

# MEMOIRS OF MAJOR JOSEPH McJUNKIN

By

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1. Double-spacing between paragraphs has been used in lieu of indenting, for increased readability.
2. Text in blue is that estimated as that for which Major McJunkin is the source. It is stressed that this is only an estimate based on the text itself and others may judge it differently. Conversely, text in black are estimated to be writings of Rev. Saye based on other sources.
3. Italics are added in the text for direct quotations and to help differentiate versions from external sources from the writings of Rev. Saye.
4. 20pt font has been used to made the document more readable in Acrobat Reader.
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# MEMOIRS OF MAJOR JOSEPH McJUNKIN

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It is proposed by the writer to give, in the following pages, a detailed statement of the personal exploits of Major Joseph McJunkin in the Revolutionary War in this country, together with remarks and observations concerning his contemporaries and the interesting events of which they were, in the hands of Providence, the instrumental cause.

If it be asked why such reminiscences should be published after the general history of the principal transactions have been given to the world and the events have already become familiar to even the cursory reader we reply:

1. That it is a duty that we owe to the generation which is past to record their fame, emulate their virtues and transmit their reputations to generations following.

2. That the men who won the Independence of this Nation must forever be held in grateful remembrance by these who enjoy the fruits of their toils, privations and sufferings or virtuous intelligence cease to exist.

3. That the period of our Revolutionary struggle exhibited a very remarkable triumph of principles over selfishness in the principal actors. But a noble valor, an unexampled moderation and an entire consecration to the public weal were not peculiar to Washington and those who stood with him in the first ranks of patriots. The same feeling and spirit was widely diffused not only among the officers of inferior grade, but the common soldier and citizen often gave unequivocal evidence of the same disinterested patriotism.

4. That no State in the Union was placed in circumstances

better adapted to try the principles of its citizen soldiers than South Carolina. Those who stood firm in this State in the darkest hour of her conflicts present no ordinary claim for honor, which is the award of an admiring posterity.

5. That the causes which produced these principles by which so many of our countrymen distinguished and obscure were actuated can never be too fully understood nor too sedusively cultivated. If it be true that the same cause will produce the same effects, how rational and important is the inquiry: "What were the causes which instilled such principles into that remarkable generation who won the independence of this Nation, built up her institutions and handed them down to us encircled in an imperishable halo of glory?" To ascertain these causes, to find out these secret springs, we must look into the scenes of retired life, the exercises of the family circle, the religious sentiments and social habits of the people.

In the following narrative such facts as have a bearing upon the preceding inquiry will be mentioned not only in reference to our hero himself, but also to his worthy companions in arms, so far as known to the writer.

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### Major Joseph McJunkin

Major Joseph McJunkin was born on June 22, 1755, near Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania. His father, Samuel McJunkin, was a native of Ireland. His mother, whose maiden name was Bogan, was a native of Pennsylvania. His ancestry was wholly Scotch and Scotch-Irish. At the time of his birth the whole frontier country of Pennsylvania and Virginia was in a state of consternation. The defeat of Gen. Braddock had just occurred.

All the Indian tribes bordering on those States were in a hostile attitude before that melancholy event; and its occurrence opened the way for them to fall at any point upon the defenseless whites. Large numbers fled, leaving home and property, and sought safety in the interior. The prospect for the subjugation of the Indians was gloomy and until that was affected the refugees dared not return with their families to their homes along the frontier. Hence they looked abroad for places where they might dwell in safety. Just before these events the Governor of South Carolina had obtained by treaty with the Cherokee Indians the peaceful possession of a large, fertile and salubrious territory.

The country from the Peedee to the Savannah in all the up-country was measurably void of inhabitants, smiling in all the richness of virgin beauty. Game was abundant. "The range" was as good as heart could wish. The rich valleys of the Catawba, Broad, Saluda and Savannah Rivers, with their numerous tributaries, offered all the husbandman could ask. Under these circumstances a large number of the exiles in Pennsylvania and Virginia, with their friends, sought homes in the sunny plains of the South. For here the red man was a peaceful neighbor and gladly exchanged his peltries and furs for the products of civilized men.

Among those emigrants Samuel McJunkin came to South Carolina and stopped on Timber Creek Dec. 24, 1775. In the same section a number of his relatives and friends settled about the same time. Among these were the Brandons, Bogans, Youngs, Steens, Kennedys, &c. In fact, a large number of those who settled at this time in North and South Carolina were of the

same race, the Scotch-Irish. And as a very large portion of the population of the country belonged to the same race, they not only were Whigs, but Whigs of the most determined character, it may not be amiss to inquire as to the cause of this unanimity and efficacy.

