday sunset, when they hung out a White Flag from the Jail and called to us that they wanted to speak to the commanding officers.... Accordingly on Wednesday morning Major Mayson Capt'n. [Andrew] Pickens Mr. [Capt. John] Bowie & myself met with Major Robinson Mess'rs [Captains] Patrick Cunningham Evan McCawrin [Evan McLaurin] & Richard Pearis and agreed to the cessation of Hostilities now inclosed you, which was lucky for us as we had not above 38 lb of Powder except what little the men had in their horns.<sup>55</sup>*

The treaty was signed by Williamson, Pearis and others on November 22.<sup>56</sup> (Fig. 5) After the siege Pearis must have said something that offended Robinson, Cunningham & McLaurin. He angrily complained that they had made him a prisoner and kept him from conducting his business.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> On November 3 the wagoner, Moses Cotter, testified before Maj. James Mayson that it occurred on "Tuesday morning last" (October 31), "18 miles below Ninety Six." William Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution* (New York: David Longworth, 1802), 97-100. A letter by Williamson to Edward Wilkinson dated November 6 states that on "Saturday morning last" (November 4) he had received a letter from Mayson stating that the action occurred "on the day before,... seventeen miles below Ninety-Six." Williamson to Wilkinson, November 6, 1775 in R. W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution* (New York: Appleton, 1857), 209-210. The incident is said to have occurred at Mine Creek, which crossed the road from Charleston to Ninety Six at present Saluda..

<sup>52</sup> Williamson to Wilkinson. Huff, *Greenville*, 22.

<sup>53</sup> "A Report of the Militia & Volunteers on Duty in the Fortified Camp at Ninety Six on Sunday the 19th November 1775 under the Command of Major Andrew Williamson by order of the Honorable the Provincial Congress," transcribed by Will Graves, <https://revwarapps.org/b224.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> Joseph Robinson later claimed to have had 2400 men. UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835, Evidence, [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939\\_307355-00418?queryId=6785fc90-61bc-4ad1-9763-05560099bb1a&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SUU320&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=28047](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307355-00418?queryId=6785fc90-61bc-4ad1-9763-05560099bb1a&usePUB=true&_phsrc=SUU320&_phstart=successSource&pId=28047).

<sup>55</sup> "Williamson, Andrew, Letter To William Henry Drayton Relaying The Details Of The Confrontation With The Tories At Ninety Six, Nov. 19-21, 1775 (3 Pages; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 216-19) Date: 11/25/1775."

SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>56</sup> "Agreement For A Cessation Of Hostilities Between Major Joseph Robinson And Major Andrew Williamson And Major James Mayson (2 Pages; Printed, Drayton, Memoirs Of The American Revolution, Ii, Pp. 148-49, And Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 214-15) Date: 11/22/1775." SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

<sup>57</sup> Testimony of Thomas Wisdom in Appendix C.

In his Loyalist claim Pearis exaggerated his role in the siege of Ninety Six, claiming to have been in command “with the assistance of Lieutenant Colonel Robinson and Major McLauren” in “dispersing a body of Rebels to the amount of 700.” Under terms of the truce of November 21, 1775, the 523 men under Williamson were allowed to return home, which perhaps could be called “dispersed.” The treaty provided that messengers would be sent to inform the governor and the Council of Safety about disagreements over “the Present Publick measures” and would be given twenty days to return. During that period, according to the treaty “No Person of either party shall in the meantime be molested by the other party either in going home or otherwise.” The twenty days expired on December 12, but by then Pearis, Robert Cunningham (Patrick’s brother), and others were taken prisoners by Col. Richard Richardson, who did not consider the truce binding on him.<sup>58</sup> Richardson wrote to Laurens that all were



Figure 5. Signatures of Andrew Williamson, Richard Pearis and others on the November 22, 1775 treaty at Ninety Six. Part of Williamson’s signature is now missing from the treaty, but his complete signature (A. Wmson) is on the lower part of the figure from an account of the siege that he sent from White Hall to William Henry Drayton on November 25.

“Adjudged by the Officers and people here to be Offenders of Such a Nature that from their Active part they have Taken It Wou’d be Dangerous for me however (Inocent they may appear before you) to Let Either of them go.”<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> William Thomson to Henry Laurens, November 28, 1775, in A. S. Salley, Jr., *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina* (Orangeburg: R. Lewin Berry, 1898), 314-317. Pearis is often erroneously said to have been captured at the Battle of the Great Cane Brake on December 22.

<sup>59</sup> “Richardson, Richard, Letter To Henry Laurens Reporting The Progress Of The Militia And Their Affect On The Loyalists In The Backcountry (4 Pages; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, Pp. 239-41, And Papers Of Henry Laurens, Vol. 10, Pp. 561-63) Date: 12/12/1775.” “Richardson, Richard, Letter To Henry Laurens Conveying Loyalist Prisoners (2 Pages; Printed, Gibbes, Documentary History, 1764-1776, P. 241, And Papers Of Henry Laurens, Vol. 10, Pp. 567-68),” December 16, 1775, SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

While in custody, Pearis got word that his brother, Robert Pearis, and son, George Pearis, were planning to assemble a band of Cherokees to rescue him. On December 14, Pearis wrote to Robert, urging against it and recommending that they surrender and get as many of their compatriots as they could to do the same. He cautioned them “not to pay any regard to Robinson or Cunningham, for they have not only proved Traytors to their Country, But Likewise to myself.” Pearis requested that they obtain witnesses in his behalf, expecting that their testimony would secure his release. (Appendix C) Pearis stated in his Loyalist claim that he was then “carried to Charlestown Goal where I lay in Irons Nine Months.” It appears that the main charge against him was that he supplied gunpowder to the Cherokees to use against frontier settlers, essentially the rumor that Pearis himself had propagated.

On January 13, 1776, Pearis petitioned for a hearing before the Council of Safety to prove that he “never acted any thing Contrary to the Intrest of Liberty... [and] Every part of My Conduct to be Loyall to the Caus in hand.” (Appendix D) Pearis was still in jail on January 20, 1776, together with his brother Robert and thirty-one other prisoners, when they again petitioned for a hearing, with a promise to “Endeavour to Settle Peace to your Satisfaction.” (Appendix E) Five days later Laurens wrote to Williamson, “as to Pearis every Account we receive marks his conduct as more & more Criminal,” and Pearis’s petition was unsuccessful.<sup>60</sup> On April 11 the South Carolina General Assembly specifically excluded Pearis, Patrick Cunningham and thirteen others from a “declaration of pardon or amnesty.”<sup>61</sup> Pearis and the others remained prisoners for a total of about seven months (not nine as he claimed). In July he and others finally petitioned successfully, this time with a promise to join Gen. Andrew Williamson on a retaliatory raid on the Cherokees.<sup>62</sup> Pearis did present himself at Williamson’s camp, but Williamson declined his services.

*Robert Cunningham and Paris came to my camp. The former, on his arrival, declared himself our fast friend, and that he came to stand and fall with us. I was sorry I could not show him the countenance I could have wished, owing to the people being so much exasperated at the behavior of Hugh Brown, and others, who have lately joined the Indians against us, thirteen of which were taken prisoners, a few days ago, and sent to Ninety-Six jail—four of which were found painted as Indians. I have no doubt of Cunningham proving true to his declaration, but at present it would be improper to confer any public trust on him.*<sup>63</sup>

Not surprisingly, Pearis’s Loyalist Claim for compensation from the British omits any mention of his promises to aid the Patriot cause. The raid against the Cherokees that Pearis offered to assist was in retaliation for one they carried out on June 30 and July 1, 1776, in which they killed about sixty settlers. Among the victims were Pearis’s former associate, Jacob Hite, and his wife and two children at their home just inside the Cherokee boundary on Enoree River near present Greer.<sup>64</sup> A surviving son, George Hite, in a petition to legalize his father’s title to the land acquired from Pearis, gave the following account.

*That being thus happily situated at the commencement of the late War, his Reputation as an American being extremely high and rendering him obnoxious to the Enemies of Freedom, a number of Banditti friends to British Tyranny, well knowing his zeal and Attachment to the American cause, and desirous of removing so steady a patriot from among them, cruelly and wantonly murdered him the said Jacob Hite, his beloved wife and three innocent children, plundered and carried away a considerable number of valuable Slaves Horses and Cattle & finally destroyed by fire his dwelling House and all his buildings.*<sup>65</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Laurens to Williamson, January 25, 1776, in Chesnutt, *Papers of Henry Laurens* 11: 72.

<sup>61</sup> Chesnutt, *Papers of Henry Laurens* 11:230-231, note 14.

<sup>62</sup> Laurens, *South Carolina Protest*, 29.

<sup>63</sup> Williamson probably to Gen. William Moultrie, July 22, 1776 in R. W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution* (New York: Appleton, 1857), 27. Laurens, *South Carolina Protest*, 29. Williamson wrote the letter at Barker’s Creek, 16 miles west of Lindley’s Fort.

<sup>64</sup> Samuel Baley pension application S30258, <https://revwarapps.org/s30258.pdf> and Robert Wilson pension application W2302, <https://revwarapps.org/w2302.pdf>. On their march the Cherokee raiders killed Jacob O’Bannon Hite, the son of Jacob Hite, who was engaged to marry one of Richard Pearis’s daughters, according to Johnson, *Traditions*, 458-459.

<sup>65</sup> “Hite, George, Petition Concerning Disputed Indian Lands Owned By His Late Father, And Asking That The Legislature Pass A Law To Confirm The Title To Hite And Other Relatives. (8 Pages) Date: 2/3/1784.” SCDAA, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

Although most accounts blame only the Cherokees for the raid, George Hite blamed “Banditti,” probably referring to a group of Tory associates of the notorious David Fanning, who gave the following account.

