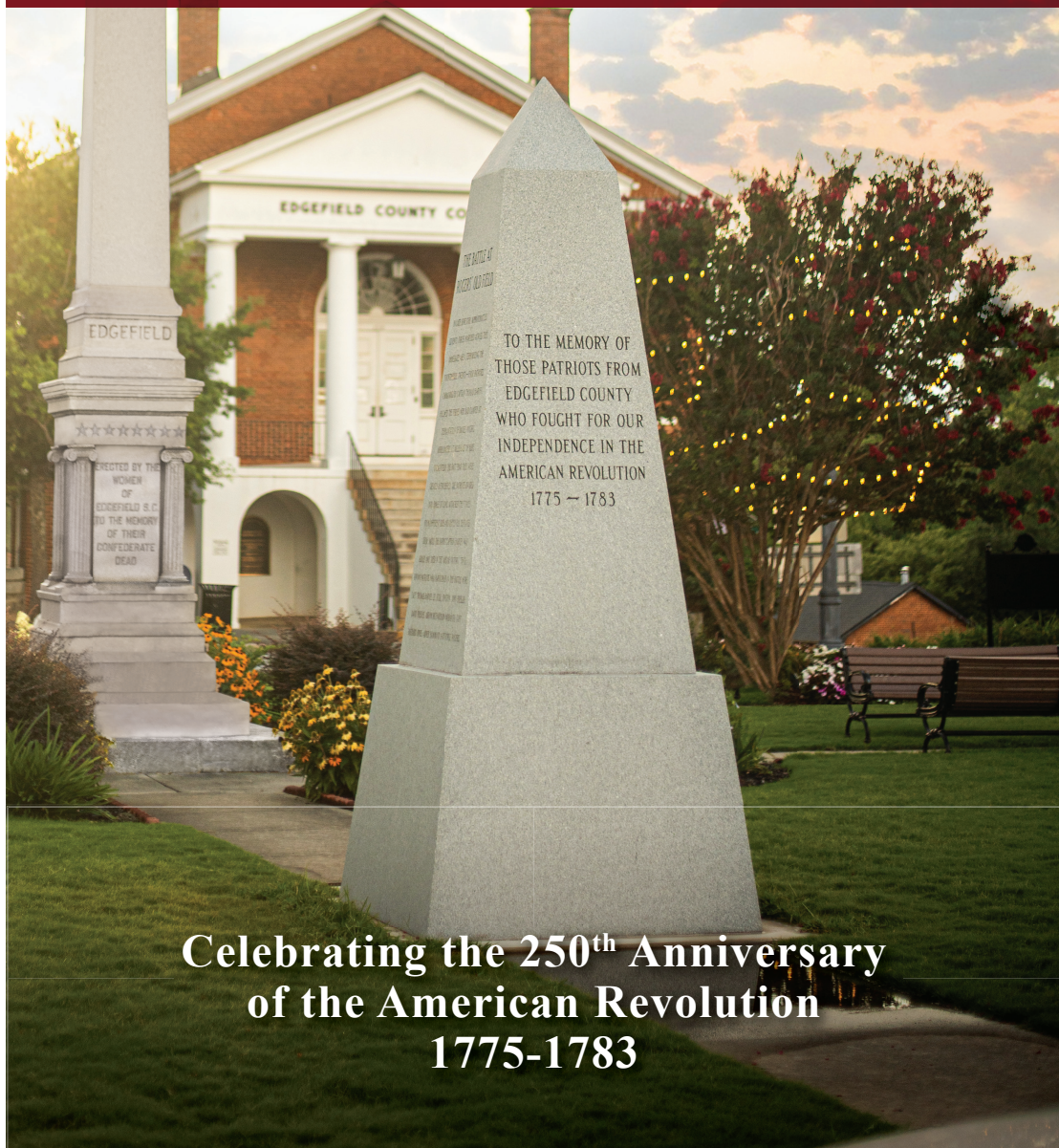


Edgefield County in the American Revolution - From Ninety Six to Augusta



Celebrating the 250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution
1775-1783



The American Flag approved by the Continental Congress in 1777



The Moultrie Flag flown at the Battle of Fort Sullivan's Island in 1776

On the front cover: The American Revolution Monument on the Edgefield Court House Square. Photograph by Tyler Bridges

Edgefield County in the American Revolution - From Ninety Six to Augusta

By Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr.
and the Edgefield History Class

Introduction

During the period of the American Revolution from 1775 until 1783, the area which was to become Edgefield County was part of the Ninety Six District. It was only after the Revolution, on March 17, 1785, that, in response to the demand for more and better local government, the new South Carolina state government passed an act establishing a number of new counties from the Ninety Six District, including Edgefield County.¹ This book highlights those events, engagements, skirmishes and battles which occurred in the area which was to become Edgefield County in 1785.

We refer to those who favored independence as “Whigs” (not as “Rebels” as the British referred to them), and to those who were loyal to the king as “Tories” or “Loyalists,” as they were known at the time. After the Revolution, many historians were inclined to refer to Whigs as “Americans,” but it is important to appreciate that the Tories were Americans too. Later, after the Revolution in which America won its Independence, Whigs became known as “Patriots.”

When the prolonged conflict with Great Britain began in 1775, there were many settlers living in what was to become Edgefield County. Some Edgefieldians were die-hard pro-Revolutionists

1 State of South Carolina, *Statutes at Large*, pp. 661-666.

from the outset who believed that the American colonies should be free from British domination and ultimately an independent nation. Others were loyal to the King who had granted them land and provided a home for them in the New World. Still others wanted no part of the conflict and just wanted to be left alone. There were also a number of others who were strictly opportunists who switched sides back and forth as they perceived their best interest.

While there were many black slaves in the lowcountry who had been brought in for the cultivation of rice and indigo, there were relatively few black slaves in the backcountry during the Revolution prior to the introduction of short-staple cotton around 1800.² Interestingly, however, one of the first settlers recorded in the County was John Chevis, a free Negro carpenter from Virginia with nine children and one foundling which he had found “on the path.” A major creek located in the southern part of present-day Edgefield County still bears his name – “Chavis” or “Chavous Creek.”³

Before the War was over in 1783, almost all Edgefieldians had been involved, on one side or the other, in the War. All families experienced losses – loss of family members, loss of houses and loss of property. It is said that in the Ninety Six District alone there were more than 1,200 widows and orphans at the end of

2 The one exception to this generalization is that the largest slaveholder by far in the backcountry, George Galphin, the renowned Indian trader at Silver Bluff, had a large number of slaves, of which 90 deserted to the British forces under Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell in January of 1779. See Campbell, Colin, editor, *Journal of An Expedition against the Rebels of Georgia in North America Under the Orders of Archibald Campbell, Esquire, Lieut. Colo. Of His Majesty's 71st Regimt. 1778*, Richmond County Historical Society, Augusta, Georgia, 1981, pp. 52-53, 56. These slaves were sent by Campbell to General Prevost in Savannah “to be preserved for Mr. Golphin [*sic.*], in Case he continued to act the same friendly part towards us, during the Rest of the Campaign.” The following year, in June of 1780, after the fall of Charlestown, Galphin was put under house arrest by British Ranger Colonel Thomas Brown who was in route to take command of Augusta. Galphin died on December 1, 1780. We have not found any information as to what may have happened to Galphin's 90 slaves.

3 Meriwether, Robert L., *The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765*, Southern Publishers, Kingsport, Tenn., 1940, p. 133.

the war.⁴ On a local level, it was a true civil war between Whigs and Tories in which personal vendettas often superseded politics as the cause for fighting. Cousins fought against cousins and neighbors against neighbors.

When General “Light-Horse Harry” Lee later wrote about his experiences in the region from Augusta to Ninety Six, he stated that “in no part of the South was the war fought with such asperity as in this quarter. It often sank into barbarity.”⁵ One Edgefieldian, United States Senator Benjamin Ryan Tillman, speaking in 1902, described the war in this way: “But in South Carolina, the condition existed . . . of internecine strife and civil war in its most horrid form I recall by way of tradition numbers of stories that were handed down to my mother by old people whom she had known in childhood, and she, being born in 1808, had been in touch with those who had participated in all this miserable rapine and outrage and murder, and many are the nights I have sat and listened to her recital of the events of those terrible times.”⁶

Readers who learn about the events, engagements, skirmishes and battles which occurred here will likely be horrified by the violence, brutality and cruelty employed by both sides. However, without the efforts of the Whigs in the backcountry, including some of their extremely violent actions, our war for Independence might not have been won.

Twelve significant engagements, as well as many minor events, occurred during the Revolutionary War in what was to become Edgefield County. Many more engagements occurred outside of this area in which the residents of this area were very actively involved.

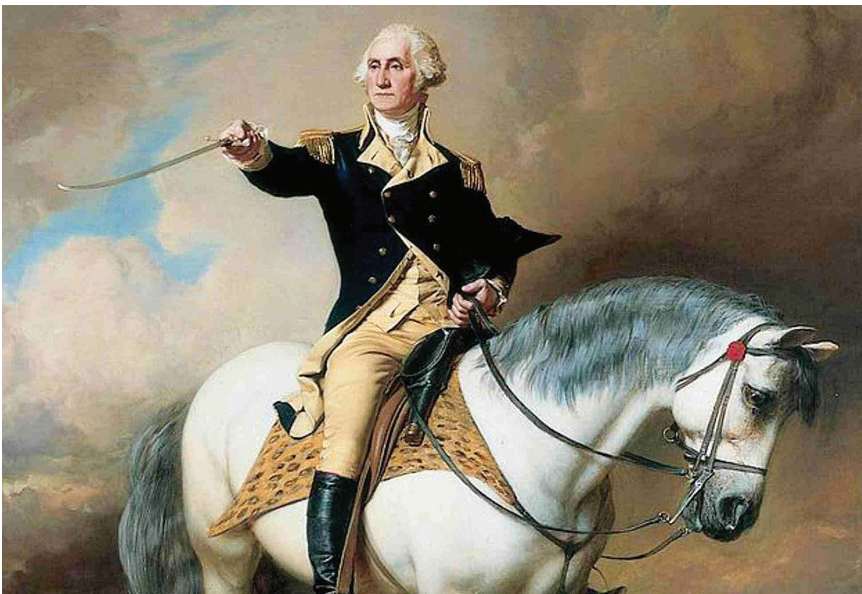
4 Edgar, Walter, *South Carolina, a History*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S.C. 1998, p. 244.

5 Lee, Henry, *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department*, University Publishing Company, New York, 1870), p. 94.

6 Tillman, Benjamin Ryan, *The Congressional Record Containing The Proceedings and Debates of the Fifty-Seventh Congress, First Session; also Special Session of the Senate, Volume XXXV*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902, p.1118.

In this book, we have attempted to record and carefully document these twelve significant engagements that occurred here, as well as providing a general narrative of other battles and skirmishes outside of this area in which the residents of this area took part. Hopefully the reader will conclude that this is a comprehensive, balanced and understandable story of the part that Edgefieldians played in the American Revolution.

Background: The relations between the American colonies and their mother country, Great Britain, had been deteriorating since the passage of the Stamp Act by the British Parliament in 1765. Colonists believed that the onerous taxes imposed by that Act were inappropriate since the Americans had no representation in the British Parliament. Other high-handed actions by the British governing officials further angered the colonists. By 1774, the American colonists had become so unhappy with the policies of the British government that they convened the First Continental Congress which met as a unified body in Philadelphia in September of 1774 to discuss the rights of the American colonists and what they perceived to be the transgressions of the British government.



General George Washington (1732-1799) was made Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army on June 15, 1775.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts on April 19, 1775 (“the shot heard round the world”) constituted the first overt military action of the Revolution. Two months later, in June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted to incorporate the colonial militias into a central military force, the Continental Army, and appointed George Washington as its Commander-in-Chief. In August of 1775, the British Parliament declared the colonies to be “in a state of rebellion.” Despite the growing hostilities, during 1775 few of the American colonists were thinking of becoming an independent nation; they only wanted the British to treat the colonies with greater respect. It was only after the publication of Thomas Paine’s pamphlet, *Common Sense*, in January of 1776, that Americans began to think of total independence from Great Britain. Six months later, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve the Declaration of Independence.

South Carolina in the War: Like the rest of the colonies, South Carolina was actively involved in the anti-British fervor that spread across the continent. This colony convened its First



John Purves (1746-1792) with his wife Eliza. Purves, who lived on Turkey Creek in what was to become Edgefield County, was one of the members of the First Provincial Congress of South Carolina.

Provincial Congress in January of 1775 in which ten men from the area between the Saluda and Savannah Rivers were present, including LeRoy Hammond, Benjamin Tutt and John Purves who lived in what was to become Edgefield County. Later, in June of 1775, the Provincial Congress created the pro-Revolutionary “Council of Safety” which effectively took control of the colony from the Royal Governor. The first overt military action in South Carolina occurred in the backcountry on July 12, 1775. On that date, the pro-Revolutionary militia, under orders from the Council of Safety, took possession of Fort Charlotte on the Savannah River in present-day McCormick County, together with its substantial military stores, from the British soldiers who were stationed there.

As the summer of 1776 approached, the British planned to take control of South Carolina by sending a large British force and seven man-of-war ships to Charlestown.⁷ Simultaneously, they coordinated with the Cherokee Indians to attack backcountry settlers. When the large British force arrived off the coast of Charlestown, they encountered a Whig force which had built a fort on Sullivan’s Island at the entrance to Charlestown harbor. In the Battle of Sullivan’s Island which occurred on the 28th of June, 1776, the British were soundly defeated by the Carolinians.