### Presbyterian Emigrants

The Scotch race resident in Ireland at the commencement of the eighteenth century were nearly all Presbyterians, and as such had experienced the oppressive measures of Charles II and James II. They had sympathized and acted with the British Nation in driving the latter tyrant from the throne and establishing the claims of his successor. Traditions of the Siege of Derry and the Battle of Boyne were carried wherever the Scotch-Irish went in the eighteenth century, and causes which led to the revolution in England in the preceding century were matters of common conversation and generally well understood. No man could have a proper appreciation of these causes and be ignorant of the rights of a British subject as by law established in the eighteenth century.

Again, the principles and usages of the church with which they are connected were well adapted to diffuse knowledge and elevate the character of the whole mass of the population. The constitution of their church required a learned, pious and zealous minister. It secured the choice of a pastor to the congregation and required his constant and active efforts in diffusing religious knowledge not only from the pulpit but from house to house. It required parents to maintain family religion not only in general terms, but descended to minute details. It demanded the regular appointment and installation of a class of

officers to assist the pastor in carrying out wholesome discipline and the extension of knowledge and piety. It secured to these officers a power in all the judicatories of the church equal to that exercised by the ministers, and secured the parity of the ministry. In fact, such were their laws and usages that tyrants have never viewed them with any other than a jealous eye. These ecclesiastical laws and usages were far from being a dead letter. A thirst for knowledge was excited among the people and means for its gratification devised from time to time. The school master did his work. Books of a theological, scientific and literary nature found a home in the cottage of the poor as well as in the palace of the rich. All pursuits and morality marked the habitations where catechetical instructions and pastoral visitations were maintained. A spirit of enterprise sprung up which could not be circumscribed by a territory so small as a few counties in the North of Ireland. At the commencement of the eighteenth century the people were seeking homes on the Western Continent. They came to New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. They brought their religious principles and habits of order and industry. Congregations were organized and pastoral relations formed. Presbyteries and synods grew up. The tide of emigration flowed across the Atlantic and up the rivers, reached the base of the mountains and turned to the Southwest, following the ranges of the mountain until it poured its streams into the Valley of the Savannah. New congregations were formed and the cry of the destitute went into the ears of every presbytery and the ear of the Almighty. The ministers toiled in the school house, in the pulpit, in pastoral visitation and yet often found time to make a missionary tour from the Susquehanna to the Catawba. Abundant revivals of religion followed these labors, a new corps

of ministers were brought forward from time to time, new churches sprung up in the wilderness, new academies were established and collegiate institutions planned. This was the spirit, these were the works of the Scotch-Irish population on this continent at the middle of the eighteenth century. From these statements we learn the following characteristics of them:

1. They were a religious people -- their minds in childhood had been deeply imbued with doctrinal knowledge and the moral precepts of Christianity.

2. They enjoyed the labors of a learned, pious and laborious ministry. A ministry, however, very inadequate in number to meet the wants of a population so numerous and widely scattered. Yet doing all that could be done to serve their generation and provide for the wants of posterity.

3. In their national synod was a bond of union and a means of producing a common sentiment and unity of action as well as of providing for the welfare of the several parts and the exercise of a general supervision.

4. A oneness of feeling naturally grew out of their migratory habits. A man of good feeling bred in Pennsylvania but who had resided in the two Carolinas and had friends dispersed over the whole intermediate space would feel bound by strong ties to every particular locality where these friends were known to be. These ties existed to an unusual extent among this population long after the War of Independence.

5. From the circumstances of their ancestors in Europe they had learned the importance of limiting the prerogatives of the crown by a strict construction of the law. They also had an idea well defined of what was meant by church rates and the lordly rule of an aristocracy in church and state. The arch policy of James I, founded on the maxim, "No bishop, no King," was



properly appreciated by many of them.

The consequence of these various causes was a remarkable unanimity of sentiment and action in favor of independence when matters came to the crisis.

### Early Training

The subject of this narrative sprung from parents of this race -- parents who had drunk deep of the spirit of true religion. Though many of the emigrants who settled along the frontiers of South Carolina between 1765 and 1760 were reduced to select this position from a desire of peace, they were not permitted to enjoy the desired boon. They soon felt the horrors of an Indian war. The earliest recollection of Major McJunkin was in regard to things which occurred during his father's absence from home for the protection of the frontiers. His mother prayed with him and her other children during his father's absence and these prayers were the first things of which he had any recollection. During the period of childhood and youth he did not enjoy the stated means of grace. The Presbyterian population in a large section of country round about were dependent upon ministers of the Gospel at a distance for supplies. These supplies were ordered at meetings of presbytery, when pastors, with the consent of their congregations, agreed to spend a certain number of weeks in traveling for the supply of destitute churches and neighborhoods. They also sent out missionaries when men of suitable qualifications could be obtained. Pious people often met in those days on the Sabbath, sang and prayed together, read the Scriptures, sermons, &c. Family religion was diligently attended to. Children and servants were instructed in the doctrines and duties of religion. A rigid discipline was