*On the 1st of July, the Indians came down into the back country of South Carolina and killed several families, at which time, the rebel camp being in great confusion, I made my escape, and went to my own*

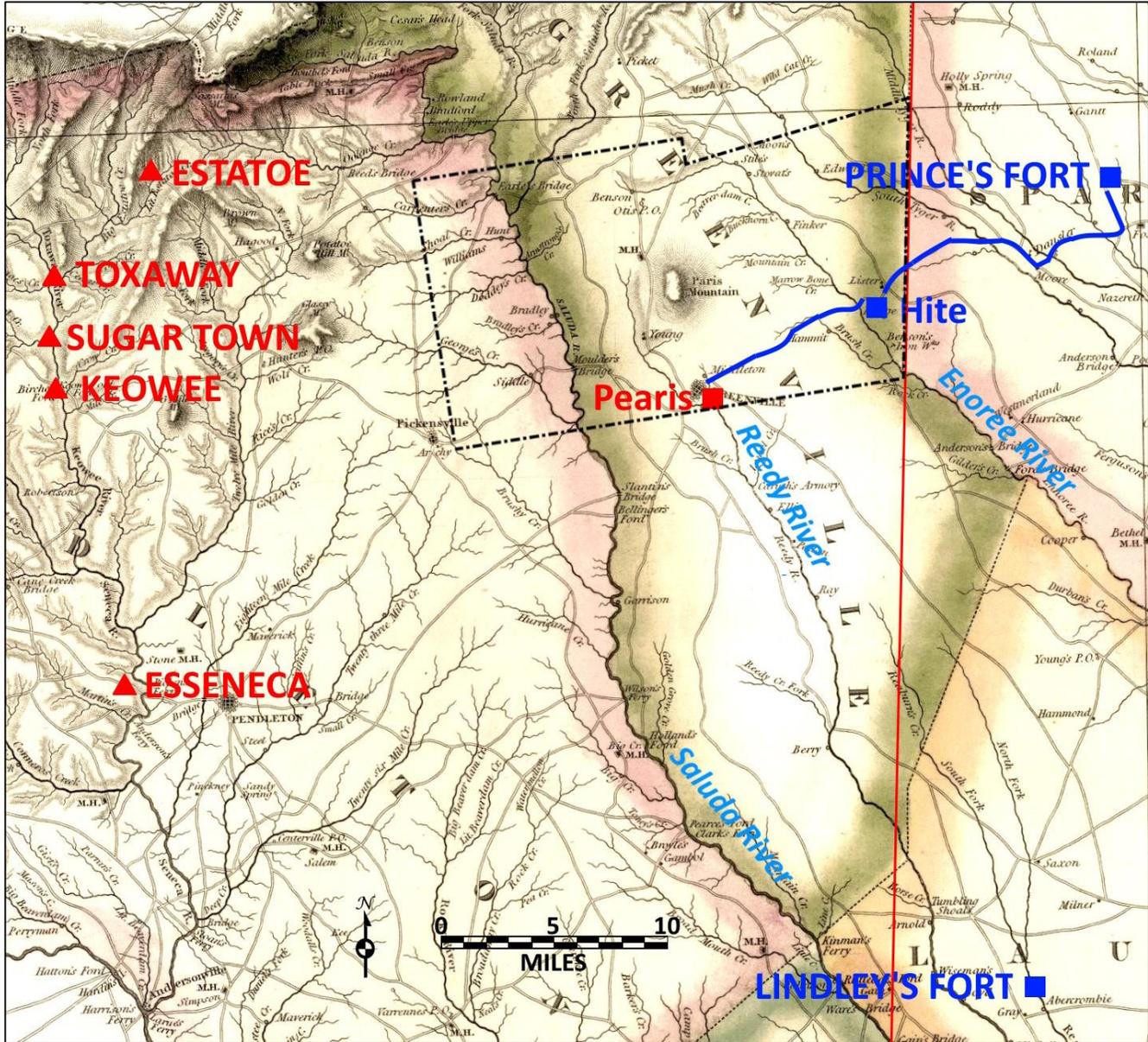


Figure 6. Possible route of Col. Thomas from Prince’s Fort as far as Pearis’s on the march to the Lower Cherokee Towns, shown on a road on John Wilson 1822 map. Pearis’s home was at present Greenville. Jacob Hite lived near the Indian line on Enoree River. The property transferred to Richard Pearis in 1774 west of the Indian line (red) is outlined. Also shown are some of the Lower Cherokee Towns and Lindley’s Fort.

*house at Raeborn’s creek; but finding a number of my friends had already gone to the Indians, and more*

*disposed so for to do, I got twenty-five men to join me, and on our arrival at Parisher's [Pearis's] plantation, on Reedy River, in the Indian land, we formed a junction with the Indians.*<sup>66</sup>

By July 22 Williamson had begun his march against the Cherokees. At Barker's Creek, 16 miles west of Lindley's Fort, he wrote the following account of his plans for the raid. (Fig. 6)

*I am now encamped here, with about 700 effective men from this regiment, which, with 136 who do duty in the different forts, you'll perceive have turned out pretty well. My numbers would soon increase if I had arms. If any can be spared from Charlestown, you can never do this part of the country a greater service than by using your endeavors to have them immediately sent here. Capts. Tate [Benjamin Tutt?] and [Francis] Prince's companies of Riflemen, have just now joined me. They consist of ninety-three effective men; and to-morrow Col. [James] Williams, who has been at least fourteen days contriving a mode to cross Saluda River, will also join me, with about 200 men. Captain [LeRoy] Hammond marched with a detachment of 100 picked men, on Friday morning, for Paris' [Richard Pearis's] House, where I am informed a party of the enemy have been skulking about there some days past. I expect hourly to hear from him, and some agreeable news. He has my orders if he can conveniently join Col. Thomas [John Thomas, Sr.] and Niel [Thomas Neel], to act in concert with them, and proceed directly into the nation by Estatoe, while I penetrate by way of Seneca and the Sugar Town.*<sup>67</sup>

While Williamson took a southerly route to attack Esseneca, Col. John Thomas, Sr. marched from Prince's Fort, about 10 miles west of present Spartanburg, toward Estatoe, stopping at Pearis's. Thomas arrived there on July 31 and stayed three days.<sup>68</sup> He may have been suspicious of Pearis's home having been spared by the Cherokees on their raid, or by Fanning's men "skulking" there, or because of Pearis's reputation. For whatever reason, he and Lt. Col. Ezekiel Polk plundered and destroyed the property.<sup>69</sup> Thomas sent Pearis's wife and children marching 30 miles in the July heat to Lindley's Fort.<sup>70</sup> Pearis described their ordeal in his Loyalist Claim.

*when my Estate was burnt and destroyed, my wife 2 Daughters and one Son were surprised by break of Day by one Colonel Thomas & 400 Militia, beat and abused my daughters and made them all Prisoners, after burning destroying and carrying away the property, forced them to March on foot through Rivers and Creeks 25 Miles in one day, without Victuals or any thing to cover their heads from the Sun, afterwards kept them confined three days without any Provisions, then sent them off in an open waggon 100 Miles and turned them out to shift for themselves amongst a parcel of Rebels without money or Provisions, they were then obliged for three years during my absence on duty, to be depending on Charitable people, added to their own Industry for their Living and under continual apprehension of being Massacred.*

Henry Laurens gave the following account of Williamson's raid in his August 14 letter, based on reports by Williamson himself.

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<sup>66</sup> David Fanning, "The Narrative of Col. Fanning," ed. A. W. Savary, *The Canadian Magazine* 30, No. 1 (November 1907), 136. Raeburn's Creek, now Rabon Creek, is shown in Figure 6 on the east side of Reedy River.

<sup>67</sup> Williamson, July 22, 1776 in Gibbes, *Documentary History*, 27.

<sup>68</sup> "Arthur Fairies' Journal of Expedition Against the Cherokee Indians from July 18th, to October 11th, 1776," transcribed and annotated by Will Graves, *Journal of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* 2, No. 10.1, 21, <https://southern-campaigns.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/v2n10.pdf>.

<sup>69</sup> The state legislature in 1778 passed a law preventing Pearis from recovering his property on the grounds that he "acted as an enemy to the State of South Carolina." Pearis's property was sold, and from the proceeds the state recovered 700 pounds that it had previously advanced to Pearis. "Act to Indemnify Colonel John Thomas and Ezekiel Polk for Seizing, Selling, and Disposing of the Effects of Richard Pearis," in Thomas Cooper, ed., *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina: Acts from 1752 to 1786*, Vol. 4 (Columbia, SC: A. S. Johnston, 1838), 425-426. [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Royal\\_Colony/The\\_Statutes\\_at\\_Large\\_of\\_South\\_Carolina\\_Volume\\_IV\\_Thomas\\_Cooper\\_1838.pdf](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Royal_Colony/The_Statutes_at_Large_of_South_Carolina_Volume_IV_Thomas_Cooper_1838.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> Testimony of Malcom Brown, Williamson's Aide-de-Camp, in Appendix A. Levi Mote in his pension application S7245 (<https://revwarapps.org/s7245.pdf>) stated that it was Williamson rather than Thomas who burned Pearis's home. "Gen'l Williamson took about 800 men deponent was one of that number Marched into the Indian Country we first went to where the Indians had murdered Col. Hites family in the upper end of Spartanburg District (SC) from there we marched to Parris' the Indian agent. Gen'l Williamson took his family and Sent them in to Lindly's Fort under a guard that he then burnt All his buildings & saw & grist mill, Cut down his Corn which was then fit for roasting."

*Colonel Williamson and his parties have driven back the savages of the lower towns, killed as many as could be come at in fight, and taken some prisoners, among whom are no less than fifteen white men; they have also destroyed Seneca, Keowee, Warracky, Estatohee, Toxowa, and Sugartown, together with the crops of corn and other grain found in the fields and barns, the only possible way of reducing the barbarians. This intelligence comes from Colonel Williamson in late letters.*<sup>71</sup>

Pearis was now a free man, but his troubles were not over, as he related in his Loyalist Claim. (Appendix A)

*Upon his return to his Family he found his House burnt, his Property destroyed, and his Family drove off, with them he lived for some time, but was so harrassed that he was obliged to fly for Protection to Charles Town where Governor Buttlidge [sic: John Rutledge] Protected him for some short time, but being there in danger of his Life he went into the Country and swore 400 Loyalists to go with him to Florida which being discovered he was obliged to fly to the Indian Nation. From thence he went with Six Men through many difficulties to Pensacola.*

Pearis's flight to the Indian Nation occurred in the summer of 1777 after Williamson sent parties after him.<sup>72</sup> Pearis was in Florida by September 29, 1777.

*I had a letter lately from Col. Williamson in which he informed me Paris had been tampering with the People between the Forks & had even prevailed on, a Number of them to sign a most infamous Association for acting against their Country. His Machinations were frustrated by our friend's [Williamson's] Activity, & Paris himself with 15 of his principal Associates obliged to fly to the Indian Country, from whence they with much difficulty gone into East Florida. The Florida Scout or Rangers is composed of such renegade Villains & Dr Turnbull's Greeks.*<sup>73</sup>

At Pensacola, Col. John Stuart, the British Superintendent of Indian affairs, appointed Pearis captain of one of two companies of West Florida Loyalists. (West Florida then extended from Pensacola to the Mississippi River.) A record shows that Capt. Pearis commanded a company of the Corps of Loyal Refugees from July 1, 1778, to August 1, 1779, and was stationed at Natchez in April 1779.<sup>74</sup> Pearis described his services in his Loyalist claim.