Pursuant to the British plan, the Cherokees attacked a number of settlements in the backcountry at the beginning of July, 1776, and massacred numerous settlers. In response, the backcountry militia, under the command of Colonel Andrew Williamson, with strong support from LeRoy Hammond and Andrew Pickens, counterattacked, killed many Indians and destroyed many Indian towns in South Carolina. With the support of militia units from Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, many more Cherokee towns in Georgia, North Carolina and present-day Tennessee were destroyed as well. The Cherokee threat was over.

7 In this book, we are using the spelling “Charlestown” which was the common usage at the time of the Revolution. At its founding in 1670, the name had been “Charles Town.” But by the time of the Revolution, the name had been contracted to “Charlestown.” In 1783, the name was officially changed to “Charleston,” by which it has since been known.

As a result of the dual defeats of the British forces at Charlestown and the Cherokee in the backcountry, the British returned to New York and did not think of coming back to the Southern colonies for several years.

However, beginning in late 1778, the British military embraced their “Southern Strategy” which brought the Revolution back to the South. After a sustained campaign for a year and a half, on May 12, 1780, the British captured Charlestown and the more than 5,000 Continental and Whig militia troops there. This was perceived by many, including the British military leadership and many prominent Whig leaders in this colony, as a total defeat for the pro-Revolutionary cause. However, not all Whig leaders were willing to give up and their continued resistance meant that, by the fall of 1780, throughout 1781 and into 1782, the conflict in South Carolina had become white hot with the pro-Revolutionary Whigs fighting vigorously against the British army and its Tory allies. The Battles of King’s Mountain, Cowpens, and Guilford Court House, together with numerous small skirmishes throughout Georgia and the Carolinas, forced the main British army under General Cornwallis to move north into Virginia.

Following the surrender of the main British army under General Cornwallis at Yorktown in October of 1781, it was assumed that the British had given up their effort to retain dominion over the American colonies. However, getting a peace treaty signed, formally acknowledging American Independence, took nearly two years and, for much of that time, the British continued to occupy Charlestown and the civil war between Tories and Whigs continued to rage on in the backcountry. It was not until December 14, 1782, that the British and their Tory allies finally evacuated Charlestown and the Continental troops were able to enter the capital. One Charlestown family wrote in its Bible: “December 14th, 1782 was the most Glorious day when the British Evacuated Charles Town – and our Gallant Continentals took possession of it – when the Inhabitants were delivered from the most abject Slavery to perfect Freedom.”⁸

8 *Bible* of the Young & Moncrief Families of Charleston, S.C., which was in

The Twelve Significant Engagements in What Was to Become Edgefield County

1. The Incident at New Richmond (August 2, 1775): The first significant event of the Revolution which occurred in what was to become Edgefield County was the capture and torture of a newly-arrived English immigrant, Thomas Brown, by the “Liberty Boys” of Augusta. This occurred on August 2, 1775.⁹ Brown, an ambitious twenty-four-year-old Englishman who had immigrated to America in 1774, was staying at “New Richmond,” the substantial house on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River built a few years earlier by the pro-Revolutionary leader, LeRoy Hammond. Hammond had leased or sold this house to Brown’s partner, James Gordon. Since arriving in America, Brown had been a vocal opponent of the pro-Revolutionary movement and was perceived as a principal leader of the Tories. It was not surprising therefore that he was targeted by the “Liberty Boys” of Augusta for special treatment.

On August 2nd, a raucous group upwards of 100 armed Georgia Whigs came to New Richmond and attempted to coerce Brown and his colleague, William Thomson, into signing the Association, a document pledging support for the Revolutionary cause. Finding that Thomson was not there,¹⁰ the crowd focused their attention

the possession of the late Stephen Ferrell of Edgefield, S.C.

9 The date of August 2, 1775 is based upon Cashin, Edward J., *The King’s Ranger; Thomas Brown and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier*, Fordham University Press, 1999, pp. 27-29. Other sources have stated that the attack at New Richmond occurred on August 1st. See Fleming, Berry, *Autobiography of a Colony, The First Half-Century of Augusta, Georgia*, University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1957, p. 119, and Cashin, Edward J., Jr., & Heard Robertson, *Augusta & the American Revolution, Events in the Georgia Back Country, 1773-1783*, Richmond County Historical Society, 1975, p. 9. However, all these previous accounts appear to have been entirely based upon the article by John Wilson, Secretary of the Augusta Committee of the Sons of Liberty, which appeared in the *Georgia Gazette* on August 30, 1775. Since Professor Cashin strongly focused on this specific event in which his book’s subject was the primary actor, and since he had the benefit of multiple other sources, we believe that August 2, 1775 is, in fact, the correct date.

10 An intercepted loyalist letter from Keowee suggested that a Mr. Thomson was also

on Brown. Recognizing the potential danger of facing this hostile crowd, Brown began the conversation warily, asking to be excused from joining their cause.

The crowd began to grow impatient and their spokesman told Brown plainly that he could not remain neutral; if he was not with them, he was against them. Brown then went inside the house and got his pistols. Stepping back onto the porch again, he demanded to know what the crowd intended to do. They told him plainly that they intended to drag him to Augusta and force him to subscribe to the pro-Revolutionary document known as the Articles of Association.

The Liberty boys became more violent and threatened to use immediate force to compel him to comply. Brown then challenged them, letting them know that he would protect himself by whatever means necessary. Six or eight men rushed him with drawn swords, whereupon he shot their ringleader in the foot. He then kept them at bay with his sword until he was hit in the head with a rifle which fractured his skull and rendered him senseless. He was taken to Augusta and tortured by having his feet burned with lightwood sticks. He was then tarred and feathered¹¹ and paraded around the town in a cart.

After he finally recanted his opposition to the Association, he was allowed to escape on horseback by a sympathetic physician. However, his treatment at the hands of the “Liberty Boys” had made him a dangerous character who was to come back to Augusta in 1780 and take control of the town for the British.¹²

tortured at Augusta but made a “miraculous escape from a party of Liberty Boys.”

11 In his own account of the event, in a letter written to his father (in the possession of Joan Leggett, a direct descendant of Thomas Brown), Brown does not mention being tarred and feathered, as such treatment was considered to be particularly ignominious. See also the letter of Thomas Brown to Cornwallis, July 16, 1780 in Saberton, Ian, Editor, *The Cornwallis Papers, The Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Theatre of the American Revolutionary War, Vol. 1*, The Naval and Military Press, Ltd., 2010, pp. 277-278.

12 Cashin’s account is certainly the most detailed account of this incident. See Cashin, pp. 27-29.

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2. The Hijacking at Mine Creek (November 3, 1775): Shortly after Brown was attacked, the pro-Revolutionary Council of Safety, which had taken control of the Colony after the evacuation of the Royal Governor, had concluded that it needed to capture and imprison some of the other principal Tory leaders in the backcountry. Two of the most influential of these leaders were the brothers Robert and Patrick Cuninghams¹³ who lived on the Saluda River some thirty miles north of where the Edgefield County Courthouse would later be located. Captain Benjamin Tutt, who would later become one of the first Judges of the Edgefield County Court, was dispatched to arrest Robert Cuningham and bring him to Charlestown, which he did in late October of 1775.¹⁴ As soon as Patrick Cuningham learned that his brother had been arrested, he raced to overtake Tutt and free Robert. However, Tutt had too much of a head start so that Patrick Cuningham could not catch them. On November 3, 1775,¹⁵ as Patrick and his men moved south of Ninety Six toward the Ridge where the Charlestown Road crossed Mine Creek, they encountered, a wagon headed north from the Congarees. They suspected that this wagon might contain ammunition which the Council of Safety had planned to supply to the Cherokees.¹⁶

13 The Cuningham brothers spelled their names with one “n” rather than the more usual two “n’s.” However, many accounts about them use the more common spelling of “Cunningham.” In the case of William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham, who is believed to have been a cousin of Robert and Patrick, all extant references to him use the more common spelling of the name with two “n’s.”

14 Bator, Edmund Alexander, *South Carolina 1775, A Crucible Year*, American History Press, Franklin, TN, 2009, p. 191. An affidavit of Capt. John Caldwell taken before Richard Rapley, Esq. dated October 23, 1775, justified the action. It is not clear whether this affidavit preceded or followed Cuningham’s capture. See *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina*; William Edwin Hemphill, Editor, Columbia, South Carolina Archives Dept., 1960, pp. 82-87.

15 This date is established by the affidavit of Moses Cotter, sworn before James Mason, J.P., dated November 3, 1775. See Salley, A.S., Jr., *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina*, Orangeburg, S.C., 1898, pp. 305-307.

16 Moultrie, William, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, So Far As It Related to the States of North and South Carolina and Georgia, Vol. I*, David Longworth, New York, 1802, p. 96. Gibbes, R.W., MD, *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1764-1776*, D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1855, p. 211.

Patrick Cuninghame and his men rode up to the wagon. The waggoner, Moses Cotter, later stated that Cuninghame's force consisted of 150 men. Other accounts put Cuninghame's force at only 60 men.¹⁷ Cuninghame demanded of Cotter what he was carrying. Cotter replied that the wagon contained rum. Not believing him, Cuninghame climbed aboard the wagon, removed the covering and discovered the powder and lead. He then distributed the kegs of powder and the sheets of lead and distributed them among his men.¹⁸

About this time, the wagon guard of 23 rangers and officers which had lagged behind the wagon came up. The commander, Lieutenant Charlton, tried to get Cuninghame to release the ammunition, but was hopelessly outnumbered. He and his men ultimately surrendered their arms and were taken prisoner. Cuninghame and his men then rode off, leaving Cotter to return to the Congarees. Cotter instead took one of the horses from the wagon and rode to Ninety Six, carrying news of the ambush and heist of the ammunition to Major Mayson.¹⁹ Mayson sent word of this ambush to Colonel Andrew Williamson of the Whig militia at Whitehall who gathered his men to try to retrieve the ammunition.²⁰ Word was sent separately to the Council of Safety at Charlestown which made plans to find and capture Patrick Cuninghame.²¹ The Whigs were never successful in recapturing the ammunition or in capturing Patrick Cuninghame.

17 McCready, Edward, *History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780, Vol 3*, The MacMillian Company, New York, 1902, p. 87. Drayton, John, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, From It Commencement to the Year 1776, Inclusive, as Relating to the State of South Carolina: and Occasionally Referring to the States of North Carolina and Georgia, Vol II*, A. E. Miller, Charleston, SC, 1821. p.64.

18 Moultrie, p. 97-100.

19 *Ibid.*

20 Gibbs, pp. 209-210.

21 Gibbs, letter of Major Andrew Williamson to Whig Agent to the Indians, Edward Wilkinson, November 6, 1775, pp. 209-210. Declaration of the Provincial Congress, November 19, 1775, pp. 210-214. Bator, 193-200. Lipscomb, Lipscomb, Terry W., "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles," published in *Names in South Carolina*, XX, 20.

In the ensuing two years following the hijacking at Mine Creek, there were a number of events in which men from what was to become Edgefield County were involved. These included the First Battle of Ninety Six, the Snow Campaign of December, 1775, the British attack on Sullivan's Island in Charlestown Harbor in late June of 1776, the Cherokee War of the Summer of 1776, the expeditions to East Florida of the Fall of 1776 and the Summer of 1778, and the fall of Savannah to the British army at Christmas of 1778.

3. The Liberty Hill Campsite (January, 1779 and afterwards): Following his capture of Savannah in late December, 1778, the British Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell moved quickly to secure the entire Georgia colony. Leaving Savannah on January 21, 1779, he marched his forces of over 1,000 men up the Georgia side of the Savannah River to Augusta where he arrived on January 31st.²² He encountered significant Whig resistance along the way, including by the men under the command of Colonel LeRoy Hammond and Major Hugh Middleton.²³ As he entered Augusta, the Whig forces, under the overall command of General Andrew Williamson, retreated across the Savannah River, positioning themselves on the hills and bluffs overlooking Augusta in present-day North Augusta, South Carolina. They took with them all of the boats in the town in order to keep the British from being able to follow them across the river.

22 Campbell's fascinating and detailed account of his expedition to Augusta was published in 1981 as *Journal of An Expedition against the Rebels of Georgia in North America under the orders of Archibald Campbell, Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel of His Majesty's 71st Regiment, 1778*, Colin Campbell, Editor, Ashantilly Press, Darien, Georgia, 1981.

23 Letter of Samuel Elbert to Lieutenant Colonel Ingram, dated January 28, 1779, set forth in Davis, Robert Scott, *Georgians in the Revolution, At Kettle Creek and Burke County*, Southern Historical Press, Easley, South Carolina, 1986, p 146.

