

SOUTH CAROLINIANS IN THE WAR FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Alexia Jones Helsley



South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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Judith M. Andrews

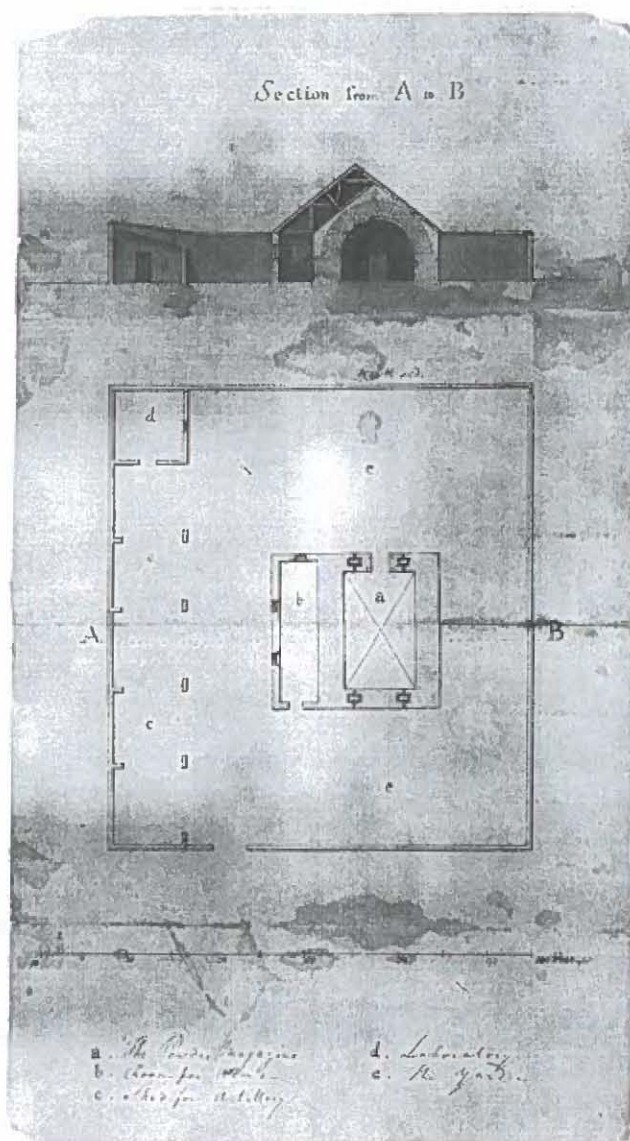
Cover: Captain and seaman. Detail from "Brigantine-of-War—Notre Dame—South Carolina Navy 1776–1780." Plate No. 489, *Military Uniforms in America. The Company of Military Historians*. Used with the permission of the artist, Darby Erd.

Title page: Powder Magazine, Charleston. Built ca. 1713, the powder magazine at 21 Cumberland Street in Charleston was not in use when the Revolutionary War erupted. By 1775 two new structures to house powder had been built on the outskirts of town. *Plans of Buildings, South Carolina Department of Archives and History*. (SCDAH)

Table of contents: *Records of the State Treasurer, Bank of the State of South Carolina, Cancelled Bills, Bundle 2, Box 2. SCDAH.*

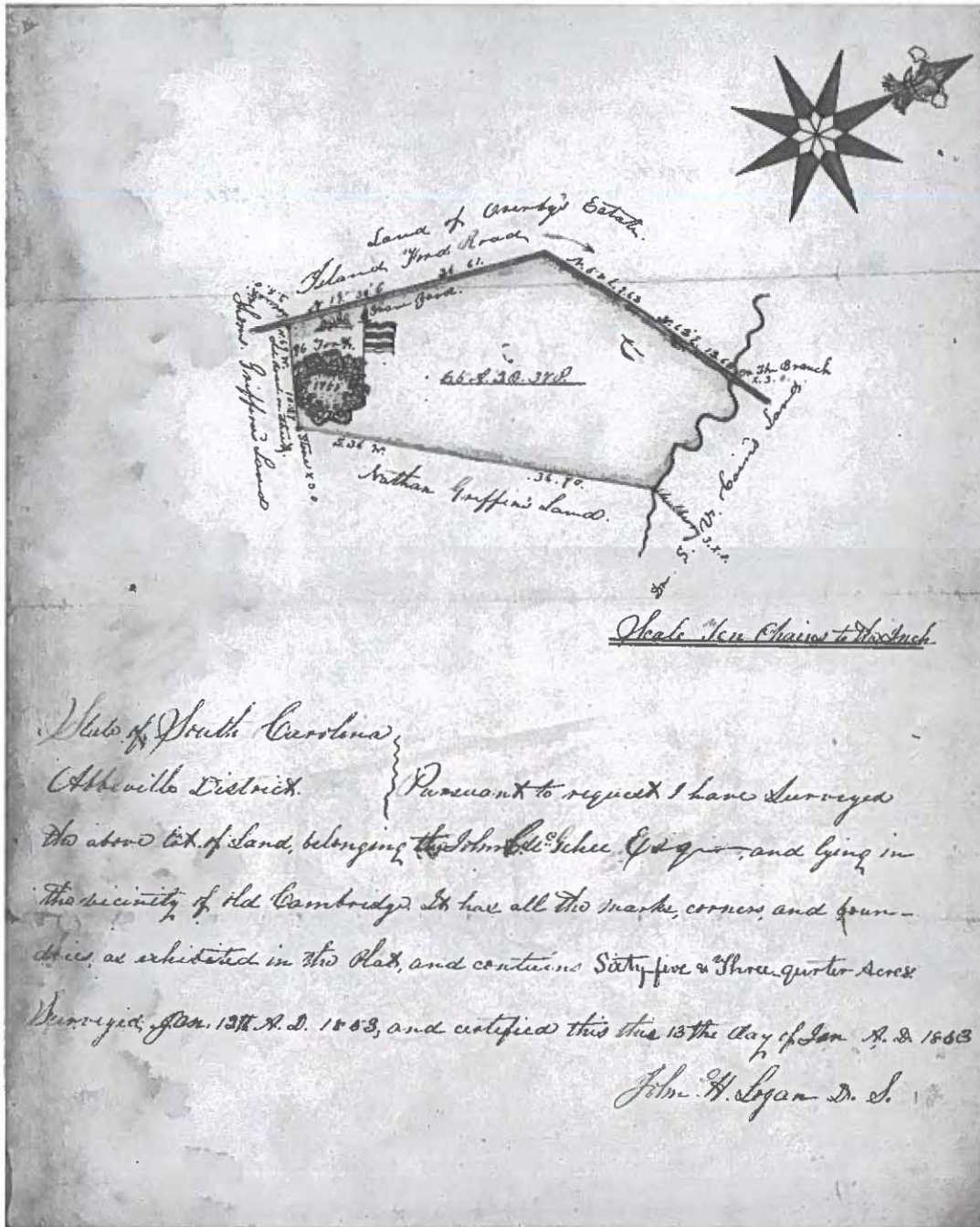
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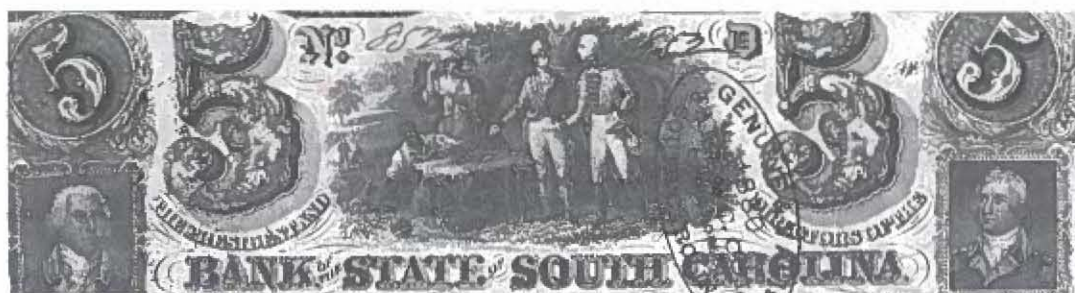
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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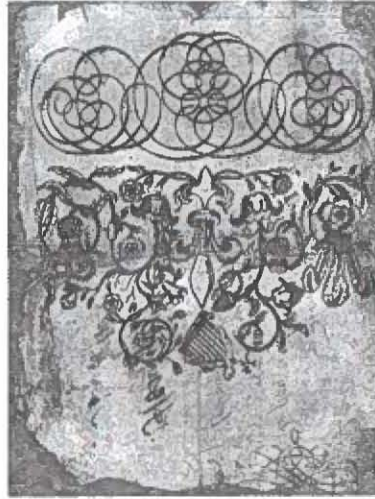


The plat, surveyed in 1853, shows the distinctive shape of the Star Fort—an earthen-walled bastion that was a key to the defense of Ninety-Six. The siege of Ninety-Six lasted from 22 May to 19 June 1781. The site lies in Greenwood County and became the Ninety-Six National Historic Site in 1976. Records of the Secretary of State, Surveyor General, State Plats, Columbia Plats, Box 4, Folder 96. SCDH.

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*For Cassandra, Jeff, and Jacob
May the light of the past illumine the future*

INTRODUCTION



If we do not hang together, we shall hang separately," Benjamin Franklin warned the members of the Second Continental Congress on 2 July 1775.¹ His words resonated and reverberated over the deliberations that led Congress to adopt the Declaration of Independence on 4 July. They were also prophetic for the conduct of South Carolinians in the War for American Independence.

BACKGROUND

The decision to seek independence was neither hasty nor ill-considered. Although South Carolina had enjoyed many years of good relations with the mother country and had profited from its price supports on rice and indigo, British-colonial relations had been severely damaged by the French and Indian War. It had been fought between 1756 and 1763 to protect the American colonies but had left the British government heavily in debt. After the conflict young King George III and his advisors looked to the colonies for help. They had two choices—enforce existing legislation or create new taxes. The colonial legislatures, who had no role in the passage of new tax laws, saw the new tax legislation as a threat to their economic well-being.

The Sugar Act of 1764 taxed sugar, wine, and coffee, and tried to limit molasses imports in the British West Indies. When revenues fell short of expectations, a stamp tax was added. The Stamp Act of 1765 affected all the colonies, who were suffering from an economic recession. Nine of the thirteen colonies sent delegates to the Stamp Act Congress in New York. John Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, and Christopher Gadsden represented South Carolina. Under Gadsden, the Commons House of Assembly approved the following report: "Sincerely attached as we are to his Majesty, we insist that we are entitled to all inherent rights and liberties of his natural born subjects within the Kingdom of Great Britain."² At issue was control of the power to tax. Violent protests from groups like the Sons of Liberty, who came from Charlestown and other coastal cities, and parliamentary opposition in England led to the act's repeal in 1766. In 1767, however, Parliament passed the Townshend Act. It placed a tax on colonial imports of paint, tea, paper, and glass. Echoing the sentiments of many, John Dickinson of Philadelphia wrote: "No taxation without representation."³

By 1770, non-importation agreements among the colonials had led to a repeal of duties on all imports but tea. South Carolina, however, continued to boycott tea⁴ and also complained about legislative control of spending and political appointees—or placemen. The policy of replacing able South

Carolínians with mediocre, if not corrupt, Englishmen eventually turned loyal Carolínians like William Henry Drayton into protestors.

On 8 December 1769 the South Carolina Commons House seized the revolutionary initiative from New England when it voted to send 1500 pounds sterling to aid John Wilkes, an imprisoned English radical. Angered, the British government instructed the Council to approve all spending bills passed by the House. This conflict between a Council made up of King's appointees,⁵ and a House, made up of colonials, created a legislative impasse. Between 20 March 1771 and February 1775 no legislation was approved in South Carolina. On 8 October 1772 Governor Charles Greville Montagu, in an ill-disguised attempt to exclude the Charlestown protestors, moved the legislature to Beaufort. The ploy failed, the legislature returned to Charlestown, and Montagu resigned. In 1775 the embittered Council surrendered.⁶

The controversy came to a head in 1773. That year, to salvage the bankrupt East India Company, Parliament passed the Tea Act. The act permitted the company to sell its surplus tea in the American colonies at a significant discount. But to claim this bargain, the colonists would have to pay tax on it. On 1 December 1773, HMS *London* sailed into Charlestown Harbor carrying 257 chests of tea. In a General Meeting at the Exchange on 3 December, South Carolina's colonials agreed to boycott the tea. On 16 December 1773, Patriots in Boston staged the "Boston Tea Party," and threw the tea overboard. In retaliation, the British closed Boston harbor, changed the colony's charter, and removed royal officials from American jurisdiction. These parliamentary provisions, known as the "Intolerable Acts," sparked dissent in the other colonies.

The General Meeting at the Exchange was the first of many that would eventually install South Carolina's new government. When the Intolerable Acts were passed a General Meeting was called. Delegates from the back country and low country met in Charlestown on 6 July 1774 and elected the five delegates for the First Continental Congress: Henry Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Edward Rutledge, Christopher Gadsden, and John Rutledge.

The First Continental Congress was the predecessor of the United States Congress. One of its first acts was to approve a Non-Importation Association—a boycott of British imports—and recommend no exports to England. South Carolina successfully lobbied for the right to export rice.⁷

SEPARATION

The move toward independence was slow, but inevitable. At first, the colonists simply focused on protecting their rights as Englishmen. Many opposed taking up arms against the British, and many declined to support the Non-Importation Association.

A Provincial Congress made up of elected delegates met on 11 January 1775 and created various committees to govern South Carolina. When one of these, the Secret Committee, learned the British intended to use force, it confiscated arms and gunpowder from the powder magazines. In response to the Battles of Lexington and Concord and fear of Cherokee attacks the Provincial Congress created a Council of Safety and three regiments—two to guard the low country and one to guard the up country. Loyalists organized in the back country, and the Provincial Congress sent a delegation to hold mass meetings there. Intimidation not rhetoric produced the Treaty of Ninety-Six in September 1775, which neutralized those opposing non-importation.⁸

On 15 September 1775 the last royal governor of South Carolina fled to a British warship the *Cherokee* for safety. On 11 November 1775 Captain Simon Tufts and the *Defence* provoked British fire while

sinking hulks to block the harbor. Later in 1775 Col. Richard Richardson raised a militia force of over 4000 and in the so-called "Snow Campaign" defeated the Loyalists in the back country. The British fleet sailed for home.⁹

On 26 March 1776 South Carolina became the second of the thirteen colonies to adopt a constitution. It was the "first to outline a complete system of government" but did not call for independence. The Provincial Congress dissolved and reconvened as the First General Assembly of South Carolina. The new government's top priority was the defense of South Carolina.¹⁰ Rumors became reality when the British lay siege to Charlestown and attacked the palmetto fort on Sullivan's Island.

WAR

From 21 April 1775 through 14 November 1782, over two hundred battles and skirmishes were fought in South Carolina.¹¹ The euphoria of the Battle of Sullivan's Island in 1775 gave way to the dark days of British occupation in 1780. The occupation and invasion of South Carolina after the fall of Charlestown in May 1780 produced conflicted loyalties, civil war, death and destruction.

General Benjamin Lincoln's surrender of the majority of South Carolina's continental and militia troops left the colony with little military defense and many of her pre-1780 military leaders on parole from the British. Grassroots efforts by the remaining militiamen raised General Thomas Sumter to overall leadership of the state militia. Rutledge officially recognized Sumter's role, and with partisans like Sumter and Francis Marion, South Carolinians began the long struggle to rid themselves of the British.

The stories and documents that follow trace the progress of the War for Independence in South Carolina. John Featherston may have been aboard the *Defence* when she fired on the *Tamar*. Benjamin Rowan was part of the early back country success of the Snow Campaign (22 December 1775), one of Moultrie's troops on Sullivan's Island (28 June 1776), present at the indecisive engagement at Stono (20 June 1779), one of the militia who rallied to Sumter, and a participant in that major Patriot victory—Kings Mountain (7 October 1780). Daniel McCarthy served on the brigatine *Notre Dame*. Robert Lyell and Richard Wayne were part of Lincoln's surrender in May 1780. One joined the militia and continued to fight the British; the other accepted British parole. The service of Peter Harris illustrates the role of the Catawba Nation, while that of Featherston and John Chavis shows the involvement of African Americans. Rebecca Motte and Mary Broun offer different perspectives on the role of women in the war. The stories of James Beard, James Thurston, and Henry Felder reflect the human cost. And those of Arthur de Bardeleben and Charles Lehoux offer a glimpse at the part played by German mercenaries and the French in the Revolution in South Carolina.

In January 1782 the first General Assembly convened since the fall of Charlestown met at Jacksonboro. This assembly confiscated the lands of 239 South Carolina Loyalists and amerced or fined 47 other Loyalists. This legislation generated years of petitions and legislative activity to settle the claims of these Loyalists, their relatives, and descendants. South Carolina faced a shattered economy. The war had destroyed crops, interrupted her profitable overseas trade, killed or wounded thousands of her inhabitants, and left her with a staggering war debt. South Carolina owed \$5,3856,232—more than any other state. The situation worsened in South Carolina as money was loaned at usurious rates and crops failed in 1784 and 1785.

South Carolina began to reorganize to meet the needs of this changing environment. She developed a system of indents to fund her internal debt and offered pensions to her disabled veterans and to

widows and orphans of those who died in the war. In 1784 she enacted legislation that taxed land based upon its value, and in 1785 the South Carolina General Assembly passed the County Court Act, which brought justice to South Carolina localities. The rice fields of the low country were no longer taxed at the same rate as the farmland of the back country. South Carolinians could now find justice in their county courthouses and would no longer have to travel to Charleston. And while the low country continued to control the legislature, the backcountry won an important victory when the state capital was moved to the new town of Columbia in the center of the state. The Treaty of Hopewell signed with the Cherokee in 1785 was the first American treaty. In 1788 South Carolina ratified the United States Constitution, and in 1790 she adopted her third state constitution.¹²

The new state of South Carolina was born.

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HESSIAN MERCENARY—PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN



Arthur de Bardeleben served during the Revolutionary War as a hired mercenary of the British. When hostilities broke out in America, the standing army of King George III was too small to suppress the rebellion. As Elector of Hanover, he controlled the forces of that kingdom and dispatched five Hanoverian regiments to replace British troops at Gibraltar and Minorca. The displaced English troops were then sent to America. This action still failed to generate the force needed. Rejecting the proposal to increase the land tax in England to fund the raising of troops there, the king decided to employ foreign troops instead. In 1776 he executed treaties with the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, the Duke of Brunswick, the Prince of Hesse, and the Prince of Waldeck to supply men for military service in America. After lengthy debate over whether or not the German troops might desert in America, Parliament ratified the treaties. The agreements specified that the Prince of Hesse would furnish 668 men; the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, 12,104; the Duke of Brunswick, 4,084, for a total of 17,526 men.¹

According to DeBardeleben, he was a lieutenant of infantry commissioned by the Prince of Hesse-Cassel. Many German mercenaries chose to remain in America when the war ended—sixty-five hundred of the 16,992 men sent by Hesse-Cassel, for example, did not return. Many deserted, but others like DeBardeleben requested and were granted permission to remain in America. William Johnson writing in 1822 contended that the Hessians left only under duress.² de Bardeleben stated in his petition that he had requested release from Hessian service by 2 April 1781. In an affidavit dated 5 February 1783 filed in support of de Bardeleben's petition, Benjamin Guerard, governor of South Carolina 1783–1785, said he had known Arthur de Bardeleben since June 1780 and that "he always expressed a strong desire to become a citizen" of South Carolina. Guerard stressed that around July 1781 de Bardeleben had honorably resigned his military commission because "he was tired of military life." Before his resignation and against the rules of his service, de Bardeleben had secretly married in South Carolina. de Bardeleben had also explored with Guerard the possibility of serving in American military forces. In a crowning accolade, Guerard said de Bardeleben had always behaved as a gentleman.³

In 1783 de Bardeleben petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly, asking it to both grant him citizenship and validate a purchase of a plantation on Charleston Neck. He had acquired a 300-acre plantation from Robert Williams on 21 July 1781, but unfortunately for de Bardeleben, the South Carolina General Assembly meeting in 1782 had passed legislation confiscating the Williams' prop-

erty. This legislation—Act #1153—jeopardized de Bardeleben's title.⁴ In October 1782 de Bardeleben had leased the plantation to Maximilia Baron de Westerhagen, colonel and commander of the Hessian Regiment de Delfouth. The property lay on the broad path—now King Street—from Charlestown to the quarter house.⁵

The South Carolina House of Representatives received de Bardeleben's petition on 6 February 1783. On 11 March the House concurred with the Senate report of 9 March. The Senate had recommended that "Lieut. Bardeleben" be granted citizenship. On 16 March the House considered de Bardeleben's request to have his land title confirmed. Col. William Moultrie, reporting for the committee, recommended the validation of de Bardeleben's purchase once the commissioners of confiscated estates received proof of it. He described de Bardeleben as "a Character deserving our attention and Encouragement." The surviving House journal is silent on the outcome of the land issue.⁶

Nevertheless, de Bardeleben was in possession of the land on 20 April 1782 when he mortgaged it to the commissioners of the treasury. By October 1786 Arthur de Bardeleben was a merchant living in St. Matthews Parish. In October and June of that year he purchased 300 acres in Amelia Township, Orangeburg District, from James Theus and three town lots in the Town of Belleville from Colonel William Thomson.⁷ de Bardeleben and Charles Myddleton were commissioned in 1786 to build the Episcopal chapel at Belleville. In 1790 de Bardeleben headed a household that included two males over sixteen years of age, one male under sixteen, two females, and twenty-two slaves.⁸ One member of this household may have been the Arthur A. de Bardeleben who died 1 April 1812 in Amelia Township.⁹ de Bardeleben left descendants in Orangeburg County because an A. M. de Bardeleben appears as commissioner of Shady Grove School in 1834.¹⁰

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3. Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, 1783 #211.
4. Ibid.
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6. *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1783–1784*, ed. Theodora J. Thompson and Rosa S. Lumpkin (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1977), pp. 98, 253–54, 292, 396, 407.
7. Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788* (Columbia: SCMAR, 1996), p. 65, 311, 356.
8. Daniel Marchant Culler, *Orangeburgh District 1767–1868 History and Records* (Spartanburg: Reprint Company, 1995), pp. 48, 324.
9. Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriage and Death Notices from the (Charleston) Times, 1800–1821* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1979), p. 260.
10. Culler, p. 527.

PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN

To the Honorable John Lloyd Esquire President and the rest of the honorable Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina,

The Petition of Arthur de Bardeleben, humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner formerly held the Commission of lieutenant of Infantry in the Service of the Prince of Hesse Cassel and was among the Number of those Troops ordered by his Sovereign to do Duty in America.

That finding the Service in which he was employed not consonant to the Principles by which he wished to regulate his Conduct, and desiring to become a Citizen of this State he demanded his Dismission from the Hessian Service so long ago as the second Day of April 1781, which Request was complied with and He finally resigned his Commission within four Days thereafter.

That your Petitioner during many Months previous to the Evacuation of Charlestown was in so very infirm a State of Health as to have been prevented thereby from withdrawing himself into the Country; by which means He remains among the Number of those Persons who have not yet been admitted Citizens of this State.

Your Petitioner therefore begs leave to assure this honorable House of his unfeigned Attachment to the Liberties and Welfare of this State, and humbly to intreat them to admit him to the Privileges of a Citizen thereof, in which Character he will use his utmost Endeavors so to deport himself as to merit the Favor they will have confer'd upon him.

And your Petitioner further shews that influenced by the Desire of becoming a Citizen of this State, He did on the 21st Day of July 1781 purchase a Plantation situated on Charlestown Neck which was then the Property of Robert Williams late of Charles Town; that your petitioner being a Foreigner was Unacquainted with the Language of this Country and ignorant of the Characters and political sentiments of the Inhabitants: that He did not know that the said Robert Williams was so obnoxious to the Citizens of this State as to endanger his having his own immediate Property confiscated, much less that his criminality could involve in his Punishment an Innocent Person totally unconnected with him; but that your Petitioner might safely purchase that Property of which the Seller had not then been deprived, either by an act of the Legislature or by the Sentence of any Court of Indicature. But with the utmost concern he now finds that by an Act of the Legislature afterwards passed he is deprived of all his Property, which consisted in the above mentioned Plantation, of which, he is ready to prove that he was a bona fide Purchaser for valuable Consideration.

Your Petitioner farther shews that he humbly apprehends that Part of the Confiscation Act which invalidates all Conveyances made Subsequent to the Month of May 1780 by the Persons therein mentioned could have only been intended to prevent fraudulent Transfer of Property, but not to injure a fair Purchaser who became so at a Time when it was lawful for the Seller to dispose of his Property; And that the law as it now stands will have the operation of any ex post Facto Law with Respect to your Petitioner. He therefore hopes this honorable House will take the Equity of his Claim Into their benevolent Consideration and confirm him in his Possession of the Plantation abovementioned, granting him such Relief as they in their Wisdom shall direct.

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever Pray, etc.

Arthur de Bardeleben

PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN

To the Honorable John Lloyd Esquire President
and the rest of the honorable Members of the
Senate of the State of South Carolina,

The Petition of Arthur de Bardeleben,

Humblly sheweth

That your Petitioner formerly
held the Commission of Lieutenant of Infantry in the
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Request was complied with and He finally resigned
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Months

PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN

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Your Petitioner therefore begs leave to assure this honorable House of his unfeigned Attachments to the Liberties and Welfare of this State, and humbly to intreat them to admit him to the Privileges of a Citizen thereof, in which Character he will use his utmost Endeavors so to deport himself as to merit the Favor they will have conferred upon him.

And your Petitioner ~~is~~ further shews that influenced by the Desire of becoming a Citizen of this State. He did on the 21st Day of July 1781 purchase a Plantation situated on Charles Town Neck which was then the Property of Robert Williams late of Charles Town; that your Petitioner being a Foreigner was

PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN

Unacquainted with the Language of this Country and ignorant of the Characters and political Sentiments of the Inhabitants, that he did not know that the said Robert Williams was so obnoxious to the Citizens of this State, as to ^{endanger his} have his own immovable Property confiscated, much less that his Criminability could involve in his Punishment an Innocent Person totally unconnected with him; but that your Petitioner might safely purchase that Property, of which the Seller had not then been deprived, either by an Act of the Legislature or by the Sentence of any Court of Judicature. But with the utmost Concern he now finds that by an Act of the Legislature afterwards passed he is deprived of all his Property, which consisted in the above mentioned Plantation, of which he is ready to prove that he was a bona fide Purchaser, for valuable Consideration.

Your Petitioner farther shews that he humbly apprehends that Part of the Confiscation Act which invalidates all Conveyances made subsequent to the Month of May 1780 by the Person therein mentioned could have only been intended to prevent fraudulent Transfers of Property, but not to injure a fair Purchaser who became so at a Time when it was lawful for the Seller to dispose of his Property; And that the law as it now stands will have the Operation of an ex post facto law with Respect to your Petitioner. He therefore hopes this honorable House will take the Equity of his Claim
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PETITION OF ARTHUR DE BARDELEBEN

Into their benevolent Consideration and confirm him
in his Possession of the Plantation above-mentioned, granting
him such Relief as they in their Wisdom shall direct.

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will
ever Pray &c

Arthur de S. Bardeleben

Petition Arthur de Barde-
leben -

9th Nov. 1753

P 210. 1753

10

11

12



Landrum Blockhouse on the North Carolina-South Carolina line near Tryon, North Carolina. This was one of a series of forts erected in the back country to protect settlers from Native American attacks. Here in 1776, a Patriot force gathered under Captain Thomas Howard and defeated a party of Loyalists and Cherokee at the Battle of "Round" Mountain in North Carolina. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

YOUTHFUL PRISONER—PETITION OF JAMES BEARD



In December 1781 James Beard ran afoul of a party of Tories. Beard, his father, and others were accompanying supply wagons to General Andrew Pickens' blockhouse. Pickens' blockhouse was located near the site of the town of Abbeville. A party of Tories under the command of John Crawford surprised their wagon convoy near McCord Creek on 7 December 1781. Crawford and his Tories attacked the wagon train, drove off Captain Moses Liddell and his escort troops, killed several of them, burned the wagons, and captured the wagon drivers. Following the attack, Crawford and the Tories escaped to the Cherokee Nation. In the Nation, Crawford transferred his prisoners to the Cherokee who subsequently killed most of them. One of the prisoners was General Andrew Pickens' brother—John. Tradition records that he suffered a particularly painful death.¹

One of the escort troops killed was George Stringer. Stringer and a company of scouts under the command of Captain John Norwood were escorting the wagon train at the time of the attack. Stringer was killed "on the ground" and his horse, blanket, bridle, rifle, and shot bag taken.² John Lindsay lost a wagon and saddle during the attack.³

James Beard and his father were among those captured. In 1792, Beard reported that the Cherokees killed "the Chief part of the prisoners," including his father, but spared him "Because he was but a boy." His captors removed all his clothing except a hunting shirt. After his release he suffered from pains in his knees—the result of the cold and the poor treatment he received during his captivity. The pains moved from his knees to his ankles, he developed boils that had to be lanced in "Nine different places," and he became lame. "Still hoping to recover," Beard asked for assistance because he was unable to earn a livelihood. Captain John Norwood testified that Beard lived within the limits of his militia command.⁴

The committee of the South Carolina Senate that considered Beard's petition on 4 December 1792 recommended that the "very peculiar, & disturbing circumstances of his Situation" warranted payment of the same annuity as those who had been wounded or disabled in State service. The full Senate amended the report and sent it to the House on 5 December for concurrence.⁵

Beard received his annuity. His name appears on the list of annuitants paid at the treasury in Columbia on 30 September 1798.⁶ The last entry for James Beard was made in February of 1803.⁷



Detail from cancelled bill. Records of the State Treasurer, Bank of the State of South Carolina, Cancelled Bills, Bundle 2, Box 2, SCDAH.

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2. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA #7471.
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4. *Ibid.*, AA #378.
5. *Ibid.*
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7. Records of the State Treasurer, Treasurer of the Upper Division, Journal, 1803.

PETITION OF JAMES BEARD

To the Honourable ye Speaker & Members of Assembly—
Now Siting at Columbia—

The Petition of James Beard humbly states

That in the Year One thousand seven Hundred and Eighty one Your Petitioner being with A command of Waggons to bring provision to Gen'l Andrew Pickens's Block-House, Was taken by a party of Torys (With Several Others) and carried prisoner to the Cherokee Nation That his father fell a Victam to the Indians, and himself Striped of all his Cloathing, Except an old Hunting-shirt to defend him from the Inclemancy of the Weather, Which has been the cause of Your Petitioner Loosing the proper Use of some of his Members as Will more fully appear by a probit taken before Samuel Watt Esqr. And anexed to this—

...

Now your Petitioner Humbly prayeth that his case may Seriously considered, and necessary suport [support] Granted him which Will Give Your Petitioner reason Ever to pray

James [his mark] Beard

PETITION OF JAMES BEARD

To the Honorable Speaker & Members of Assembly
Now sitting at Columbia

The Petition of James Beard Humbly sheweth

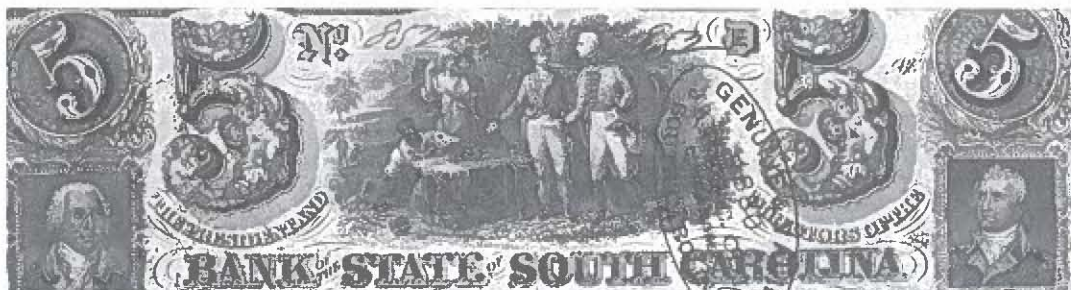
That in the Year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one your
Petitioner being with a Command of Waggons, to bring provisions to
Genl. Andrew Pickens's Block House, was taken by a party of Tories
(With several Others) and Carried prisoner to the Cherokee Nation where
his father fell a Victim to the Indians, and himself stripped of all
his Clothing, except an Old Hurting-shirt to defend him from
the Inclemencies of the Weather, which has been the Cause of your
Petitioner losing the proper Use of some of his Members
Will more fully appear by a Protest taken before Samuel Math Esq^r
and Aired to this

And in hopes of the Compassion of the Hon^{ble} Assembly
wherever, they will relieve the said Petitioner's Distress
And give him reason due to pray

Your Honor's Assembly prayeth that her case
may Sincerely Considered, and necessary Support be granted her which
Will give your Petitioner reason due to pray

James A Beard
mark

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES—PETITION OF MARY BROUN



The intriguing story of Mary Broun illustrates the complexity of life and loyalty in Revolutionary South Carolina. Mary Broun, born 19 June 1762, was the daughter of Scottish merchant prince John Deas. On 17 August 1780, two months after General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered Charlestown to the British, she married Archibald Broun (9 January 1752–14 December 1797), another wealthy Charlestown merchant, at the home of her father in the Parish of St. James Goose Creek. The Brouns had six children: Robert (b. 1781), Elizabeth Allen (b. 1784), Anna Carolina (b. 1786), Mary Deas (b. 1789), John Deas (b. 1793), and Archibald (b. 1795).¹

As early as 1776 Broun, as an agent of South Carolina, was involved in importing clothing and other much needed supplies from France. In a letter dated Nantes, 1776, Broun instructed Captain John Haller on how to bring the valuable cargo safely to Charlestown. Haller commanded the snow *Maria Seraphique*, which belonged to the state of South Carolina but operated with French papers and a nominal French captain. Broun advised Haller to mount as “many Guns as you conveniently can,” capture as prizes any small unarmed British vessels, and “avoid all risque of being taken.” Returning from France on the *Queen of France*, Broun landed at Boston in 1777.²

Broun was then appointed a lieutenant with one of the Charleston Light Infantry companies “raised for the defense of the City.” He first saw active duty on 3 February 1779 at the Battle of Beaufort on Port Royal Island. At the Halfway House—Grays Hill—north of Beaufort, General William Moultrie and 300 militia from Beaufort and Charlestown defeated a British detachment commanded by Major Gardiner. Following the Battle of Beaufort, he was promoted to Captain and defended Charlestown during Prevost’s Siege.

Major General Augustine Prevost besieged the city on 11 May. Learning of the impending arrival of General Benjamin Lincoln with reinforcements, Prevost relinquished his position on 13 May 1779 and retreated through the South Carolina sea islands. Broun and his company were part of a joint expedition mounted by South Carolina troops and the French navy under Count D’Estaing against Savannah. This September and October of 1779 seige was unsuccessful. Revolutionary heroes like Count Casimir Pulaski and Sergeant William Jasper died there, and Archibald Broun was wounded during the fighting.

Broun and his company returned to Charlestown and participated in the defense of that city until General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered on 12 May 1780. Broun was one of 3,034 militia who laid



Records of the State Treasurer, Cancelled and Counterfeit Currency, 1775–1793. SCDAH.

down their arms that day. He was paroled following the surrender and married Mary Deas. Within a few months, the British imprisoned Broun and sent him to St. Augustine, Florida, where he remained in captivity for twelve months.³

Some of the South Carolinians imprisoned in St. Augustine spent unpleasant months in the dungeon of the fort or on British warships in the harbor. Others took an oath and were paroled. The parolees camped out in the incomplete state house or rented lodgings in the town.⁴

Archibald Broun returned to Charlestown under the impression, according to his wife, that the American cause was “irrecoverably lost.” He first alienated his former colleagues by being one of 207 residents of Charlestown who, shortly after the city’s surrender, signed an address to Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot, the conquering British commanders. The list of those who signed the address congratulating Clinton and Arbuthnot on their successful campaign and the return of British rule was published, and when President John Rutledge was finally able to reconvene the General Assembly on 15 January 1782 at Jacksonboro, the signers became “marked men.” The new assembly quickly passed Act no. 1153, “An Act for Disposing of Certain Estates, and Banishing Certain Persons, therein Mentioned.”

Broun alienated his colleagues further when he accepted a British commission as commander of the Goose Creek militia. Mary Broun said he made that decision because the other candidate was “obscure,” “illiberal,” and “unfit.” To avoid imprisoning his fellow parishioners who had held elective office before the fall of Charlestown, he resigned that command. He also commanded a militia company in British-held Charlestown.

To mitigate her husband's actions, Mary Broun said "he was led away by that kind of Contagion which spreads on such occasions." She vociferously denied any connection between her husband and the notorious Major James Wemyss of the 63rd Regiment. Wemyss, a British field commander, considered all members of dissenting churches disloyal and had burned the dissenting church at Indian Town. In addition, Wemyss and the 63rd Regiment had burned houses and destroyed livestock in the Pee Dee.⁵ Mary Broun concluded her petition with the promise that if her husband were exempted from banishment and had his property restored, she knew his "grateful Temper" well enough to be certain of his future support of the current government.

Mary Broun was not the only person petitioning in support of Archibald Broun. A memorial from "sundry inhabitants of Goose Creek" was presented in the House of Representatives on 20 February 1783. Archibald Broun personally submitted a petition to "be relieved from the Pains and Penalties of the Confiscation Act" on 10 February 1784. On 26 March 1784 the South Carolina General Assembly removed Archibald Broun from the Confiscation list, levied a fine of 12 percent on the value of his real and personal property, and disqualified him from holding public office for seven years.⁶

Mary Broun's story does not end with the successful resolution of her petition. Following a lengthy illness, Archibald Broun died 14 December 1797. In his will he left two lots and residences on East Bay Street in Charleston to his wife and children. As executors of the estate and guardians of the minor children, he named Mary Broun, his wife; her brothers William Allen Deas, Simon Deas, Henry and David Deas; and his eldest son, Robert, when he reached his 21st birthday.⁷

At age thirty-five, Mary Broun was a widow with six minor children. In 1840 with the help of her brother Simon and nephew Charles Deas, Mary Broun successfully applied for a federal pension based upon her husband's Revolutionary service. Her eloquent deposition mentions neither his address to Sir Henry Clinton nor his service in the British militia.⁸

Sources

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2. Application W21704, Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Warrants.
3. Ibid.; Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles: Part II," *Names in South Carolina* 21 (1974), 23; Henry Lumpkin, *From Savannah to Yorktown: the American Revolution in the South* (New York: Paragon Publishers, 1987), p. 49.
4. J. Leitch Wright, Jr. *Florida in the American Revolution* (Gainesville: The University Presses of Florida, 1975), pp. 106-7.
5. Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, 1783 #220; Lambert, p. 95; *Journals of the Privy Council 1783-1789*, ed. Adele S. Edwards (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1972), p. xi.; *Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, IV, 515-23; VI, 629-32; Lumpkin, p. 250; Terry Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary War Battles Part III," *Names in South Carolina* 22(1975), 38.
6. Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, 1783 #220; *Journals of the House of Representatives 1783-1784*, ed. Theodora J. Thompson and Rosa S. Lumpkin (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1977), pp. 164, 437; *Statutes at Large*, IV, 624-26. VI, 634-35.
7. "Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette," *South Carolina Historical Society*, 24 (1923), 79; *Abstracts of Wills of Charleston District South Carolina 1783-1800*, compiled and edited, Caroline T. Moore (Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1974), p. 393.
8. W21704, Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Warrants.

PETITION OF MARY BROUN

To the Honourable John Lloyd Esquire and the other Members of the Honourable Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Mary Brown in behalf of her Husband Archibald Broun

Humbly showeth

That your Petitioner out of the Duty and Regard she was to a tender and affectionate Husband whose Estate is confiscated and his Person banished by a late Act of the Legislature at Jacksonburgh thinks it incumbent on her to State his Case to your Honourable House.

That the said Archibald Broun was born and bred up in this State and from the earliest laws of these unhappy Disputes proved himself a zealous and active Friend in the Cause of his Country.

That at the time of every Invasion he was amongst the foremost at the Post of Danger.

That after the unfortunate Fall of Charles Town, when it was generally believed that the Country was irrecoverably lost, he amongst a Multitude of other Inhabitants became a British Subject.

That he accepted of the Command of the Goose Creek Company of Militia, from its appearing to him to be the Wish of the Parish in general, and of the Privates in that Company in particular but chiefly to prevent its being given to one Blackman a Cattle-driver in Wissemsee, an obscure man and of very Illiberal Principles, who was absolutely named as unfit to take the command of that Company; That during his holding That Commission he received Instructions, similar to those sent to the other Captains of the Militia, ordering him to send down to the Sea Islands, as Prisoners of War, all the former Members of Assembly, all Commissioned Officers, Magistrates, and active Persons in the said District (which had he put in force would have nearly included every Gentleman in the Parish) but your Petitioner appeals to those Gentlemen, whether he did or did not send down any, in fact he sent none, but threw up his Commission rather than hurt his own feelings of those of his Fellow Parishioners.

That the taking the Command of one of the Militia Companys in Charles Town he considered as his Duty, to keep the Peace of the Town as he had formerly done under the American Government.

That as to the Address to Sir Henry Clinton which he unfortunately signed and which has given so much offence, your Petitioner can only urge in excuse for her Husband, in that occasion, that he was led away by that kind of Contagion which spreads on such occasions, from the force of Example set before him, by them further advanced in Life, and of more knowledge of the World; and from its being held out to him as the only Terms on which he could expect to remain in this his Native Country, where it is well known he has many near Connexions who have much dependence on him, and whom he could not think of leaving in the unsettled State of Affairs at that time.

Your Petitioner, tho' loath to bear testimony of her Husband's Services to this State, yet humbly hopes that regard will be had to his former conduct as an Officer in the Militia, and as one of the State Agents sent to France, as also his firm and intrepid Behaviour in the Field, at Port Royal and Savannah, and the Blood he there spilt in the Cause of his Country, which he never would have deserted, had he not considered the State as conquered, and therefore your Petitioner humbly hopes that her Husband will be judged by his Country on the general Line of his Conduct since the first beginning of these Services, and not by selecting particular Periods when the general Distress rendered it difficult for Men of more Experience and of riper judgment to conduct themselves with propriety.

That Your Petitioner, having with the utmost Horror heard that it was alledged before the late Honourable House of Representatives, that her Husband was present at the burning of Houses at

PETITION OF MARY BROUN

Winyaw, begs leave to assure your Honourable House that said Report is not true, which she can prove by the Testimony of several of the Goose Creek Company who were with him in Georgetown at the time those Houses were burnt by Major Wimys at Black Mingo or that Neighbourhood.

Your Petitioner begs leave to assure your Honourable House, that if her Husband is restored to his Country and Friends, she knows his grateful Temper so well, that she is confident he will be happy in rendering his best Services in future, And has only further to offer that he has several worthy Connexions, besides your Petitioner and an innocent Babe, depending on him, to whom his return will be of the utmost consequence.