*On my arrival at Pensacola, Colonel Stewart [John Stuart] gave me a Company under him, and I was immediately ordered to march on the River Mississippi and retake it from the Rebels if possible; which I effected by storming their Main guard of 40 Men and left my Company in the Garrison. On my return to Pensacola I was ordered with one Serjeant & three privates to conduct Mr. David Holmes and the Creek Indians to the assistance of Saint Augustine, a distance of 700 Miles, as the Rebels attempted to Invade East Florida; after this service was completed, I was ordered by General [Augustine] Prevost to join Colonels [Mark] Prevost & [Thomas] Brown to Invade Georgia, and was afterwards ordered by the said General to join General Pattison [James Patterson] against Charlestown.*

Pearis' claim of having retaken control of the Mississippi River by storming a Rebel post appears to be exaggerated, although he may have participated in an action in April 1778.<sup>75</sup> The invasion of Georgia led to the capture of Savannah on December 29, 1778. The march against Charleston began in March 1780 and culminated in the city's surrender on May 12.

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<sup>71</sup> Laurens, *South Carolina Protest*, 27.

<sup>72</sup> Gervais to Laurens, August 16, 1777, in Chesnutt, *Papers of Henry Laurens* 11:462.

<sup>73</sup> John Wells, Jr. to Henry Laurens, September 29, 1777, in Chesnutt, *Papers of Henry Laurens* 11:536. Dr. Andrew Turnbull in 1768 had established New Smyrna, a settlement of Greek and other indentured servants. "New Smyrna Museum of History," <https://nsbhistory.org/the-turnbull-settlement-smyrna/#content>.

<sup>74</sup> "Abstract of Pay due to Captain Richard Pearis Commanding a Company of Colonel Stuarts Corps of Loyal Refugees in West Florida for himself 1 Serjeant & 3 Privates upon Detachment in Georgia & East Florida," <https://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/wflr/wflrpay.htm>. "Return of two Companys of Loyal Refugees, Whereof The late Honorable John STUART Esquire His Majestys Sole Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District of North America (who died the 21st March) was Colonel, from the 30th March to the 30th April 1779 both days included. Their head Quarters at Natchez." <https://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/wflr/wflrretn1.htm>. Transcribed by Todd Braisted, *On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies*.

<sup>75</sup> Piecuch, "Richard Pearis."

## PEARIS'S RETURN AND WILLIAMSON'S SURRENDER

Capt. Pearis joined the British siege at Charleston and apparently offered his services to Gen. Sir Henry Clinton. By early May, Clinton had Charleston virtually closed off from outside help or escape, and his troops were digging the third and final siege line that would seal the fate of the city. Clinton was already looking forward to extinguishing “the most wicked and daring Rebellion” in the rest of South Carolina. On May 3, 1780, he commissioned Pearis as one of the “fit Persons” to assist in that effort. Pearis was to inform Loyalists of the support of the King’s troops and to urge them to collect ammunition and provisions in anticipation of their arrival in the Backcountry. They were then to “Seize and Secure Such of the People as have been most Subservient to the purposes of the Rebellious Leaders in enforcing their Tyrannical Laws.” Pearis was also to instruct Loyalists to procure horses and provisions from the Rebels, and to destroy what could not be carried off, “but not so as to leave the Women or Children absolutely destitute.” If Loyalists encountered Rebel opposition, they must resolutely endeavor to cut their way through them but not attempt any doubtful Offensive operations. The Loyalists would later be armed by the King’s troops and embodied as militia until the rebellion was suppressed. Pearis was advised that “much will depend on the Secrecy with which you conduct yourself,” and that “Exigency of the moment must Govern your Conduct, but you must never forget the Junction with the King’s Army is the object to which every other consideration must give way.”<sup>76</sup> Pearis soon arrived at the plantation of Col. James Williams, 15 miles northeast of Ninety Six. There he was joined by two of the most notorious Loyalists, David Fanning, already noted above, and William Cunningham, who earned the nickname “Bloody Bill.” Col. Williams escaped just before their arrival.<sup>77</sup>

Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrendered his army and the city of Charleston on May 12, and the news reached Gen. Andrew Williamson near Augusta four days later. Williamson decided to meet with other officers on May 17 to decide what to do. The council could not decide whether to surrender. Historian Joseph Johnson, relying on notes by Capt. Samuel Hammond described what Williamson then did:

*Williamson moved hastily to Whitehall. A large number of his officers were assembled there, and high hopes were entertained, by Captain Hammond, prior to going into council, that the determination would be to move without loss of time, with all the force there collected, and all that chose to follow, for the northward; to press the march, until a number sufficient for offensive operations should be collected, and then to keep up a kind of flying camp, until reinforced from the main army.*<sup>78</sup>

According to Hammond’s notes, Williamson’s old foe, Capt. Richard Pearis (“Colonel Parris”) had only a weak force—perhaps eighty men.<sup>79</sup> With Pickens protecting his rear near Ninety Six, Williamson could retreat into North Carolina and mount offensive operations from there.

*There were one hundred and fifty to two hundred men, of various parts of the State (not organised) present; Colonel Andrew Pickens, being on his march for the lower country, was halted about three miles below and near Cambridge, Ninety-Six, and with this force a retreat would have been made safe, as the enemy had no force near us except the disaffected men of the State, under Colonel Parris, and that not equal to us, either in number or discipline.*<sup>80</sup>

Williamson conferred with his officers at White Hall under the assumption that if they decided to surrender, it would be under the same terms granted to militiamen captured at Charleston: “permitted to return to their

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<sup>76</sup> James Simpson, Secretary to Clinton, at HQ in Charleston to “Capt. Richard Pearis of the West Florida Loyalists,” May 3, 1780, transcribed by Todd Braisted, <https://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/scmil/scmlet1.htm>.

<sup>77</sup> Fanning, *Narrative*, 139-140. The location of Williams’s plantation is from his will dated June 12, 1780, transcribed by William T. Graves, *Backcountry Revolutionary: James Williams (1740-1780) With Source Documents* (Lugoff SC: Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution Press, 2012), 191-194.

<sup>78</sup> Johnson, *Traditions*, 150.

<sup>79</sup> “Colonel William Hill’s Memoir,” transcribed by Will Graves, <https://revwarapps.org/scx1.pdf>.

<sup>80</sup> Johnson, *Traditions*, 150-151. In a previous paper (Harris and Runyan, “Long Cane Skirmish”) we erroneously suggested that the reference to “Colonel Parris” was intended to be Lt. Col. Alexander Innes, because on June 5 Williamson wrote to Innes about terms of surrender. Innes commanded regular British troops, however, not “disaffected men of the State” unequal to Williamson’s in discipline.

respective homes as prisoners on parole; which parole, as long as they observe, shall secure them from being molested in their property by the British troops.”

*Council met; the terms of capitulation in Charleston were read; the general commented upon them, took a short view of the situation of the country, and wound up, by advising an immediate retreat; but he said that he would be governed by the determination a majority of the council should adopt; that they were friends, and well informed that their families and his would be equally exposed or protected, by any course that may be adopted.*

*Captain Samuel Hammond says that he was struck dumb, on finding not more than one officer of the staff, one field officer, and about four or five captains, to oppose an immediate acceptance of the terms stipulated for the militia of the State by the convention of Charleston. It was now proposed and carried, that a flag would be forthwith sent to Colonel Parris, to notify him of their determination, and to settle the time, place, and manner of surrender.*

*Yet Williamson persevered; Colonel Pickens was not of the council, but encamped a few miles off.... General Williamson had a short consultation with Colonel Pickens—his troops were drawn up in square, all mounted—the general addressed them in spirited terms, stating that with his command alone, he could drive all the British force then in their district before him, without difficulty, and then caused the convention of Charleston to be read to them. After it was gone through, he again addressed them, that there was nothing in the way of a safe retreat, and that he had no doubt that they would soon be able to return in such force as to keep the enemy at least confined to Charleston. He reminded them of what they had already done, and hoped they would persevere, but left it to themselves to say what they would do, and that he would go on or stay, as they should resolve. A short pause took place, when the general called to them, saying: “My fellow-citizens, all of you who are for going with me on a retreat, with arms in our hands, will hold up your hands; and all who are for staying and accepting the terms made for you by General Lincoln, will stand as you are.” Two officers, Captain [James] McCall and Captain McLidle, with three or four privates, held up their hands; all else stood as they were. The question was again put, and the result was the same.<sup>81</sup>*

According to Hammond, it was decided that “a flag would be forthwith sent to Colonel Parris, to notify him of their determination, and to settle the time, place, and manner of surrender.” Williamson also appears to have sent a letter on the same subject to Lt. Col. Alexander Innes, who received it while more than 50 miles from Ninety Six on the way to take command there.

*June 5th 1780*

*To the officer commanding the British troops on the north side of Saluday [Saluda] River*

*Sir/ Understanding from several persons who have been stoped on the north side of Saluday River that parties of men are embodyed and pretend to have authority from the Commander in Chief of the British Army to treat with the inhabitants or, on their refusal, to reduce them by force of arms, being desirous on my part to prevent the effusion of blood and the ruin of the country, I send the bearers, Major John Bowie, Richard A Rapley and James Moore Esquires, and request you will inform them of the tenor of the powers you are invested with.*

*I am, sir/ Your most humble servant/ A. Wmson/ Brigadier General, South Carolina militia<sup>82</sup>*

On June 10, Innes sent Williamson’s letter to Cornwallis at Camden and informed him that he had acquainted Williamson that he was empowered by Cornwallis “to receive as prisoners such persons as are in arms against their Sovereign, that paroles will be granted to those whose characters deserve them, and that great lenity has been hitherto showed on every occasion.” But Innes was too far from Williamson and too slow to act. (Fig. 7) On the same day that Innes wrote to Cornwallis, Maj. John Bowie, Richard A. Rapley, James Moore and Capt. George