maintained in the family, especially so in regard to a proper observance of the Sabbath. So that although our hero received but little of the benefits of the services of the school master and minister during the period of minority, yet the foundation of a religious education was laid deep in his nature. These instructions had an abiding influence and doubtless had much to do with the actions of his subsequent life.

I have seen it stated that at the commencement of the Revolutionary War a majority of the people residing between the Broad and Saluda Rivers were Loyalists. The reason was not given by the writer, but from the statements of Major McJunkin I am of the opinion that it was owing mainly to the influence of Col. Fletcher, who resided on Fairforest at the place now known as McBeth's Mills. This Fletcher held a Colonel's commission under the Royal Government prior to the suspension of that Government in the Province of South Carolina. He was a man of influence among the people, had many friends, and when a commission was tendered him by the Republican Party in the State he refused it and exerted his influence among the people to induce them to continue their allegiance to the crown. At this period Samuel McJunkin, his relatives and friends, were prominent in the Liberty Party.

### Tennant and Drayton In the Piedmont

Accordingly, in the summer of 1775, when the Rev. William Tennant of the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Oliver Hart of the Baptist Church and Mr. Drayton, who had been requested by the Provincial Council to travel through the State and explain to the people the grounds of the controversy with the mother country, were passing through the District of Ninety Six they were

accompanied by Joseph McJunkin through that part of the country now known as Laurens, Spartanburg, Union and Chester. He served them as a pilot and was doubtless one of their most attentive hearers. He stated that they called public meetings and addressed the people on the following topics: 1. *"The Constitution of a Roman Catholic Colony in Canada."* 2. *"The Tax on Tea."* 3. *"The Stamp Act."* 4. *"The Imposition of Church Rates by the British Government Without Allowing the Right of Representation in the British Parliament."* They also showed to the people that they of right ought to possess the power of self government; that as British subjects this power was secured by law and that they never should surrender their birthright. This consideration was enforced by touching allusions to the privations and sufferings of the first settlers in this country for the sake of civil and religious liberty. These topics were discussed in a calm, persuasive and Christian-like manner, and had the effect of arousing many of the people to a proper appreciation of the rights of man. Finally these gentlemen entered into a treaty or stipulation with that part of the population not disposed to resist the measures of the crown by force of arms that they should remain peaceably at home.

### Fletcher for the King

To counteract the influence of those gentlemen and, if possible, to obliterate the impressions made by them, Col. Fletcher engaged the services of a man by the name of Robinson. This Robinson was a young man of classical education and respectable talents. He had been educated in Virginia for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church , but rendered himself peculiarly odious to that denomination by an attempt to obtain orders in the established church in the Province by fraud for one

Cotton, an illiterate and abandoned wretch. The nature of the transaction was reported to the proper authority and Cotton and Robinson fled from the country.

Robinson was sent by Fletcher to Charlotte to confer with Lord William Campbell, the Royal Governor, as to the best means of keeping the people in a quiet and loyal state. Campbell sent a parcel of pamphlets, called cutters, to Fletcher for distribution among the people. The scope of these pamphlets was to show the sin of resisting the laws and policy of the Lord's anointed, the evils which would result, and to offer encouragement to support the measures of the British crown. On his return Fletcher called public meetings in different parts and put up Robinson to address the people in support of those measures which he wished to see triumphant.

### The Dining Creek Meeting

One of these took place at the Dining Creek Meeting House. The assemblage was larger than could be accommodated in the building. Robinson therefore took his stand upon a rock in the woods, read one of the cutters and was commenting upon its contents. He alluded to the case of Saul and David to show the miseries which result from rebellion. He heaped abusive epithets upon the Continental Congress, George Washington, and the principles they advocated. He stated that when the rascals had involved the people to inextricable difficulties they would run away to the Indians, Spaniards and islands. When this last sentence was uttered Samuel McJunkin remarked: "*I wonder where Preachers Joe Robinson and Cotton will then be.*" At this remark Robinson was overwhelmed with shame, descended abruptly from his rostrum and went off. As he was going he was

heard to say: *"I would have carried my point if it had not been for that old Irish Presbyterian, but he has defeated me."*

Fletcher, however, continued his efforts to lull the apprehensions of the people as to the measures of the Royal Government, and to induce the belief that their interests and loyalty were identical. And it is not surprising that his success was considerable.