May it therefore please your Honourable House to take this Candid State of Facts into your consideration, and to restore your Petitioner's said Husband to his disconsolate Family and Friends, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray,

Mary Broun

PETITION OF MARY BROUN

To the Honourable John Lloyd Esquire and the other Members of the
Honourable Senate of the State of South Carolina

The Petition of Mary Broun in behalf of her
Husband Archibald Broun

Humblly sheweth

That your Petitioner out of the Duty and Regard she
was to a tender and affectionate Husband whose Estate is confiscated and his Person
banished by a late Act of the Legislature at Jacksonburgh thinks it incumbent on her
to shew his Case to your Honourable House.

That the said Archibald Broun was born and bred
up in this State and from the earliest hours of these unhappy Disputes proved him-
self a zealous and active Friend in the Cause of his Country.

That at the time of every Invasion he was amongst
the foremost at the Post of Danger.

That after the unfortunate Fall of Charles Town,
when it was generally believed that the Country was irrecoverably lost, he amongst
a Multitude of other Inhabitants became a British Subject.

That he accepted of the Command of the Hero-Greek
Company of British, from its appearing to him to be the Wish of the Patriot in general,
and of the Privates in that Company in particular, but chiefly to prevent its being given
to one Blackman a little driven in his senses, an obscure Man and of very illiberal
Principles, who was absolutely named as unfit to take the command of that Company.
That during his holding that Commission he received Instructions, similar to those sent
to the other Captains of the British, ordering him to send down to the Sea Islands, as
Prisoners of War, all the former Members of Assembly, all Commissioned Officers,
Magistrates,

Arguable, and other errors in the said Report (which had he put in force with fewer
 matters included every gentleman in the Service) yet your petitioners appeal to these
 gentlemen, whether he did or did not and how any, in his conduct, but through his
 ignorance rather than his not being in time of his Office & Qualifications
 that he taking the command of said the militia =
 Companies in Great Britain he conducted as his Duty, being the Son of the King
 as he had formerly done under the former Government.
 That as to the petition to Sir Henry Capel which
 he unfortunately signed and which has given so much offence, your petitioners can
 only urge in excuse for her signing, in that occasion, that he was led away by that
 kind of rage which operates in such occasions, from the sense of emergency before
 him, by his further advancement in age, and of more knowledge of the Irish, and
 from his being led out to him as the only person in which he could expect to
 remain in this his native Country, where it is well known he has many near
 relations who have much dependence on him, and whom he could not think of leav-
 ing in the most critical state of affairs at that time.
 Your petitioners, tho' loath to bear testimony of her
 husband's services to this Country humbly hopes that regard will be had to
 his former conduct as an Officer in the said Regiments and to
 France, as also his firm and unshaken behaviour in the South Sea Bubble, and
 and to command, and that should he have spent in the cause of his Country, which
 he never would have reversed, had he not considered that that as commander,
 and therefore your petitioners humbly hopes that his conduct will be judged by his
 Country, in the general sense of his conduct since the first beginning of his conduct, and not
 by ordinary partialities. Errors, when the general Duty renders it difficult for
 men of more Experience and of greater judgment to conduct themselves with propriety.
 Your petitioners, having with the utmost decorum
 heard that it was alleged before the said Committee House of Representatives,

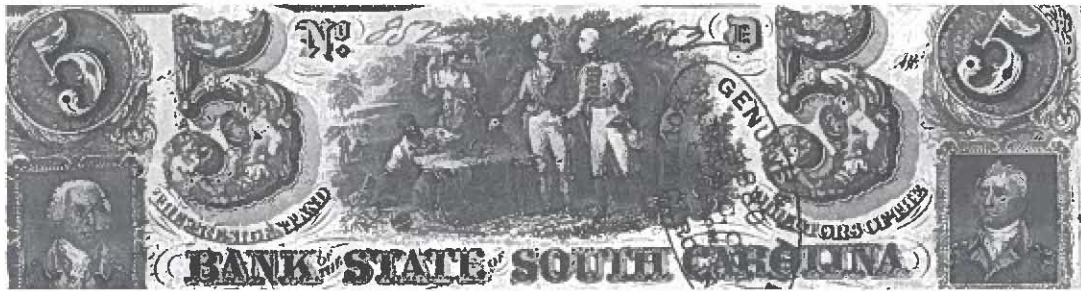
PETITION OF MARY BROWN

that her Husband was present at the burning of Houses at Winyan, begs leave to assure your Honourable House that said Report is not true, which she can prove by the Testimony of several of the House-Boat Company who were with him in George-Town, at the time those Houses were burnt by Major Wemyss at Black-Mingo or that Neighbourhood.

Your Petitioner further begs leave to assure your Honourable House, that if her Husband is restored to his Country and Friends, she knows his grateful Temper so well, that she is confident he will be happy in rendering his best Services in future, and has only further to offer that he has several worthy Connections, besides your Petitioner and an innocent Babe, depending on him, to whom his return will be of the utmost consequence.

May it therefore please your Honourable House to take this Candid State of Facts into your consideration, and to restore your Petitioner's said Husband to his disconsolate Family and Friends, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray
Mary Brown

A FREE MAN FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM—PETITION OF JOHN CHAVIS



In 1820 John Chavis was a free African American living in Orangeburg District. His household included three males under fourteen, one male over forty-five, four females between fourteen and twenty-six years, and one female over forty-five.¹ He is not listed on the 1790 census for South Carolina.

According to Chavis, about 1780 he enlisted in Captain Mattock's² company and also served under Captain William Chronicle. Captain—later Major—Chronicle of the North Carolina Partisan Rangers was killed at Kings Mountain on 7 October 1780.³ Chavis stated that he served until late in the war when wounds suffered at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill on the south fork of the Catawba River in Lincoln County, North Carolina, forced his discharge. The Battle of Ramsour's [Ramseur's or Ramsauer's] Mill was a hard-fought engagement that took place on 20 June 1780. Four hundred North Carolina militia men under Colonel Francis Locke attacked an encamped Tory force of 1,300 commanded by Colonel John Moore. According to one source, seventy men were killed, several hundred injured and fifty Tories were captured.⁴ Another provides a different account: 150 Patriots killed or wounded and similar Tory losses.⁵ Chavis requested a pension from the State of South Carolina based upon his age, his wounds, and his inability to support himself.⁶

Jacob Salter of Effingham County, Georgia, submitted an affidavit in support of Chavis' petition. Salter knew Chavis had served under Colonel William Thomson, Third Regiment, South Carolina Continental Line, and General Benjamin Lincoln, commander of American forces at Charlestown. Salter's affidavit was dated 24 November 1823, but he mentioned an earlier deposition concerning Chavis' service, which had been lost.⁷

The Senate considered Chavis' request on 9 December 1823 and referred it to the Committee on Pensions. Evan Benbow, the chairman, reported for the committee and recommended that Chavis' request "be Granted and that he be placed on the pension list."⁸ The petition was tabled and the recommendation not followed.

On 25 November 1825 Joseph Streable [Streble] of St. Matthews petitioned to be reimbursed \$110 he had expended to support John Chavis to "save him from starving." According to Streable, Chavis' 1823 petition to be placed on the pension list was only denied because he lacked a white guardian. At that time, Chavis was unaware of the 1820 legislation requiring white guardians for free African Americans. Before Chavis could reapply, he was killed by a falling tree. The South Carolina House of Representatives rejected Streable's request.⁹

Sources

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2. *The Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1984), pp. 483, 488 list two captains with the surname Mattocks—John of the Lincoln County men and Charles. Both fought at Kings Mountain.
3. *Roster North Carolina*, p. 31.
4. Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1972 reprint of the 1859 edition), pp. 390–91.
5. Mark M. Boatner, III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1966), pp. 913–14.
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9. AA #1213.
10. “Records of the Regiments of the South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment,” *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 5 (1904), 143–60; Bobby Gilmer Moss, *South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1983), p. 165; Records of the General Assembly, Revolutionary War Annuitant and Bounty Land Reports, 1778–1803.
11. Robert L. Meriwether, *The Expansion of South Carolina 1729–1765* (Philadelphia: Porcupine Press, 1974 Reprint), p. 133. Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*. Vol. II, 1748–1752 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1997), p. 195; Records of the Secretary of State, Surveyor General, Colonial Plats, Vol. 5, p. 138, Vol. 11, p. 481, Unrecorded Plat for Land not Granted, Box 1, #194.
12. Virgil D. White, *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files* (Waynesboro, Tennessee: The National Historical Publishing Company, 1990), I, 615.

PETITION OF JOHN CHAVIS

To the Honorable the President and members of the Senate of South Carolina

Sheweth,

That your Petitioner sometime in the year 1780 enlisted in Captain Mattocks company and that he served in said Company and the company of Capt. Cronicle until near the close of the war when he was discharged on account of the many wounds he received in an engagement with some Tories near the North Carolina line at a place called Ramsours. Your Petitioner is now old and by reason of the Said wounds is unable to support himself by his Labour and therefore prays your Honorable Body to place him on the pension list, and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

John [his mark] Chavis

Test
R. P. M Cord

Source: Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA 1213. SCDAAH.

PETITION OF JOHN CHAVIS

To the Honorable the President and
Members of the Senate of South Carolina

Sheweth

That your Petitioner sometime
the year 1780 entered in Captain Mattocks Company
and that he served in said Company and the
Company of Capt. Cronicle until near
the close of the war when he was discharged
on account of the many wounds he received
in an engagement with some Tories near
the North Carolina line at a place called
Ranncours. Your Petitioner is now old
and by reason of the said wounds is
unable to support himself by his Labour
and therefore prays your Honorable Body
to place him on the pension list, and
your Petitioner as in duty bound will
ever pray

John Chavis
Mark

List
R. P. McCord

IN AT THE BEGINNING—PETITION OF JOHN FEATHERSTON



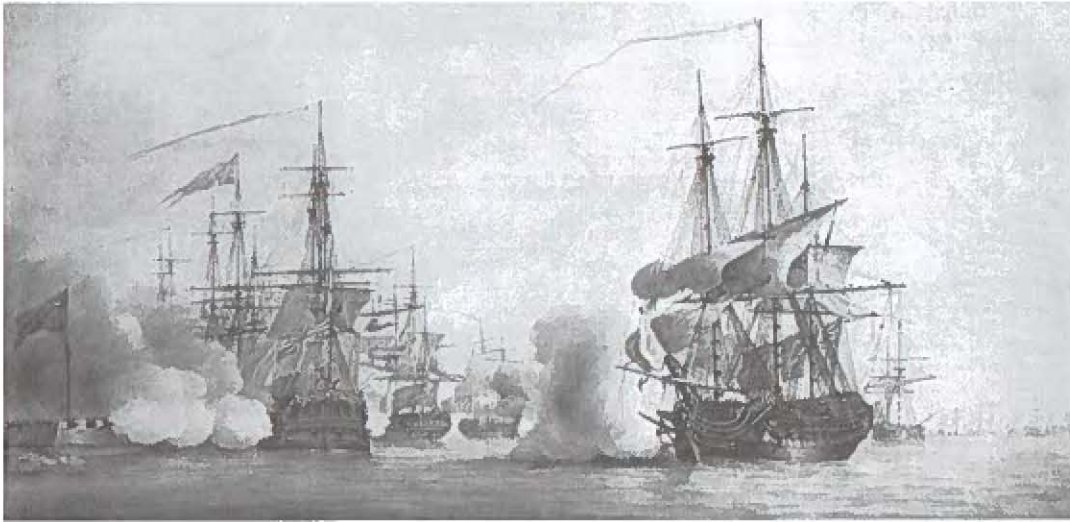
John Featherston was a free African American who served seven months aboard the South Carolina schooner *Defence*. On 21 August 1776 he wrote John Rutledge, president of South Carolina, concerning his back pay. Specifically, Featherston said he had been paid for only two of the seven months he had served under Captain Simon Tufts on the *Defence*. Tufts apparently referred Featherston to Rutledge. At the time of the petition, Featherston had been serving for two months under Captain—later Major—Thomas Grimball, who commanded an artillery battalion of the Charlestown militia. Featherston [Fedderson] received sixty-three pounds for three months service. At least two other free African Americans, George Cooper and Stephen Bond, served on the *Defence*.¹ The story of the *Defence* under Captain Simon Tufts is critical to the story of the Revolution in South Carolina.

To prepare for the defense of South Carolina, the Second Provincial Congress began to create a navy and map out a plan for the defense of Charlestown harbor. On 19 October the Council of Safety moved to prevent a British bombardment of the Cooper River waterfront. To block a British approach to Charlestown from Rebellion Road, it directed William Henry Drayton, president of the Second Provincial Congress, and Thomas Heyward, Jr., to head a mission to obstruct the channel of Hog Creek. It assigned Captain Tufts and the recently-acquired armed schooner *Defence* to ensure its safety. The goal was to sink four hulks in the channel. Edward Blake, one of the three commissioners appointed on 5 September to “equip three armed schooners for the service of the province,” was charged with the sinking.

By 27 October the ship with a crew of volunteers from the First and Second Regiments was ready for service. On 9 November 1775 the Congress ordered Captain Simon Tufts to sail to the mouth of Wappoo Creek, pass through the cut, and stand by for orders from William Henry Drayton. The Provincial Congress also ordered Colonel William Moultrie to detach a captain and thirty-five men to serve as marines aboard the *Defence*. When she sailed, the ship carried a crew of seventy seamen and marines and was mounted with two nine-pound, six six-pound, and two four-pound guns. Drayton accompanied Tufts on the *Defence*.

The expedition sailed 11 November 1775. According to Captain Tufts, while he was carrying out his orders, two British vessels approached, and one, the *Tamar*, fired six shots. The *Tamar*'s logbook indicates that the British ship fired a single shot at another vessel. The *Defence* returned fire with its heaviest guns. The patriots sank three of the hulks successfully; the British set the fourth one on fire.

The next day, the British ships *Tamar* and *Cherokee* fired about one-hundred thirty shots at the *Defence*. The *Cherokee* was home to William Campbell, who, from September 1775 through January 1776, was the



Attack by the British fleet, 1776. Engraving by Nicholas Pocock. South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

last royal governor of South Carolina. Soldiers at Fort Johnson tried to fire on the British vessels while troops fell out in Charlestown and joined a crowd of civilian spectators to watch the battle. A Charlestown doctor—John Budd—paddled across the Cooper River during the bombardment and boarded the South Carolina ship to help the injured. Despite the enemy fire, however, neither the *Defence* nor the seaman were harmed.

In a letter written on 13 November to the Council of Safety of Georgia, Drayton described this event as “The actual commencement of hostilities by the British” and one “of the highest moment to the southern part of the United Colonies.”

On 23 November 1775 Congress set the pay of the commander of the *Defence* at three pounds currency per day and authorized the payment of one thousand pounds currency to Captain Simon Tufts “for pay due to the officers and seamen employed on board the colony schooner [sic] *Defence*.”² As late as 5 April 1776, Captain Tufts still commanded the *Defence*, which, at that time, was described as “well manned and fitted” and “ready to join the continental fleet.”³

Historian Terry Lipscomb designates the Hog Island Channel action, 11–12 November 1775, as the “First SC Battle,”⁴ and John Featherston may have been part of this history-making event.

Sources

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2. *Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina, 1775–1776*, ed. William E. Hemphill and Wylma A. Wates (Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1960), pp. 111, 119, 123–24, 147; Terry W. Lipscomb, *The Carolina lowcountry April 1775–June 1776* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1994, 2nd edition), pp. 13, 16–17.
3. William Bell Clark, *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, vol. 4, 1776 (Washington, DC: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1961), p. 674.
4. Terry W. Lipscomb, *Battles, Skirmishes, and Actions of the American Revolution in South Carolina* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1991), p. 3.

PETITION OF JOHN FEATHERSTON

To his Excellency John Rutledge President of the Colony of South Carolina

The Memorial of John Featherston a Free negro man Humbly Sheweth

That your Memorialist served on board the schooner Defence Capt. Simon Tuffs for the Space of Seven Months and never received more than Two months pay tho often applyd to said Capt. For the balance of my wages, and obtained for answers to apply to your Excellency.

Your said Petitioner applyd to your Excellency who was pleased to tell him for his Capt. to Come to him. He neither can get him to Come or to Certify that your memorialist is the man and what there remains due.

Your said petitioner is in the Public Service for this two Months under the Command of Capt. Grimball, most humbly prays our Excellency will be pleased to take the promises into Consideration and order such relief as he in his wisdom shall Seem meet.

And in duty bound will ever pray etc. etc. etc.

Jno Featherston

Charlestown

Aug. 21, 1776

PETITION OF JOHN FEATHERSTON

To His Excellency John Rutledge President Genl of the Colony
of South Carolina

The Memorial of John Featherston a Free Negro man
of the County of Beaufort

That your Memorialist served on Board the Schooner Defiance
Capt. Mission Staff for the Space of Seven Months and never received
more than Two Months pay. Tho' often Applied to said Capt for the Balance
of my Wages, and desired for Answers to apply to your Excellency.

Your said Petitioner applied to your Excellency who
was please to tell him, for his Capt. to Come to him. He neither
can get him to Comings, or to Certify that your Memorialist is the
Man & what there remains due.

Your said Petitioner is in the Public Service for
this Two Months under the Command of Capt. Guinball, most
humbly prays your Excellency will be please to take the premises
in to Consideration and Order such Relief as he in his
Wardship shall seem Meet.

And in duty bound will ever pray to please

John Featherston

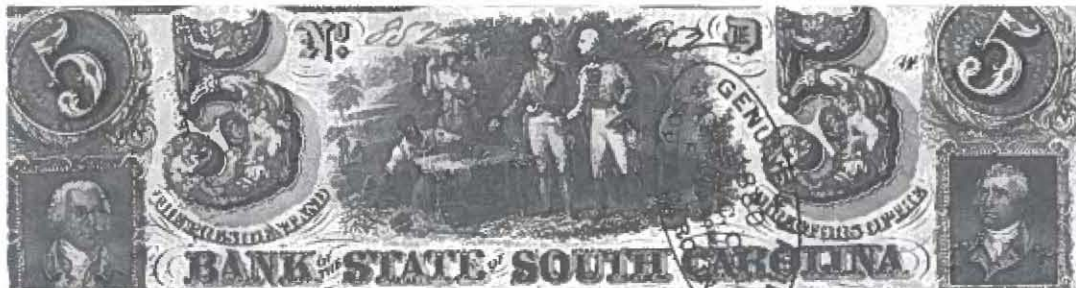
Charleston
Aug 21. 1776

The Public of South Carolina
1776.

To John Tisderson — J^r
a Free Negro.

To 3 Men the Wages on board the Schooner Defiance
at the 21st of Month. ————— £ 03 00

THE COST OF FREEDOM—PETITION OF HENRY FELDER



In his petition, Henry Felder paints a poignant picture of Revolutionary life in South Carolina's Back-country. He recounts not only his own experiences but also those of his father Henry and his brother John. In personal terms, the Revolution cost Felder his father, his brother, and his family home. In his 1786 petition he seeks redress for his economic losses, for his father's economic losses, for the support of his father's young children, and for the support of his brother's family. In 1786 the South Carolina General Assembly recommended a payment of £130 to reimburse Felder for his cattle but failed to provide for his other requests.¹ The State of South Carolina also reimbursed Felder for a bay horse taken for military use.²

Henry Felder and his father both served in the South Carolina legislature. The senior Felder was elected to the Second Provincial Congress, the First State General Assembly, and the Second State General Assembly [1775–1778]. He was the son of Hans Heinrich and Ursula Felder and emigrated from Switzerland to Orangeburg District in 1735. Between 1760 and 1775 the senior Felder received grants to over 2000 acres in the district. Most of his land lay along the North Edisto River, and he was one of the commissioners appointed by the legislature to make the Edisto River navigable. During the Revolutionary War, Felder served as a militia captain under Lt. Col. Christopher Rowe in Col. William Thomson's Orangeburg Regiment. He married twice. On 15 December 1747 he married Mary Elizabeth Shaumlöffel, the daughter of John Shaumlöffel. Later he married Anne Catherine Snell, the daughter of Goss Henry Snell and Catherina Berrin. He had eight children by his first marriage—Henry, Jr., (the petitioner), Jacob, John, Frederick, Samuel, Abraham, Peter and Mary Elizabeth—and at least six by his second marriage—Ann Margaret, Rebecca, Catherine, Rachel, David, and Barzelia.³

As was the tradition, seven of Felder's sons—Henry, Jacob, John, Frederick, Samuel, Abraham, and Peter—served in his militia company. His company had a successful engagement with a force of Tories near Holman's Bridge on the South Edisto River. He also helped Gen. Thomas Sumter when Sumter attacked Orangeburg with a strength that forced the British garrison to surrender on 11 May 1781.