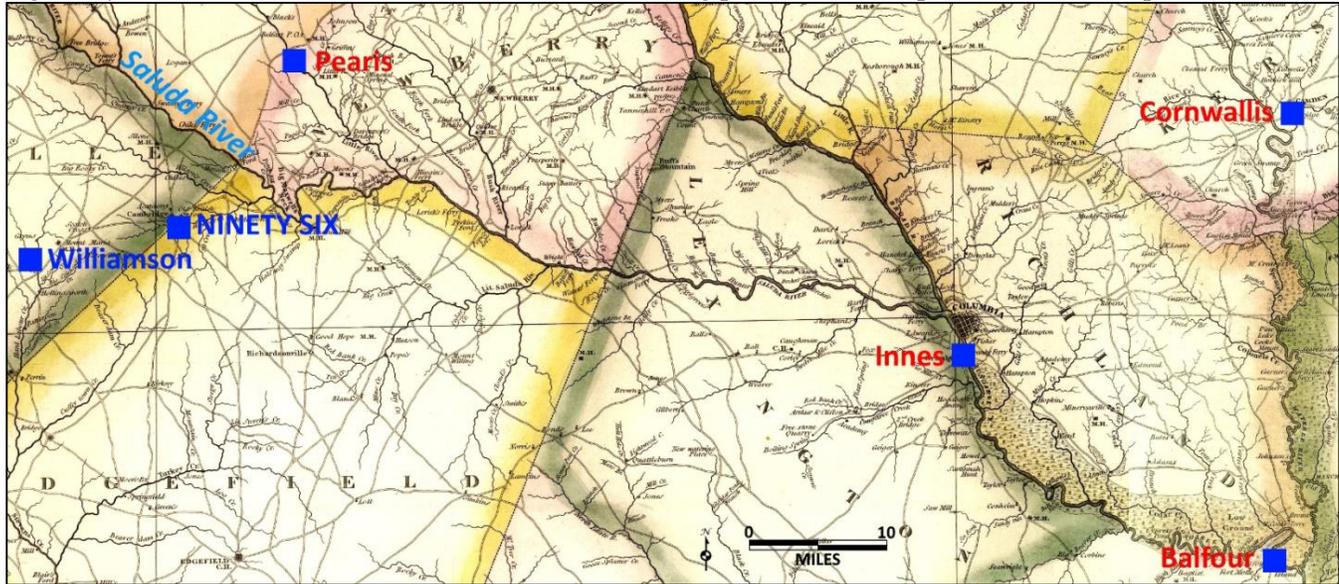
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<sup>81</sup> Johnson, *Traditions*, 151-152.

<sup>82</sup> CP 1:115. Maj. John Bowie had previously commanded an independent company of Continentals (not attached to any regiment) and was a friend and Aide-de-Camp of Williamson. (South Carolina Audited Account, <https://revwarapps.org/sc12.pdf>.) Richard Andrews Rapley was a leading citizens of Ninety Six District, as was James Moore, who had served as commissary under Gen. Williamson. (South Carolina Audited Account, <https://revwarapps.org/sc5853.pdf>.)

Whitefield,<sup>83</sup> “on behalf of the people” surrendered “all the inhabitants on the south side of Salludy River.” On the following day Williamson’s troops at White Hall were discharged,<sup>84</sup> and on June 12 Pearis was on his way to White Hall to collect the arms there.<sup>85</sup> Nearby at Cowhead, Pearis and William Cunningham accepted the surrender of Col. Andrew Pickens.<sup>86</sup> Pearis then planned to proceed to Fort Rutledge to collect the arms there. Instead of surrendering to Pearis, however, Fort Rutledge surrendered to Capt. Joseph Smith of the King’s Rangers from Augusta.<sup>87</sup>

Williamson would have been naive to expect lenient terms of surrender from Pearis four years after his troops had plundered his property and driven his family away, and yet that is exactly what Pearis granted. The surrender signed by Bowie and others made no mention of their being prisoners, and it promised them the protection of the



**Figure 7. The locations of Pearis at Col. James Williams’s plantation, Williamson at White Hall, Cornwallis at Camden, and of lieutenant colonels Alexander Innes and Nisbet Balfour on June 10, 1780 when Williamson’s brigade was surrendered. (Wilson 1822 map.)**

King’s forces.<sup>88</sup>

Pearis, in his Loyalist claim, stated that he “was ordered by General Clinton to go to the frontiers of South Carolina, there to raise the friends of Government, which I completed to the amount of 5 or 6000 Men.” There is no independent evidence that Pearis raised this many men, but Williamson had about that number in his brigade,<sup>89</sup> and Pearis may have incorrectly assumed that all of them became “friends of Government.” Archibald McArthur testified that Pearis “disarmed above two thousand rebels in the neighbourhood of Ninety Six.” Even that smaller number would have been an impressive feat.

## PEARIS’S PYRRHIC VICTORY

<sup>83</sup> Capt. George Whitefield had previously commanded an independent Continental company. Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1775-1780* (London: Macmillan, 1901), 11, 13. He was a brother-in-law of Williamson.

<sup>84</sup> Pension applications of John Brownlow R1358, Leonard Clayborne R1956 and Samuel Earle S21174.

<sup>85</sup> Pearis to Innes, June 12, 1780, *CP* 1:92-93.

<sup>86</sup> Pension applications of William Liddell W3835, Andrew Melloy S38945, William Pettigrew S21421, and Magnus Tullock S6273. Cowhead was presumably near Little Cowhead and Big Cowhead creeks shown in Figure 2.

<sup>87</sup> Pension applications of John Edmonson S32229 and Levi Lowrey W8091.

<sup>88</sup> Pearis to Innes, June 12, 1780, *CP* 1:96-97.

<sup>89</sup> “By General Williamson’s report the militia of the seven regiments under his command amount to above five thousand men without reckoning the three lower regiments that lay between the Santee, Congaree and Eddisto.” Maj. Patrick Ferguson to Cornwallis, June 22, 1780, *CP* 1:286.

On June 12, Pearis sent Lt. Col. Innes a copy of his instructions, together with a copy of the surrender of Williamson's brigade and Fort Rutledge.<sup>90</sup> Innes apparently forwarded Pearis's letter to Lt. Col. Balfour, and on June 14, Balfour wrote to Cornwallis that "by these fortunate strokes following one another, I have no doubt of this country being totally yours and have every day strong marks of it."<sup>91</sup> In his Loyalist claim, Pearis stated that he "disarmed all the Rebels from Savannah River to Broad River near the borders of North Carolina, being upwards of One hundred Miles in breadth destroyed their Forts and imprisoned their Leaders to the Number of 40 took 3000 Stand of arms 22 Swivels, 27 Blunderbusses and a Quantity of Ammunition." Pearis did not destroy Fort Rutledge or any other fort, but arranging the surrender of Williamson's brigade and securing their arms must still be considered a significant achievement.

One might expect that Pearis would be rewarded with a promotion to major, if not lieutenant colonel. Instead, Pearis' triumph turned to tribulation. Almost immediately, British officers questioned his actions. In Pearis' June 12 letter, Innes wrote, "I had written to him to know by what authority he acted." Innes's question was well-founded. In his June 12 letter to Innes, Pearis claimed that his "conduct and operations have been conformable" to the instructions by Clinton's secretary, James Simpson. In fact, however, Simpson's instructions authorized Pearis to do nothing more than organize the Loyalist militias and only afterwards to seize leaders of the rebel forces. Nothing in the instructions authorized him to accept surrenders.

The surrender document required only the giving up of arms at White Hall and Fort Rutledge and the publication of Clinton's proclamation, in return for which the rebels would "receive His Majesty's most gracious pardon and protection agreeable to the terms of the proclamation issued by his Excellency the 22nd May 1780." It omitted a crucial provision in Clinton's May 22 proclamation—the demand for "all persons whatever to be aiding and assisting to His [Majesty's] forces, whenever they shall be required, in order to extirpate the rebellion."<sup>92</sup> Bowie, Williamson and Pickens therefore surrendered to Pearis under the mistaken impression that they would be able to remain neutral, not have to fight their former comrades in arms, and be protected from retribution by Tories. Clinton had issued a proclamation on June 3 reiterating that "all persons should take an active part in settling and securing His Majesty's government."<sup>93</sup>

Even before learning of Williamson's surrender, Cornwallis had decided that protections such as Pearis had granted must be rescinded and exchanged for paroles. He had also decided that those deemed insufficiently loyal—Williamson in particular—would be sent to the coastal islands (James, Johns, Edisto, St. Helena or Port Royal Island).

*All those possessing these protections who come under the discription of being sent to the islands must have their protections taken away and proper paroles substituted in their stead, and all others who are not thought by the commanding officers of each district to be sufficiently loyal to be admitted into the [Loyalist] militia must have their protections changed for common paroles.... Innes sent me a letter from Williamson asking his terms. If he should surrender, you will give him a parole for the islands, with directions to call on me in his way thither.*<sup>94</sup>

Balfour, in his June 14 letter to Cornwallis, wrote, "Mr. Paris, a fellow of infamous character, has a sett with him that must immediately be sent home; otherwise there will be much distress amongst the inhabitants." Under the impression that Pearis was a colonel, Balfour planned to have Innes send "Colonel Paris" to him, presumably to explain himself and possibly face some disciplinary action.<sup>95</sup> Innes reinforced Balfour's low opinion by writing to Cornwallis that "I would not have entrusted Pearis with a corporal's guard, and, added to that, he is a man of very indifferent character."<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Pearis to Innes, June 12, 1780, *CP* 1:92-97.

<sup>91</sup> Balfour to Cornwallis, June 14, 1780, *CP* 1:89-90.

<sup>92</sup> *CP* 1:50.

<sup>93</sup> Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America* (Dublin: Colles, et al., 1787), 75-76.

<sup>94</sup> Cornwallis to Balfour, June 11, 1780, *CP* 1:83-84.

<sup>95</sup> Balfour to Cornwallis, June 14, 1780, *CP* 1:89-90

<sup>96</sup> Innes to Cornwallis, June 15, 1780, *CP* 1:118.

Balfour arrived at Ninety Six on June 22 and found himself in a dilemma about the capitulations obtained by Pearis.<sup>97</sup> He asked advice from Cornwallis, who reluctantly approved “of keeping the capitulations, for altho’ it was very unwarrantable in the gentlemen who granted them, yet there is no object that makes it worth while to break them.”<sup>98</sup> Nevertheless the British soon abrogated the terms of capitulation by requiring Williamson’s men to take up arms in support of the British, as stated by Gabriel Tutt:

*after the fall of Charlestown [I] then went to a post Called white Hall in the state of South Carolina, where we were taken prisoners by the British & Tories under the Command of Cols. Paris and Cunningham and parolled not to serve during the war. After the British came to Ninety Six they ordered out every man that was fit for duty to take up arms and joined them under the penalty of military execution. Myself and many others left the state & joined General Pickens in the upper parts of North Carolina<sup>99</sup>*

Pearis, disgusted by the freeing and rearming of his prisoners, left for Augusta, probably without permission but also without regret on the part of Cornwallis, Balfour or Innes, who apparently made no effort to bring him back.