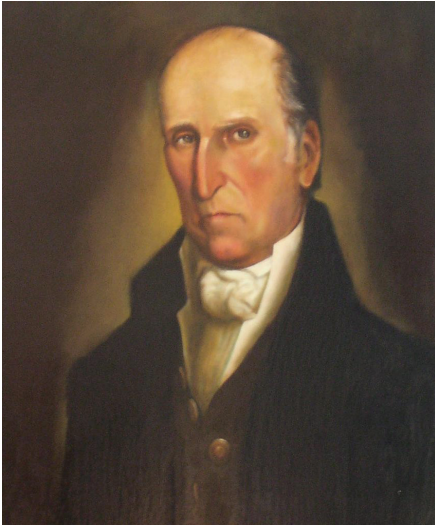


A Map showing the location of General Williamson's Whig Encampment on the South Carolina bank of the Savannah River overlooking Augusta in 1779.²⁴

This primary encampment, which became known as “Liberty Hill,” ultimately stretched all the way from LeRoy Hammond’s Snow Hill home in present-day North Augusta down to Fort Moore Bluff at Beech Island. In his journal, Campbell estimated that the Whig forces numbered 1800 men. Although the name “Liberty Hill” was largely forgotten by the time of the Civil War, literally hundreds of Revolutionary War pension accounts written in the 1820’s and 1830’s mention “Liberty Hill opposite Augusta” as the place of an enormous encampment of Whig forces during these months of 1779 and afterwards. After several weeks in Augusta, realizing that his position there was untenable given the substantial reinforcements which were coming in to join the Whigs on the South Carolina side of the river, Campbell made the decision to retreat to Savannah.

24 This map was printed in Campbell’s *Journal*. The original of the map was apparently in the possession of John Graham of Col. Matthew Singleton’s militia regt. from the Lynchess River area of what is now Lee County. Graham arrived in present-day North Augusta on March 9, 1779. This original map is now in the possession of the State Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Battle of Kettle Creek (February 14, 1779): At almost the same time as the Liberty Hill encampment in early 1779, a very



Andrew Pickens (1739-1817), who commanded many Edgefieldians throughout the War

significant Revolutionary War battle was fought at Kettle Creek in present-day Wilkes County, Georgia on February 14, 1779. It was a major victory for the Whigs under the command of Colonel Andrew Pickens, Colonel John Dooley and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke. A number of men in this battle were from what was to become Edgefield County.

The Battle of Briar Creek (March 3, 1779): After the British retreated from Augusta toward Savannah, General Ashe of North Carolina pursued the British army into Georgia but was soundly defeated in the Battle of Briar Creek in present-day Screven County, Georgia on March 3, 1779. Most of the Whig forces in this battle were from North Carolina, but separately Colonel LeRoy Hammond and Major Hugh Middleton also followed and harassed the British as they retreated.

The Battle of the Stono (June 20, 1779): In late April of 1779, the British army in Savannah moved towards Charlestown with the objective to take the Carolina capital, but, in the face of growing Whig forces, they too retreated back to Savannah, leaving a rear guard to protect their retreat. This rear guard, consisting of about 500 men, was attacked at the Battle of the Stono in present-day Charleston County on June 20, 1779 by Whig Continental and militia forces under General Benjamin Lincoln, consisting of approximately 3,000 men. In what should have been a clear Whig victory, the British were successful in holding the Whig forces off. Colonel LeRoy Hammond's regiment, particularly those in Captain

John Ryan's company, almost all of whom were from what was to become Edgefield County, were at this battle.

The Siege of Savannah (September 16 - October 18, 1779): A few months later, the French, who had formally agreed to support the Americans in their efforts to defeat the British, finally joined the Americans in an attack on the British at Savannah. Both Whigs and Tories from what was to become Edgefield County, participated in the siege of Savannah which occurred from September 16 to October 18, 1779. Unfortunately for the Whigs and their French allies, the Siege of Savannah resulted in a decisive British victory. This loss was tremendously demoralizing for the Whigs and gave considerable optimism to the British and Tories.

The Fall of Charlestown (May 12, 1780): In the months between October, 1779 to May, 1780, the British continued to pursue their plans to capture all of Georgia and the Carolinas. Their carefully-planned campaign resulted in the fall of Charlestown on May 12, 1780 and the subsequent occupation by the British of all of the principal outposts in the backcountry, including Augusta and Ninety Six. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas "Burntfoot" Brown was sent to take command of Augusta where five years earlier he had been cruelly tortured by the Whigs. Later, Lieutenant Colonel John Harris Cruger, a New York state Tory, was sent to take command of the backcountry stronghold of Ninety Six. The majority of Whig leaders in the backcountry, including Militia General Andrew Williamson, Colonel Andrew Pickens and Colonel LeRoy Hammond, viewed the fall of Charlestown as conclusive evidence that the British had won the war. They surrendered and took parole. However, a number of other Southern Whig leaders, including Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, Samuel Hammond and Elijah Clarke refused to surrender and pledged to fight on.

Subsequent Battles in the Summer and Fall of 1780: The subsequent decisive British victories at the battles of Camden in present-day Kershaw County (August 16, 1780) and Fishing Creek in present-day Chester County (August 18, 1780) leant further proof



Elijah Clarke (1742-1799) the Georgia Whig who attacked Augusta in September of 1780 and who commanded many Edgefield-ians during the War

to the notion that the war was over. However, the battle of Musgrove Mill in present-day Laurens County (August 19, 1780), at which the Whigs prevailed, gave courage to those who still continued the fight. A month later, the first Siege of the British stronghold at Augusta (September 14-18, 1780) by forces under Whig Colonel Elijah Clarke, although unsuccessful, further encouraged the Whigs.²⁵

The Battle of King's Mountain (October 7, 1780): Infuriated by Elijah Clarke's attack on Augusta, the British Commander in South Carolina, General Cornwallis, dispatched a large loyalist force under the command of Major Patrick Ferguson to find and defeat Clarke. Although he was unsuccessful in finding Clarke, Ferguson had his men camp on King's Mountain in the northern part of South Carolina. There, on October 7, 1780, they were attacked by a large force of Whigs, principally composed of "over the mountain men" from Western North Carolina and present-day Tennessee. Ferguson was killed and his large force decimated in an overwhelming Whig victory in present-day York and Cherokee Counties. This battle made clear to everyone that the war was definitely not over. Other battles in the South included the Battle of Blackstock's Farm in present-day Union County (November 20, 1780) (overwhelming Whig victory) and the Battle of Long Cane in present-day McCormick County (December 12, 1780) (British victory).

25 For a detailed and excellent review of this engagement see Rauch, Steven J., "An Ill-timed and Premature Insurrection, The First Siege at Augusta, Georgia, September 14-18, 1780," in *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*, Vol. 2, No. 9, September 2005.

In consolidating their control over the Carolinas and Georgia, the British made grave errors which ultimately cost them the war. After initially telling the Continental troops who surrendered at Charlestown that all they had to do was to lay down their arms and cease to help the Whig cause, the British commander changed his position to requiring the surrendered troops to fight for the British cause. The British officers were also maddeningly arrogant and treated the Whigs very cruelly. As a result of these actions and attitudes on the part of the British, many of the Whig leaders who had previously surrendered and taken parole, including Andrew Pickens and LeRoy Hammond, ultimately rejoined the effort to fight for our Independence. Additionally, because of these British mistakes in actions and attitudes, many of those in the Southern colonies who had simply wanted to be left alone and even some of the Tories began to be more sympathetic towards the Revolutionary cause.

The Battle of Cowpens (January 17, 1781): The Battle of Cowpens in present-day Cherokee County in which the Whig army totally defeated the British army under Tarleton, was perhaps the most decisive battle of the war in the South. Andrew Pickens commanded the militia in this battle, the contribution of which was so substantial that the Continental Congress voted to present Pickens with a sword for his heroism and leadership.

The Battle of Guilford Court House (March 15, 1781): Following the battle of Cowpens, the British General Lord Cornwallis pursued the American commander, General Nathanael Greene, up into North Carolina where the armies ultimately met at Guilford Court House near present-day Greensboro, North Carolina (March 15, 1781). Although the British held the field after the battle, Cornwallis' army was so weakened by the battle



Charles Lord Cornwallis (1738-1805) Commander of the British Troops in the Southern Theater 1780-1781

that he retreated to the coast and then north to Virginia. Six months later, at Yorktown, he surrendered his entire army to General George Washington (October 19, 1781).

Rather than pursuing Cornwallis into Virginia after the Battle of Guilford Court House, the American commander, General Nathanael Greene, decided to come back to South Carolina and take back control of the backcountry. He dispatched Brigadier General Andrew Pickens and Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hammond with their men to the Ninety Six District. In early April of 1781, Pickens and Samuel Hammond met on the Savannah River at Paces Ferry in what was to become Edgefield County and began the process of taking control.



General Nathanael Greene (1742-1786) who took command of the Continental Army in the Southern Theater in October of 1780

4. The Skirmish at Horn’s Creek (April, 1781): After arriving at Paces Ferry, Samuel Hammond heard of a British post on Horn’s Creek that was under the command of a Captain Clark. He detached Captain Key and his company to attack this British post. They did so successfully, killing Captain Clark and capturing three of his men who were afterwards paroled.²⁶

26 Pension Account of Samuel Hammond, S21807. Hammond’s actual account of this incident is as follows: “[After the battle of Guilford Court House] I was immediately ordered to prepare for the command of a detachment intended to pass into the District of 96 to cause the people friendly to the cause to join & give aid to expel the Enemy from Carolina and Georgia . . . I passed through District 96 with one hundred Citizen Soldiers & arrived safe on the margin of the Savannah river near Paces Ferry. Joined there by Capt. Thomas Kee [*sic.*] of Col. L. Hammonds’ Regiment & Capt. Henry Graybill of the same with a considerable number of Volunteers, detached Capt. Kee to attack a British post on Horn’s Creek commanded by a Capt. Clark. The British party were [*sic.*] defeated, the Captain killed & 3 were taken & paroled.” Note that although Hammond spelled Key’s name “Kee,”



Horn's Creek Baptist Church, established in 1768, is near the site of the Skirmish at Horn's Creek.

This “Captain Clark” was probably John Clark who had been granted a tract of 300 acres on the south side of Stevens Creek in 1772.²⁷ He is listed on the Jury List of 1779 as living between Turkey Creek and the Savannah River.²⁸ There was also a John Clark on the Muster Roll of the Loyalist Georgia Light Dragoons under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell in Savannah in November of 1779.²⁹

other sources make clear the proper spelling was “Key.” See also Johnson, Joseph, M.D., *Traditions and Reminiscences chiefly of the American Revolution in the South*, Walker & James, Charleston, SC, 1851 p. 514. This event, described in McCready’s *History of South Carolina in the Revolution*, is named by McCready “Horner’s Corner.” See McCready, pp. 262, 538. McCready apparently got the name of the Creek confused as he referred to it as “Horner’s Creek” and the skirmish at “Horner’s Corner.” We have been unable to find any original source to support the names, “Horner” or “Horner’s Corner.”

27 See Royal Grants, Vol. 28, page 147, South Carolina Department of Archives and History. See also Holcomb, *South Carolina’s Royal Grants, Vol. 4*, p. 176.

28 Pope, Thomas H., *The History of Newberry County, South Carolina, Vol. One*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1973, pp. 299-300.

29 The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies, www.royalprovision-

The location of the “British post” on Horn’s Creek was not specified.³⁰ This “post” may have been the “blockhouse” of Laurence Rambo, located near the confluence of Horn’s and Tobler Creeks. Laurence Rambo was a Tory and might well have provided his blockhouse for the use of the Tories following the fall of Charlestown.³¹ If Captain Clark were here when his forces were attacked and defeated, then it is reasonable to assume that the Whigs might have taken over this fortification for their own use. We know that in the summer and early fall of 1781 “Rambo Station” was used by the Whig forces as a headquarters. Then in the late fall, it was burned by the Tories.³² Although their father had been a Tory, Rambo’s sons, Jacob and Joseph, had become Whigs in 1781 and served under Colonel LeRoy Hammond.³³ They might have allowed the Whigs to use the blockhouse without their elderly father’s permission. This theory of this location of the skirmish at Horn’s Creek gives some credence to the tradition that the skirmish had occurred

al.com/military/musters/1779.

30 The history and location have been somewhat confused because historians (Johnson & McCready) have stated that Key’s force attacked the Tories at “Captain Clark’s residence,” which is not what Hammond said in his pension account. He said definitively that they attacked “a British post on Horn’s Creek commanded by a Captain Clark.” The mistake appears to go back to Dr. A. S. Hammond, son of Samuel Hammond, who provided a memoir of his father to Johnson. See Johnson, p. 506.

31 Johnson, p. 496. Chapman, John Abney, *The History of Edgefield County*, E.H. Aull, Publisher, Newberry, SC, 1897, p. 128.

32 Pension Account of Robert Schrimsher, S4666, March 1, 1834. Schrimsher’s affidavit reads as follows: “In the month of August (he thinks) and in the year 1781, he volunteered in the company of Capt. John Ryan and remained with said Capt. in a block-house called Rambo Station on Horn’s Creek in Edgefield District (for the purpose of guarding against the Tories) for the term of three months. The station was then burnt by the Tories.” During and after the Cherokee War, “blockhouses” were often built by settlers as a fortification against Indian attacks. They were often log structures, designed with palisade fences, gun ports and other protective measures, in which settlers could protect themselves and their families.

33 Moss, Bobby Gilmer, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1983, p. 799. A.A.6225, S635, A.A.6226, S636.

near the confluence of Horn's and Tobler Creeks.³⁴ This may be the closest we can come to identifying the exact location of the skirmish at Horn's Creek.

5. The Skirmish at Hammond's Mill (April, 1781):



Samuel Hammond (1757-1842) never surrendered and continued to fight. He was the most significant hero of the American Revolution from Edgefield County.