On 23 September 1778 Felder placed a notice in the *Gazette of the State of South Carolina* saying that on 3 September his house had been “plundered and burnt” and “all his papers either burnt or destroyed.” According to one account, when Felder was warned of an impending Tory attack in late 1781, he fortified his rebuilt house, armed his sons and overseer, and together they repulsed the enemy. He then dispatched his sons to ambush the Tories as they were retreating. The Tories, however, returned, set fire to the Felder home, and wounded Felder mortally as he fled the burning house. At Felder’s death, his son Henry assumed command of the militia company.⁴

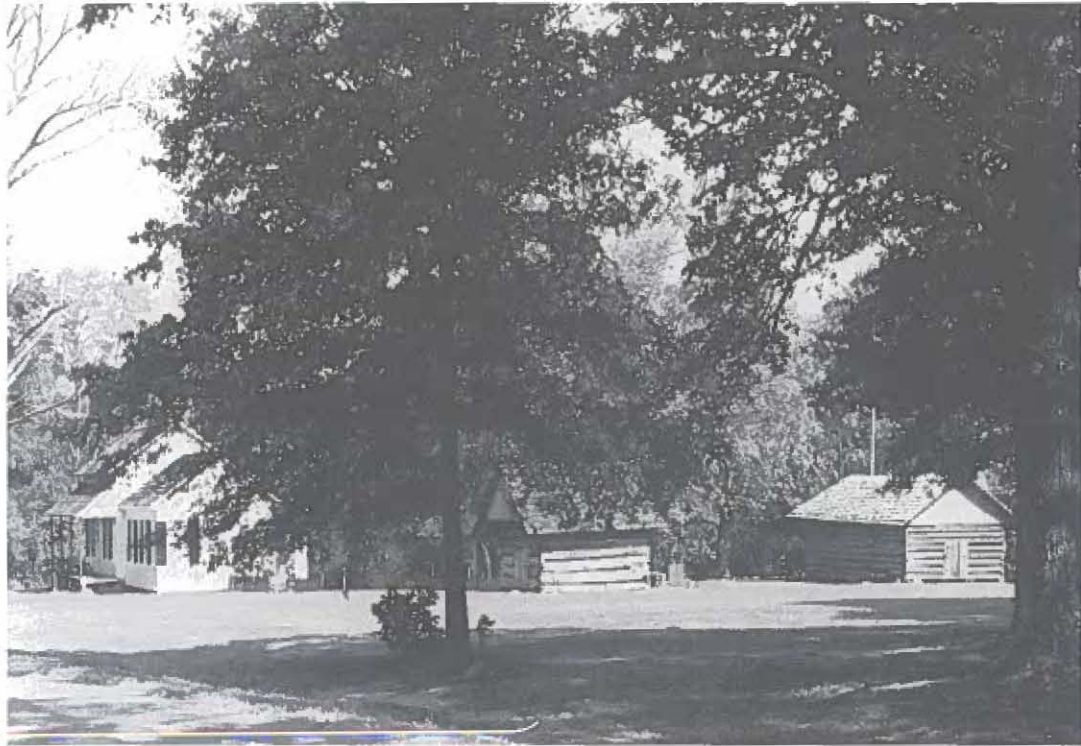
Henry Felder, Jr. was born 8 September 1748 and baptized 25 September. He served in the South Carolina General Assembly, 1782–1786, 1792–1794. By his account, in addition to his Orangeburg militia service, he enlisted with Col. Charles Myddleton in 1781⁵. Felder and his wife Margaret Stoudemire had six children: Henry, Harriet, Samuel, Ann L., Rebecca, and Lewis. He served as commissioner of the roads for Orange Parish, justice of the peace, and commissioner to repair and rebuild the courthouse and jail in Orangeburg. Felder was dead by 10 February 1803.⁶

In 1790 Felder owned twenty-one slaves. In 1791 he contested the role of election manager Samuel Rowe, alleging that Rowe and his appointee had read the ballots and discarded those they “did not like.” The House Committee on Privileges and Elections found no impropriety but recommended that any “opening of Votes” be discouraged. In the contested election, Rowe was the successful candidate for the South Carolina House of Representatives.⁷

At his death, Henry Felder, Jr. owned 880 acres and five lots in the town of Orangeburg.⁸ His petition illustrates the chaotic nature of the war in South Carolina, the conduct of guerilla warfare, and the resulting human cost.

Sources

1. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA2336.
2. *Ibid.*
3. N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, III, 1775–1790* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), pp. 107, 468; Alexander S. Salley, Jr. *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1978). Reprint of the 1898 edition.
4. Salley, pp. 486–89; Terry W. Lipscomb, Jr., “South Carolina Revolutionary Battles—Part Six,” *Names in South Carolina*, XXV (Winter 1978), 29.
5. Charles Starke Myddleton was a lt. col. in the Second Regiment under Thomas Sumter and a captain, major, and colonel in the South Carolina militia. He was wounded at Eutaw Springs. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), p. 715.
6. *Biographical Directory*, III, 229–30; Salley, pp. 215, 248–49.
7. Rachel N. Klein, *Unification of a Slave State: the Rise of the Planter Class in the South Carolina Backcountry, 1760–1808* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1990), pp. 160–61; US Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule, 1790.
8. *Biographical Directory*, III, 229.



Brattonsville, York County. This was the home of Colonel William Bratton, who, on 26 May 1780 with his Patriot troops, dislodged a band of Tories from a Baptist meeting house at Mobley's Settlement in Fairfield County. The Battle of Mobley's Meeting House was one of the first Patriot victories after the fall of Charlestown. State Historic Preservation Office. SCDAH.

PETITION OF HENRY FELDER

For the Honourable John L Loyd Esqr President and the Rest of the Members of the Honourable the Senate.

The Petition of Henry Felder

Sheweth

That at different Periods from the Beginning of the late War until the Surrender of Charles Town Your Petitioner was frequently employed in Militia Duty & never received any pay for his Services, but that he kept no Account of nor does he desire any Pay for them.

That on the 12 May 1781 he joined Col. Charles Middletons Corps and was constantly on Duty afterwards under different Officers until January 1782.

That One William Guest having bought Seventy head of Cattle for the Brittish was in May 1781 driving on to Camden, but General Sumpter having then lately taken Orangeburgh together with the Party who had held it & Guests Drivers having thereupon run away, Guest finding himself unable to proceed to Camden with the Cattle, he gave them up to Your Petitioner telling him that he might do with them what he pleased, whereupon Your Petitioner drave them to Orangeburgh for the use of the American Army, by whom they were accordingly consumed.

That in the Year 1778 Your Petitioner's Father Henry Felder, Senr. Kept Store in his Dwelling House near Orangeburgh and the Said House was forcibly entered in the Night by a Party of Tories who took out of the Store & carried off a considerable Quantity of Goods, & burnt the Said Dwelling House, the Rest of the Said Goods, all the household furniture, a Quantity of Grain, and a Considerable Number of other Articles, which were contained in the Said House; Also a Sum of Two Thousand Pounds Paper Money belonging to the State, which had been Sent into his hands as One of the Commissioners for Clearing the Fork of Edisto River.

That the Loss, which Your Petitioner's Father sustained by this Act was estimated at upwards of 2000 guineas exclusive of the Publick money.

That Your Petitioner's Father thereupon built another Dwelling House on his Said Plantation but that House was burnt & his Father killed by a Party of Tories in 1780.

That the Zeal of Exertions of Your Petitioner's Father in the Service of this State are So well known that Your Petitioner thinks it unnecessary to Say any thing more on these Points, than that he is persuaded they were the Occasion of the loss both of his Property and Life.

PETITION OF HENRY FELDER

That he left a Widow & Ten Children now living 4 of whom are Young, the eldest not above 11 & the youngest not above 4 Years of Age.

That his Father lost all his Stock of Cattle & Several Negroes by the Tories & Brittish, So that his Estates of which Your Petitioner, being the Heir at Law & Administrator to his Father, means to give each child an equal Share, is thus greatly reduced & become Small & inconsiderable.

That John Felder a Brother of Your Petitioner commanding a Volunteer Company of Militia in 1781 was Sent by Colonel Washington on a Special & dangerous Services in the Execution of which he was taken Prisoner by the Enemy & having escaped from them attempted to Swim across the Congaree River at McCords Ferry, he was fired on by the Enemy & either killed by them or drowned in crossing Said River.

That he left a widow & 2 children, One about Seven, the other about 5 years of Age, & a very Small Estate only 100 Acres of land & 2 Negroes.

Your Petitioner therefore prays that Your Honorable House will be pleased to take the Premises into Consideration & grant Such Relief therein As to You Shall appear proper.

HFelder

Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA 2336. SCDAH.

PETITION OF HENRY FELDER

To the Honourable John L. Loyd Esq^r President,
and the Rest of the Honourable
The Senate.

The Petition of Henry Felder

Sheweth

- "That at different Periods from the Beginning of the late War until the Surrender of Charles Town your Petitioner was frequently employed on Militia Duty & never received any Pay for his Services, but that he kept no Account of nor does he desire any Pay for them.
- "That on the 18. May 1781 the said Col. Charles Middleton Corps was constantly on Duty afterwards under different Officers until January 1782.
- "That One William Galt having bought seventy head of cattle for the British in May 1781, driving on to Camden, and General Sumpter having then lately taken Orangeburgh together with the Party who had held it, & requests Drivels having thereupon run away, Galt finding himself unable to proceed to Camden with the Cattle, he gave them up to your Petitioner, telling him that he might do with them as he pleased, whereupon your Petitioner drove them to Orangeburgh for the Use of the American Army, by whom they were accordingly consumed.
- "That in the Year 1779 your Petitioner's Father Henry Felder Sr. kept Store in his Dwelling House near Orangeburgh, and the said House was forcibly entered in the Night by a Party of Tories who took out of the Store & carried off a Considerable Quantity of Goods, & burnt the said Dwelling House, the Rest of the Store & Goods, all the household Furniture, a Quantity of Grain, and a considerable Number of other Articles, which were contained in the said House; Also a Sum of Two thousand Pounds Paper Money belonging to the State, which had been sent into his hands as one of the Commissioners for clearing the Fork of Edisto River. Your Petitioner's Father sustained by this Act a Loss, which was estimated at upwards of 2000 Guineas exclusive of the Publick Money.
- "That your Petitioner's Father thereupon built another Dwelling House on his said Plantation, but that House was burnt by his Father killed by a Party of Tories in 1780. The Deal & Exertions of your Petitioner's Father in the Service of this State are so well known, that your Petitioner thinks it unnecessary to say any thing more on these Points, than that he is persuaded, they were the Occasion of the Loss both of his Property and Life.

PETITION OF HENRY FELDER

" That he left a Widow & 3 Children now living
2 of whom are young, the eldest not above 11 & the youngest
not above 6 Years of Age.

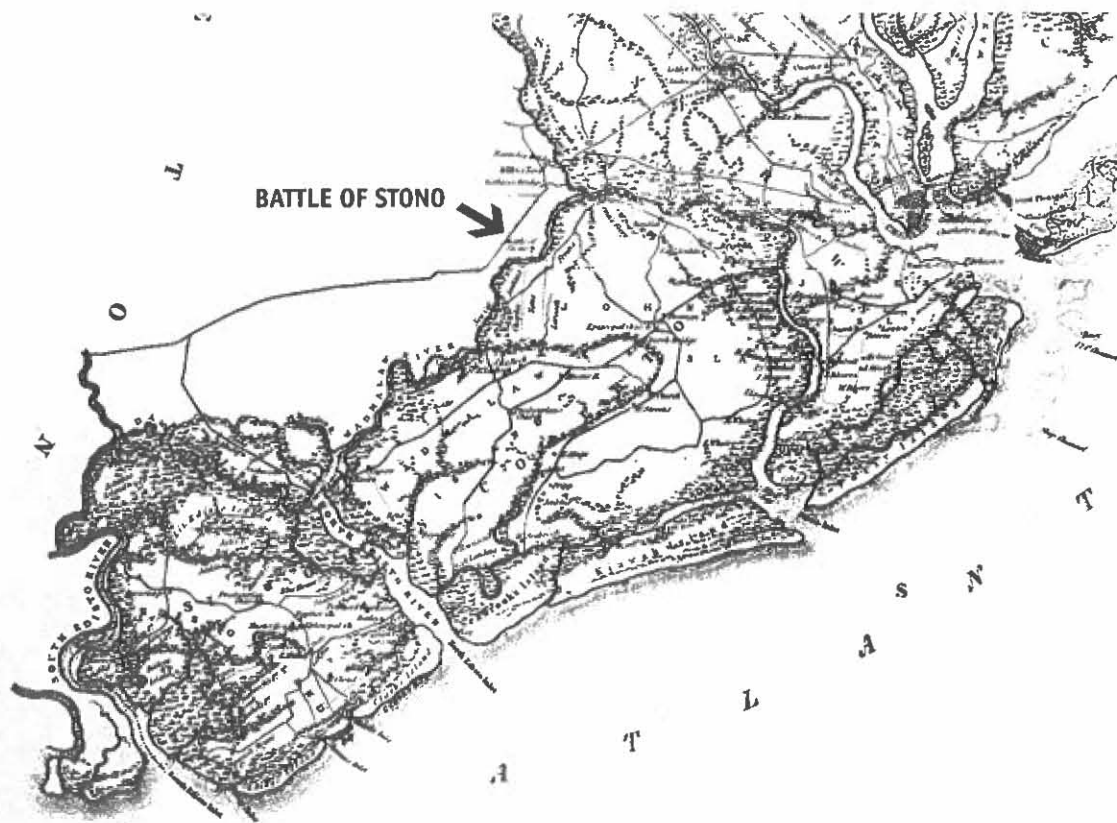
" That his Father lost all his Stock of Cattle &
Several Negroes by the Tories & British, so that his
Estate of which Your Petitioner being the Heir at
Law & Administrator to his Father means to give
each Child an equal Share, is thus greatly reduced
& become small & inconsiderable.

" That John Felder a Brother of Your Petitioner
commanding a Volunteer Company of Militia in 1781
was sent by Colonel Washington on a Special &
dangerous Service in the Execution of which
he was taken Prisoner by the Enemy & having
escaped from them attempted to swim a ~~short~~
the Congaree River at Myfords Ferry he was fired on
by the Enemy & either killed by them or drowned in
crossing said River.

" That he left a Widow & 2 Children, One about 10
the other about 5 Years of Age, & a very small
Estate only 100 Acres of Land & 2 Negroes.

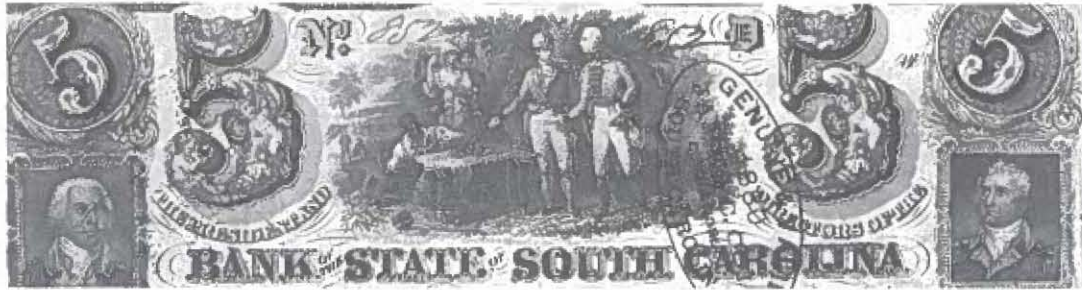
Your Petitioner therefore prays
That your Honourable House will
be pleased to take the Premises into
Consideration & Grant such Relief
therein as to You shall appear
proper.

Felder



Site of the Battle of Stono, 20 June 1779. Charleston District, Mill's Atlas of South Carolina, 1825.

CATAWBA ALLY—PETITION OF PETER HARRIS



In 1822 Peter Harris of the Catawba Nation petitioned the State of South Carolina for relief based upon his service to the state during the American Revolution. Senator William Crafts, a friend of the Spratt family, composed the eloquent petition for Harris. Peter Harris lost his parents in the small-pox epidemic of 1756 and grew up with the Thomas Spratt family. Harris returned to the Catawba Nation, but visited the Spratts frequently.¹

Harris enlisted under Col. William Thomson of Belleville. Thomson was Lieutenant Colonel of the Third Regiment [Rangers], South Carolina Continental Line.² During 1780–1781 Harris also served in Captain Thomas Drennan's Company of Catawba Indians under the command of Gen. Thomas Sumter. The Catawba were renowned warriors and had supported South Carolina's interests since the end of the Yemassee War in 1716. After the Revolution, Harris and other Catawba toured England, performing their songs and dances. When the Catawba were abandoned by the tour promoters in London, concerned individuals paid for their passage home. Three of the distressed Catawba jumped overboard, but Harris returned safely to South Carolina.³

Peter Harris often spoke of his Revolutionary service and entertained young people with stories of the conflict. He displayed a gun captured during the Battle of Stono and recounted the time when he killed a Loyalist at a spring near the Catawba Nation. The Battle of Stono was an important engagement. It was fought on 20 June 1779 at Stono Ferry twelve miles from Charleston. As a result of his Revolutionary service, Harris qualified for 200 acres in bounty grants. In 1794 he received a total of three grants on the "waters of Fishing Creek," in Chester County. He sold 170 acres of this land in 1808. At some point in his life, Harris married Betsey Dudgeon.⁴

In support of Harris' 1822 petition, Hugh White, superintendent of the Catawba Nation, submitted an affidavit verifying Harris' service and noting that Harris "is now grown old and infirm & game is so scarce and hard to obtain, and manual labor is too heavy for his ability." On 11 December, Benjamin Huger, state senator from All Saints Parish, reported for the Committee on Claims:

That they have made close enquiry and find the said Peter Harris to be one of the few surviving warriors of the Catawba Nation: that he was a faithful & active friend to the American cause during the revolutionary war, & fought against the British until they were driven from the State: that he is now advanced in years. . . . They therefore unanimously recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be allowed.⁵

*Drawing of an eighteenth-century Catawba warrior.
Courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library, University of South
Carolina.*



Harris received a pension of \$60 per year. In his later years, he returned to the Spratt family. In November 1824 James Spratt petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly, saying Harris had died on 6 December 1823. Spratt asked to collect the balance due on Harris' pension because he had cared for Harris during his final illness and had arranged for his burial. The Spratt petition was referred to a committee of the House of Representatives. It declined to pay him the annuity because he was "neither Executor, or administrator on the Estate of Peter Harris."⁶

With the death of Harris and the others who had fought with General Sumter, an important chapter in Catawba-South Carolina relations ended. The South Carolina leaders of the 1830s did not remember the contribution of their Catawba allies, and Catawba men were forced to find other sources of income and respect.

Sources

1. James H. Merrell, *The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Conflict through the Era of Removal* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1989), pp. 212, 218.
2. Wilmot G. DeSaussure, *The Names, as far as can be ascertained of the Officers who Served in the South Carolina Regiments* (Columbia: Presbyterian Publishing House for the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, 1886), p. 15.
3. Alexia Jones Helsley, "The Catawba and American Liberty," [From the Archives] *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 96 (1995), 252-53.
4. *Ibid.*, 254-55; Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles: Part II," *Names in South Carolina*, XXI (1974), 33.
5. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA3368-A.
6. *Ibid.*

PETITION OF PETER HARRIS

To the Councils of South Carolina

The memorial of Peter Harris Warrior of the Cataba nation in the war of Independence,

I am one of the lingering embers of an almost extinguished race, Our graves will soon be our only habitations. I am one of the few stalks, that still remain in the field, Where the tempest of the revolution passed, I fought against the British for your sake, the British have disappeared, and you are free, yet from me the British took nothing, nor have I gained anything by their defeat. I pursued the deer for my subsistence, the deer are disappearing, & I must starve God ordained me for the forest, and my ambition is the shade, but the strength of my Arm decays, and my feet fail in the chase, the hand which fought for your liberties, is now open for your relief—In my Youth, I bled in battle, that you might be independant, let not my heart in my old age, bleed, for the want of your Commisseration.

Peter [his Mark] Harris

Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA 3368-A. SCDAH.

PETITION OF PETER HARRIS

To the Councils of South Carolina

The memorial of Peter Harris Warrior
of the Cataba nation, in the war of Inde-
pendence,

I am one of the lingering embers
of an almost extinguished race, ^{both} ~~both~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{our} ~~our~~ ^{own} ~~own~~ ^{kind} ~~kind~~,
will soon be our only habitations. I am
one of the few stalks, that still remain in
the field, where the tempest of the revolu-
tion passed, I fought against the British
for your sake, the British have disap-
peared, and you are free, yet from me
the British took nothing, nor have I
gained any thing by their defeat. I pur-
sued the deer for my subsistence, the
deer are disappearing, I must starve
God ordained me for the forest, and my
ambition is the shade, but the strength
of my arm decays, and my feet fail
in the chase, the hand which fought
for your liberties, ~~the hand which fought~~

PETITION OF PETER HARRIS

is now open for your relief -
In my Youth I bled in battle, that
you might be independant, let not
my heart in my old age, bleed, for
the want of your Comonisation

Peter ^{his} Harris
Mark

The Memorial
of Peter Harris
an Induep -
Warrior of the
Revolution

in favour of the
Petition -

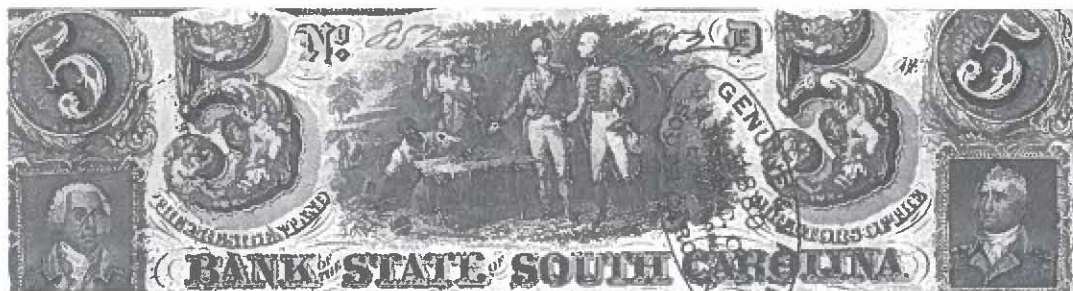
H. A. Baber

1 Pennons



French Quarter District (Lodge Alley) Charleston. This area within the old walled city of Charlestown was home to the warehouses and dwellings of the French Huguenots. Located near the wharves off East Bay, Lodge Alley in the eighteenth century was characteristic of a seaport with its taverns, inns, stores, stables, and lodges. The alley was paved with brick-shaped granite. The Marine Lodge of Freemasons was first established in the alley in 1773. A float built here protesting the Boston tea party was paraded in Charlestown on 5 November 1774. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

FRENCH ADVENTURER—PETITION OF CHARLES LEHOUX



Charles Lehoux, a French sea captain, petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly in 1785 for assistance. According to his statement, he arrived in South Carolina in 1777 with a large cargo of merchandise. Charlestown was a major commercial port in the eighteenth century, and its exports of cotton, rice, and indigo drew many foreign ships. Lehoux went there to make his fortune, and his venture into the Charlestown market was so successful he sent his schooner back to Europe to take on additional supplies. The British, however, captured his schooner before it could return.