*Colonel Innes, and afterwards Colonel Balfour arrived to take upon them the Command. in a short time after they returned the Arms & Ammunition into their hands and released their Leaders. On seeing this I returned to Georgia settled my family near Augusta.... By desire of Lieut Governor Graham and Colonel [Thomas] Brown I sat down on an Estate at Augusta in Georgia belonging to a Rebel. It was thought an attempt to raise provisions for the Army on the spot might be serviceable.<sup>100</sup>*

## EPILOGUE

After initially thinking of sending Andrew Williams into exile on one of the islands, Cornwallis decided to give Balfour “*charte blanche* as to Williamson,” approving in advance every step Balfour took “to fix him and bring over usefull people to our interest.”<sup>101</sup> Williamson quickly switched from being a Patriot to a valuable asset to the British, providing them with advice and converting White Hall into a depot for British stores and a meeting place for their officers. Soon after the capitulation, John Bowie accepted an invitation from Williamson to dine at White Hall and was shocked to find the room filled with British officers. Bowie’s son related what his father told Williamson a day or two afterward:

*You know, Gen. Williamson, that when you invited me to dine with you — a thing I had often done before — you said I was only to meet a few particular friends. I went without suspicions that any change had taken place in the political views of Gen. Williamson. You can well conceive my surprise then, when instead of meeting such men as Col. Pickens, Mr. Rapley & others of like stamp, I found your parlor filled with officers. I felt that all was not right, but determind to put the best face on the matter that I could. After the cloth was removed, & wine introduced, you requested your guests to fill their glasses, and to my utter confusion gave as the first toast “the King.”<sup>102</sup>*

Like Gabriel Tutt, Bowie considered the obligation to serve the British a violation of the terms of capitulation to Pearis. He joined Pickens and became his Aide-de-Camp. Pickens had seriously considered accepting a commission from the British,<sup>103</sup> but in December of 1780 he joined forces with Gen. Daniel Morgan and played a major role commanding the militia in the decisive victory at Cowpens on January 17, 1781.

<sup>97</sup> Balfour to Cornwallis, June 22, 1780, *CP* 1:236.

<sup>98</sup> Cornwallis to Balfour, July 3, 1780, *CP* 1:244.

<sup>99</sup> Gabriel Tutt pension application S6279, <https://revwarapps.org/s6279.pdf>.

<sup>100</sup> Pearis, Account of Losses in Appendix A.

<sup>101</sup> Cornwallis to Balfour, July 3, 1780, *CP* 1:244.

<sup>102</sup> John Bowie audited account SC12, transcribed by Will Graves, <http://revwarapps.org/sc12.pdf>.

<sup>103</sup> Harris and Runyan, “Long Cane Skirmish.”

Pearis apparently remained at Augusta unbothered until June 1, 1781,<sup>104</sup> when Gen. Pickens, Lt. Col. Henry Lee, and Col. Elijah Clarke captured Augusta and took him prisoner after an eight-day siege. Col. Thomas Brown testified that “during the siege of Augusta by the rebels he served under my command, (& on various detachments) and ever acquitted himself with becoming zeal & spirit and on the reduction of Fort Cornwallis was taken prisoner & narrowly escaped assassination from that resentment of the rebels towards him.” After one week, Pearis was released as a prisoner on parole.<sup>105</sup>

Testimony in Pearis’ Loyalist claim states that he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel toward the end of the war, and he received half-pay as such after the war. After the British evacuated Charleston on December 14, 1782, Pearis fled to St. Augustine and then to the Island of Great Abaco in the Bahamas. In his 1783 Loyalist claim, he stated that “I must Starve with my Family or offer our throats to our Enemies and die boldly, Unless the British Government for whom I have fought, Bled, and sacrificed every thing gives me that relief.” He claimed losses of more than £15576, equivalent to more than 4.5 billion current US dollars, and was compensated for a little over a third of that amount. By 1800, Pearis had apparently recovered financially. He planned to return to South Carolina from Grand Caicos and petitioned the state to bring with him sixty slaves, but there is no record that he ever came back to South Carolina.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Cornwallis was evidently told in December 1780 that Pearis was a captain in Maj. Thomas Fraser’s cavalry and found it “very extraordinary... as [Innes] assured me in June last that Parris was one of the greatest scoundrels in the whole country.” (Cornwallis to Francis, Lord Rawdon, December 20, 1780, *CP* 3:219) Cornwallis was later informed that “Fraser says that Paris is not a captain in the regiment but only bears that title for the performance of his present commission.” (Rawdon to Cornwallis, December 21, 1780, *CP* 3:222.

<sup>105</sup> “West Florida Loyal Refugees: Pearis’ Parole,” transcribed by Todd Braisted, <https://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/wflr/wflrparole.htm>.

<sup>106</sup> “Pearis, Richard, Petition Asking For Permission To Bring Sixty Slaves Into The State When He Moves With His Family From The Bahamas,” SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. In the following year Pearis, then in New Providence, revised the number of slaves to forty.

## APPENDIX A: Richard Pearis's Loyalist Claim<sup>107</sup>

Memorial: [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939\\_307355-00401?queryId=31ba39e7-92ef-4b1a-bcb9-210d4ab917a8&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SUU294&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=28041](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307355-00401?queryId=31ba39e7-92ef-4b1a-bcb9-210d4ab917a8&usePUB=true&_phsrc=SUU294&_phstart=successSource&pId=28041)

(New Claim)

To the Commissioners appointed by act of Parliament for enquiring into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists.

The Memorial of Colonel Richard Pearis,  
Most humbly Sheweth,

That your Memorialist was formerly an Inhabitant of South Carolina that he early in the Commencement of the late dissensions in America took a decided and active part in favor of Government, and that he continued his unremitting Endeavours in the Royal Cause during the War, at the Conclusion whereof he emigrated to the Island of Abico [Great Abaco], in the Bahamas where he has since resided.

That on being informed of the first most gracious Act of Parliament appointing Commissioners to enquire into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists your Memorialist used his utmost Endeavours to have his Claim for Compensation put in under the said Act of Parliament but misfortune attended his Claim in transmitting it to England which he believes to be the sole Reason why his was not put in under the said Act.

That on the arrival of Captain Hood at New Providence who your Memorialist is informed was sent thither for the purpose of receiving the Claims of the Loyalists in the Bahama Islands, he among others signed a Memorial addressed to the Honorable the American Commissioners which was handed to Captain Hood to be delivered by him at their Office at Halifax.

Your Memorialist did not make affidavit at that time stating the Reasons why his Claim was not put in under the former Act of Parliament because he did not then know that such affidavit was not required. [sic]

Thus situated your Memorialist humbly prays that you will take his Case into Consideration and be pleased to look on the Memorial signed by him and delivered to Captain Hood as aforesaid and now Lodged in your office as his Claim, he being ready to make the affidavit required by act of Parliament and that the may be heard in support thereof

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

(Signed) Rich'd. Pearis.

Account of Losses [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939\\_307058-00477?queryId=360924fd-98b4-45ff-a05a-a07a10cbfc71&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SUU293&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=19089](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307058-00477?queryId=360924fd-98b4-45ff-a05a-a07a10cbfc71&usePUB=true&_phsrc=SUU293&_phstart=successSource&pId=19089)

Estimate of the Losses sustained by Colonel Richard Pearis (a Loyalist during the American Rebellion to his final Expulsion from South Carolina & his Native Country) to East Florida in the Year 1783

Real Estate Vizt.

- No. 1 10,000 Acres of Land on Reedy River South Carolina called by the Name of the Great Plains 100 Acres of which were under Cultivation with Apple Peach & Plumb Orchard now Confiscated by the Rebels worth on the most moderate Computation @ 6/6 p Acre 3250.
- 2 5200 Acres of Land on Enoree River 120 of which were under Cultivation similar to No. 1 at 5/ p Acre 1300.
- 3 5000 Acres of Land on Saluda River 15 of which were under Cultivation similar to No 1 at 4/6 p Acre 1125.  
£ 5675.
- 4 2000 Acres of very fine unimproved Land on Paskagolah River in West Florida at 4/9 p Acre 475.
- 5 1200 Acres good unimproved Land Called swan Ponds in Frederic [Frederick] County Virginia at 10/ p Acre 600.

<sup>107</sup> "UK, American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835," ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3712/>.

Altho' Lands sold in that Neighbourhood from 20/ to 40/ p Acre

total real Estate £6750.

[Certified in East Florida on August 22, 1783 by George Dawkins and John Harrison, captains of the South Carolina Royalists; James Campbell, lieutenant of the Royal North Carolina Regiment; Farquar Bethune, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs; Josiah Gannoway of the Kings Florida Rangers.]

[A schedule of personal estate estimates the value at £8826.18.1, bringing the total to £15576.18.1. Included in the schedule are the following:

By desire of Lieut Governor Graham and Colonel [Thomas] Brown I sat down on an Estate at Augusta in Georgia belonging to a Rebel. It was thought an attempt to raise provisions for the Army on the spot might be serviceable

I had 14 Negroes of my own property worth £50 Each they were sent into Fort Cornwallis when besieged by the Rebels to assist in repairing the Fort as p Colonel Browns Order and Certificate, myself present during the seige, they were all taken at the surrender of the Garrison with myself Prisoner (1 June 1781)]

### **Services**

In the year 1755 I was honored with a Company of Provincials in the Virginia Service, as also I was appointed by Governor Dunwiddre [Robert Dinwiddie] to take the charge of conducting all the Southern Nations of Indians; until Mr. Atkins was appointed to superintend them, at which time I was removed into the Maryland and Pennsylvania Service in order to be more central in collecting the Indians together, I served under the command of General [John] Forbes, [John] Stanwix, [Robert] Monckton, and Boquet [Henry Bouquet] to the end of the war, and was the first British Subject who entered Fort Pitt at its Reduction [Fort Duquesne, abandoned by the French November 24, 1758; Fort Pitt built on the site], for which I had General Forbe's public thanks and promises of reward, these and many other circumstances are well known to Lord Eglinton and Governor Mercer if living.