After Captain Key and his company had successfully attacked the British post on Horn's Creek, they "marched to Colonel L. Hammond's mill on Savannah river, attacked the British fort there, broke up the mill, and took all the provisions belonging to the enemy."³⁵ It is likely that the British "fort" was Snow Hill, the home of Colonel LeRoy Hammond which had been built circa 1774. The mill was probably on Pretty Run Branch just above its confluence with the Savannah River in present-day North Augusta where the North Augusta Parks, Recreation and Tourism complex is now located. This attack on this British post was one of the Whig efforts to eliminate British outposts in preparation for the Siege of Augusta.

34 This "tradition" comes from an interview by the author on August 7, 1999 with Elizabeth Rainsford Reel (1927- 2015), whose father, the late F. F. ("Tod") Rainsford (1894-1954), told her this story from her earliest childhood. Tod Rainsford lived his entire life in the house on Rainsford Road which burned in the 1990's. He and his father and his grandfather before him owned the land directly across Horn's Creek from the confluence of the two creeks.

35 Johnson, p. 514. It is interesting that Samuel Hammond did not include this additional escapade of Captain Key in his Pension account. See the Pension Account of Samuel Hammond, S21807. Johnson attributes his account of the Hammond's Mill attack to Samuel Hammond's son, Dr. A.S. Hammond. See Johnson, p. 506.



1784 Sketch by William Henry Drayton (1742-1792) of the Savannah River showing Snow Hill on the South Carolina bank.³⁶

Following the Battle at Guilford Court House, General Greene also dispatched Colonel Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee of the Continental Troops to join with South Carolina forces to take control of the backcountry. In May of 1781, Lee joined Brigadier General Andrew Pickens and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke to attack the British stronghold at Augusta under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas “Burntfoot” Brown who had been so badly mistreated by the Liberty boys some five years earlier. Greene himself headed to Ninety Six, the other British stronghold, under the command of the Tory Lieutenant Colonel John Harris Cruger.



Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee (1756-1818)

³⁶ Krawczynski, Keith, Editor, “William Drayton’s Journal of a 1784 Tour of the South Carolina Backcountry,” *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, Volume 97, Number 3, July 1996, pp. 193-194.

6. The Capture of Fort Galphin (May 21, 1781): In their plan to capture the British fort at Augusta, Lee and Pickens decided to first take the British post at Fort Galphin, the fortified house of the famous Indian trader, George Galphin, at Silver Bluff on the Carolina side of the Savannah River some twelve miles below Augusta. This British post was very significant because of the substantial stores of supplies which were kept there, including presents for the Indians. These supplies were badly needed by the Whig forces at Augusta.

The British commander at Augusta, Lieutenant Colonel Brown had detached a company under the command of Captain Samuel Rowarth to guard the supplies. Lee organized a force led by Captain Michael Rudolph with his legion infantry and a troop of dragoons, but also including elements of militia from the regiments of Colonels Samuel Hammond and William Hardin, to attack Fort Galphin.

On the morning of the 21st of May, 1781, Rudolph arrived in the vicinity of Fort Galphin where he ordered his militia infantry to dismount and feign an attack against the Fort. As expected, the British commander, Captain Rowarth, opened the gates of the fort taking his full mounted force to chase down the enemy militia. When he did so, Rudolph was then able to race with his full force across the field and enter the stockade where they seized control of the large stores of power and ammunition. Without these supplies, it is doubtful that the subsequent attack on Brown's forces at Augusta could have been successful.³⁷

Siege of Augusta (May 22 - June 6, 1781): Armed with the supplies taken from Fort Galphin, Lee, Pickens and Elijah Clarke were able to mount a successful siege on the British forts in Augusta where they first took a smaller British fortification, Fort Grierson,

37 The most detailed account of this battle is the article by Rauch, Steven J., "Prelude to Augusta: The Capture of Fort Galphin, 21 May 1781," in *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*, Vol. 3, No. 5, May 2006. See also Lee, pp. 354-355, and Cashin, p. 131.

and then the larger fort, Fort Cornwallis. Many men from what was to become Edgefield County participated in this siege, including Colonel LeRoy Hammond, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hammond, many men under their commands and also some under the command of the Georgia militia Colonel Elijah Clarke.

The Siege of Ninety Six (May 22-June 19, 1781): After capturing Augusta, Lee, Pickens, LeRoy Hammond, Samuel Hammond, and Clarke all went to Ninety Six to assist General Greene in his siege of that British fort. The fort was under the command of British Lieutenant Colonel John Harris Cruger, who had with him 550 experienced Tories, mostly from New York. Cruger had been in command at Ninety Six for almost a year and had done much to fortify that fort, including building a Star redoubt and erecting abatis around the fort. Although Greene had a force of 1,000 men and used conventional siege tactics which might have been successful, the approach of British reinforcements under Lord Rawden caused him to make a premature unsuccessful attack on the fort, after which he retreated to avoid being captured. Even though the Siege of Ninety Six was unsuccessful in taking the fort, the British commanders, Cruger and Rawdon, realized that their position there was untenable and therefore they evacuated the fort and retreated toward Charlestown.

7. The Battle at Rogers' Old Field (June, 1781): In late June of 1781, after the British evacuated Ninety Six and retreated towards Charlestown,³⁸ a band of Tories under the command of the Tory Colonel John Cotton,³⁹ estimated at seventy in number, marched across this region, laying waste the countryside. The Tories were believed to have “cut and tarred an old man almost to death, stripped naked an infant just out of the Small Pox, and scattered feathers and clothing in every direction in this area.”⁴⁰

38 The timing of this battle is provided in the pension account of John Presley (S 7338).

39 The information that this company was under the command of Colonel John Cotton is provided in the pension account of Nathaniel Goff (31695).

40 Pension account of John Presley (S 7338).

A company of Whigs from Colonel Samuel Hammond's regiment⁴¹ under the command of Captain Thomas Harvey and Lieutenant Jesse Johnston⁴² had begun to follow this band of Tories. This Company numbered 24 men,⁴³ the names of those known are: Captain Thomas Harvey, Lieutenant Jesse Johnston, John Presley, David Presley, Abram Richardson, Nathaniel Goff, Richard Jones, Abner Hammond, and George Rogers.

The Tories had camped at the plantation of Daniel Rogers, approximately 1.5 miles east of where the Edgefield County Court House would subsequently be built.⁴⁴ They had stacked their arms, were feeding their horses and were refreshing themselves, completely unaware that they were being followed.

When the Company of Whigs became aware of the location of the Tories and the fact that they were so outnumbered, Lieutenant Johnston asked the men who was not willing to attack the Tories. "One man, from prudential considerations, said it was madness to attack a force so superior in number. He was asked if he would give up his guns to a 22-year-old unarmed man who said he was willing to go. He gave it up, and promised upon pain of death to answer when called by Johnston when the fight should be over, which he did."⁴⁵

Johnston ordered the men to be divided into three divisions and then to advance on the Tory encampment from different directions

41 That this Company was under the command of Colonel Samuel Hammond is provided in the pension accounts of Nathaniel Goff (31695) and Richard Jones (W 9081).

42 Johnston's participation is confirmed in the pension accounts of Presley, Goff and Abner Hammond (W 25753).

43 Pension account of John Presley (S 7338). Pressley said 21. Robert Mills, in his *Statistics of South Carolina*, said 24. See Mills, Robert, *Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of the Natural, Civil and Military History, General and Particular*, Charleston, S.C., 1826, p. 533.

44 This location is confirmed by the land acquisitions of Daniel Rogers and the 1850 obituary of Miss Elizabeth Youngblood in the *Edgefield Advertiser* of April 10, 1850 in which it is stated that "she died on the very spot where a considerable skirmish or battle between Whigs, under the command of Captain Harvey, and the Tories took place during the Revolutionary war."

45 Pension account of John Presley (S 7338).

at full speed, hollowing as loud as their lungs would let them “rush dragoons, rush dragoons, rush dragoons.” The moment the approach was discovered (a prisoner taken said he conceived that hundreds were attacking them), the enemy scattered and precipitately fled, leaving horses, clothing, ammunition and guns, together with a considerable quantity of plunder taken from the Whigs. Captain Harvey was killed and another man, George Rogers, was wounded and died in two weeks at his home in South Carolina.⁴⁶ It was afterwards stated that Captain Thomas Harvey “died in the arms of victory.”⁴⁷ According to one source, “several” of the Tories were killed.⁴⁸ Another source indicated that forty to fifty persons were slain and their bodies buried very near the field of conflict.⁴⁹

8. The Skirmish at Turkey Creek (September 6, 1781): On September 6th, 1781, Hezekiah Williams, an active and daring Edgefield Tory leader, attacked a Whig patrol on Turkey Creek, killing or wounding ten Whigs and scattering the rest. The sole contemporary account of this event is in the *Royal Gazette*, published in Charlestown September 19, 1781.⁵⁰ It does not provide any information which might more precisely identify the location of the engagement other than it was on Turkey Creek which is a big and long creek extending back some twenty-five miles from its mouth at Stevens Creek twelve

46 Pension account of John Presley (S 7338) provides the fullest detail of the entire event.

47 Mills, p. 533. Mills’ full quote: “Capt. Thomas Harvey rendered eminent services to the state; he was an excellent officer, and first distinguished himself in the Cherokee war, under Col. Hammond. He met his death in the arms of victory, having made an attack with only 24 men, upon a party of tories, consisting of upwards of 70 men, whom he totally routed, killed several and took almost all their arms.”

48 Mills, p. 533.

49 *Edgefield Advertiser*, April 10, 1850.

50 *The Royal Gazette*, September 19, 1781, “Capt. Jephtha Williams of the Militia, made an inroad lately from the Forks of Edisto, into the enemy’s country, beyond Ninety-six, and having received intelligence, that a considerable party of Rebel Militia were embodied and patrolling on Turkey Creek, a branch of Savannah River, betwixt Ninety-six and Augusta, he came up with them on the 6th instant, killed and wounded ten, and dispersed the rest. He afterwards returned in safety without the loss of a man.” [In the *Gazette’s* issue of October 10, 1781, the paper noted that the use of the name “Jephtha” had been in error; the correct name was “Hezikiah”].

miles west of the Town of Edgefield in a grand circular arc north of, and around, the town to its headwaters in the Harmony community more than five miles east of the town. Presumably the engagement could have taken place at any point along this twenty-five-mile-long creek. We do know that Williams's home was on Crooked Run, a branch of Log Creek which is a tributary of Turkey Creek, about six miles north of Edgefield, and three miles east of the intersection of U.S. Highway 25 and the Plum Branch Road (SC Highway 283).⁵¹ Perhaps this skirmish was near Williams' home.

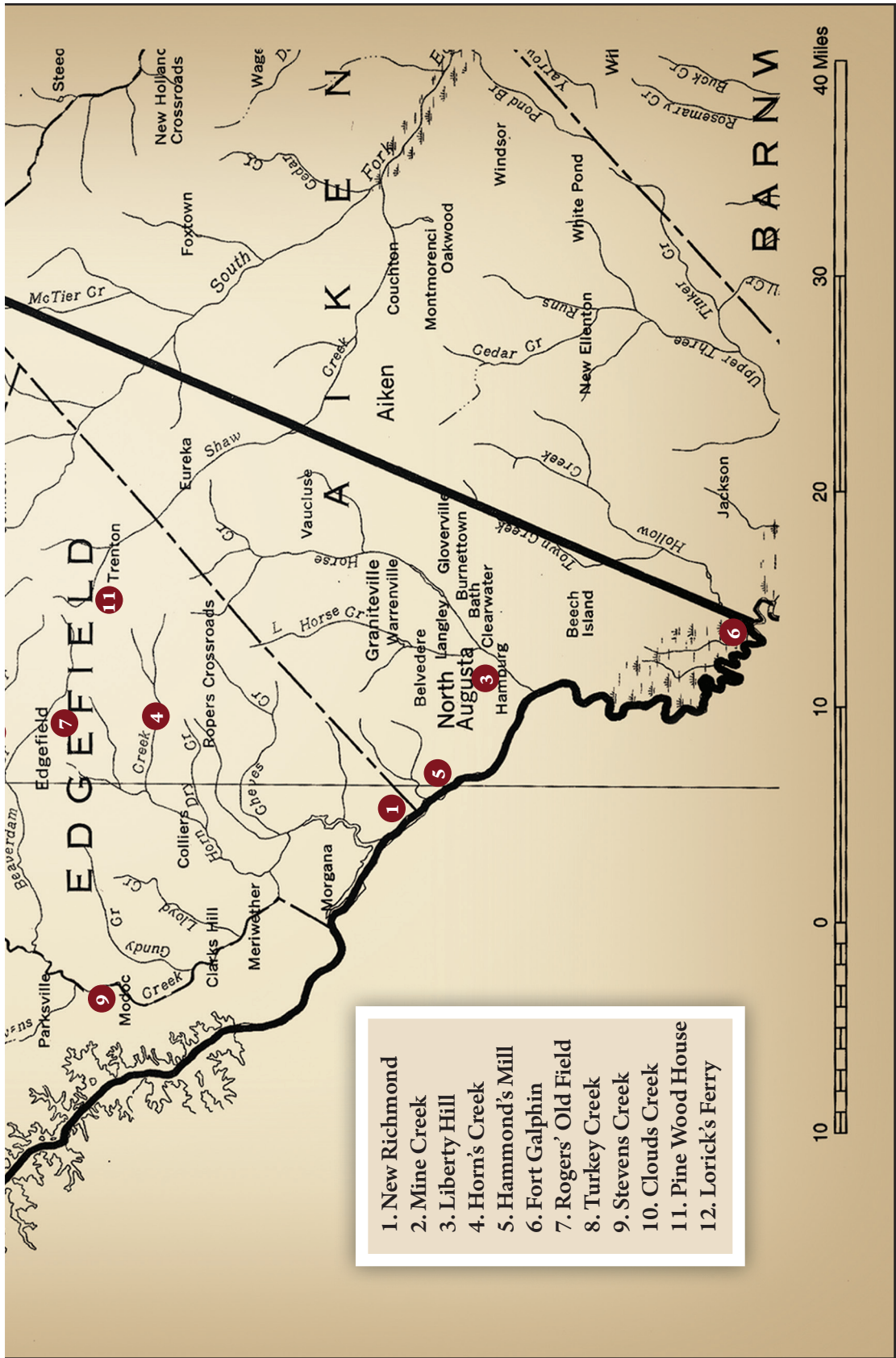
The Battle of Eutaw Springs: Several days following this skirmish at Turkey Creek, on September 8, 1781, General Greene, with the support of "Light-Horse Harry" Lee and Andrew Pickens, met in a major engagement with a British force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stuart at Eutaw Springs, some sixty miles north of Charlestown.⁵² General Greene's army was composed of both Continentals and Militia, including many militia from the area that was to become Edgefield County under the commands of Colonel LeRoy Hammond and Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hammond and perhaps also under the command of Major Hugh Middleton.⁵³ Greene's army attacked and did substantial damage to the British but the British rallied and the final result of the battle was a draw. A militia captain who lived in what was to become Edgefield County, Captain Richard Johnson, played a significant role in spiking the British cannon with a nail to keep the advancing British from firing on the retreating Whig forces.⁵⁴ Although the British held the field after the battle, the British forces were so badly injured that they subsequently retreated towards Charlestown. This major battle, together with other Whig maneuvers towards Moncks Corner, caused the British to become bottled up in the area immediately around Charlestown.