Lehoux faced economic ruin on two fronts. He had lost his means of income, and his capital was being eroded by the rate of inflation in Charlestown. Following the loss of his schooner, Lehoux served the colony during the 1776 and 1780 British attacks upon Charlestown, probably in the South Carolina militia. He may have served in the Charlestown Regiment of Artillery because he mentions firing the first cannon against Clinton's fort in 1780. There was, however, a regiment of French volunteers involved in the 1780 siege.¹

Sir Henry Clinton organized the second British siege of Charlestown. He was then the commander of the British forces in North America. He dispatched from New York a large force of British troops escorted by Vice Admiral Mariot Arbuthnot and the British fleet. He planned to encircle Charlestown.

By 11 February 1780 the British troops had disembarked on Johns Island.² According to Staff Captain Johann Hinrichs of the Jager Corps, the landing place was "desolate and salty, and full of cabbage trees." In describing the American efforts to fortify Charlestown, Hinrichs mentions at least twenty-two batteries under construction along the Ashley River. According to him, the American forces comprised 3000 men in regular regiments supplemented by militia, armed African Americans, and about a hundred Frenchmen. On 3 April 1780 French troops shelled British redoubts with two twelve-pound cannon. Hinrichs recorded in his diary that a "battalion of French and Spanish volunteers" was the last of the American troops to march out of the city in surrender.³

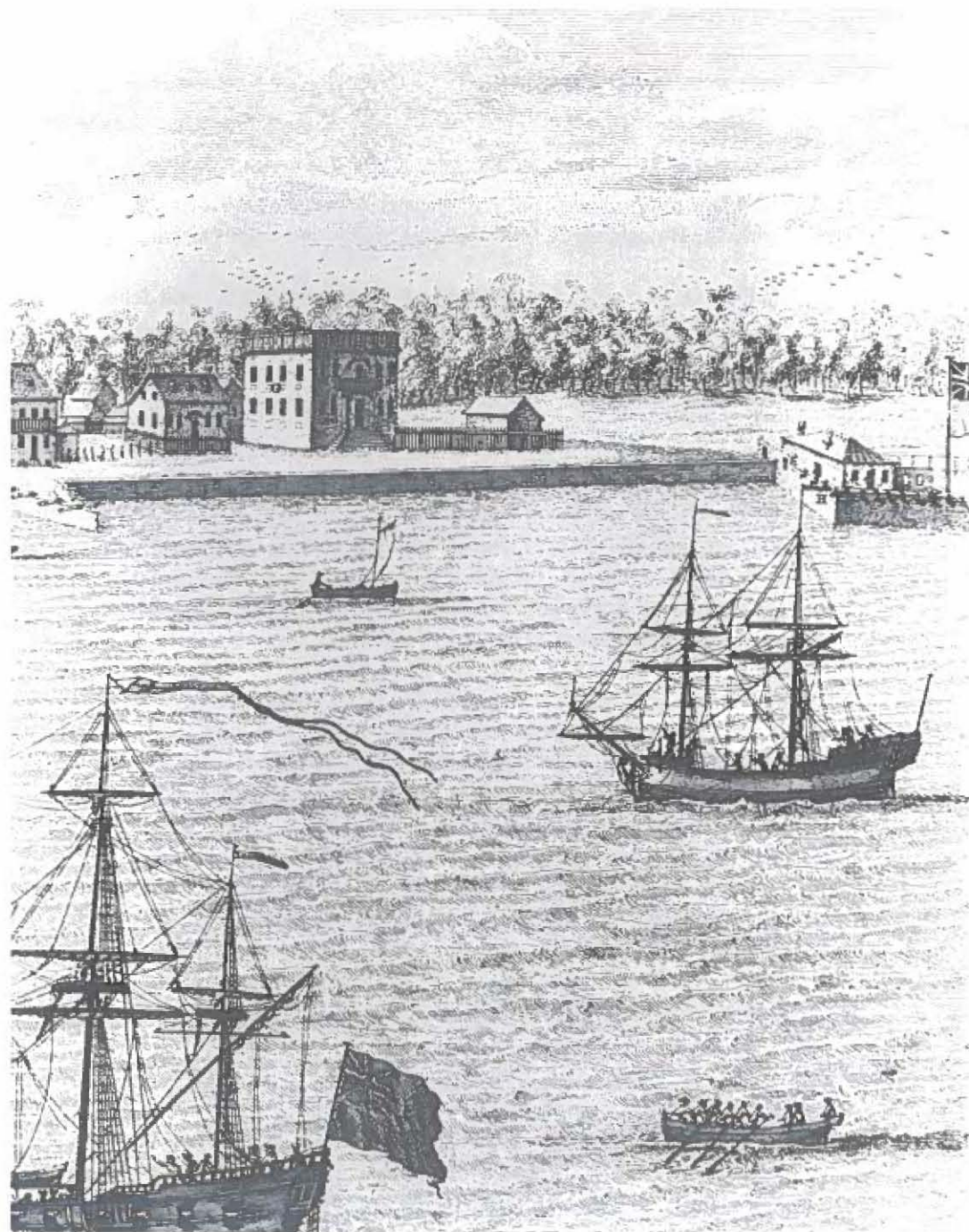
Lehoux's petition says he was present when Charlestown surrendered 12 May 1780. His British captors sent him north to be exchanged. Lehoux's petition was read in the South Carolina House of Representatives on 22 February 1785 and referred to committee. William Smith of the committee reported on 23 February 1785 and delivered the petition to the clerk. No other record of this petition appears in the 1785 House of Representatives journal.⁴

Undaunted, Lehoux petitioned again in 1787. In this petition, Lehoux, a resident of Charles Town, reiterated his service during the 1780 siege of Charlestown and his subsequent imprisonment. He

elaborated on his original arrival in the port city, saying he was master of a schooner carrying a cargo of ammunition and dry goods, which he sold to the public for \$75,000 in state currency. Depreciation had severely reduced that amount to “a very small value.” This loss, his age, and his infirmities, he continued, had left him in a “State of distress . . . unable to support himself by manual labor.” To earn a living, he became “a keeper of a Billiard Table.” Each year, however, he had to pay 50 pounds to rent the table and 50 pounds in city taxes—an outlay that was what he needed “to provide the Common Necessaries of Life.” Lehoux asked the South Carolina General Assembly to remit the tax money. His petition was read on 13 February 1787 and ordered to lie on the table.⁵

Sources

1. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA#4506 1/2.
2. Terry W. Lipscomb, “South Carolina Revolutionary Battles: Part II,” *Names in South Carolina* 21 (1974), 25; *The Siege of Charleston*, ed. Bernhard A. Uhlendorf (New York: New York Times & Arno Press, 1968. Reprint of the 1838 edition), p. 293.
3. *The Siege of Charleston*, ed. Bernhard A. Uhlendorf, pp.181, 211, 235, 293.
4. *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1785–1786*, ed. Lark E. Adams and Rosa S. Lumpkin. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1979), pp. 122–23, 131.
5. Accounts Audited #4506 1/2.



Schooner and other vessels in Charlestown harbor. Detail from William Henry Toms' 1739 engraving "Prospect of Charles Town." SCDAAH.

PETITION OF CHARLES LEHOUX

To the honourable the President and Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina

The humble Petition of Charles Lehoux french of nation and Ancient Captain of Sea—

Humbly Represent

That By the effect of his Zeal for the Americains [Americans] in the year 1777, he Came in this State with a Schooner by which he Brought here a Considerable Cargo of merchand [merchandise].

That the said Cargo having being Sold he Sent at Sea from this port his Said Schooner for to Go and fetch more Suply [supply] agin [again] for this place but his Said vessel was taken by the Englishs [English]

That this Geat [great] geat [great] Loss of your petitioner was unhappily increased by the deprectiation [depreciation] of the papers money and to Such degree that your petitioner has never been able Since to Relieve himself.

Never the less your Petitioner did not Lose his Zeal for your Cause or Strunggle [struggle] but he accompanied you in the two Last Siege of Charleston and he Can boast himself to have given the first fire of Cannon aginst [against] the fort that Clainton [Clinton] had erecsed [erected] in the North of this City So as he Can produce creditable witness—

Finally your petitioner having been made a prisoner at the Surrendering of this place and been obliged to be Caried [carried] to North wards for his exchange and from this last disturbance [disturbance] having been totally Cast out and ruined he thron [thrown] himself in the arms of your tenderness and commiseration imploring your Services for to help him to Relieve from the burden of distress and preserve by any mean in your power for the said purpose.

—your Services honourables Gentlemen and fathers of the people will be thankfully acknowleged [acknowledged] and your Petitioner by Duty bound to you Shall ever Pray

Charles Lehoux

Charleston february

The 15. 1785

PETITION OF CHARLES LEHOUX

To the honourable the President and Members of the
Senate of the State of South Carolina &c

The humble Petition of Charles Lehoux French
of France and Ancient Captain of Sea
humbly Represents

That By the effect of his zeal for the Americans in
the year 1777 he came in this State with a Schooner by
which he brought here a considerable Cargo of merchant

That the said Cargo having being sold he sent at Sea
from this port his said Schooner for to Goand fetch
more Suply again for this place but his said vessel
was taken by the English

That this great loss of your petitioner was
unhappily increased by the depreciation of the paper
Money and to such degree that your petitioner had
never been able since to Relieve himself

Never the less your petitioner did not lose his zeal
for your Cause or Struggle but he accompanied you
in the two last Siege of Charles ton and he can boast
himself to have given the first fire of Cannon against
the Fort that Clainton had erected in the North of
this City so as he can produce credible witness

Finally your petitioner having been made a prisoner
at the Surrendering of this place and been obliged to be
Carried to North wards for his exchange and from this
last disturbance having been totally lost out and ruined
hithenon himself in the arms of your Generous and
Commeration imploring your Services for to help
him to Relieve from the burden of distress and misery
by any mean ions your power for the said purpose

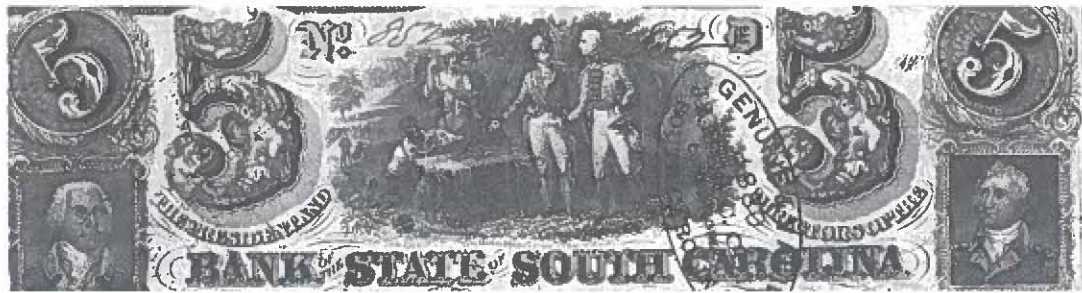
PETITION OF CHARLES LEHOUX

Your services honourables Gentlemen and Fathers
of this people will be thank fully acknowledged
and your petitioner by Duty bound to you shall ever Pray

Charles Lehoux
the 15. February
1785

Charles Lehoux

A PLEA DENIED—PETITION OF PETITION OF ROBERT LYELL [LEVEL]



At the time of the American Revolution, Robert Lyell, a native of Virginia, lived in the midlands of South Carolina. On 2 October 1770 he petitioned the Council of South Carolina for 200 acres. Later that year he had 196 acres surveyed on Mill Creek and added 100 acres in 1772. On 7 November 1776 he was commissioned a captain of the Third Regiment, South Carolina Continental Line. The South Carolina Provincial Congress established this regiment in June 1775 as mounted riflemen. The rangers used their horses for transportation and dismounted to fight. The Third Regiment had nine companies in 1775. That number grew to twelve when the regiment entered Continental service in September 1776. At full complement, there would have been 600 men in the Third Regiment.¹

Detachments from the Third Regiment were at Fort Charlotte in July 1775 and fought at Ninety Six and in the Snow Campaign of November 1775. The entire regiment defended what became Fort Moultrie during the British siege of Charlestown in June 1776. A hundred men from the Third participated in the expedition against the Cherokee Nation in August 1776. During this expedition five battles or skirmishes were fought and thirty Cherokee villages were burned. Among other engagements, companies from the regiment fought at Savannah in 1778 and 1779. In May 1780 the Third Regiment was part of the defense of Charlestown. Sixteen officers and 241 men of the regiment were in Charlestown when General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered the city to the British.²

Robert Lyell and his troops were part of the siege of Charlestown in May 1780. After Lincoln's surrender, the British paroled Lyell. He later served as a captain under Col. Thomas Taylor from 25 May 1781 through 16 July 1782. During his militia service, Lyell commanded troops at Ancrum's, McCord's Ferry, and Orangeburg. Ancrum's lay near the Congaree River, and McCord's Ferry was near the conjunction of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers.³ In January 1785 the state of South Carolina paid him ninety-seven pounds one shilling and one pence sterling for his militia service. He was also paid for thirty bushels of corn he supplied for South Carolina troops.⁴

Following the Revolution, Robert Lyell owned about 289 acres in Camden District, including 97.9 acres in the fork of Cabin Branch and Cedar Creek.⁵ In 1787 he also owned eight slaves. In the fourth and fifth General Assemblies, 1782–1784, he represented the District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers.

In 1791 Robert Lyell petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly for assistance. In his petition, which was read in the South Carolina House of Representatives on 13 December, Lyell stated that for the past six years he had suffered with palsy and was consequently "disabled from acquiring



<i>Private of Foot</i>	<i>Ranger Captain</i>	<i>Ranger Officer</i>	<i>Ranger Private</i>	<i>Ranger Private</i>	<i>Musician</i>
1778	1777	1776	1775	1777	1778

The Third South Carolina Regiment (Rangers), 1775–1780. The regiment recruited extensively in the Carolina back country. Plate No. 494, "Military Uniforms in America," The Company of Military Historians. Used with the permission of the artist.

the means of Subsistence." The petition was referred to a committee, and on 14 December it reported that the "facts stated in his petition are true, that he has a small helpless family, and is poor, has no estate, and is himself a helpless object of Distress." It recommended a "moderate annuity." The Senate, however, rejected his petition, and no further action was taken.⁶

Robert Lyell was the son of David and Mary Blair Lyell. He had seven children: James, John, William, Dilmers, Maher, David, and Charles.⁷

Sources

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5. Records of the Secretary of State, State Grants, volume 1, pp. 199, 205 and volume 4, p. 303; Records of the Secretary of State, Office of the Surveyor General, State Plats, vol. 8, pp. 11, 12.
6. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA 4718; *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1791*, ed. Michael Stevens and Christine M. Allen. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1985), pp. 388-89, 392.
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PETITION OF ROBERT LYELL

To the hon Jacob Read Speaker & the Members of the house of Representatives of So. Carolina,

The humble Petition of Robert Leyel sheweth

That at the commencement of the late War, he entered as a captain in the Rangers. In which rank he continued for some years - that afterward he accepted the commission of a Major in the Militia of this State, and was present during the whole Siege of Charlestown—that for about six years last past yr. petr. hath been afflicted with the dead palsy, which has disabled from acquiring the means of Subsistence he therefore prays your honorable house to take his case into your humane consideration and grant such relief as to you shall seem fit. And your petitioner will pray.

Robert Leyel

Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA4718. SCDAH.

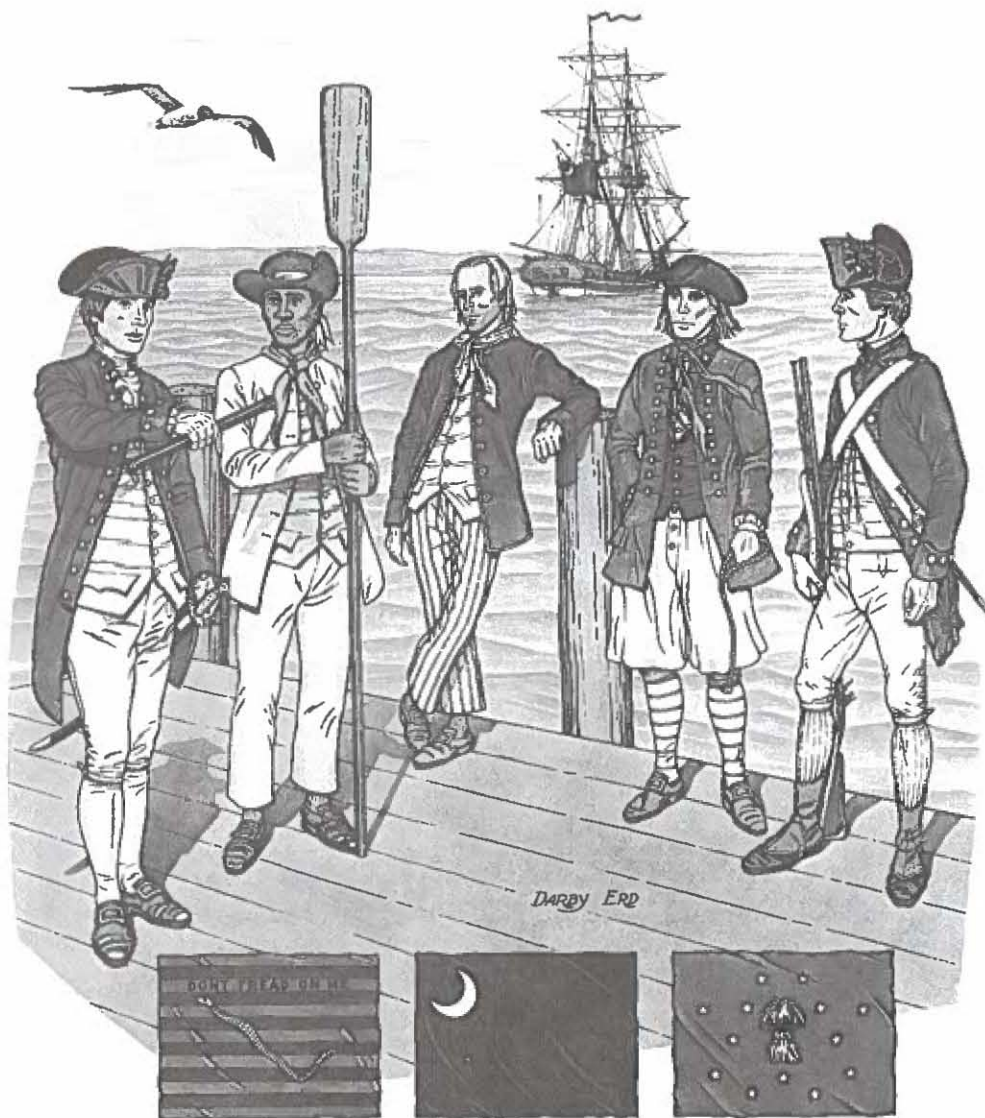
PETITION OF ROBERT LYELL

To the hon. Jacob Read Speaker of the
Members of the house of Representatives of
So. Carolina,

The humble Petition of Robert Lyell sheweth

That at the commencement of the
late war, he entered as a captain in the Rangers -
in which rank he continued for some years -
that afterwards he accepted the commission of
Major in the Militia of this State, and was present
during the whole Siege of Charleston that for
about six years last past y^e pet^r hath been afflicted
with the Dead palsy, which has disabled him
acquiring the means of subsistence he therefore
prays your honorable house to take his case
into your humane consideration and grant such
relief as to you shall seem fit. And your
petitioner will pray.

Robert Lyell



Captain

Seaman

Seaman

Boatswain

Private
5th S.C. Regt., Continental Line

Brigantine-of-War Notre Dame, South Carolina Navy, 1776–1780. This ship was one of about forty-five commissioned by the South Carolina navy. It carried eighty men and was described as a “fast sailer.” Plate 489, “Military Uniforms in America,” The Company of Military Historians. Used with the permission of the artist.