At the beginning of the Rebellion in America I took the earliest opportunity of exerting myself in behalf of the King and Government by dispersing a body of Rebels to the amount of 700 in the district of Ninety Six in the year 1776 [sic: November 21, 1775]: it was not long after when a turn of fortune made me their prisoner [captured by Gen. Richard Richardson] & I was carried to Charlestown Goal where I lay in Irons Nine Months, at the expiration of which time I was released. I then made the best of my way from Carolina (on foot near 700 Miles) to West Florida through the Country of my friendly Indians, without any Provisions or support, but what I got from them; On my arrival at Pensacola, Colonel Stewart [John Stuart] gave me a Company under him, and I was immediately ordered to march on the River Mississippi and retake it from the Rebels if possible; which I effected by storming their Main guard of 40 Men and left my Company in the Garrison. On my return to Pensacola I was ordered with one Serjeant & three privates to conduct Mr. David Holmes and the Creek Indians to the assistance of Saint Augustine, a distance of 700 Miles, as the Rebels attempted to Invade East Florida; after this service was completed, I was ordered by General [Augustine] Prevost to join Colonels [Mark] Prevost & [Thomas] Brown to Invade Georgia, and was afterwards ordered by the said General to join General Pattison [James Patterson] against Charlestown, On my arrival there I was ordered by General [Henry] Clinton to go to the frontiers of South Carolina there to raise the friends of Government, which I compleated to the amount of 5 or 6000 Men, disarmed all the Rebels from Savannah River to Broad River near the borders of North Carolina, being upwards of One hundred Miles in breadth destroyed their Forts and imprisoned their Leaders to the Number of 40 took 3000 Stand of arms 22 Swivels, 27 Blunderbusses and a Quantity of Ammunition and this service was no sooner compleated than Colonel [Alexander] Innes, and afterwards Colonel [Nisbet] Balfour arrived to take upon them the Command [by June 22, 1780]. And in a short time after they returned the Arms & Ammunition into their hands and released their Leaders. On seeing this I returned to Georgia settled my family near Augusta where I was again made Prisoner with Colonel Brown [June 1, 1781] (See my account of Losses there No. 14 to 19) these and many other particulars General Prevost and Colonel Brown can testify the truth of if required.

### **Sufferings.**

In the year 1776 (as p No 1 to 9) when my Estate was burnt and destroyed, my wife 2 Daughters and one Son

were surprised by break of Day by one Colonel Thomas [John Thomas, Sr.] & 400 Militia, beat and abused my daughters and made them all Prisoners, after burning destroying and carrying away the property, forced them to March on foot through Rivers and Creeks 25 Miles in one day, without Victuals or any thing to cover their heads from the Sun, afterwards kept them confined three days without any Provisions, then sent them off in an open waggon 100 Miles and turned them out to shift for themselves amongst a parcel of Rebels without money or Provisions, they were then obliged for three years during my absence on duty, to be depending on Charitable people, added to their own Industry for their Living and under continual apprehension of being Massacred.

My Son is now an Ensign in Colonel Browns Regiment, whose reduction is daily expected Myself and the rest of my family came by Invitation of Government to East Florida for refuge on the Lands of a Friend, and by its Cession to the Spaniards I am again destitute and have no property or prospect left for my future subsistence, not a foot of Land remaining for me to retire to under the British Government, and dare not return to an american one. Thus in my old age after the various Services, Hazards and fatigues I have undergone, sacrificed an affluent Fortune with a view to serve a just Cause I must perish yes I must Starve with my Family or offer our throats to our Enemies and die boldly, Unless the British Government for whom I have fought, Bled, and sacrificed every thing gives me that relief which every sense of Honor & humanity points out and to whom these few unembellished truths are submitted by a suffering Loyalist.

Saint Augustine East Florida/ 22nd August 1783.

Bahama Islands } Ss.  
New Providence}

William Cunningham now at Nassau in the Island of New Providence aforesaid, but late Commandant of four Troops of Volunteers in the Province of South Carolina maketh Oath and saith that he is well acquainted with a Plantation belonging to Richard Pearis Esquire late Captain in the West Florida Loyalists situated on Reedy River in the now State of South Carolina, which Plantation contained several, but how many thousand Acres of Land, he this Deponent cannot say; that the same was a very valuable Tract of Land, having according to the best of his this Deponent's knowledge and Belief about one hundred Acres under Cultivation in grain, with Apple, Peach and Plumb Orchards. And this Deponent farther saith that the said Richard Pearis had thereon erected a good and substantial Dwellinghouse and extensive offices, as also a Saw & Grist Mill at a very considerable Expencc; that the same with all his Stores, Provisions, Household Furniture and the Crops of Grain &c, were to the knowledge of this Deponent (who saw the Dwelling house, offices and Mills in flames) in July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, burnt, destroyed or taken away, by a party of Americans under the Command of one Colonel Thomas; who also took and carried away the Wife, two Daughters and youngest Son of the said Richard Pearis. And this Deponent further saith that the said Party of Americans at the Time aforesaid as he has been informed & verily believes took, carried, and drove away from twelve to fourteen Negroes, about two hundred Head of Cattle, and between forty and fifty head of English blooded horses, Mares, Colts and Fillies the property of the said Richard Pearis.

Sworn at Nassau this 21<sup>st</sup> day } Wm. Cuningham  
of March 1786, before Me. }  
John Morison sen'r. Assis't. J.

(A)

Richard Pearis Captain in the late Corps of West Florida Loyalists commanded by Colo'l. John Stuart received a Commission in consequence of his services & sufferings as a Loyalist, having sacrificed to his principles a very considerable property. He was taken prisoner by the rebels, his houses burnt & destroyed & imprisoned 9 months in the Gaol of Charleston.

He was employed by Colo Stuart in W Florida by Major General Prevost in his expedition to Georgia and by Sir Henry Clinton in embodying the militia in the interior parts of South Carolina & compelling the rebel militia to retire or submit.

He has two sons, both he ordered to join the King's Troops, his oldest served under my command as a Captain [undeciphered] of the Cherokee indians, the youngest as an Ensign in the provincial regiment of King's Carolina

Rangers.

During the siege of Augusta by the rebels he served under my command, (& on various detachments) and ever acquitted himself with becoming zeal & spirit and on the reduction of Fort Cornwallis was taken prisoner & narrowly escaped assassination from that resentment of the rebels towards him

New Providence Tho Brown [Thomas Brown] late Lt Col Comm[andan]t K C Rangers  
Nassau May 10<sup>th</sup> 1786 & Sup[erintendan]t of I[ndian] Affairs

(B)

I have every reason to believe all that is set forth in the above Certificate is true, and some part of it come within my own knowledge.

Nassau New Providence Arch'd. McArthur [Archibald McArthur]  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 1786 Brigad'r. Gen'l. Commanding in the Bahama Islands

Bahama Islands } Ss.  
New Providence }

Malcom Brown<sup>108</sup> now of Nassau in the said Island of New Providence, but formerly of the province of South Carolina Esquire maketh Oath and saith that Richard Pearis Senior of the District of Ninety Six in the said Province Esquire was on account of his steady attachment to the Royal Cause and in opposing of the Measures of the Americans in December in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy five confined in the Common Goal of Charlestown in the said province and there continued a prisoner till July following: that on or about the time of his the said Richard Pearis's being released from such Confinement a party of American Militia, under the Command of one Colonel Thomas burnt and destroyed his Dwelling house Stores and Mills on his plantation on Saluda River which were very valuable, and the Wife, two Daughters and youngest Son of the said Richard Pearis were taken Prisoners, and carried into the Settlements on Broad River, where they remained for some considerable time; that the said party of Americans took, drove, and carried away the Household Furniture, Goods Negroes and Stock of Cattle and Horses belonging to the said Richard Pearis on the said plantation and sold the same about three days afterwards: that in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, the said, Richard Pearis was become so obnoxious to the Americans, that he was compelled to leave his Family and property in South Carolina, and so escape to West Florida: that previous to the Reduction of Charleston aforesaid by the British Army in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty [May 12, 1780], the said Richard Pearis returned into the back Country of South Carolina, and was very active in reducing the same under the British Government And this Deponent further saith that the Losses of the said Richard Pearis which are very considerable, were solely occasioned by his steady Attachment and Loyalty to the Royal Cause.

Malcom Brown

Sworn at Nassau in New Providence }  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 1786 before Me. }  
E. R. Wegg, Att'y. Gen'l. of the Bahama Islands.

Sir. Nassau New Providence/ June 18<sup>th</sup> 1786.

Colonel Pearis the bearer of this letter formerly an inhabitant of S. Carolina a most zealous & loyal subject, commanded in several skirmishes with the rebels & behaved with much spirit. during the siege of Charlestown being commissioned by Sir Henry Clinton he disarmed above two thousand rebels in the neighbourhood of Ninety Six, who having their arms soon thereafter restored them, were the people who defeated Col. Ferguson which you know gave the first turn to our affairs in Carolina.<sup>109</sup> At the evacuation of C. Town he took refuge at St. Augustine & afterwards at this place. He was possessed of a very valuable property which I make no doubt he will prove to your satisfaction, and I beg leave to recommend him to your notice. I am Sir/ your most

<sup>108</sup> Malcom Brown had been secretary to Andrew Williamson.

<sup>109</sup> Few if any from Williamson's brigade served at the defeat of Maj. Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, but many were at the defeat of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton at the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781.

obed't./ & most h'ble Servant

Arch'd. McArthur [Archibald McArthur]

Col. Dundas.

Evidence [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939\\_307355-00406?queryId=e9c234b9-014d-473c-a3e8-73959f650f1c&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=SUU297&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=28043](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3712/images/40939_307355-00406?queryId=e9c234b9-014d-473c-a3e8-73959f650f1c&usePUB=true&_phsrc=SUU297&_phstart=successSource&pId=28043)

Halifax [Nova Scotia] 28<sup>th</sup> August 1786.

Evidence on the Claim of Colonel Richard Pearis late of South Carolina.

Claimant Sworn,

Says he resided on St. John's River Florida in 1783, and in the fall of that year sent his Claim to England but the Ship in which it was sent was wrecked on the Barr of St. Augustine, about three months after he sent another Claim to England by Mr. Thomas Forbes which arrived in London too late

Mr. Forbes left the Claim with Mr. James Simpson with directions to present it the first Opportunity, who writes that the necessary Steps would be taken for that purpose.

Colonel Pearis now prays to be heard conditionally should his Claim be received, or that the Memorial sent from the Bahamas Signed by several Loyalists might be considered as his Claim which it was intended to be. It is dated in December 1785 and was transmitted to Halifax by the first Opportunity after the accounts arrived of the late Act having passed.

Produces a Certificate from Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown, that he sent a Duplicate of this Claim to England in August 1783, but that the Ship in which it went was wrecked.

Claimant is a Native of Ireland, came to America many years ago when only ten years of age.

In 1775, he was settled on Enoree River on his own Property. He lived in a remote part of the Country, and had no opportunity of acting in favour of Great Britain until after the Loyalists were overpowered under Cunninghame when he was appointed by 2200 Loyalists to Command them near Ninety Six with the assistance of Lieutenant Colonel [Joseph] Robinson and Major McLauren. When they surrounded the Rebels at Ninety Six, and contrary to Claimant's opinion made a Truce for 20 days which the Rebels broke and took him prisoner and carried him to Richardson's Camp and to Charleston where they kept him nine Months in Goal, when he was released on taking an Oath of Neutrality.