### **Robert Cunningham, Loyalist**

In the fall of 1775 it was ascertained that Robert Cunningham , a worthy and popular man in that portion of Ninety Six now known as Laurens District, had declared he would not be bound by the treaty made with a portion of the people by Tennant and Drayton. He was therefore apprehended and sent to Charleston. To rescue him his brother, Patrick Cunningham, raised a body of men and went in pursuit, but was too late to accomplish that object.

The Cherokee Indians not having received their usual supplies, were in a very bad humor. To quiet them the Council of Safety sent a quantity of ammunition. This was captured by Cunningham and his party. They also formed an alliance with the Cherokees. Intelligence of this soon spreading through the country, a party of Whigs under Major Williamson pursued the Tories, but were not successful in restoring tranquility.


In the month of November the Provincial Congress raised an army for the purpose of subduing the Tories and reducing the Indians to peace, as they were now committing depredations along the frontiers. Gen. Richardson was appointed Commander in Chief of this expedition. Col. John Thomas, who

resided on Fairforest Creek just above the mouth of Kelso's Creek, was ordered by Richardson to raise a regiment and meet him at Granby. The regiment was raised without drafting a man. In this expedition Joseph McJunkin made his first essay in arms in the company of Capt. Thomas Brandon. As soon as the army was collected at Granby the line of march was taken up by way of Weaver's Ferry on the Saluda. While there encamped two of Col. Fletcher's emissaries, Benjamin Wofford and Betty Scruggs, made their appearance. They were on their return from Charleston, whither they had gone to carry despatches to the British Governor. They were very merry and took notice of things without seeming to do so. Some of the soldiers recognized them and gave notice to Col. Thomas of their character and probable intentions. By his orders they were arrested and searched. Upon the person of the woman a bundle of papers was discovered which disclosed to the General the intended movements of the Tories and the plan of union with the British Governor.

### The Snow Campaign

Hence the army moved to Casey's on Duncan's Creek. Thence to the Big Survey, now the residence of Dr. Herndon, and waited for a while the arrival of Gov. Martin from North. Martin not arriving, or pursuing a route higher up, we marched to Liberty Hill, now in Laurens, where we met the army from North Carolina. While encamped here, Richardson being informed of Fletcher's measures, sent out a party of horse to arrest him. He was found on his plantation with two of his captains, secreted in a hollow sycamore, and brought to our camp. After examination they were sent prisoners to Charleston. Hence the two armies proceeded to a place on Rabun's Creek called Hollingsworth's



Mills, where we arrived on Dec. 25, 1775. At this place a noted snowstorm occurred, which gave the expedition the name of the Snow Campaign. On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> a party was sent to the Tory camp on Reedy River, twelve miles distant. The Tories and Indians ran off without making much resistance. One of our Majors was wounded. On the return of the party the campaign broke up. 

### The Passover

In the early of 1776 a combination was entered into by the Tories and Indians for a general massacre of the Whigs residing along the frontiers from North Carolina to Georgia. The Tories set up peeled poles at their houses, around which white cloth was wrapped. These were called passovers.

On June 20, in accordance with previous arrangements, the Indians commenced the work of death among the Whigs, but the Tories sat under their passovers in safety. To this, however, there was one exception. Capt. James Ford, who resided on the Enoree River at a place called the Canebrake, was killed while sitting under his passover. His wife was also killed and his two daughters taken captives. It is supposed that the Indians were instigated into the commission of these horrible atrocities by the arts of John Stuart and Richard Parris, agents of the British Government, and that this work of savage butchery along the frontiers constituted a part of a grand scheme for the overthrow of the patriots in the Province.

But the simultaneous appearance of a British fleet before Charleston and the outbreak of savage fury upon the frontier was insufficient to dampen the ardor of the Republicans. The

dwellers upon the sea coast met and repelled the invaders at Fort Moultrie, and we shall soon see how the hardy backwoods men dealt their blows upon their insidious enemies. But the spectacle is melancholy. The poor untutored Indians, delighting in carnage, listens to the suggestions of the foreign mercenaries and becomes the victim of the cupidity and ambition of a lordly aristocracy. The British, though normally Christian and the representatives of a great and Christian Nation, so far forgot the better principles of humanity as to engage in their service the tomahawk and scalping knife of a barbarous race to retain within the sway of their illegal exaction a brave and generous people. Here the intelligent and conscientious Loyalist in South Carolina ought to have seen his error. He ought now to have been convinced of the fact that the British Government had no proper sympathy for British subjects on this continent. That the Parliament would not be at the trouble to know the wants of the people and would not condescend to recognize their rights; and hence incapable of legislating for their benefit.