ABOARD THE NOTRE DAME—PETITION OF DANIEL MCCARTHY [MCCARTY]



On 1 February 1791 Daniel McCarthy's petition was presented to the South Carolina House of Representatives. Alexander Gillon, commodore in the South Carolina navy, signed the petition for McCarthy. In the petition, McCarthy detailed his service as a master's mate on the *Notre Dame* and the explosion that nearly cost him his eyesight. The committee appointed to consider McCarthy's petition reported on 4 February 1791 that it found his account true. It directed the state treasurers to "issue their Indent for the amount, he being a faithful disabled Officer whose situation Invites the Humanity of this Country." On 7 February 1791 the South Carolina Senate considered McCarthy's petition. The Senate committee reported that McCarthy was "incapable of gaining a Livelihood Occasioned by wounds received in the Service of the State" and unanimously recommended "that he be allowed the same Annual pension as is allowed to the Disabled Soldiers late in the Service of this State." The House concurred on 9 February.¹

Between July 1775 and May 1780, South Carolina commissioned a naval fleet of between thirty-five and forty-five vessels. These vessels captured thirty-five prizes during this time. The brigantine *Notre Dame* was responsible for a third of these prizes. The *Notre Dame* had a crew of eighty and was armed with sixteen four-pound carriage guns. Known as a "fast sailor," the *Notre Dame* was commissioned 16 August 1776 and carried a valuable cargo of indigo to France. She captured an enemy ship on her return voyage. Captain Robert Cochran received his commission as captain and commander of the *Notre Dame* on 16 August 1776. In February 1778 the *Notre Dame* joined the *Randolph* and three other South Carolina vessels in a united expedition against enemy shipping. The *Randolph* was destroyed, but the *Notre Dame* and another ship successfully captured eleven prizes before returning to Charlestown. During the siege of Charlestown, the guns and the crew of the *Notre Dame* were removed to defend the city. The brigantine came to an inglorious end when she was scuttled to block one of the city's channels.²

Little is known of Daniel McCarthy's life before or after the Revolutionary War. According to the County Court Journal for 1789 and 1790, McCarthy was involved with two law suits—both of which he lost.³ In 1792 he drew a pension of five pounds, and on 7 November 1791 he received a bounty grant for 130 acres. According to the 1790 Census, McCarthy was living in Newberry County, Ninety-Six District and his household consisted of one male over sixteen, two males under sixteen, and four females.⁴

PETITION OF DANIEL MCCARTHY

Sources

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3. Brent Holcomb, *Newberry County, South Carolina Minutes of the County Court, 1785-1798* (Easley: Southern Historical Press, 1977), pp. 94, 117, 128.
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PETITION OF DANIEL MCCARTHY

To the Honble Jacob Read Speaker & the Honble the Members of the house of Representatives
The Humble Petition of David McCarthy late master mate on b. of the Notre Dame Vessel of
War belonging to this State

Sheweth

That your Petitioner never has rec'd any compensation for his service, that his being blown up in
action has nearly deprived him of his Sight & his estate; disqualified him from following his occupa-
tion to obtain subsistence, therefore now ever so small attention to him will be received not only as
due but as a benevolence to a Blind Cripple who did his duty with Fidelity to the State.

And your Petitioner as in duty will ever Pray

Signed on his behalf

A. Gillon

Columbia

Feb 21—1791

The committee to whom was referred the Petition of D. McCarthy are of opinion that as his account
being made out & attested, that the Treasurer Issue their Indent for the amount he being a faithfull
disabled Officer whose situation Invites the Humanity of this Country.

Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA4909-A.SCDAAH.

PETITION OF DANIEL MCCARTHY

To the Honble Justices & Speaker
of the House the Members of the House
of Representatives

The Humble Petition of Daniel
McCarthy, late Master at Law
of the State of New York, belonging
to this State sheweth

That your Petitioner never had
any compensation for his services,
that his being thrown up & taken
away, nearly deprived him of his
right & has totally disqualified
him from making his application
to obtain his diploma, therefore asks
some attention to him with the usual
out only as due but as a benevolence

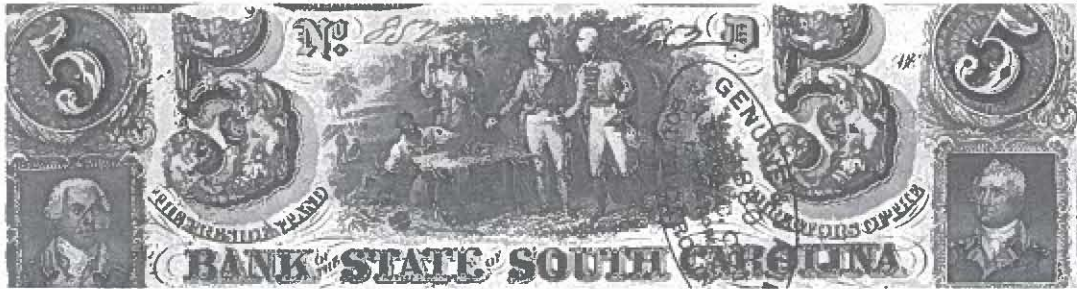
PETITION OF DANIEL MCCARTHY

to a Blind Cripple, who did his utmost
 duty with fidelity to the State
 And your petition as is only
 heard with me - pray
 signed in his behalf
 O. J. Miller
 Columbia
 Feb 5 - 1791
 The Committee to whom was referred the
 Petition of D. McCarthy are of opinion that
 on his account being made out & attested, that
 the Treasurers have their Indent for the amount
 he being ^{a faithful} a Disabled Officer whose Situation
 Invites the Humanity of this Country



Miles Brewton House, Charleston. Built in the 1760s, this was the home of Elizabeth Motte's brother. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

A HOUSE FOR FREEDOM—REVOLUTIONARY ACCOUNTS REBECCA MOTTE



Many South Carolina women contributed to the success of the Revolution. Hundreds furnished supplies to feed South Carolina's troops. One of these was Rebecca Motte. The daughter of Robert Brewton, Rebecca Brewton was born 15 June 1737. On 28 June 1758 she married Jacob Motte, son of the public treasurer, also named Jacob Motte. Jacob Motte was born 15 October 1729 and died 20 January 1780. The Motte's had seven children, but only three lived until adulthood.¹

Prior to his death, Jacob Motte furnished rice, corn, beef, pork, and fodder for the use of South Carolina troops. Between 1778 and 1783, he, and later his widow, supplied the troops of such Revolutionary luminaries as Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Richard Winn. The state awarded Rebecca Motte and the estate of Jacob over 600 pounds in settlement.²

Rebecca Motte's reputation as a fervent supporter of American independence is not limited to the provisioning of South Carolina troops. In May 1781 she, her three daughters, and the widow of her nephew were living at Mount Joseph, a plantation in Orangeburg District. Rebecca Motte had acquired the property from her brother Miles Brewton. This country home of the Mottes was located near the junction of the Wateree and Congaree Rivers and overlooked McCord's Ferry. As a result, Mount Joseph was strategically located on the principal British supply route from Charleston to Camden.³

The British relocated to the Motte home from Col. William Thomson's Belleville plantation about a mile away. The British fortified the site on Buckhead Hill by encircling the house with a deep trench "along the interior margin of which was raised a strong and lofty parapet." Captain McPherson of DeLancey's Corps commanded a garrison of 155 men. On 8 May Patriot forces under Brigadier General Francis Marion and Lieutenant-Colonel Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee surrounded Fort Motte. Hours before they set up, however, British Captain Neil Campbell with a supply convoy had reached the fort. To prevent the British garrison and the supply convoy from leaving, Marion and Lee acquired a 6-pounder and set it up to rake the northern face of the enemy's parapet.

When the Americans arrived, the British sent Rebecca Motte and her family to another house on the property. Some sources designate it as the overseer's house, while others say simply "old farmhouse." Marion and Lee's plans to dig siege lines and frontally attack the fort were upset by the news that Lord Rawdon was en route to relieve Fort Motte. At that point, the decision was made to burn the Motte mansion, a large recently-built structure in the center of the fortified area. Given the loyalty of the Mottes, Lee and Marion were reluctant to share their plan with her. She relieved their concern

Rebecca Motte (1737–1815), daughter of Robert Brewton, sister of wealthy Charlestown merchant Miles Brewton, and wife of Jacob Motte, Jr., colonial legislator. With her assistance, Patriot forces successfully captured Fort Motte on 12 May 1781. Elizabeth F. Ellet, Women of the American Revolution, Baker & Scribner, 1848–1850.



“with a smile of complacency” and stated “that she was gratified with the opportunity of contributing to the good of her country, and that she should view the approaching scene with delight.” Rebecca Motte also contributed combustible arrows, reportedly imported from India and given to her brother Miles Brewton. Family sources contend that the arrows were fired from rifles and not shot from bows. Another version says one of Marion’s men, Nathan Savage, used a ball of rosin and brimstone to set the roof afire. Regardless of how it was done, the roof burned; Patriot cannon fire prevented the British from extinguishing it, and McPherson was forced to surrender. The American forces captured his troops but also the supply convoy. Following the surrender, the troops on hand put out the fire, and the house stood until it accidentally burned a number of years after the Revolution. Lieutenant Colonel Lee’s troops hanged two of the captured men from Rebecca Motte’s gate. Francis Marion intervened to save a third from a similar fate.⁴

In 1790 Rebecca Motte lived alone in St. James Santee Parish with seventy-one slaves.⁵ Of her three adult daughters, Elizabeth married Major Thomas Pinckney of the 1st South Carolina Continental Line and died in 1794 in England; Frances Motte was married twice—first to John Middleton, who died in 1784, and then to Thomas Pinckney; Mary Brewton married William Alston. In her will, Rebecca Motte lists her home plantation as Eldorado and mentions her two living children—Frances Motte Pinckney and Mary Brewton Alston. She named her son-in-law Thomas Pinckney as her executor. Rebecca Motte died 12 January 1815.⁶

The Fort Motte Battle Site lies in modern Calhoun County near the town of Fort Motte. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.⁷



Revolutionary War embankment. Site of the Battle of Fort Motte, Mount Joseph Plantation, Calhoun County. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

Sources

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4. Henry Lee. *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States* (New York: New York Times & Arno Press, 1969 Reprint), pp. 345–49; *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, Volume VIII, 30 March–10 July 1781, ed, Dennis M. Conrad et al. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for the Rhode Island Historical Society, 1995), pp. 68, 246, 252–53; Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles—Part Six," *Names in South Carolina*, XXV: 28–29; William D. James, *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion* (Marietta, Georgia: Continental Book Company, 1948), pp. 120–21; National Register Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; Levi Smith, "To the Printers of the Royal Gazette," *Royal Gazette*, 13–17 April 1782.
5. United States Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 37.
6. Salley, *SCHM*, 2 (1901), 151; Charleston Wills (WPA Transcripts) 33 (1807–1818), 1005–1009; *Register of St. Philip's Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 1810 through 1822*, ed. Elise Pinckney (np: the National Society of the Colonial Dames of American in the State of South Carolina, 1973), p. 129.
7. National Register Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

REVOLUTIONARY ACCOUNTS REBECCA MOTTE

Dec^r 7th Septem: 1781 of M^{rs} Rebecca Motte two
Wives, one a three years old Sister of the other -
Half of same age, for the Use of a Detachment
on Duty under my command. Genl. Pichens
Co. Genl.

M^{rs} R Motte being duly sworn maketh Oath that the within
- in Acc^t is just and true according to the best of her knowledge
sworn to before me
this 23rd January 1782
John A. Paul 58
Rebecca Motte
Received 17th May 1785, full satisfaction for the
within, in an Indent N^o 529, Lib P
L 546:41:9
Thomas Pinckney
for M^{rs} Rebecca Motte

Revolutionary War voucher and affidavit. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA5383-A. SCDAAH.

REVOLUTIONARY ACCOUNTS REBECCA MOTTE

SOUTH-CAROLINA:

PURSUANT to an ACT of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY passed the 16th of March, 1783. We, the COMMISSIONERS of the TREASURY, have this Day delivered to *Rebecca Motte* for Estate of *W. Jacob Motte*

this our INDENTED CERTIFICATE for the Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds, seven shillings and Seven Pence half Penny Sterling* for *Services for Continentals & militia in 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782 & 1783* as *to two Accts audited*

the said *Rebecca Motte* his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, will be entitled to receive from this Office the Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds, seven shillings and seven Pence half Penny*

on the Demand for one Year's Interest on the principal Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds, seven shillings and seven Pence half Penny* and the like Interest annually

The said *Rebecca Motte* his Executors, Administrators or Assigns, will be entitled also to receive, and shall be paid, if demanded, the principal Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds, seven shillings and seven Pence half Penny* on the *Seventeenth May 1787*

And the said *Rebecca Motte* his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, may make any Purchases at any Public Sales of Confiscated Property, (except such as shall be ordered by the Legislature for special Purposes;) and this INDENT shall be received in payment.

For the true Performance of the several Payments in manner above-mentioned, the PUBLIC TREASURY is made liable, and the FAITH of the STATE pledged by the aforesaid ACT.

GIVEN under our Hands at the TREASURY-OFFICE, in CHARLESTON, the *Seventeenth* Day of *May* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-*Five*

Edward Blake
Peter Boquet } Commissioners of the Treasury.

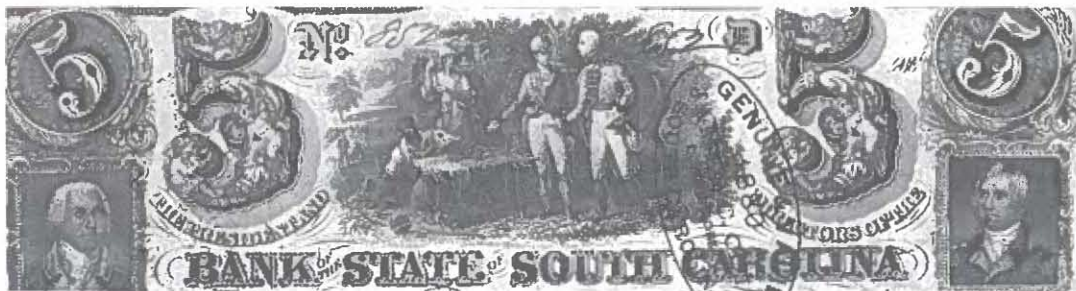
£. *600. 7. 7 1/2* Principal.
£. *42. 6* Annual Interest.
No. *549*.
Book; *P.*

Revolutionary War indent issued as payment for services rendered during the war. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA5383-A. SCDAH.



Site of the Battle of King's Mountain, York County. On 7 October 1780, Patriot militia from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Virginia won a major victory here. The Battle of Kings Mountain was a turning point for the Revolution in the South. Courtesy Kings Mountain National Military Park.

FAITHFUL TO THE END—PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN



In November 1826 Benjamin Rowan, Revolutionary veteran of Chester District, petitioned the South Carolina House of Representatives for a pension. Rowan's Revolutionary career is a litany of significant military engagements in the Southern campaign. His ubiquitous service under General Thomas Sumter and others involved him in major victories and defeats as South Carolina and her sister colonies inched their way toward independence.

Originally, Benjamin Rowan¹ enlisted under Captain Ezekiel Polk in Lieutenant Colonel William Thomson's Third Regiment of Rangers. The South Carolina Provincial Congress had voted on 5 June 1775 to raise three regiments of 500 men each—two regiments of troop and one of cavalry rangers.² On the first return of Polk's company, Benjamin Rowan is enumerated as having served ninety days since 10 July 1775 at the rate of twenty pounds per month.³ Late in the fall of 1775 Colonel Richard Richardson and Colonel William "Danger" Thomson marched 2,500 troops into the South Carolina upcountry to counter Loyalist activities there. Additional troops joined the expedition—1,100 from North Carolina and 800 South Carolinians under Major Andrew Williamson. The 70-year-old Richardson and his force crossed the Cherokee boundary and penetrated to the Great Canebrake on the Reedy River. Richardson sent Thomson and his 1,300 rangers and support troops to attack the notorious Patrick Cunningham and his Loyalists at the Canebrake. Thomson surprised the Loyalist camp on 22 December 1775, captured 130, and killed 6 others. Unfortunately for South Carolina, Cunningham escaped. Following this success, Richardson dismissed the North Carolina men and returned to Charlestown. This expedition was known as the "Snow Campaign" because snow fell during the last days of activity.⁴ Rowan returned home, his enlistment ended.

In January 1776 the British launched a major effort to recruit loyalist troops in North Carolina. Royal Governor Josiah Martin called for volunteers to assemble at Cross Creek. As men assembled, North Carolina Patriots began to mobilize the militia. Because he lived near the North Carolina boundary, Rowan volunteered to fight the Loyalists at Cross Creek. He served under Captain James Beard, Colonel Graham's Regiment. Rowan was one of the 2,000 men Colonel James Moore used to encircle Cross Creek in February. When the Loyalists left Cross Creek to attempt a rendezvous with the British navy, militia occupied the town. North Carolina troops routed the Loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge. This victory contributed to North Carolina's 12 April 1776 decision to support the call for independence in the Continental Congress.⁵

Benjamin Rowan's next enlistment was under Captain James Duff, Second Rifle Regiment under General Thomas Sumter. This regiment was the Sixth Regiment, South Carolina Continental Line. While with the Sixth, the British besieged Charlestown and tried to occupy Sullivan's Island. On 28 June General William Moultrie and the Second Continental Regiment successfully repulsed the British at the Battle of Fort Moultrie.⁶ Rowan, according to his account, was with Richard Winn in February 1777. British troops under Col. Thomas Brown, Robert Cunningham, and Dan McGirt defeated Winn and fifty rangers at Ft. McIntosh on the the Satilla River in Georgia.⁷

At the end of his second enlistment, Rowan again joined a North Carolina unit. He marched to Purrysburg with that force. On 19 December 1778 General Benjamin Lincoln had landed at Charlestown. He called out the militia, garnered a force of 3,500, and marched on British-occupied Savannah. Lincoln encamped his troops at Purrysburg across from Ebenezer, Georgia.

Major General Augustine Prevost, commander of the British and Loyalist forces in Georgia, ordered an invasion of Port Royal Island. American troops resisted this invasion. But on 3 March 1779 Lieutenant Colonel Mark Prevost, the commander's younger brother, defeated General John Ashe of North Carolina at Briar Creek. Ashe lost 400 men, who were either killed, wounded, or captured. Lincoln then marched toward Augusta, and the elder Prevost attempted to capture Charlestown. With Lincoln in pursuit, Prevost withdrew toward Savannah. Lieutenant Colonel John Maitland and Prevost's rear guard fought a bitter battle with Lincoln's troops on 20 June 1779 at Stono Ferry. This site is near the town of Rantowles in Charleston County. Maitland's troops—roughly 500— included a battalion of the 71st Regiment of Foot, a portion of a Hessian regiment, Provincial troops from North and South Carolina, and a unit of artillery. Benjamin Lincoln had 3,000 men—Continental troops, militia from the Carolinas and Virginia, North Carolina horsemen under William Richardson Davie, and Count Casimir Pulaski's cavalry. Although the Battle of Stono was a major engagement, the outcome was indecisive. The British had 129 casualties and the Americans had 150. Rowan said he fought under Capt. Goodman at the Battle of Stono and was in the platoon that attacked Maitland's Hessian troops. Thirty-two of the 60 men in his company were killed or wounded. Lincoln moved toward Charlestown, and Maitland and his troops crossed the Stono River.⁸ In August of 1779 Rowan was discharged.

Thomas Sumter, a wealthy Santee planter, had served in the Snow Campaign and with the Sixth Continental Regiment. In 1777 after he lost all but one child to smallpox, Sumter had resigned his commission and returned home. On 28 May, he learned of the fall of Charlestown and left home shortly before Banastre Tarleton arrived and burned the house. Thomas Sumter joined Francis Marion and William Richardson Davie as the great southern partisans who rallied South Carolinians to defend their homes.⁹ Benjamin Rowan was one of those who responded to Sumter's call.

On 15 June 1780 Richard Winn, William Bratton, John McClure, and other Patriots met either on the Catawba River at Tuckasegee Ford or in the vicinity of Fort Mill and elected Thomas Sumter as their general. President John Rutledge confirmed their decision in October 1780. Patriot troops, disturbed by the fall of Charlestown and Tarleton's annihilation of Colonel Abraham Buford's troops, rallied and successfully attacked Loyalist forces in Chester and Fairfield counties. In retaliation, Lieutenant Colonel Turnbull ordered Captain Christian Huck into action. Huck wreaked havoc on the countryside and burned Hill's Iron Works in York County. On 18 June 1780 Huck and his troops skirmished with 150 patriot militia including Benjamin Rowan. Seven patriots died, and Huck's forces captured four. On 12 July Huck was killed in the British defeat at Williamson's Plantation.¹⁰

Rowan reported that Sumter detailed him to obtain lead from General Griffith Rutherford of North Carolina. Rowan obtained this vital resource and was present when Sumter attacked the British garrison at Hanging Rock on 6 August. The British troops outnumbered Sumter's forces two to one. After a

three-hour conflict, Sumter's forces had carried the field. He withdrew when his troops began looting the British camp. The site of the Battle of Hanging Rock lies in Lancaster County.¹¹

General Horatio Gates assumed command of the army in the South and marched on Camden. Camden was the "most important upcountry British post east of Ninety Six." British and American troops engaged eight miles from Camden. Gates' army was defeated, and its remnants fled toward Charlotte. Gates had dispatched Thomas Sumter to guard the major crossings of the Wateree and Catawba rivers. As a result, Sumter was not at the Battle of Camden and his forces were intact. Colonel Thomas Taylor of Sumter's command attacked Carey's Fort on the west side of the Wateree across from Camden on 15 August. The attack was successful, and Taylor captured not only the fort but also a supply convoy.