51 Lipscomb, Vol. XXVI, (Winter 1979), p. 35. For the location of Williams' home see Forfeited Estates: Plats (Hezekiah Willliams), South Carolina Archives.

52 Lumpkin, Henry, *From Savannah to Yorktown, The American Revolution in the South*, University of South Carolina Press, 1981, pp. 212-218, provides a good overall review of this battle.

53 Johnson, pp. 480-481.

54 Johnson, p. 504.



- 1. New Richmond
- 2. Mine Creek
- 3. Liberty Hill
- 4. Horn's Creek
- 5. Hammond's Mill
- 6. Fort Galphin
- 7. Rogers' Old Field
- 8. Turkey Creek
- 9. Stevens Creek
- 10. Clouds Creek
- 11. Pine Wood House
- 12. Lorick's Ferry

9. The Skirmish at Stevens Creek (October 5, 1781): A month later, Tory Captain Hezekiah Williams, was raiding the countryside attacking Whig positions. A Whig force of approximately 70 men from Colonel LeRoy Hammond's regiment, commanded by Major Hugh Middleton, attacked Williams who had only thirty men. Although the Whig forces had an advantage of more than two to one, Williams's forces threw back the Whigs, killing eight and wounding seventeen. As Williams knew that Col. Hammond was nearby with a far larger force, he withdrew from the area.⁵⁵ The location of this skirmish was at Key's ford over Stevens Creek, approximately 17 miles northwest of west of the Town of Edgefield.⁵⁶

55 Lipscomb, *Vol. XXVI*, (Winter 1979), p. 35. See *The Royal Gazette*, October 10, 1781, "Capt. Hezekiah Williams, (called in a former paper by mistake Jephtha Williams) having harassed the Rebels above Ninety-six with constant incursions, was attacked on the 5th of last month, by 70 men, commanded by Major Middleton of Col. Hammond's regiment, who came up with him on Stevens's creek, when, after a sharp conflict, the Rebels gave way, with the loss of eight men killed and seventeen badly wounded; several others were slightly wounded. Col. Hammond being just at hand with a considerable reinforcement, made it necessary for Capt. Williams to retire, as his own numbers did not exceed thirty." Even though the October 10th edition of *The Royal Gazette* stated that the event occurred on the 5th of *last month* [emphasis added], indicating that the event occurred on September 5, 1781, this could not have happened because LeRoy Hammond was in Camden to meet Governor Rutledge on September 8th (See Johnson, p. 481.) It would have been highly unlikely that he could have gotten to Camden, 99 miles away, in time for his meeting. Other sources have also concluded that the engagement occurred on October 5, 1781. See for example, McCready, p. 476, and Floyd, Charles Timothy (Fifth Great Grandson), *Hugh Teare Middleton, Naturally Brave*, Green and Morgan Publishers, LLC, Eagle, Idaho, 2013, p. 19. Also, had this engagement occurred on September 5th, why would it have not been recorded in *The Royal Gazette* in the September 19, 1781 issue in which the skirmish at Turkey Creek was described (See Note 50 above)?

56 The source for the location of this skirmish at Key's ford is the pension account of Alsey Martin, widow of George Martin, in which she stated: "Capt. Martin was engaged in scouting expeditions against the Tories, with whom he had various skirmishes, among them one with a party of Tories commanded by Hezekiah Williams at Key's ford over Stephen's Creek in Edgefield District. . . ." Pension Account of George Martin, W24132. Key's ford may have been later known as Blair's ford which is shown on the 1816 map of Edgefield County by Thomas Anderson.

The “Bloody Scout Raids (November, 1781 through May of 1782): Even though the British troops had largely retreated to the area immediately around Charlestown, they still needed constant fuel, food and forage from the countryside to support the military, civilian and refugees packed into the area. Thus, in early November of 1781, Tories under the command of Major William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham, Colonel Hezekiah Williams, and Lieutenant Colonel Baily Chaney joined together for a series of raids, which ultimately took them deep into the South Carolina backcountry. They established a camp near Bull Creek Swamp between the present towns of Salley and North from which to initiate their raids. No copy of the British orders for this raid have been located, but, according to one of the most knowledgeable scholars of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, the raid was, at a minimum, informally sanctioned by the new British Southern department commander, Gen. Alexander Leslie.⁵⁷

10. The Cloud’s Creek Massacre (November 17, 1781): From their camp, two parties under Hezekiah Williams and John Radcliffe came through the Mount Willing neighborhood south of the Saluda River and plundered the area, stealing cattle. Some of those whose cattle was stolen immediately gave chase to Radcliffe who had crossed the Saluda into what later became Newberry County. There the Whigs, including James Butler, Jr., caught and killed Radcliffe and several of his party and dispersed the remainder.

Captain Sterling Turner of the Whig militia decided to give chase to another group of plunderers who had gone eastward into what is now Lexington County.⁵⁸ Captain Turner prevailed upon Captain James Butler, Sr., who had just returned home after spending more than a year in the British prison in Charlestown, to go along with them as an advisor.

57 From a document entitled “SC Loyalist militia the “Bloody Scout Raid: Maj. William “Bloody Bill” Cunningham, Col. Hezekiah Williams, and Lt. Col. Baily Chaney” which is believed to have been authored by the late Charles Baxley (1952-2024).

58 One source credits General Andrew Pickens with having directed Turner to pursue the Tories. See Bass, Robert, *Ninety Six, The Struggle for the South Carolina Back Country*, Sandlapper Publishing Company, Orangeburg, SC, 1989, p. 435.

They overtook the Tories at Tarrar's Spring about a mile east of the site of the Lexington County Courthouse. There, after a brief skirmish, a negotiated settlement was reached in which Turner's party was allowed to take their cattle back and the Tories under Hezekiah Williams were allowed to go in possession of life and limb.

Upon the return march toward Mount Willing, Turner insisted on halting near Cloud's Creek for rest and refreshment, contrary to the advice of Captain Butler.⁵⁹ Here, at sunrise on November 17, 1781, they were surprised by "Bloody Bill" Cunningham's main force with over 300 men. Turner's entire party was only twenty-one men in addition to himself. The Whigs took refuge in an unfinished log house and attempted to negotiate with the Tories.



*William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham
(1756-1787)*

Jones, Nat Corley, Sterling Turner, Burdit Escribde, Benjamin Bell, William Scissom, John Bland, Gideon Nicholson, Peter Foy, [first name unknown] Sullivan, and Berryman Bledsoe. Apparently, Hendley Webb and Bartlet Bledsoe were spared through the intercession of friends in

59 Butler, Andrew Pickens (1796-1857), "A Memoir Dictated for the South Carolina Historical Society, 1857," preserved by Johnson Hagood, copy in the files of Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr., is the source for Turner's insistence and Butler's contrary advice. See also Chapman, pp. 31-34. For a contradictory story which makes Captain James Butler, Sr., not Sterling Turner, responsible for stopping at Cloud's Creek, see Bass, p. 435. This assertion was not documented by Bass.

Cunningham's band. Benjamin Hughes was the only man who successfully thwarted Cunningham's vengeance by making his escape.⁶⁰

The site of this engagement and massacre is actually just beyond the area of what would become Edgefield County. It is near the current county line separating Saluda and Lexington Counties, just several hundred yards inside Lexington County. However, we include it here as an Edgefield engagement because nearly all of the Whigs who were killed in that engagement were from the area which became Edgefield County.

11. The Killings Near the Pine Wood House (December 4, 1781): Another of the "Bloody Scout Raids" was perpetrated in early December, probably December 4, 1781, when Hezekiah Williams detached his Tory militia under Captain John Crawford to create more mischief in the Long Cane area. On his trip to the north and west, Crawford passed through what was to become Edgefield County where he murdered George Foreman and his two sons near what was known as the Pine-a-wood or the Pine Wood house, or the Pine House as it is known today, some six miles east of the present-day Town of Edgefield. Crawford then continued west, passing through what became the Town of Edgefield and within four miles of Martintown, into what was to become Abbeville County.⁶¹ There, he went to White Hall, Andrew Williamson's plantation which Pickens' militia had turned into a military post. Crawford destroyed the defensive works that the Whigs had constructed. He then went on to Andrew Pickens' blockhouse at the present town of Abbeville. On December 7, 1781, just east of Abbeville, he surprised a convoy of wagons that had been sent to procure supplies for the Whigs. He took the drivers captive, one of whom was Andrew Pickens' brother John, whom he turned over to the Cherokee for gruesome torture and death.⁶²

60 The most comprehensive account of the Cloud's Creek Massacre is provided in Herlong, Bela Padgett, Carol Hardy Bryan and Charles Reneau Andrew, *Where Our Paths Crossed, The Old Edgefield District Settlement of Mount Willing, Vol. 1*, Mount Willing Press, Cumming, GA, 2011, pp. 393-441. See also, Lipscomb, Vol. XXVI, (Winter 1979), p. 36.

61 Audited Account of Edward Vann (AA8018), South Carolina Archives.

62 Ibid.

12. The Skirmish at Lorick's Ferry (May 1, 1781): Following the Cloud's Creek Massacre, "Bloody Bill" Cunningham led his men up into what was to become Laurens County where his forces committed a number of other terrorist acts, including the unbelievably cruel butchering of Whigs at Hayes Station on November 19, 1781. Some months later, he and twenty men came back into the area which was to become Edgefield County. Captain William Butler, son of Captain James Butler, Sr. whom Cunningham had killed at Cloud's Creek, had been searching for Cunningham to avenge the death of his father and brother. With Capt. Butler were approximately 30 men who had lost brothers, fathers, and neighbors to Major Cunningham during his "Bloody Scout" raids.

Captain Butler needed to find out exactly where Major Cunningham was so he sent his brother Thomas to the house of Joseph Cunningham, a relative of Major Cunningham. In the dark, Thomas identified himself as one of Major Cunningham's men by the name of "Nibletts" and asked where the raider's camp was located. Joseph Cunningham's wife fell for the trick and told him. Capt. Butler then entered the house, put a pistol to Joseph Cunningham's head, and forced him to lead his men to Cunningham's camp.



William Butler (1759-1821)

The party halted in a peach orchard near Bouknight's Ferry⁶³ on the Saluda River where they observed a gray mare, which they knew had been taken by Cunningham, passing back having escaped from the Tory camp. Butler ordered his men to march

63 The references to Bouknight's Ferry and Lorick's Ferry both came from the memoir of A.P. Butler. However, this is somewhat confusing as it is believed that Bouknight's and Lorick's ferrys were actually the same ferry, just named for their different owners over the years. See Herlong, et.al., pp. 412-413. footnote 23.59.

forward, being careful not to be observed. The Whigs surrounded the Tory camp with Lieutenant John Corley taking eight men to cover the camp's rear. Butler and his men advanced under cover of a hedge. During this maneuver, Butler was spotted by the Tories but, amazingly, was mistaken for Cunningham since there was a striking resemblance between the two men.