Upon his return to his Family he found his House burnt, his Property destroyed, and his Family drove off, with them he lived for some time, but was so harrassed that he was obliged to fly for Protection to Charles Town where Governor Buttlidge [sic: John Rutledge] Protected him for some short time, but being there in danger of his Life he went into the Country and swore 400 Loyalists to go with him to Florida which being discovered he was obliged to fly to the Indian Nation. From thence he went with Six Men through many difficulties to Pensacola where he was received by Colonel Stewart, Superintendent of Indian affairs who appointed him Captain of the West Florida Loyalists, and gave him a Commission which is produced and is dated in 1777. This was in 1777 and since that time he has been always within the British Lines and in constant Employment as an Officer.

The latter part of the war he acted as Lieut. Colonel of Militia in South Carolina, and mentions many Instances where he did material Service

He receives no Half Pay.

His present Residence is in the Island of Abacco, Bahama.

Produces Certificate from Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown K. C. Rangers, to his having joined the Kings Troops in 1777 after having his Property destroyed and his Family greatly distressed and to his serving the Remainder of the war with Zeal and Spirit, and that at the Siege of Fort Cornwallis he had been nearly assassinated by the Rebels.

And Certificate from Brigadier General [Archibald] McArthur to the Truth of the above.

Certificate from Malcolm Brown, Aid de Camp to Rebel General [Andrew] Williamson to his being present when his Property was burnt &c.

He had two Sons in the Service, one is in the Cherokee Nation, and one is a half-pay Ensign

Produces Instructions from Sir Henry Clinton to embody the Militia in South Carolina.

His Family are in the Bahamas.  
[A schedule of property similar to the one above follows.]

John Fannen Witness Sworn,

Says he was carried by a Rebel Colonel Thomas upon an Expedition in the back parts of South Carolina in 1776 and was then on Colonel Pearis's Lands. He had a good House and lived well. Colonel Pearis was then a prisoner, The Rebels carried off all they could, and burnt every thing else, carrying off his Cattle and Horses.

He was supposed to be a Man of Property, and was a Man of great Weight in the Country, and of great Loyalty.

The Lands were very good, and thinks 100 Acres were Cleared on No. 1. and as many more on No. 2.  
29<sup>th</sup> August 1786.

Claimant produces Deed from G. Pearis natural Son of Claimant [born out of wedlock] to Richard Pearis 27<sup>th</sup> April 1774 in Consideration of £500 South Carolina Currency and Love. Conveys 150,000 as described called the Great Plains.

Claimant says he owes no money in the States, except the Goods to [Henry] Rugeley.

Major Christopher Neeley Witness Sworn,

Says that from the year 1775 Colonel Pearis has been very active in the Cause of Great Britain, and that he has been confined in Goal on account of his Loyalty, and that he was obliged to fly from South Carolina through the Cherokee Nation to Florida.

And understood that his Property was destroyed by Colonel Thomas an American officer.

Says he was on Colonel Pearis's Property before he settled on it some years before the War.

He understood that he had the Property from his natural Son by a Cherokee Woman, it appeared very good Land.

He was again on the Property in 1776, he saw two Mills, a dwelling House, Out houses and a considerable quantity of Land Cleared.

He thinks a Tract of Land situated as Colonel Pearis's was, he could not value less than 6/ Sterling p acre. Witness says Colonel Pearis Traded largely with the Indians.

He saw a large Stock, and his House seemed comfortably settled and to want for nothing.

He had several Negroes, but he cannot say how many.

Says all his Property was destroyed by a Rebel Colonel Thomas.

Colonel Pearis's Family afterwards lived near Witness in great Distress.

He has understood that Colo. Pearis's Estate has been sold by the Americans.

#### **APPENDIX B: Henry Laurens to Richard Pearis asking him to deliver ammunition to the Cherokees.<sup>110</sup>**

Charles Town 24, October 1775.

Sir—

We have received your Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst. & shall give the contents full & proper consideration—in the mean time we are sorry to learn that the Ammunition vizt 1000<sup>tw</sup> Gun Powder & 1000<sup>tw</sup> Lead<sup>111</sup> intended for the Cherokees has been stopped & detained at Congaree—it is necessary that it should be forwarded & properly distributed— but as we have no hopes of meeting Mr. [Edward] Wilkinson at Keowee, presuming that he will have been set out upon his journey to Salisbury before this can reach you, we desire that you will receive the ammunition, open Mr. Wilkinson's Letter & follow the Instructions given to him as if they had been directed immediately to yourself, & also in Mr. Wilkinsons absence take a Letter which we now direct to him—

You shall hear from the Provincial Congress in due time relative to recalling Mr. [Alexander] Cameron,

<sup>110</sup> "Papers of the First Council of Safety of the Revolutionary Party in South Carolina, June-November, 1775," *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 3, No. 2 (April 1902), 79-80.

<sup>111</sup> The superscript "tw" apparently means Troy Weight. One thousand Troy pounds equals 822.9 conventional pounds.

but we desire that you will not abate your vigilance to counteract his schemes & projects— We cannot forbear expressing our good opinion of Mr. Wilkinson & our hopes that upon further investigation you will find that you had mistaken his principles & his conduct— We have no partiality for any man but him who is a fast & steady friend to American Liberty—if Mr. Wilkinson shall here after be found to be or to have been faulty, he shall receive no countenance from us— but we cannot condemn any man unheard we hope you will either prove clearly that he has acted contrary to the Interest of America in order that he may be properly, distinguished—or, that you will endeavour to colseee with him for common benefit—

By order of the Council of Safety.

Richard Pearis—

**APPENDIX C: Richard Pearis letter to Robert Pearis, with an affidavit by Thomas Wisdom.**<sup>112</sup>

Sir, 15[?]th decem'r 1775

It is reported in the Camp that you and George is gone to the [Cherokee] Nation to Bring down the Indians, in order to release me; you well know that a step of that kind would not only End in my [undeciphered word], but would be contrary to my own Intentions Less[?] to encourage them to come against our own people, Therefore desire and beg for God's sake if you have any such thought, or Incouragement by any person to Immediately desist, and both you and George upon the recital of this to Come directly to the Camp, and deliver your selves up, with what men you can get, with their Arms &c as I have the Commanding officers word and honour that you shall be acquitted of any thing past. Don't fail to bring or at least acquaint Captains York & Lindley, that it is my opinion it is the best for them likewise to surrender, and let me by all means caution you not to pay any regard to Robinson or Cunningham, for they have not only proved Traytors to their Country, But Likewise to myself. I wish that my wife would either go or send down to [undeciphered] look for [undeciphered], to [undeciphered] my sentiments expressed the day after the Battle to Robinson, Cunningham & McLaurin Thos Wisdom is the properest man & Jno McGill, and hope that nothing may prevent them coming, also many others, which I cant at present recollect but will inform him If those men will not come You have to get their depositions and many others that was present, Pray if it any way Lays in your power, to Take Robison, or Cunningham – bring them down with you as I may have Justice done me by them. I have not as yet had a hearing and should be sorry to see my wife in this place, But if [undeciphered] by them that I should be sent to Town I beg that [2] She may come down and bring some money with her

I shall depend on your Immediate Compliance with the above which is the Sincere desire of your Affec'e  
Kinsman Signd Rich'd Pearis

To Captain Robt Pearis

South Carolina } Ss By me Jas. Lindly one of his Majesties Justices For Said District  
Ninety Six District }

Personally appeared Before me Thomas Wisdom and was Duly Sworn according to Law and Deposeth on his said oath – and sayeth that the Next Day of the Battle was at Ninety Six on their Return at the house of George Neileys, there was Capt. Rich'd Paris Major Robison Esq'r. Evan McLauren Esq'r. Patrick Cunningham Esq'r. and said (Paris) walking Through the house Seemed Very Angry, and one of the above Mentioned Persons Asked said Paris) what was the Matter with him, Replyed said (Paris) there is a great Deal the Matter, they had used him Very Ill they asked him wherein had they Used him Ill, he replyed they had taken him Prisoner and had Kept him so that he could Not Do his Business, Also Replyed s'd. (Paris) they had sent Letters for him to Town and supposed they had Concealed them – that if he had Liberty to send his own Letters, he should have Received his Money, then Replyed Mr. McLauren} Not to be Uneasy he would see his money Forth-Comming, answered Mr. Paris) that he Did Not Regard For he found Mans words those Days is nothing But the wind, also Replyed Mr. Paris/ he would not have Nothing to Say In the Matter, which this Depond't. [deponent] Looked upon the words to the

<sup>112</sup> Richard, Letter To Robert Pearis Asking Him Not To Attempt A Rescue And To Surrender Himself And His Forces, With An Affidavit Of Thomas Wisdom Testifying To A Confrontation Between Richard Pearis And Some Loyalist Leaders (4 Pages) SCDAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

things Camp pain – That he objected against – then Mr. Paris went off In a Passion, and Mr. Cunningham) went to this Depend't. and Told him to go after Mr. Paris) and Desire him to Come Back and if he would not Come Back In to Bring him Back that Major Robison wanted to speak to him – This Depend't went after Mr. Paris) and as soon as Mr. Paris saw him he sayed he supposed he was going to Take him Prisoner Again, no replied the Depend't. But sayed that Major Robison wanted to speak with him, well replied (Mr. Paris) I can go and Did go – on the way Back this Depend't asked Mr Paris what he thought of this affair In hand, his answer was he Did Not Like it at all – this Depend't. asked him the reason he answered he Did not Like the proceedings of the Leading men – they offered him Commission In the Service But he would not accept of them Nor Never ~~will~~ would For he Intended to go home and Live at home If he Could ~~and Farther Sayeth that~~ and when Mr. Paris went Back Major Robison went to Mr. Paris and Took him out of and spoke privately he Believes But all they said to him Mr Paris remained very angry

And further says not

Sworn Before me this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1775

Thomas hisXmark Wisdom

Jas. Lindley

#### APPENDIX D: Richard Pearis's petition to William Henry Drayton, January 13, 1776.<sup>113</sup>

May it Please your Honour

I have Bin Confin'd. in Goal Sometime Past and wated with Patiance Expecting ahairing at at which Time I made No Doubt of aquitting My Self with Honour – Espishaly at this Time when numbers of Particular Witnesses is in Town that if gone I may b at a loss For I am inform'd. that it has bin sot forth that I have givin in upon oth that the Powder sent To the Cherokee Indians was to Inable Them To Come against the Contry and that it was By your Derections But Pray good Sir Let me have it in My Power To Come Before the Honorable Council of Safty at which Time you will Find those Representations will Be Clearly Prov'd. to be Faulce and groundless and That I never acted aney thing Contrary to the Intrest of Liberty or the Trust Repos'd. in me. I have bin Told that Thare has bin a depositions sot forth by Mr. Macklorin [Evan McLaurin] and Mr. Cunigam [Patrick Cunningham] they say of mine. But you will Find the gratest Part is made by them and Maney other Vilonoss Sceemes [villainous schemes] Lay'd. by them To answer thare Porposes at My Expence as well as yours &c How Ever all My Desier is to be hard [heard] and if I Dont make apeare and Prove Every part of My Conduct to be Loyall to the Caus in hand Then Return Me to Conefinement and Punish Me as you think Propper. But on the other hand if I Clear up my Stan'd. [stained] Carecter is it not Crewel to keep me hare Confind and Punisht. on Publick Reporte you Must Sartainley know that in those Times Reporte is not to be Depended on

therefore for god Sake Let me Come to the Test or let me have the Honour of Speaking with [page torn] am Convins't. I Can and will give you Satisfactio[page torn] in Respect to My Past Conduct.