After the Battle of Camden, Lord Cornwallis sent Tarleton to locate and attack Sumter. Sumter and his troops, with the spoils of raids like the one at Cary's Fort, were slowly moving toward North Carolina. They had many hindrances, among them the 300 head of captured cattle they were herding. On 18 August Tarleton with 160 men surprised Sumter and his troops at Fishing Creek. One hundred fifty Patriots died and many more were captured. Sumter escaped and rallied another army at Charlotte. Benjamin Rowan was one of the fortunate.¹²

In September 1780 events were building toward a great Patriot victory. Cornwallis left Camden and occupied Charlotte on 15 September. At the same time, Major Patrick Ferguson moved his British troops to Gilbert Town, North Carolina, and ill advisedly antagonized the settlers on the Watauga, Nolichucky, and Holston Rivers by threatening to "March his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword." In response, the settlers raised a large force and set out in pursuit of Ferguson. Other militia joined en route. When Ferguson learned of his pursuers, he turned toward South Carolina and camped on King's Mountain. Cornwallis did not send the hoped for reinforcements and the Patriot forces surrounded the base of the mountain. The resulting Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on 7 October 1780, was a great victory for the Americans. Ferguson was killed, and the Patriots captured or destroyed his army of nine hundred. Kings Mountain was the most significant British defeat since the fall of Charlestown. It was a major turning point in the American Revolution in the South. As a result, British plans to subdue the South were scuttled, and Cornwallis, considering his position vulnerable, retreated from Charlotte into South Carolina. Kings Mountain was a victory for the militia. Most of the attack force were militia men from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Virginia. One historian has called Kings Mountain "the first major step in the two-year campaign that led to Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown and the final expulsion of the British from Georgia and the Carolinas."¹³

The winter of 1780 found a sick Cornwallis and his army encamped at Winnsboro, South Carolina. Thomas Sumter was harrying the British troops' west flank and in November marched into Chester and York Counties. Earlier Cornwallis had sent Tarleton in pursuit of General Francis Marion, and Major James Wemyss and his 63rd Regiment set out to attack Sumter. Sumter, known as the Gamecock, was camped at Fishdam Ford on the east bank of the Broad River. Colonel Richard Winn considered the site unsafe, advised Sumter against the choice, and ordered his men to sleep with their weapons drawn. Before daybreak on 9 November, Wemyss and his force attacked. Sentry fire wounded him within minutes. His replacement, Lieutenant H. B. Stark, ignorant of Wemyss' plans, "ordered a mounted charge in the dark against an unseen enemy." In the glare of the abandoned campfires, the troops made "excellent targets for Winn's troops." The British suffered heavy losses and retreated leaving their commander Wemyss in American hands. Earlier in the engagement, British dragoons had driven Sumter from his tent. As a result, neither he nor Wemyss were participants in the Battle of Fishdam Ford.¹⁴

Cornwallis then recalled Tarleton and ordered him to find Thomas Sumter and his men. Tarleton crossed the Broad River in mid-November and tried to surprise Sumter. Alerted, Sumter and his colonels decided to make a stand. Colonel Thomas Brandon advised them to fortify Captain William Blackstock's farm. The farm sat on wooded hills overlooking the Tyger River and had strong log fences and buildings for cover. Late on 20 November with Tarleton closing in, Sumter and his men reached the farm. Sumter had 1,000 men but lacked artillery. Tarleton, on the other hand, had 270 dragoons. Rather than wait for reinforcements, Tarleton unwisely ordered an uphill cavalry charge against entrenched infantrymen. The results were disastrous. The British retired with 100 wounded and 99 dead. Among the three wounded Patriots was Thomas Sumter, whose wound sidelined him for weeks.¹⁵

In April 1782 General Sumter began fortifying a position at the Congarees opposite Fort Granby. Realizing the fort was too well built and heavily armed to be quickly subdued, Sumter dispatched Colonel Thomas Taylor to prevent supplies from reaching the fort. Meanwhile he acquired the artillery gun he needed from General Greene. On 14 May Harry Lee arrived at Fort Granby and assumed control of the siege. His troops erected an artillery battery within point blank range, and Major Andrew Maxwell surrendered the fort on 15 May 1781.

General Greene sent Lee to Augusta and then left the Congarees on 18 May en route to Ninety Six. By 22 May Greene and his troops were assessing the situation. Ninety Six was the most well-fortified position Greene had seen in the South. The British had been developing their defenses there since the summer of 1780. A stockade fort circled the town with a ditch, parapet, and abatis. The piece-de-resistance was the Star Fort—an eight-pointed, star-shaped earthen-walled bastion. Another fort protected the town's water supply.

The Patriots began their siege by concentrating on the Star Fort. Following the Fall of Augusta Lee deployed his forces and took control of the garrison's water supply. Learning that reinforcements were approaching, Greene ordered a costly frontal attack on the Star Fort. The British counterattacked, and Greene abandoned the field. On 19 June 1781 he withdrew from the area.¹⁶

In 1783 Benjamin Rowan collected thirty-eight pounds one shilling and five pence sterling. This sum included his pay for militia service since the fall of Charleston and for a saddle, bridle, rifle, blanket, and saddlebags lost in public service. Rowan lost his rifle at the Battle of Hanging Rock and the bridle and blanket at Sumter's defeat—possibly at the Battle of Fishdam. According to depositions submitted in support of his petition, Rowan generally served as a private but did at least one tour of duty as a sergeant.¹⁷

After the Revolutionary War, Rowan had 300 acres surveyed on Twenty-three Mile Creek.¹⁸ Rowan served as a petit juror for the April 1790 and January 1791 terms of the Chester County Court.¹⁹ On the 1790 census, Rowan was living in Chester County, Camden District. He headed a household composed of three males under sixteen and one female.²⁰

Veterans and neighbors supported Rowan's petition for a pension in November 1826. John McComb, chair of the House Committee on Pensions, reported favorably in December. Both houses agreed to the recommendation, and Rowan was placed on the pension roll of the state of South Carolina. He collected a pension of \$60 per year until his death.²¹

On 23 January 1826—months before he petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly for a pension—Benjamin Rowan wrote his will. It was a simple document. He specified that after his "just debts" were paid, all his real and personal estate devolved to his daughter Mary Rowan. In addition to his plantation, Rowan owned two houses, household and kitchen furniture, horses and cows. The will was admitted to probate 12 March 1831. No inventory and appraisement of the estate is on file.²²

Sources

1. The chronology for Benjamin Rowan's military service derives from Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA #6641.
2. Wilmot G. DeSaussure, *The Names, as far as can be ascertained of the Officers who Served in the South Carolina Regiments* (Columbia: Presbyterian Publishing Company, 1886), pp. 14-15.
3. "Papers of the First Council of Safety of the Revolutionary Party in South Carolina, June–November 1775," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, III (1902), pp. 3–5.
4. Henry Lumpkin, *From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South* (New York: Paragon House Publishers, 1987), p. 2.
5. Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continentals* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971), pp. 31–54.
6. Terry W. Lipscomb, *The Carolina lowcountry April 1775–June 1776* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1994, second edition), pp. 20–44.
7. Bobby G. Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), p. 1006.
8. Lumpkin, pp. 31–21; Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles: Part II," *Names in South Carolina* 21 (1974), p. 23.
9. Lumpkin, pp. 70, 80.
10. Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles Part III," *Names in South Carolina* 22 (1975), p. 33.
11. *Ibid*, 22, p. 37.
12. *Ibid*.
13. *Ibid.*, 22, p. 38-39; Lumpkin, pp. 90, 104, 105, 108.
14. Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles Part IV," *Names in South Carolina* 23 (1976), 32-33; Lumpkin, p. 105.
15. Lipscomb, Part IV, p. 33; Lumpkin, p. 110-113.
16. Terry W. Lipscomb, "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles—Part Six," *Names in South Carolina* 15 (1978), pp. 29–30.
17. AA #6641.
18. Records of the Secretary of State, Surveyor General, State Plats, vol. 31, p. 136.
19. Brent H. Holcomb and Elmer O. Parker, *Chester County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Easley: Southern Historical Press, 1979), pp. 176, 199.
20. *Heads of families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790 South Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 15.
21. AA #6641.
22. Chester County, Records of the Probate Judge, Probate Papers, Apt. 61, Pkg. 933.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN

To the Honbl the Speaker & Members of the House Representatives of the State of South Carolina:

The Petition of Benjamin Rowan of Chester District, humbly sheweth:

That in order to obtain some assistance from the State in his old age & depressed circumstances: He makes the following declaration and Statement of his Services in the Revolutionary War.

That he Enlisted as early as the year 1775, under Capt. Ezekiel Polk in Col. Thompsons Regiment of Rangers. And was in the Snowey campain against the Tories, & at their Defeat at Reedy River &c. And after being discharg'd from that service in Charleston; came home, & as he lived near the North Carolina Line, he volunteered under Capt. James Beard, Col. Grahams Regiment; against the Tories at Cross Creek.

That he next Enlisted with Capt. James Duff for fifteen Months; second Regt of Rifle Men of this State, commanded by Col. Crowe Gen. Thomas Sumter. But was called the sixth Regt on the continental Establishment. That he was stationed at Bottom Landing when the British attacked Fort Moutlry on Soulluvans Island. Was in the Expedition that went to relieve fort McIntosh on the frontiers of Georgia, where Capt. (afterwards Gen.) Winn was taken. And was Station'd some time at Fort Barrenton.

That after being discharg'd from that term of Enlistment; he joined what was call'd the North Carolina New Levies. Was marched to Purrisburgh in this State after the fall of Savanah. Was at the Battle of Stono, under Capt. Goodman commanded by Col. Malmady. And was in the second platoon that fired on & fought the Hessians. Where out of the company he was in, of Sixty men, thirty two was killd and wounded. And was discharg'd from that service in Agust 1779. And according to the terms of his last Enlistment, was to be clear'd of duty for three years succeeding.

But immediately on the fall of Charleston when the British envaded the Country, he turned out with Gen. Sumter. Was at Col. Hills Iron Works, when they were burnt by the Enemy; and narrowly made his escape when two other men was killed. He was then sent by Genl. Sumter, Express, to Gen. Rutherford for Lead, and return'd with it to Hagners hill in the Indian Land. Was in the Battle at the Hanging Rock. Was at the takeing of Carys fort near Camden, at the time of Gates' defeat, and then at the Battle of Fishing Creek on the retreat.

Was next at the Battle of Kings Mountain where Col. Ferguson was defeated. Then at the Fish Dam foud, & at Blackstocks.

Was at the takeing of Congaree Fort and afterwards march'd with Genl. Sumter under Col. Lacey to support Genl. Green at the siege of ninety six. And so continued a faithfull vollunteer Militia Man untill the Enemy was expelled from the Country.

Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA6641. SCDAH.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN

That he is now in the seventy fifth year of his ages & in very reduced circumstances having very little property; & only a Life Estate in a small poor tract of Land and has only one Child, a daughter liveing with him, and no other person to help him to Labour. And is so afflicted with paine, & other deseas of old age that he is unable to do it himself for a support. And therefore prays to be placed on the Pention list of this State as many others in Similar circumstances have been, as some reward for their Revolutionary services. The Blessings of which yourselves, with Posterity are now enjoying in a more emenant degree than most of those who bore the Burden in the heat of the day. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray—

November 1826

South Carolina

Chester District

Benjamin Rowan appear'd & made oath, that the foregoing is a just & true sketch & statement, of his Services in the Revolutionary War. With much more that might have been added, of the privations, dangers & sufferings which he sustain'd in that best of good causes &c.

Sworn to this day

Of November 1826

Benjamin Rowan

Before me

D. G. Stenson, JP.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN

To the Honor^{ble} the Speaker & Members
of the House of Representatives of the State
of South Carolina

The Petition of Benjamin Rowan
of Chester District, Humbly Sheweth:

That in order to obtain some assistance
from the State in his old age & other
circumstances: He makes the following
Statement of his services in the Revolution of this

That he enlisted as early as the year 1776, and
served under Capt. Ezekiel Polk in Col. Thompsons Regiment
of Mangers, and was in the Army Campaign against
the Tories, & at their defeat at Muddy River &c.

And after being discharged from that service
in Charleston, came home, & as he lived near the
the North Carolina Line, he volunteered under
Capt. James Beard, Col. Grahams Regiment
against the Tories at Cross Creek.

That he next enlisted with Capt. James
Duff for fifteen Months, second Regt. of Middle
Men of this State, commanded by Col. James
Genl. Thomas Hunter. But was called the 6th
Regt. on the continental Establishment. That he
was stationed at Battery Landing when the British
started Fort Mifflin on Southwicks Island
and in the Expedition that went to relieve Fort
Mifflin on the frontiers of Georgia, where Capt.
(afterwards Genl.) Mifflin was taken. And was
stationed some time at Fort Barrington.

That after being discharged from that term
of enlistment he joined a detachment called the
North Carolina Sea Service. Was made a 2d Lieut.
at Newburgh in this State after the fall of Sta-
llamah. Was at the Battle of Stono, under
Capt. Gogman, commanded by Col. Malmady.
And was in the second platoon, that fired on &
fought the Indians. Where out of the Company
he received in of sixty men, thirty two were killed
and wounded and discharged from that service

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN

in August 1779. And according to the terms of his last enlistment, was to be cleared of duty for three years succeeding.

But immediately on the fall of Charlotte, when the British invaded the country, he turned out with Gen. Osumter. Was at Col. Hills Iron Works, when they were burnt by the Enemy; and narrowly made his escape when two other men were killed. He was then sent by Gen. Osumter, Express, to Gen. Nathrop's for duty, and returned with it to Hagersville in the Indian Land. Was in the Battle at the Hanging Rock. Was at the taking of Camps Fort near Camden, at the time of Gates' defeat, and then at the Battle of Fishing Creek on the 21st.

Was next at the Battle of Kings Mountain where Col. Ferguson's men were defeated. Then at the Fish Dam fought with Blackstocks.

Was at the taking of Congaree Fort, and afterwards marched with Gen. Osumter, under Col. Lacey to support Gen. O'Green at the siege of Ninety Six. And so continued a faithful Volunteer Militiaman until the Enemy was expelled from the country.

That he is now in the seventy fifth year of his age & in very reduced circumstances, having very little property, & only a life Estate in a small poor tract of Land, and has only one child, a daughter living with him, and no other person to labour him to labour. And is so afflicted with pains, & other diseases of old age that he is unable to do it himself for a support. And therefore prays to be placed on the Pension list of this State, as many others in similar circumstances have been, as some reward for their Revolutionary services. The Blessings of which, yourselves, with posterity, may

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN

...going in a more eminent degree, than most
of those who bore the burden in the heat
of the day. And your Petitioner and in duty
bound we all ever pray

November 1826.

South Carolina }
Charleston District } Benjamin Rowan appeared
& made oath, that the foregoing
is a just & true sketch & statement, of his
services in the Revolutionary War. With
much more that might have been added,
of the privations, dangers & sufferings which
he sustained in that heat of good causes, &
sworn to this day }
of November 1826 } Benjamin Rowan
before me }
William S.P.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed,
do hereby certify, that we are well acquainted
with the Petitioner Benjamin Rowan. That he was
a true friend to his country. And believe
that all his foregoing statements is just & true.
That he is now very aged & infirm, & un-
able to labour for a sufficient subsistence; that
he is, in very reduced circumstances; and hope
the Legislature will take his case into con-
sideration, & place him on the Pension list
of the State.

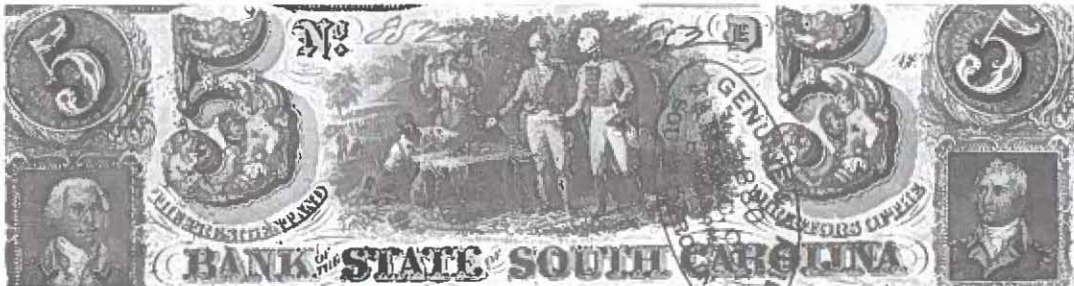
Jas McLure, S.P.
John McCree
Geo Gice
Alex Wether
Robinson
John Cherry
J. Boyd, S.P.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN ROWAN



Hanging Rock Creek. In 1780 American militia under General Thomas Sumter crossed the creek near this point to attack the Tories and British encamped on the heights above the creek. The engagement is known as the Battle of Hanging Rock. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

PAYING THE PRICE—THE PETITION OF JAMES THURSTON



In 1791 James Thurston, a blind veteran of the Revolutionary War, was living in Laurens County, South Carolina, with his wife and two small children. His bitterness at his treatment while imprisoned at Ninety-Six comes through in his petition. During 1781 and 1782 he served 115 days as a private in General Thomas Sumter's Brigade and as a sergeant under General Henderson.¹ On 20 August 1779 Thurston lost a black horse in the expedition to Stono. Both the Senate and House of Representatives agreed to Thurston's petition and he was granted an annuity. In 1793 he collected 34 pounds 16 shillings and 8 pence to support himself and his family.²

To protect the British retreat from Coosawhatchie, Major General Augustine Prevost left a "rear guard" of several hundred men at Stono Ferry, twelve miles from Charleston. General Benjamin Lincoln attacked the British position on 20 June 1779. Although Stono Ferry was a major engagement, the results of the battle were inconclusive because neither force would leave the field. The conflict took place south of Rantowles on the north side of the Stono River.³

Thurston purchased 100 acres in 1790 on Thurston's Branch of Mudlick Creek. In 1799 he sold this property to John Charles. His wife Mary renounced her dower right. In 1794 he bought another 100 acre tract on Mudlick Creek.⁴ In 1800 the Thurston household consisted of one male under ten, one male between ten and sixteen, one male over forty-five, one female between ten and sixteen, and one female over forty-five.⁵ Thurston last appeared on the pension list in December of 1801.⁶ There is no estate settlement indexed in Laurens County for James Thurston.

Sources

1. Possibly William Henderson. In 1775 Henderson was a major in the Sixth Regiment and became a lieutenant colonel in 1776. In 1780 he transferred to the Third Regiment and was captured when Charleston fell. He was exchanged and transferred to the First Regiment on 1 January 1781, was wounded at Eutaw Springs, and was promoted to colonel. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), pp. 436–37.
2. Records of the General Assembly, Annuitant Reports; Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA7793; *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1791*, ed. Michael E. Stevens and Christine M. Allen (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1791), pp. 338–39, 352.
3. Terry W. Lipscomb. "South Carolina Revolutionary Battles: Part II," *Names in South Carolina XXI* (1974), 23; Terry W. Lipscomb and George Fenwick Jones, "A Hessian Map of the Stono Battlefield," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 82 (1981), 371.
4. Laurens County, Clerk of Court, Deeds, C, p. 290; H, p. 133; E, p. 232.
5. US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule, Laurens County, 1800, p. 36.
6. Records of the State Treasurer, Treasurer of the Upper Division, Ledgers.



General Thomas Sumter, "the Gamecock," 1732–1832. A colonel of the Sixth Regiment before the fall of Charlestown, Sumter was placed in charge of all South Carolina militia on 6 October 1780. Portrait by Rembrant Peale (1778–1860), painted in 1796. Collection of the Sumter County Museum, Sumter, South Carolina.