At daylight on May 1, 1782, Butler ordered his men to attack the Tories who were drying their blankets before their fires. The Tories were taken completely by surprise. Butler's son, United States Senator Andrew Pickens Butler, gave the following account of his father's experience:

Cunningham was promptly at his post, but, taken by surprise and attacked by superior numbers, thought only of safety. Having no time to saddle his horse, but with partizan quickness seizing his holsters sprang to his seat, while Butler, singling him out, dashed in pursuit. Both men were remarkably fine riders and tradition has preserved the names of the horses they rode. Cunningham was mounted on a mare which had become celebrated in the service as 'Silver Heels,' while Butler rode a horse called 'Ranter.' As Butler carried only a sabre and Cunningham only pistols that had been rendered useless by the rain of the night before, for he snapped them repeatedly over his shoulders at his adversary as he fled, life or death hung upon the speed of the horses. As long as the chase was in the woods, 'Ranter' maintained his own, but when he struck an open trail in which the superior strides of Cunningham's thoroughbred could tell, turning in his seat and parting with triumph and confidence the noble animal that bore him, he tauntingly exclaimed, 'I am safe,' and dashing rapidly away from his adversary, he escaped by himself swimming the Saluda near Lorick's ferry."⁶⁴

64 Butler, Andrew Pickens (1796-1857), *Butler Memoir.*; See also Chapman, pp. 39-41, Herlong, et.al., pp. 393-441.

Butler's men pursued the other Tories, killing a number of them and dispersing the rest. This was the end of "Bloody Bill" Cunningham's bloody raids. However, he was personally successful in getting back to the British protection in Charlestown from where he emigrated to East Florida and subsequently to Cuba and the Bahamas. His days of terrorizing the South Carolina backcountry were over.⁶⁵

Conclusion

These twelve engagements, skirmishes and battles are just a few of the many events in the Georgia and Carolina backcountry which contributed significantly to the securing of American Independence. Without the cumulative actions of the Whigs whom we now call "Patriots," including some incidents of extreme violence, the British might not have given up, and our war for Independence may not have been won. It is also encouraging to note that, after the war was over, Edgfieldians, including both former Whigs and former Tories, began to work together to create a new and better county, state and nation.



Arthur Simkins (1742-1826), a Captain in the Whig militia, played a major role following the war in the building of our town, our county, our state and our nation.

65 Chapman, p. 41.

Other Incidents During the Revolutionary War in What Was to Become Edgefield County

John Ryan & James Booth: Governor and United States Senator Benjamin Ryan Tillman, whose Tillman ancestors lived on Horn's Creek near Horn's Creek Church and whose Miller ancestors lived just a few miles to the south on Burkhalter and Chavous Creeks, related several stories that he had been told as a child and which he later recorded in the *Congressional Record*.⁶⁶ One story, which involved John Ryan, a valiant captain in the Revolution, is particularly revealing: "Captain John Ryan, who was captured or taken prisoner by the Tories on Edgefield Road near Hornes Creek Church, and his captors, needing a rope, ordered a Tory who was plowing nearby to give them his plow line so as to tie him. He replied, 'I would lose a year's plowing to see John Ryan tied.' Captain Ryan never forgot the remark of the man named Booth, and after Ryan escaped from the prison in Charlestown, he rode through the country and watched for Booth. Booth's sister had just delivered his dinner to him when he heard a noise, looking around to see Captain Ryan with his gun leveled on him. He begged for his life but to no avail. Ryan shot him dead."⁶⁷

Ansibelle & George Miller at Shelving Rock: Tillman also recited a story about his grandmother, Ansibelle Miller, and her brother George Miller who was a Whig. He described "a shelving rock on that same plantation – away remote and in a dense forest then – where my grandmother's brother, George Miller, had the smallpox when he was in hiding. The country was in the possession of the British, and his sister would take the little medicine and food she could get and put it in a pail, with which she went to the spring, down a steep hill, where the spring was in the woods, and taking precautions not to be followed, would deposit the pail in hiding and take the food and physic [ie.: medicine] and then go down through the forest to this rock and attend to her sick brother."⁶⁸

66 *Congressional Record*, p. 1118.

67 *Spartanburg Herald*, November 22, 1906, cited in Simkins, Francis Butler, *Pitchfork Ben Tillman*, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, 1950, p. 40.

68 *Ibid.* See also *Congressional Record*, p. 1118-1119.

Cherokee Pond Incident: In another incident which occurred down the Old Stage Road at Cherokee Pond, near the present-day intersection of I-20 and U.S. Highway 25, Colonel LeRoy Hammond, his son, Captain LeRoy Hammond, Jr., his nephew, Colonel Samuel Hammond and other Whigs had captured some Tories whom they were taking down to Hammond's Fort on the Savannah River. One of the Tories had secreted a pistol in his coat and, as they were marching, the Tory pulled out the pistol and was about to assassinate Colonel Samuel Hammond. Seeing this, Captain LeRoy Hammond spurred his horse forward and, with his sword, struck the Tory on top of his head with such a blow that one half of his head fell on one shoulder and the other half fell on the other shoulder.⁶⁹ This sword and pistol were preserved by the family of Captain Hammond and are now on display at the North Augusta Arts and Heritage Center.

Mrs. Martin's Patriotism and Courage: On one occasion in early September of 1780, several British officers stopped at the Martin house on Martintown Road and asked how many sons she had. She answered "Eight." To the question of "Where are they all?" she replied promptly, "Seven are in the service of their country."⁷⁰ "Really, madam," observed the officer sneeringly, "you have enough of them." "No, sir," said the Mrs. Martin proudly, "I wish I had fifty."⁷¹

Several weeks later, when the Whig leader Elijah Clark was besieging the "White House" in Augusta in September of 1780, the commander of his artillery, William Martin, the eldest of Mrs. Martin's sons, was shot by the British and killed. The next day, a British officer who was going from Augusta to Ninety Six, stopped by the Martin home to water his horse. Upon meeting Mrs. Martin, he inquired, "Are you the mother of those rebel boys who are fighting against us." Mrs. Martin responded, "I am." Then the British officer said, "Madam I have the pleasure to tell you that I saw your son's brains blown out yesterday." Without flinching, Mrs. Martin responded, "He could not have died in a nobler cause."⁷²

69 Chapman, p. 140.

70 In September of 1780, Mrs. Martin's youngest son, Matthew, had not yet entered the service, but did so a few months later at the age of 17.

71 Program of "The Annual Meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society Honoring the Martins of Martintown, Friday, September 18, 1953, held at Antioch Baptist Church," passim, copy in the possession of the Edgefield County Historical Society.

72 *Ibid.*

Martin Heroines: On another occasion, during the Siege of Ninety Six in May of 1781, while the Martin men were off fighting, Mrs. Martin and her daughters-in-law were at the Martin home when a British courier, accompanied by two British soldiers, stopped by to water their horses. The Martin women surmised that the courier was carrying an important dispatch for the Tory commander at Ninety Six, Colonel John Harris Cruger, whose Star Fort was under siege by General Greene. Determined to get this important message and take it to General Greene, Grace Waring Martin and Rachel Clay Martin waited until the British soldiers had departed, donned their husbands' clothes and arms and took a short cut through the woods to intercept the British envoy. Springing from a hiding place at dusk, they presented their pistols and demanded the dispatch. The soldiers were so surprised and overcome that they quickly yielded to the demand. Having secured the dispatch, the two "rebel boys" stole away into the woods and returned to the Martin house.



In a famous Revolutionary encounter, the Martin wives, disguised as men, hold up a British courier on the Martintown Road and take an important dispatch. (1853 lithograph by Felix Octavius Darley on display in the New York Public Library.)

After losing their dispatch, the British courier and his guards abandoned their mission and headed back towards Augusta, stopping again at the Martin house. Mrs. Martin inquired as to why they were returning so soon. They responded that they had been taken by two rebel boys. The ladies then asked them if they had no arms. The British admitted that they did have arms, but were surprised. Mrs. Martin allowed these British soldiers to depart without telling them by whom they were taken.

Another daughter-in-law, Sally Clay Martin, mounted an old blind pony and rode all night to deliver the dispatch to General Greene at Ninety Six. The dispatch contained the important news that 2,000 fresh Irish troops were in route from Charlestown to relieve the beleaguered fort. Realizing that his position would soon be untenable, Greene ordered a premature attack upon the Star Fort. Afterwards he made the decision to raise the siege and retreat before the fresh British troops could overcome his forces. Thus, the Martin women, by their determined and courageous acts, saved General Greene's army.⁷³

73 Mills, pp. 534-535. Johnson, 311-312. Chapman, pp. 150-151, 392-393.

Notable Whigs of the American Revolution from What Was To Become Edgefield County

George Galphin (1709-1780). A native of Ireland, this prominent Indian trader came to South Carolina in 1737. In 1749, he established his home at Silver Bluff on the Savannah River at what was to become the southernmost tip of Edgefield County. He built a trading post there together with a substantial brick home where he dispensed hospitality to prominent visitors, including Henry Laurens and William Bartram. He actively traded with Indians from the Gulf Coast to the Mississippi River, maintaining good relations with both the Creek and Cherokee tribes. He left a wife in Ireland and had three common law wives here, including a White, an African and an Indian, with children by each of these. He remembered all of them in his will.⁷⁴ During the Revolution, his sympathies were with the Whig cause. He was appointed agent by the Continental Congress for dealing with the Indians, and in this position, he was largely responsible for neutralizing the Creek Indians in the War. In his *Statistics of South Carolina*, Robert Mills described him as “a devoted friend to the American cause.”⁷⁵ He died on December 1, 1780⁷⁶ leaving a very substantial estate with large landholdings in South Carolina and Georgia. He is believed to have been buried near his home at Silver Bluff.⁷⁷

74 Vandervelde, Isabel, *George Galphin, Indian Trading Patriot of Georgia and South Carolina: families of his children of three races*, Art Studio Press, Aiken, SC, 2004, passim. Sheftall, John McKay, *George Galphin an Indian-White Relations in the Georgia Backcountry During the American Revolution*, A Master of Art Thesis at the University of Virginia, 1983, passim.

75 Mills, p. 535.

76 The date of Galphin’s death is only revealed, without adequate documentation, in the Bible record of his son, Thomas Galphin. See Vandervelde, p. 37; Sheftall, p. 57. One would have expected that the death of such a prominent man to have been noted in the Charlestown or Savannah newspapers or otherwise recorded in the notes or correspondence of his contemporaries. Unfortunately we have found no such sources.

77 O’Neill, Judge John Belton, *Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina, Vol. I*, S. G. Courtenay & Co., Publishers, Charleston, SC, 1859, pp. 66-67.

Colonel LeRoy Hammond (1728-1790). Born in Richmond County on the “Neck” between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers in Virginia, Leroy Hammond came south to Augusta about 1765. In 1771 he moved across the Savannah River into what was to become Edgefield County and built a very substantial home called “New Richmond.” A frontier entrepreneur, he undertook to build the new court house in the Ninety Six District in 1774. He was also actively engaged in trading with the Indians. Within a few years he moved again to a new home, “Snow Hill,” at the head of navigation on the Savannah River in present-day North Augusta. He was an ardent supporter of the movement for Independence, serving in the 1775 and 1776 Provincial Congresses and in the First General Assembly. Later he joined the Whig militia, becoming a colonel and rendering heroic service in the Cherokee campaign of 1776 and many other Revolutionary battles and skirmishes up until the fall of Charlestown in 1780. He then surrendered and took parole, ceasing his involvement in the war until the late spring of 1781. Thereafter he participated in both the Siege of Augusta and the Siege of Ninety Six and was involved in scouting in the Ninety Six District in the fall of 1781.⁷⁸ In his *Statistics of South Carolina*, Robert Mills wrote of LeRoy Hammond that he “was, in the commencement of the revolution, a distinguished officer, and a terror to the Indians,” perhaps suggesting that his involvement in the last years of the War were minimal.⁷⁹ In 1782, he was a member of the “Jacksonborough Assembly” (the first General Assembly after the Revolution) and

78 Andrew, Rod, Jr., *The Life and Times of General Andrew Pickens, Revolutionary War Hero, American Founder*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 2017, p. 129. Johnson, p. 480-481. Johnson’s information came from Senator A. P. Butler who derived his information from LeRoy Hammond’s nephew, Joshua Hammond, who lived to be more than 100 years old. During the siege of Ninety Six, General Greene sent out a notice extremely critical of “a party of men said to belong to Colonel LeRoy Hammond’s Regiment who are murdering and plundering the inhabitants not in arms in a most barbarous and cruel manner.” See Conrad, Dennis M., editor, *The Papers of Nathanael Greene, Volume VIII 30 March – 10 July 1781*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1995, p. 349.

79 Mills, Robert, *Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of the Natural, Civil and Military History, General and Particular*, Charleston, S.C., 1826, p. 533.

afterwards served in the legislature. He was named a Judge of the Edgefield County Court in 1785 and served in that capacity in addition to his legislative duties. After the war, he actively promoted the growing of tobacco and maintained his trading post at Snow Hill. He died in 1790 and was buried at Snow Hill.⁸⁰ The grave has since been moved to the Hammond family cemetery on Martintown Road.

Captain Arthur Simkins (1742-1826). A native of Accomack County on the eastern shore of Virginia, Arthur Simkins came to the Ninety Six District just before the Revolution, settling in 1772 on Log Creek, some three miles north of the present-day Town of Edgefield on a plantation which he called “Cedar Fields.” He was a member of the First Provincial Congress in 1775, and became a captain in the state militia during the Revolution. He was active in 1776 and 1777 and again in 1781.⁸¹ His home was reputedly burned in 1781 by the Tories.⁸² Robert Mills, in his *Statistics of South Carolina*, noted “Captain Arthur Simkins was an intelligent, active, and brave officer, a stanch friend to his country, and zealous in her cause.”⁸³ After the war, he became a Judge of the Edgefield County Court, a State legislator, a State Senator, and a delegate to the South Carolina Convention to consider the adoption of the Federal Constitution. He was one of the Presidential Electors who voted for George Washington as



Arthur Simkins (1742-1826)

80 Bailey, N. Louise, editor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Volume III, 1775-1790*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, SC, p. 301-303.