I am/ Sir/ your Honor's. Most/ oblig Humble Sar't

13 Janew'ry. 1776

Rich'd Pearis

The Honourab'le. Wm. Henry Draton Esq'r.

#### APPENDIX E: The Petition of Richard Pearis and others to Henry Laurens, January 20, 1776.<sup>114</sup>

To Henry Laurance Esq'r. President }  
& the Rest of the Honourable Council of Safety }

We The Subscribers Humbly Sheweth, that whereas there has Been Deversity of Oppinion, and Disturbances, in the Frontier parts of this Province – which grieves us to heart that we ever should have Been at Varience, with our Countrymen, and good Neighbours Hon. Gentlemen – We Therefore, find the greatest Freedom, to Enter into any Honourable Terms of Unity, to perserve the Peace in this Disturbed Province, and the peace of good

<sup>113</sup> “Pearis, Richard, Letter To William Henry Drayton Requesting To Appear Before The Council Of Safety To Answer To The Charges Of Supplying Powder To The Cherokee Indians And End His Incarceration (3 Pages) Date: 1/13/1776,” SCDAAH, <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>.

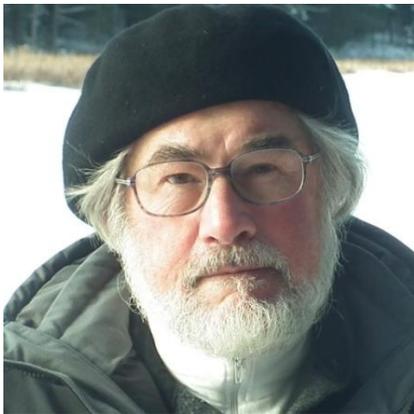
<sup>114</sup> “Manuscript, [1776 January 20], Charleston, S.C., "Petition of Robert Cunningham & others,” University of South Carolina Library, <https://digital.tcl.sc.edu/digital/collection/amerrevsc/id/1037/>.

Neighbourhood, Gentlemen – we your Humble Petitioners here in Common Goal, a Few of whom you Do Call Leading Persons of the Party that was Against you, And According to your Honorable Articles that may be Agreed on – we shall on any Forfeit Promise to Endeavour to Settle Peace to your Satisfaction, And the Unity of the Different Settlements, in the Frontiers

Gentlemen – we wait with Leisure on your Calls And For so doing it will be Always Esteemed by us your Humble Petitioners.

N.B. there is Different Circumstances	}	Rob't. Cunningham	[Robert Cunningham]
Amongst us, which we Make No	}	John Mayfield	
Doubt But your Honours will	}	Ja's. Lindly	[James Lindly]
Know by Subscription --	}		
		David Rees	Matt Floyd
Tho's. Fletchall [Thomas Fletchall]	henry green		William Hunt
Benj'n. Wofford [Benjamin Wofford]	Jeremiah Vard		Jacob Bowman
	Thomas Wisdom		Rob't. Parris [Robert Pearis]
Rich'd. Pearis [Richard Pearis]	Robert Procter		george Neelly
	[undeciphered German]		
	William Burges		David George
Henery Centerful	John McWilliams		Patrick McDowel[?]
Henery Goff	Philip Wells		Jacob [undeciphered German]
John Goff	Ja's Davis [James Davis]		[undeciphered German]
	Whitenhall Warner		Jo's Alexander [Joseph Alexander]
	Adams Pardue		Daniel Jones
			Elisha Robesson

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Leon Harris earned a degree in physics at Virginia Tech and graduate degrees in biophysics at Penn State, then taught biology, wrote textbooks, and did neurobiological research at SUNY Plattsburgh for more than three decades. Since retiring twenty years ago to Mount Pleasant SC and Adamant VT, he has helped Will Graves transcribe more than thirty thousand Revolutionary War pension and bounty-land applications, rosters, and other documents at revwarapps.org. He is a frequent contributor to The Journal.



Conner Runyan was a teacher, administrator and professor for forty-one years in Alabama's public schools and universities. Now retired, he lives in a cabin in North Alabama, at the end of a road that is at the end of another road. An avid researcher, he has published in the Journal of the American Revolution and posted his research in academia.com as an author and co-author. This is his first appearance in The Journal.

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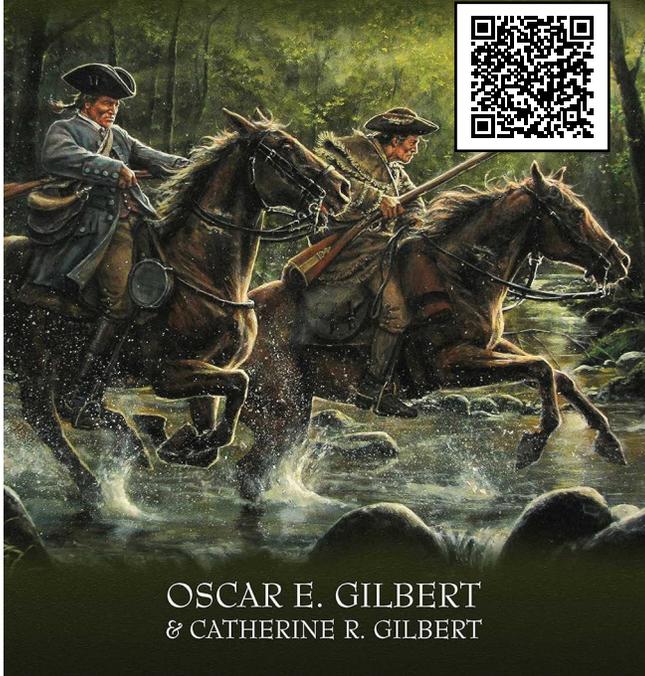
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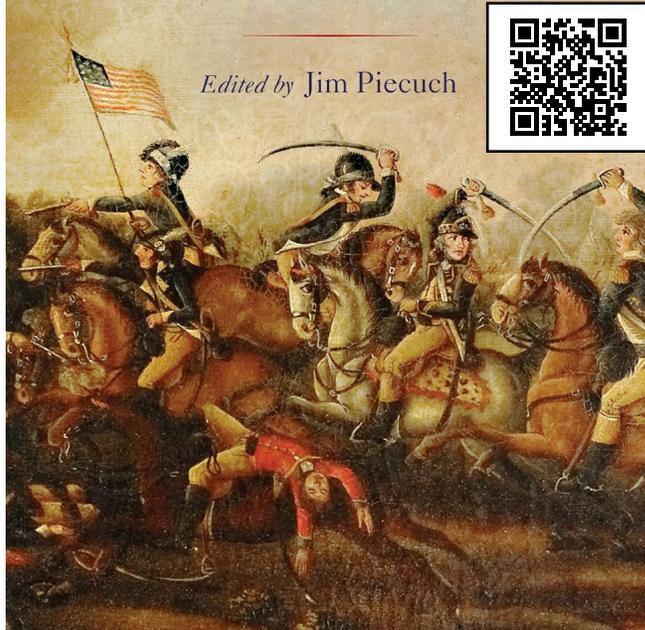
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The Journal of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution is a free downloadable magazine dedicated to the Revolutionary War, focusing on Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. We are committed to fostering knowledge about the people, sites, artifacts, military strategies, and engagements pivotal in the fight for American Independence (1760-1789). Each issue presents compelling battles, historical documents, maps, and links to enhance your understanding. Join us in promoting research and preservation by sharing articles, photos, and events. Founded in 2004 by Charles B. Baxley and David P. Reuwer, The Journal, now part of the South Carolina American Revolution Trust, aims to be your trusted resource for Revolutionary War histories. Connect with us to keep history alive!

~ Richard C. Meehan, Jr., Editor

1. We encourage the submission of articles based on original research. For examples, please refer to previous issues at <https://southern-campaigns.org/>.
2. Before any work can be considered for publication, a formal query must be submitted via <https://southern-campaigns.org/contact/>. The editor will respond promptly.
3. The Journal promotes original conclusions and speculations supported by primary sources clearly distinguished from established facts.
4. Every assertion of fact should be backed by at least one primary source unless it is widely accepted, like "Charleston surrendered on 12 May 1780." Secondary sources can serve as supporting evidence.
5. Submissions must be in MS Word format, letter size, with 1-inch margins, single-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. The cover page must include the author's name and contact information.
6. Chicago Manual of Style, the latest edition, will be used for footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies. ([https:// www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html).)
7. Articles may include illustrations and photos, preferably embedded within the text. Artwork, illustrations, and images must be in the public domain or include citations confirming they can be used commercially and noncommercially in print and online formats. The preferred graphic format is PNG or JPG, at 300 dpi. Lower or higher resolutions are not acceptable for this publication. Upon request, the editor may assist with resolving graphics issues.
8. All article submissions will undergo thorough peer review by three individuals recognized by the historical community for their relevant expertise, ensuring that references are legitimate and sourced from the best materials available.
9. If a submission is turned back for further citations or significant edit suggestions, the writer may resubmit the work when the edits are complete.
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11. The author must provide a short autobiography pertinent to their expertise in this field of study of no more than 300 words. A picture may be included if desired. The author may also provide a contact email address at the end of the article to obtain feedback from readers, but that is solely at their discretion, and the Journal accepts no responsibility for the results.
12. Announcements related to Revolutionary War events are welcome if submitted in graphic format (PNG or JPG). They should be 3x4 inches horizontally or 4x3 inches vertically for quality viewing and printing at 300 dpi.
13. News stories about Revolutionary War projects are accepted and should follow the same format as research papers.