PETITION OF JAMES THURSTON

To the Honorable the President and Senate of the State of South Carolina

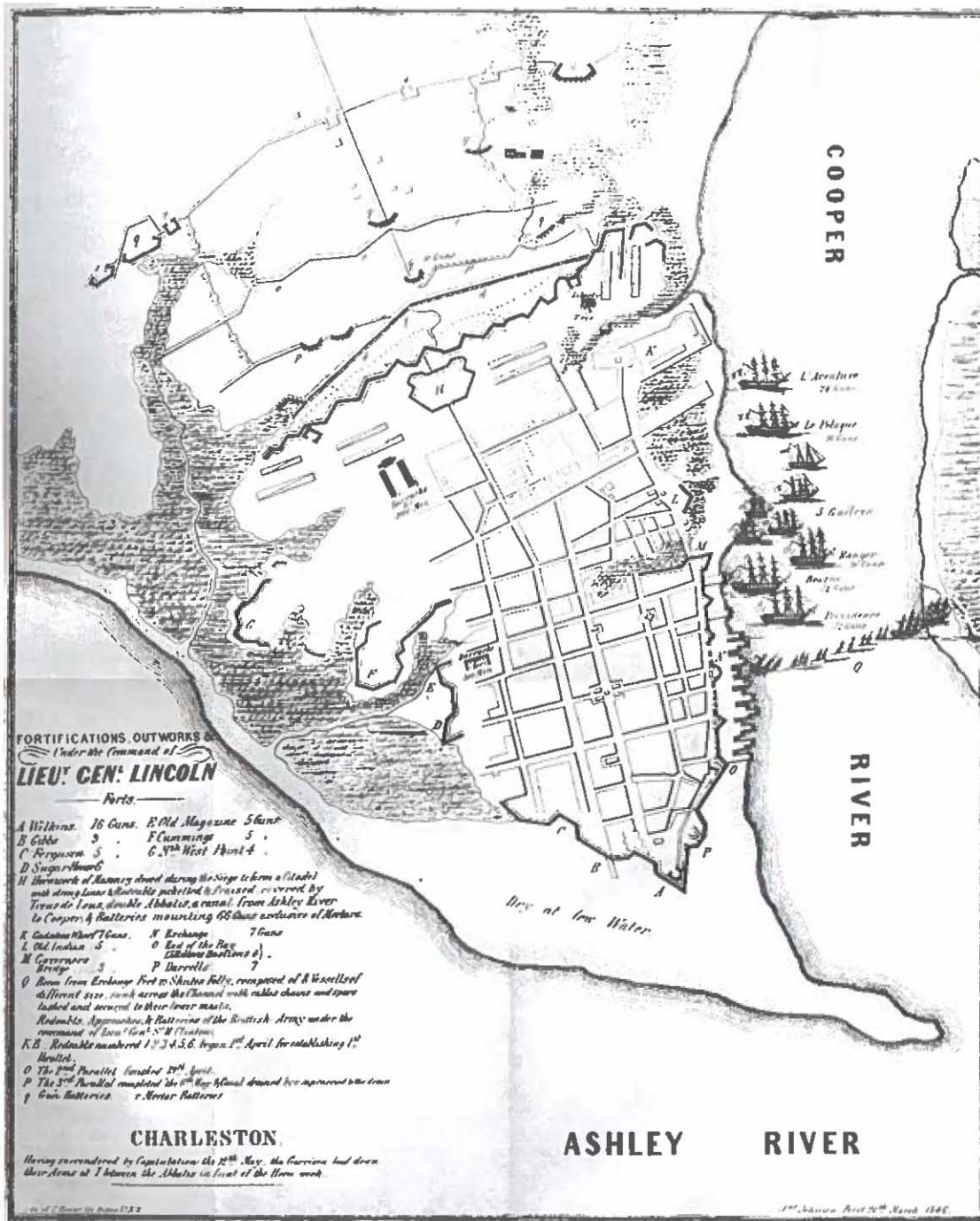
May it Please your Honors

The Petition of James Thurston Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner in the course of the last war with Great Britain served his country in the character of a private Soldier in a Regiment commanded by Colonel James Williams, with unblemished reputation—After the fall of Charleston he unfortunately became a prisoner in the hands of the Enemy, and was immediately committed to close prison in Ninety-Six /now Cambridge/ where his punishment was much greater than he had reason to expect from a Civiliz'd people; he was while a prisoner & in Jail taken with the small Pox, and for the want of such attendance as a person in his situation required, and likewise destitute of the common necessaries of life, he was intirely deprived of the use of both his Eyes. In this unhappy situation, with a wife and two helpless babes does your petitioner reside in Laurens County on no other dependance than the Charity of his good neighbors for a subsistence, which in process of time must and will prove irksome—Your petitioner therefore prays that this Honorable Body will take his most truly lamentable and deplorable situation into their most serious consideration, and grant him such relief as may enable him to stop the cries of his children, which frequently happens for the want of bread; And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

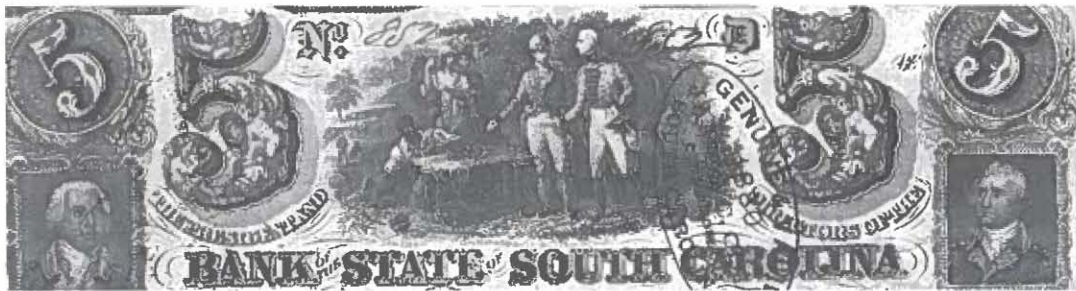
Laurens County
December 1—1791

Signed for
James Thurston



Plan of the Siege of Charlestown, 11 February–12 May 1780. Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences chiefly of the American Revolution in the South*. Charleston: Walker & James, 1851.

THE PERILS OF CHANCE—PETITION OF RICHARD WAYNE



Richard Wayne was a wealthy Charlestown merchant who ran afoul of the Confiscation Act of 1782 (Act no. 1153).¹ On 14 September 1769 he wed Elizabeth Clifford the Younger of St. Bartholomew's Parish.² As early as 11 November 1778, Wayne was serving under Captain Richard Lushington in the Charlestown Militia. He also served with James Bentham.³ The Siege of Charlestown 29 March–12 May 1780 altered Wayne's life.

In 1779 British forces concentrated their efforts upon victory in the South. The British were aware of the strong Loyalist support in that region and wanted to control the southern ports with their access to the interior. Consequently, in March 1780, Sir Henry Clinton and a well-armed British force besieged Charlestown. Clinton commanded 8,500 men including British, Hessian, and Loyalist troops, artillery, and cavalry. Admiral Mariot Arbuthnot breached the harbor defenses on 8 April and turned the guns of the royal fleet upon the city. Meanwhile, Major General Charles and Lord Cornwallis blocked any escape across the Cooper River. On 12 May General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered his army and the city. Lincoln surrendered a force of 6,684—2,650 Continental troops, 3,034 militia, and 1,000 American and French sailors. The conquering British paroled the militia and imprisoned the Continental troops. Two years of civil war ensued in South Carolina.⁴

By his account, Wayne was foraging in the Goose Creek area at the time of the surrender. British troops visited his home and paroled him. He later accepted a British commission. In his defense, Wayne pleaded his large family—a wife and five children—and his need to provide for them. He also cited his efforts on behalf of John Postell⁵ and other Americans incarcerated by the British in Charlestown.⁶ A number of individuals, including Col. John Sander, Stephen Baker—son of Col. Baker of Georgia—and John Prioleau, testified that Wayne did everything within his power to get them released from the care of the provost and furnished them with cash and other necessities. Concerned citizens petitioned in Wayne's behalf in January of 1783.⁷

On 24 January 1783 Governor John Matthews addressed the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina. As part of that address, he noted that:

Agreeable to the directions of the 'Act for disposing of certain Estates and Banishing certain Persons therein mentioned' I have caused to be apprehended all persons found within the State who were objects of that Law; they are now in Confinement, waiting for an opportunity to transport them to some part of His Britannic Majestys dominions, excepting Messrs. Edmund Petrie, Richard Wayne and James Lynah, who have

been permitted to remain on their plantations, in consequence of representations made to me in their behalf, by Major General [Nathanael] Greene, and Brigadr. General [Francis] Marion.⁸

With such support, it is no wonder that Wayne was successful in regaining his land. Wayne's petition reached the House of Representatives on 30 January 1783. There was considerable debate in both houses of the General Assembly. On 14 March 1784, the House met to consider the report of the House committee that had met in free conference with a committee of the Senate and agreed to relieve a number of individuals, including Richard Wayne, of confiscation and banishment, but to amerce each estate 12 percent. On 25 March 1784 the House approved "An Act for restoring to Certain Persons therein mentioned their Estates both Real and Personal, and for permitting the said Persons to return to this State and for other purposes therein Mentioned."⁹

Richard and Elizabeth Wayne buried a daughter on 27 September 1780.¹⁰ Elizabeth Clifford, mother of Elizabeth Wayne, mentioned two of the Wayne children in her will of 21 October 1778—Stephen and Richard Wayne.¹¹ By 1790 Richard and Elizabeth and their son Richard, Jr. were in Chatham County, Georgia.¹² One son died in December 1796 and Richard Jr. married Juliana Smyth in Augusta in February 1800. Daughter Elizabeth married George Anderson in November 1794, and daughter Mary wed Richard M. Stites in Savannah in June 1801.¹³ Elizabeth Wayne, wife of Richard Wayne, Esq., died in Savannah on 18 June 1803 at the age of 52.¹⁴

Sources

1. *Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, IV, 516–23; VI, 629.
2. "Records Kept by Colonel Isaac Hayne," *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 11(1910) 37; Richard Wayne, his wife-to-be Elizabeth Clifford the Younger, and trustees Elizabeth Clifford the Elder [mother of the bride] and Charles Clifford [brother of the bride] executed a marriage settlement involving 661 acres in St. James Parish Goose Creek and later lot no. 24 on Tradd Street in Charlestown. Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1776–1783* (Columbia: SCMAR, 1994), 224–25, 259; Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1783–1788* (Columbia: SCMAR, 1996), 34, 313, 363–64, 404, 405, 426.
3. "Notes," *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 3 (1902) 113; Bobby G. Moss, *South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), p. 973.
4. Henry Lumpkin, *From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South* (New York: Paragon House Publishers, 1987), pp. 41–42, 49, 263.
5. John Postell was the husband of Jane, Elizabeth Clifford Wayne's sister.
6. Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, 1783 #110.
7. Records of the Comptroller General, Accounts Audited for Revolutionary Service, AA8280-A; *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1783–1784*, ed. Theodora J. Thompson and Rosa S. Lumpkin (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1977), pp. 19–20.
8. *Journals of the House of Representatives, 1783–1784*, pp. 32–33, 42.
9. *Ibid.*, pp. 66, 551–52, 630; *Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, IV, 553–54, 624–26; VI, 633–35.
10. *Register of St. Philip's Parish, Charles Town or Charleston, S. C., 1754–1810*, ed. D. E. Huger Smith and A. S. Salley, Jr. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), p. 341.
11. Caroline T. Moore, *Abstracts of Wills of Charleston District, South Carolina, 1783–1800* (Columbia: R. L. Bryan, 1974), p. 23.
12. Marie De Lamar and Elizabeth Rothstein, *The Reconstructed 1790 Census of Georgia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1985), p. 54.
13. *Marriages and Obituaries from Early Georgia Newspapers*. Abstracted by Folks Huxford. (Easley: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1989), pp. 97, 348, 352, 427.
14. Brent H. Holcomb. *Marriage and Death Notices from the [Charleston] Times 1800–1821* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1979), p. 65.



Exchange Building, Charleston. Built between 1767 and 1771, the Exchange was the site of an anti-tea mass meeting on 3 December 1773. British troops were quartered here after the fall of Charlestown, and Colonel Isaac Hayne was imprisoned in the dungeon before being hanged as a traitor on 4 August 1781. In 1780 the convention to ratify the Constitution met here, and in 1791 President George Washington viewed a parade in his honor from its western porch. State Historic Preservation Office. SCDAH.

PETITION OF RICHARD WAYNE

South Carolina

To the Honorable John Lloyd Esqr
President and the Honorable the Members of the Senate
The petition of Richard Wayne

Sheweth

That your petitioner by an act of the late Houses of Representatives finding that his property is confiscated and himself banish'd the State, begs leave in the most respectful manner to lay before your Honours the particulars of his conduct since the British had footing in this State trusting that the humanity which is ever inseperable from the breast of a real American will plead for him, and induce your Honours to pardon, or at least mitigate the rigour of his Sentence

That your Petitioner having been in the Garrison of Chas Town when it was beseig'd by the British was by the Honble Genl Gadson sent out to Goose Creek to collect sheep for the use of the Sick in the Hospital, that your Petitioner accordingly got some assistance and collected from the neighbours about thirty five head, which were immediately sent to Town in a Pettiauga—more sheep would have been sent down; but on the return of the Boat, information was received, that Lord Cornwallis had cross'd the River—That in consiquence of which report your petitioner sent a negroe in a small canoe to reconitre and see if the British had cross'd; which negroe was taken by the British and never returned—The communication of Course being cut off between the Town and Country prevented any more stock being sent to Town. That your Petitioner was a few days after by a party of the British who came to his house made a Prisoner and Parol'd to his Plantation where he remained untill the surrender of Charles Town and some time after, when your Petitioner thinking the British had conquer'd this State, and induced by the distress which he saw would certainly befall his large family of a wife and five small children he was reduced to the necessity of taking protection: & immediately after to his very great surprise was presented with a Commission fill'd up to him; and which your petitioner declined accepting upon which he was informed that unless he accepted it, he would be look'd upon by the British with a jealous Eye; and be deprived of the liberty of following the Mercantile Business which was all that your petitioner depended on for his Family's subsistance; and was at the same time told that his taking a commission would not be a means of his bearing arms against American, but that the Militia was only intended to do duty in Charles Town and protect the Citizens thereof in their property—that your Petitioner was determined never to set against the cause of America nor had any other inducement to act the part he did, but merely to save the small property he possess'd, and to keep his Family from perishing—That your Petitioner made it his study to relieve the distress of those who were sent by the British to Town for steadily adhering to their country's Cause, to the Provost; some through the Interest he made in their behalf were Paroled and others he supply'd with Cash, Cloathing, &c—which they stood much in need of—That your Petitioner upon the late Governour Rutledge offering pardon to certain persons would have gone out, tho' not included in his Excellency's offers of Grace, and thrown himself on the mercy of his countrymen, but having consulted Mr. John Postell

PETITION OF RICHARD WAYNE

who was then a Prisoner to the British; and who advised him from it—Telling him that as he was excepted to by the Governour it would be running a risk of being entirely ruined, and perhaps if sent back to the British the loss of life; and if he, Mr. Postelll, was shortly exchanged as he expected to be he would put him on a plan of rendering more service to the Americans in Town than he could out of it, and at the same time advised him to continue to hold his Commission as it would give the British a greater confidence in him than if he resigned it.—Your Petitioner acknowledges that he has acted an unworthy part, but as it was entirely done through the Inducement above mentioned, and as he has seen his Errors, and did early repent of them, he throws himself on your Honours mercy, and doth most earnestly pray that your Honour's will be pleas'd to restore him again to the privileges of a citizen of this State, and the enjoyment of his small property, and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

20th Jan'y 1783

RWayne

Records of the General Assembly, Petitions, 1783 #110. SCDAH.

PETITION OF RICHARD WAYNE

South Carolina

To the Honorable John Lloyd Esq
President and the Honorable the Members of the Senate

The petition of Richard Wayne

Sheweth

That your Petitioner by an act of the late House of Representatives finding that his property is confiscated and himself banished the State, begs leave in the most respectful manner to lay before your Honours the particulars of his conduct since the British had footing in this State trusting that the humanity which is ever inseparable from the breast of a real American will plead for him, and induce your Honours to pardon, or at least mitigate the rigour of his Sentence

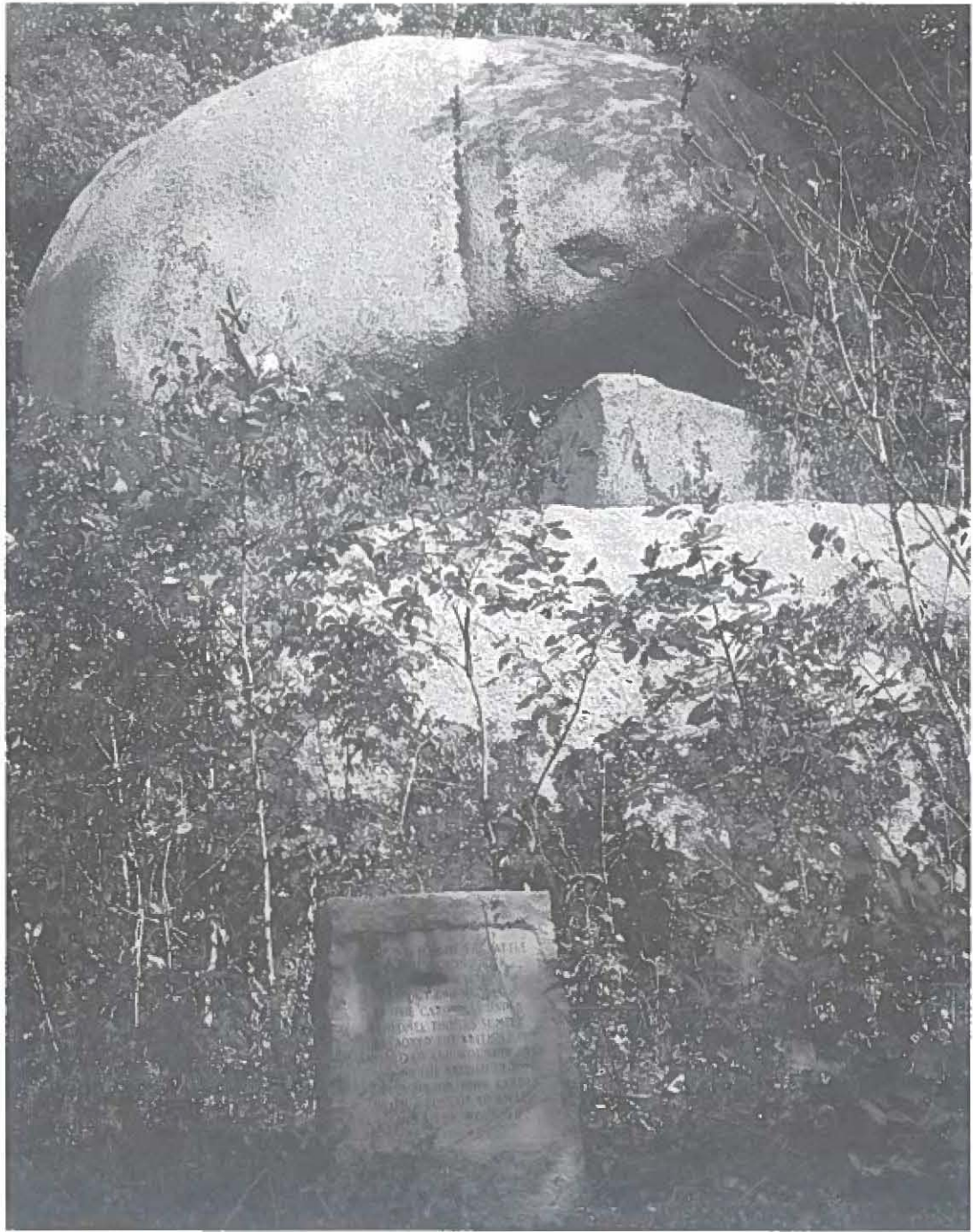
That your Petitioner having been in the Garrison of that town when it was besieged by the British, was by the Hon^{ble} Genl. Gadsden sent out to Goose creek to collect sheep for the use of the sick in the Hospital, that your Petitioner accordingly got some assistance and collected from the neighbours about thirty five head, which were immediately sent to town in a Sallee - more sheep would have been sent down, but on the return of the Boat, information was received, that Lord Cornwallis had crossed the River - That in consequence of which report your Petitioner sent a Negro in a small canoe, to reconnoitre and see if the British had crossed, which ^{canoe} was taken by the British and never returned - the communication of course being cut off between the town and country prevented any more stock being sent to town. That your Petitioner was a few days after by a party of the British who came to his house made a Prisoner and Paroled to his Plantation, where he remained untill the surrendere of Charles Town and some time after, when your Petitioner thinking the British had conquered this State, and induced by the distresses which he saw would certainly befall his large family of a wife and five small children he was obliged to the necessity of taking protection: & immediately after to his very great surprise, was presented with a Commission full up to him, and which your Petitioner declined accepting upon which he was informed that unless he accepted it, he would

be left off by the committee with a general eye by the committee, and
 be referred to the liberty of following the honorable committee, which was
 all that your petition desires in respect to family subsidies, and
 was at the same time told that no taking a commission, would not
 be a means of no bearing arms against America, but that the militia
 was only intended to do duty in Canada now and then the Queen
 thought in their property - that your petition was returned upon
 to act against the cause of America nor had any other intendment to
 act the part he did, but merely to save the small property he possessed,
 and to keep his family from starving - that your petition
 made it his duty to advise the majority of those who were sent by the
 committee to town for assembly, advising to their country's (and by the
 way, some thought the interest he made in their debt, was not
 one of the objects) with regard, bearing off - which they were
 much in quest of - That your petition upon the late
 Government's Antiquities offering persons to certain honors, would have
 you out, he not making in his evidence offer of grace, and that
 himself on the money of the government, but having consulted with
 Mr. Smith, who was then a member in the committee, and who advised
 him from it - telling him that as he was entitled to by the Government
 it was being a mark of being entirely unwise, and perhaps if
 sent back to the committee the legs of the, and if he Mr. Smith, was shortly
 exchanged as he expected to be he would put them on a piece of
 during the more owing to the Antiquities in town than he could
 out of it, and at the same time advised him to continue what he
 Government as it would give the committee a great advantage in
 from of the receipt of it. - Upon petition's acknowledgment that he had acted
 and accordingly that as it was equally true through the Government
 above mentioned, and as he had over his error, and was only repeating
 them, he thought himself in great known money, and with most cordially
 pray that your petition will be passed to return him again to the
 advantage of a citizen of this State, and the enjoyment of his small

Prosperity, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

20th Jan^y 1783

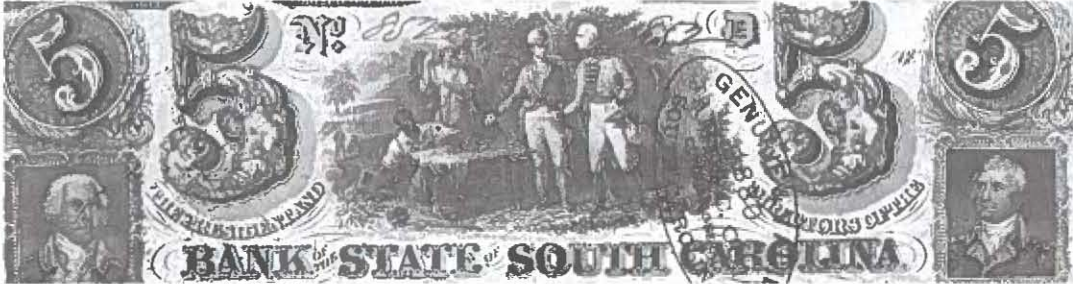
J. Maynard



Marker honoring the Battle of Hanging Rock, Lancaster County. Hanging Rock, which gave its name to the conflict, looms behind the marker. Thomas Sumter won a major victory here on 6 August 1780. State Historic Preservation Office, SCDAH.

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