81 Pension application of Thomas C. Jones, W26160; Pension application of Thomas Swearingen, W6113; Pension application of Howell Sellers, S31357.

82 Chapman, p. 188. Confirmation of the burning of his house by the Tories is believed to have been in the records of the legislature which could not be found by publication time.

83 Mills, p. 534.

our First President. He, perhaps more than any other person from this region, helped to form the new town, county, state and nation. Often known as the “Father of Edgefield,” he had the vision for developing the Village of Edgefield around the new County Courthouse and spent over three decades making that vision a reality. He also played a major role in founding three Baptist churches: Horn’s Creek, Little Stevens Creek and Edgefield Village. By the time of his death in 1826, he was one of the wealthiest planters in the region and was highly respected. He was buried at the Simkins family cemetery at Cedar Fields.⁸⁴

Captain John Ryan (1742-1827). Born in Virginia, John Ryan migrated to what was to become the Edgefield District with his parents circa 1762. The family settled on Horn’s Creek. In later



The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon, Charleston, SC, completed in 1771, where both Captain John Ryan and Captain James Butler were imprisoned in the basement dungeon in 1780 and 1781.

life, Ryan lived at his “Home Plantation,” approximately seven miles south of the present-day Town of Edgefield on the north side of what is now Rainsford Road and the east side of the Old Stage Road. When the Revolution broke out, Ryan fought consistently for the cause of American Independence under the command of Colonel

84 Bailey, N. Louise, Mary L. Morgan, & Carolyn R. Taylor, Editors, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate 1776-1985*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, SC, 1986, pp. 1457-1458.

LeRoy Hammond. During the war, he, unlike so many others, never took parole or deserted the cause even when it appeared certain that the British had won. In 1780, after the fall of Charlestown, he was captured by the Tories and was imprisoned in Charlestown for almost a year. He escaped and came back to the Edgefield area where he resumed his role as a Captain in the militia. Following the Revolution, he was a Commissioner for Public Buildings when the first Courthouse and Gaol (Jail) for Edgefield County were built. During the decades following, he continuously expanded his planting interests and ultimately owned four large plantations. He and his wife Martha never had children, but it is believed that he fathered a son, Gilderoy, by his slave, Sophia. He freed Gilderoy,⁸⁵ gave him 200 acres of land⁸⁶ and left a substantial bequest to him in his will.⁸⁷ John Ryan died in 1827 and was buried on his Home Plantation.

Lieutenant Colonel John Purves (1746-1792). A native of Scotland, John Purves (sometimes spelled “Purvis”) emigrated to South Carolina by 1770. In that year he obtained a land grant on Turkey Creek



John Purves (1746-1792) with his wife Eliza Ann

85 Edgefield County Archives, Deed of Manumission, dated September 15, 1813, Deed Book 31, page 433.

86 Edgefield County Archives, Deed of Trust dated April 4, 1825, Deed Book 41, page 144.

87 Edgefield County Archives, Estate Box 24, package 859.

in what was to become Edgefield County about fifteen miles northwest of the Town of Edgefield. Apparently well-educated and with significant resources, Purves built a substantial house for the time and was made a Justice of the Peace for the Ninety Six District. In 1775 he, along with nine others from the Ninety Six District, became members of the Provincial Congress of South Carolina which began the opposition to British rule. He was also given a commission as a captain in the Third Regiment of the state militia. In that same year he married Eliza Ann Pritchard, daughter of James Pritchard, later sheriff of Orangeburg. Their portrait, painted by Henry Benbridge, a Philadelphia portraitist, now hanging in the Winterthur Museum near Wilmington, Delaware, attests to his wealth and sophistication. Later in the Revolutionary War, Purves received promotions to major and then to lieutenant colonel. He also served as adjutant general. He participated in the unsuccessful expedition to Florida, the Battle of Stono and the Siege of Augusta. After the war he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He died in 1792 and was buried on his Edgefield plantation.⁸⁸

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Hammond (1757-1842). By far the most significant hero of the Revolution from what was to become Edgefield County, Samuel Hammond, a native of Virginia and a nephew of Colonel LeRoy Hammond, arrived in South Carolina in early 1779. He had joined the Whig cause in Virginia in 1775, fighting in battles in Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania before moving to South Carolina. After the fall of Charlestown when many backcountry leaders surrendered, he refused the terms of parole and continued to fight. He participated in the



Samuel Hammond (1759-1842)

⁸⁸ Bailey, N. Louise, editor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Volume III, 1775-1790*, p. 589-590.

Battles of Blackstocks, Kings Mountain, Cowpens, Guilford Court House, Eutaw Springs and the Sieges of Augusta and Ninety Six, ultimately obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.⁸⁹ After the war he lived in Savannah, was elected to Congress, and was appointed Governor of Upper Louisiana by President Jefferson. In 1824 he returned to South Carolina where he became Surveyor General and then Secretary of State. In his last years he retired to his plantation in the Edgefield District near Hamburg. He died in 1842 and was buried at the family cemetery at Snow Hill. The grave has since been moved to the Hammond family cemetery on Martintown Road. Samuel Hammond's record of service in the Revolution was equalled by few, if any, in all of the colonies in America!

The Martin Family. The Martin family was certainly one of the most patriotic families in what was to become Edgefield County, if not in the nation. The patriarch of the family, Abram Martin (1716-1773) was a native of Virginia who had come down to South Carolina circa 1769 with his wife, Elizabeth Markham Marshall (1726-1797), their eight sons and one daughter. Abram Martin was killed by Creek Indians while surveying in the ceded lands in Georgia in 1773. Mrs. Martin, of the prominent Marshall family of Virginia, was the aunt of the man who was to become the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, John Marshall (1755-1835). All eight Martin sons fought in the Revolution. Those sons were William Martin (1745-1780) who was Captain of the Rangers under Elijah Clarke and was killed at the first siege of Augusta in 1780, James Martin (1749-1790), a Colonel in the state militia, John Martin (1751-1813), a Captain who was taken prisoner at the fall of Charlestown, George Martin (1753-1817), a Captain under Colonel LeRoy Hammond, Barclay Martin (1755-1815), a Lieutenant who was at the Siege of Ninety Six, Edmund Martin (1759-1795), a Second Lieutenant in the state militia, Marshall Martin (1761-1819), a Captain of the Georgia Militia in 1780 & 1781, and Matthew Martin (1766-1846), who entered the service at the age of 17 in 1780.⁹⁰ The wives of the Martin sons were also

89 Moss, p. 408. Pension Application of Samuel Hammond, S21807.

90 Program of "The Annual Meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society Honoring the Martins of Martintown, Friday, September 18, 1953, held at Antioch

very patriotic as described in the “Other Incidents” section above. Perhaps no family in all of the American colonies can boast of such a strong record of service in behalf of American Independence.

Major Hugh Middleton (c. 1730-1803). Born circa 1730,⁹¹ Middleton was a native of Maryland who came to South Carolina in or prior to 1772, settling on the Savannah River in the vicinity of present-day Clarks Hill in what was to become Edgefield County.⁹² From the beginning of the struggle with Great Britain in January of 1775, he was active as a Whig, becoming a member of the committee of the First Provincial Congress for the Ninety Six District “for effectually carrying into execution the continental Association.”⁹³ Several months later he began his service as a first lieutenant of the Third Regiment of Horse Rangers in 1775.⁹⁴ He was

Baptist Church,” passim, copy in the possession of the Edgefield County Historical Society. Several accounts (Mills, Johnson & Chapman) referred only to seven sons, omitting George. However, George was certainly a brother and his widow’s pension account (Pension Account of Alsey Martin, widow of George Martin, W24132) certainly provides proof of his service. See also, the Parker-Roper Family Tree on Ancestry.com.

91 The date of birth of Hugh Middleton is not clear from available records. Some sources have shown his birth as early as 1713, others in 1715, but, given his active service in the war from 1775 to 1782, it is far more likely that he was born much later – perhaps as late as 1740. A 1730 birthdate would have meant that he was in his 50s when he was still actively fighting, which is about as old as one would expect in that era. Bobby Moss in his *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, p. 676, stated that Middleton was born “Ante 1740.”

92 See grants dated December 19, 1772 (100 acres) and February 11, 1773 (100 acres), South Carolina Department of Archives and History. We have an interesting pre-war glimpse of Middleton, circa 1774, when he was a witness for, and friend of, the Rev. Daniel Marshall who was being prosecuted for preaching without a license in Augusta. See Rainsford, Bettis C., *The Early History of Horn’s Creek Baptist Church*, Edgefield County Historical Society, 2014, p. 29, Note 87.

93 *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina 1775-1776*, by William Edwin Hemphill, Editor, South Carolina Archives, Columbia, SC, 1960, p. 24.

94 *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina 1775-1776*, p. 48. Salley, A.S., *History of Orangeburg County*, 1898, p. 388. McCready, p. 14. It is worthy of note that, shortly after being commissioned, Middleton, along with, and perhaps under the influence of, Captain Moses Kirkland, apparently deserted the cause for a period. See Bator, pp. 45, 46, 50, 52, 73, 75, 85, 93, 99.

promoted to Captain and was present at the First Battle of Ninety Six in November of 1775 under Major Andrew Williamson.⁹⁵ He likely participated in the Snow Campaign under Colonel Richard Richardson. He was also involved in the Cherokee campaign of 1776.⁹⁶ During January of 1779 when the British Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell was coming up to Augusta, Middleton had been promoted to Major and was engaged with the Georgia militia under Colonel Samuel Elbert in the Battle of the Burke County Jail. In the preparations for that engagement, he rendered valuable support, earning the praise of Colonel Elbert.⁹⁷ He was also at the skirmish at Spirit Creek, providing a delaying action to enable the Whig militia to retreat to Augusta and across the Savannah River. From February 17th to December 17th, 1779, he was continually in service in South Carolina, including at the Battle at Stono Ferry on June 20th. Afterwards he was stationed at the Two Sisters Ferry on the Savannah River between Augusta and Savannah. In 1781 he served 22 days at the Siege of Augusta under Colonel LeRoy Hammond.⁹⁸

95 McCready, p. 91.

96 Mills, p. 533. Mills stated that “Major Hugh Middleton was an officer of great energy and spirit, his services against the Indians will never be forgotten.”

97 Letter of Samuel Elbert to Lieutenant Colonel Ingram, dated January 28, 1779, set forth in Davis, Robert Scott, *Georgians in the Revolution, At Kettle Creek and Burke County*, Southern Historical Press, Easley, South Carolina, 1986, p 146. Elbert states: “I shall write to you again as soon as Major Middleton (who I can depend upon) returns, he is gone to get a particular account of the number & situation of the Enemy.”

98 South Carolina Audited Account of Hugh Middleton SC4651; Audited Account 5213., Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters. There are sources that state that Hugh Middleton had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel when he served at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Moss, p. 676, states that Hugh Middleton had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was wounded at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. In a letter to the President of the Continental Congress, Thomas McKeen, dated September 11, 1781, General Nathanael Greene wrote “Lieutenant Colonels Polk and Middleton who commanded the State Infantry, were no less conspicuous for their good conduct than their intrepidity; and the Troops under their command gave a specimen of what may be expected from Men naturally brave when improved by proper discipline.” See Conrad, Dennis M., editor, *The Papers of Nathanael Greene, Volume IX, 11 July 1781- 2 December 1781*, University of North Carolina Press, 1995, p. 331. However, the editor of the Greene papers has inserted the name “Charles” for Lieutenant Colonel Middleton’s first name, suggesting that Greene was referring to Charles Starke

In the fall of 1781, while scouting in the Ninety Six District by order of Colonel LeRoy Hammond, he led his men on October 5, 1781 against a force of Tories under the command of Hezekiah Williams at a skirmish on Stevens Creek.⁹⁹ After the war, he was named by the State Legislature to be one the Judges of the Edgefield County Court. He subsequently became a member of the Fourth (1782), Fifth (1783-1784), and Sixth (1785-1786) General Assemblies representing the Ninety Six District.¹⁰⁰ Over his lifetime he acquired substantial lands in Edgefield as well as in Pendleton Counties.¹⁰¹

Captain Michael Watson (1726-1782). Michael Watson was a native of Virginia who had emigrated in the mid-1750s with his family to the Ridge between the Saluda and Edisto Rivers near present-day Ridge Spring in what was to become Edgefield County.¹⁰² His family acquired property through grants during the 1750s. In the Cherokee War of 1760-1761, he volunteered and participated in the fight against the Indians.¹⁰³ Several years later, in 1767, after his home was attacked by outlaws, Watson joined with other Regulators to capture and punish the evil-doers. In the ensuing

Myddleton, a Lieutenant Colonel under Thomas Sumter (see Conrad, p. 329), who was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, rather than to Hugh Middleton. Moss also confirms that Charles Starke Myddleton was there and was also wounded (p. 715). Weighing all of this evidence brings us to conclude that Middleton was never promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, was not the person to whom Greene was referring in his letter to McKeen, and may, or may not, have been at the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

99 *The Royal Gazette*, October 10, 1781.

100 Bailey, N. Louise, Editor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Volume III, 1775-1790*, p. 493-494.

101 A credible biography of Middleton has been researched and written by his 5th great grandson: See Floyd, Charles Timothy (Fifth Great Grandson), *Hugh Teare Middleton, Naturally Brave*, Green and Morgan Publishers, LLC, Eagle, Idaho, 2013.

102 Family tradition stated that they arrived on the Ridge in 1745, but that is very unlikely. The earliest grant to any of the Watsons was in 1758. See Watson, Carolyn Guess and Louise Boatwright Alexander, *History of Ridge Spring*, Privately Published, 1982, pp. 1-7, and Schumpert, William J., *Map No. 1, Showing the Locations of some of the Earliest Land Owners in the Batesburg-Leesville, Monetta, and Ridge Spring Areas of South Carolina with Brief Historical Information*, January 15, 2001, copy in the possession of Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr.

103 Johnson, pp. 543.

action, Watson's father and brother, both named William Watson, were killed.¹⁰⁴ When the Revolution broke out and the Cherokees once again attacked the settlers, Watson volunteered and joined the militia to defeat the Cherokee.¹⁰⁵ Later, in the Revolution, he became a Captain in the Whig militia and fought against the Tories under the command of Captains William "Bloody Bill" Cuninghame and Hezekiah Williams. At the battle of Dean's Swamp on May 5, 1782, he was mortally wounded and was taken to Orangeburg where he died and was buried.¹⁰⁶

Captain James Butler (c. 1735-1781). Born in Prince William County, Virginia, James Butler arrived in what was to become Edgefield County in 1772. He settled on Big Creek, a tributary of the Saluda River. He was married circa 1757 to Mary Simpson and became the father of at least seven children.¹⁰⁷ When the Revolutionary activity began in the late summer of 1775, Butler joined with the Whigs and was at the Treaty of Ninety Six. Afterwards, in December of 1775, he joined the forces of General Richard Richardson to subdue all Tory support in what became known as the Snow Campaign. In 1776 he participated in the expeditions against the Cherokees.¹⁰⁸ When Charlestown fell to the British in May of 1780, he, together with the majority of those who had fought with the Whigs went to Ninety Six to be paroled and to accept British protection. Instead, when presented with the proclamation which required him to take up arms against any neighbors who did not surrender, he refused to sign it and was immediately put in irons and interred in the Ninety Six jail from which he was sent to the British prison in the basement of the Provost in Charleston. After enduring hardships there for over a year, he was released and came back to Big Creek. Still suffering from the effects of his long imprisonment, he was reluctant to join in a raid to recover livestock which had been stolen by a band of

104 Brown, Richard Maxwell, *The South Carolina Regulators*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 1963, pp. 36-37.

105 Moss, p. 971.

106 Johnson, pp. 543-550.

107 Montgomery, Erick, *Butler Family Genealogy*, copy in the possession of Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr.

108 Moss, p. 129.

Tories. However, the group of Whigs ultimately prevailed upon him to go with them as an advisor. That expedition ultimately led to his death on November 17, 1781, in what has become known as the Cloud's Creek Massacre.¹⁰⁹ He is remembered as an able and valiant supporter of the fight for American Independence.

Captain William Butler (1759-1821). Born in Prince William County, Virginia, son of Captain James Butler, William Butler



William Buttler (1759-1821)

migrated in 1772 with his family to Big Creek in what was to become Edgefield County. When the War broke out in 1775, he was but 15 years old but had strong empathies with the Whig cause and joined his father in serving in the Snow Campaign of December of 1775 and in the expedition against the Cherokees in 1776. He was a lieutenant in Pulaski's legion under General Benjamin Lincoln in 1779 and served under General Andrew Pickens at the Sieges of Augusta and Ninety Six in 1781. He was

promoted to Captain under General Henderson in 1781 and was Captain of the Mounted Rangers under General Pickens in 1782. In 1784 he was married to Behethland Foote Moore (1764-1853) and they had seven sons and one daughter, among whom one became Governor and another United States Senator. Butler was a member of the State Convention to adopt the Federal Constitution in 1788. He was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1787 and 1788. He served as Sheriff of the Ninety Six District in 1794 and was elected as a Major General of the upper division of the State militia in 1796. In 1800 he was elected to Congress and served until 1814. At that time, he did not stand for reelection but instead became a Major General commanding the troops raised for the defense of South Carolina during the War of 1812. He died at his home on September 15, 1821 and was buried in the Butler family cemetery.¹¹⁰

109 See supra, page 31.

110 Bailey, N. Louise, editor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina*

Captain Richard Johnson (1758-1815). Captain Richard Johnson, Jr., the son of Richard Johnson, Sr. and Charity Baker, was born 1758 in Virginia. He moved to what was to become Edgefield County with his parents in the mid-1760's. In later life he lived at the site of the present-day Mount Vintage Plantation Golf Club clubhouse. An ardent Whig from the beginning of hostilities, he rose to Captain in the militia under Colonel Samuel Hammond and fought throughout the War.¹¹¹ At the Battle of Eutaw Springs, he demonstrated his coolness under fire when he "leaped off his horse, and took from his pocket a twenty-penny nail, and placing it in the touch-hole, with the hilt of his heavy dragoon sabre, drove it as far as he could, saying, as he did so, 'you have plagued us all day, and you shall do so no more.' . . . [W]hen he entered upon that battle, [he] was dressed with a white vest and pantaloons; and when he left it, he was covered with blood from his breast to his boots."¹¹² On another occasion several months later, he was with Samuel Hammond when they came upon Bloody Bill Cunningham with one hundred and fifty Tories on the other side of the Little Saluda River. Having only seventy men, Hammond determined not to cross the river and attack Cunningham's forces. Captain Johnson, however, called for volunteers, saying that if thirty would follow him, he would make the attack. That number did volunteer, but Hammond interfered and issued an order forbidding the movement. There may have been good ground for the prudent and proper order of the commander, but the men were not satisfied with it at the time, and Captain Johnson always condemned it.¹¹³ After the war, Johnson became a leader of the new Edgefield County, a successful and wealthy planter, and served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1800 to 1813.¹¹⁴ In his Last Will and Testament, Johnson sought to free all of his slaves. He died in 1815 without children, leaving a remarkable record of service to his country.¹¹⁵

House of Representatives, Volume III, 1775-1790, p. 114-116.

111 Judge O'Neill noted that "I see he is called Lieut. Johnson, in a correspondence between Judge William Johnston and Col. Hammond." See O'Neill, p. 66.

112 O'Neill, p. 66.

113 Johnson, p. 505.

114 Bailey, N. Louise, editor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Volume IV, 1791-1815*, pp. 321-322.

115 Last Will and Testament of Richard Johnson, filed September 15, 1815, Edgefield County Archives, Box No. 15, Package No 536.

Edgefield County Historical Society

History and Mission

Founded in 1939, the Edgefield County Historical Society is one of the oldest historical societies in South Carolina. The Mission of the Society, as set forth in its original charter, is “to Preserve the History of Edgefield County.” In this era when so little of our rich American heritage is being taught to our youth, when so many of our Founding Fathers and other historic leaders are being disparaged and demonized, when so many politicians and protesters are attempting to tear down the statues and monuments to our past and our past leaders, the mission of the Edgefield County Historical Society has never been more important.

For our part, we are embarked in an effort to make certain that the total history of our people is told, particularly the history of those people and individuals who have sometimes been overlooked, but we are committed to the proposition that all of our forebears be interpreted fairly and within the context of their times. We urge all those who appreciate the sacrifices of our ancestors and who love our American heritage to join with us in supporting our mission.

During its more than eight and a half decades, the Society has done much to accomplish its mission: It has published many scholarly pamphlets, booklets and books on a vast variety of subjects related to the history of Edgefield County. It has sponsored many major events, including tours of historical homes and history conferences. It has promoted the preservation and restoration of historic structures and sites. It has welcomed all those who are interested in Edgefield history and provided information and guidance to authors, scholars and countless others about the county and its people.

For more than thirty years, the Society has sponsored the Edgefield History Class which meets most Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. It also owns and operates three museums: the Joanne T. Rainsford Discovery Center, the Magnolia Dale House Museum, and the Horn’s Creek Church Museum. The Society also produces live theatrical performances in its William Miller Bouknight Theatre which is located in the Discovery Center. For more information and for membership information and applications, visit our website: www.historicedgefield.com.

Publications of the Edgefield County Historical Society

The Life and Works of Hortense Woodson, Edgefield County Historical Society, 1991.

The Early History of Johnston, the Founding and Development of a Railroad Depot Town, By Henrik Booraem, V, 1993.

A History of the Edgefield Campus of Piedmont Technical College, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 1998.

The First Century of the Edgefield Mill, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 1998.

The Tompkins Family of Edgefield, Edgefield County Historical Society, 2001.

The Story Edgefield, by The Edgefield History Class, 2009 & 2023

The Founding of Edgefield County, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2010.

Slave Records of Edgefield County, by Gloria Lucas, 2010.

The Life and Works of Braidy Holmes, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2010.

The Story of Halcyon Grove, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2011.

The Life of William Miller Bouknight, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2011.

The Story of Darby, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2012.

The Story of the Pine House, by Bettis C. Rainsford 2013.

The Early History of Horn's Creek Baptist Church, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2014.

75th Anniversary Booklet, Edgefield County Historical Society 2014.

The Story of Holly Hill, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2015

Memoirs of Litchwood, "I Have Things Things to Tell," Francis Butler Simkins Remembers the Edgefield of His Youth, 2016.

250th Anniversary Program of Horn's Creek Church, 2018

An Edgefield Planter & His World, the 1840s Journals of Whitfield Brooks, edited by James O. Farmer, PhD, 2019.

Coming to Terms with Our History, 2020

Macedonia Baptist Church, the Edgefield Academy and the Paris and Andrew Simkins Families, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2021.

Recollections of World War, by Ralph Scurry, Sr., 2022.

The Story of Curryton Academy, by Bettis C. Rainsford, 2024.

The Edgefield History Class

The Edgefield History Class, a project started by the Edgefield County Historical Society in 1995, made the decision in late 2009 to focus much of its effort on writing a history of the American Revolution in Edgefield County in anticipation of the 250th Anniversary of our Independence. While we have been diverted in the interim by many other interesting, timely and important subjects related to the history of Edgefield County, we have always come back to our mission to complete our project of providing a comprehensive and accurate story of Edgefield County's part in the Revolution. We hope that readers will conclude that this book which we have written over these fifteen plus years constitutes a comprehensive, balanced and understandable history of the part that Edgefieldians played in the American Revolution. The members of our History Class who participated in writing this book over these years were:

James O. Farmer, PhD	Tricia Price Glenn	Dorothy H. Mims*
Vernon E. Miller*	Henrietta O. Humphreys	Hal Irish*
Harry Woodward*	Louise B. Alexander*	Warren Hair*
Margaret DeVore, MD*	Danny Walker*	Ralph Scurry
Viola Shaw Francisco*	Juliana T. Shaw*	Helen H. Laughery
Mary Altalo, PhD	Marie Crockett Mims*	Haigh Reiniger*
Helen White Feltham	Beth Worth	Rick Swaffield
Carrie Monday*	Edward Redman	Hon. Robert Hodges
Lady N. Hodges	Albert E. Rainsford	Edna K. Daniel*
“Rooney” Floyd	Beth S. Francis	Odus Francis
William Morgan Benton	Jane Gunnell	Barney Lamar
Joan “Doc” Arrowsmith	Nicholas Ward	Robin Lepard
JoEtta Ezell Schick	Brenda Bancroft	Ike Carpenter
Tom Poland	Henry Snead*	John C. Feltham, III
Terry Bodiford*	Susie Bodiford	Patty Barrett*
Stephen Ferrell*	Gary Bainton	Carol Bryan
Amy Sladky	Paul Sladky	Jim Folker
Don Broderick*	Theresa McMullin	Craig McMullin
Will Tarrant	Sara Sealy	Karyn Bland
Drayton Callison	Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr.	Ben Boatwright*

*Now deceased.

We are especially thankful to Nick Ward and “Rooney” Floyd for their part in helping with the final review and proof-reading of the manuscript.

Finally we want to acknowledge and thank Jason Rikard, graphic designer, for his excellent work in laying out and designing this book.

The Edgefield County 250 Committee

In the fall of 2023, the Edgefield County 250 Committee was established by a resolution of the Edgefield County Council pursuant to the request of the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission. The mission of this Committee is to focus on important events, people, and places during the Revolutionary Era within Edgefield County and to promote, observe and celebrate Edgefield County's role in the American Revolution by educating, engaging, and inspiring South Carolinians and visitors. The American Revolution Monument which has been erected on the Edgefield Court House Square and the publication of *Edgefield County in the American Revolution – From Ninety Six to Augusta* are two of that Committee's principal projects. The members of the Edgefield County 250 Committee are:

Mrs. Beth S. Francis	Hon. Ken Durham	Ms. Lucille Burton
Mr. Thomas Dorn	Nicholas Ward, Esq.	Lt. Col. Charles Bledsoe
Mr. Bettis C. Rainsford, Sr.	Col. Mike Washington	Hon. Joseph F. Anderson
Greg W. Anderson, Esq.	Mrs. Lady N. Hodges	Ms. Karyn S. Bland
Mrs. Sara Sealy	Mrs. Brenda Bancroft	Mr. "Rooney" Floyd
Mr. John W. Pettigrew, Jr.	Mr. Ike Carpenter	

The Edgefield County 250 Committee is especially thankful to Committee member "Rooney" Floyd for the major role which he has played in the design, execution and erection of our American Revolution Monument. We are also deeply appreciative for the financial support for our American Revolution Monument by the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission, the County of Edgefield, the Town of Edgefield and the Edgefield County Historical Society. We hope and trust that this monument will continue to inspire both Edgefieldians and visitors from afar to learn more about the founding of our nation and the principles for which it stands.