### **Prepare for Indians**

From various indications among the Indians in the first part of the spring of 1775 the Whigs along the frontiers felt apprehensions of danger, but had no means of knowing the nature of the conspiracy and the extent of the dark cloud which threw its shadows above the horizon. They, however, consulted for their safety. In the month of May a number of soldiers embodied under Gen. Williamson and a camp formed upon Fair forest Creek in the vicinity of Col. Thomas's. Messengers were sent out to ascertain the intention of the Indians. These messengers were killed. As soon as Williamson was informed of the attack upon the people he marched to their rescue. The



Indians were overtaken at the residence of Richard Parris, the present site of Greenville Court House. The Indians fled with their allies, the Tories. A number of prisoners were retaken, and among them the daughters of Capt. Ford. Williamson stopped a few days to recruit. Thence he pursued to the nearest towns on Seneca and Tugaloo. Different battles and skirmishes occurred in the environs of these towns. Williamson then halted for a while in Seneca Town, on the river of the same name. From this place a number of his men were permitted to go home to obtain clothing and other supplies. Among these were Joseph McJunkin, who served in this expedition in the company of Capt. Joseph Jolly in the regiment of Col. Thomas. *"As soon as we returned,"* says Major McJunkin, *"Williamson took up the line of march with a view of penetrating the Indian country to the middle settlements on the Hiwassee River.* The Indians were assailed at the same time by Gen. Rutherford of North Carolina, Col. Christian of Virginia, and Col. Jack of Georgia. After passing through several deserted Indian towns Williamson's command passed a part of the North Carolina army, from whom he learned that their main body had gone to attack the valley towns. Soon after passing them, on Sept. 22, the advance of Williamson's army fell into an ambuscade prepared for the North Carolina army. The Indians were posted on the crest and sides of a mountain in the form of a horseshoe. Williamson's advance defiled through the gorge, which might be called the heel, and were suffered to approach the part which may be called the toe. In an instant in front, in rear, on the right and the left, the warwhoop sounded.

### **Give Battle to the Indians**

The warwhoop was answered by a shout of defiance, and the

rifles of the Indians answered by an aim equally deadly. The whites were pressed into a circle by their foes and hence the battle was called the Ring Fight. As soon as the firing was heard the main army pressed to the rescue. Before their arrival the advance had to contend with fearful odds. It was not only a woodsman's fight from tree to tree, but often from hand to hand. Among these, Major Ross of York District had a hard scuffle with an Indian, in which the nerve of the white man prevailed over the dexterity of the red. On the arrival of the main army the Indians were charged on all sides and driven from their chosen position. A large quantity of parched corn, dressed deerskins and moccasins were left on the ground. Among the slain a number of Creek Indians were discovered. In this action Cols. Thomas Neal of York District, John Thomas of Spartanburg, John Lysle of Newberry and Thomas Sumpter participated. The latter, who commanded the regulars, particularly distinguished himself. Major Andrew Pickens also gave manifestations of those qualities which subsequently elevated him in the estimation of his fellow soldiers.

The next day the army proceeded to the valley towns along the Hiwassee. A great quantity of corn and other provisions were here destroyed. Some however, was thrown into the river, floated down and lodged in fish traps and was afterward found and preserved by the Indians. The army spent a few days at these towns, then crossed the Hiwassee and turned up a river then called Lawassee. On this latter stream were some beautiful towns. This river flowed nearly from south to north. After descending this river some distance Williamson's army met that from North Carolina. The two encamped near each other one night. Thence Williamson crossed over the southern waters;

that is, the head streams of the Cattahoochee River. Here he passed a beautiful fenced town called Chota. Here intelligence was received that the Indians were encamped in force at a town twenty miles distant at a place called Frog Town. Col. Sumpter was ordered to lead a party, of which McJunkin was one, and surprise them.

### Perilous Journey

In obedience to this order the party set out and passed over a fearful precipice through a passage not exceeding fourteen inches in width. With the exception of a few miserable squaws nobody was found in the town. The party returned in the darkness of the night without being able to discover the narrowness of their passage near the precipice, as when they went out. The army returned to the Keowee towns. Here a treaty was concluded with the Indians, in which they ceded their lands east of the Oconee Mountains and bound themselves to live in peace. The territory thus acquired by the whites within South Carolina comprises the Districts of Greenville, Anderson and Pickens. A heavy penalty was exacted from the miserable Indians for their alliance with the British and Tories. In some of the battles connected with this campaign white men were taken disguised as Indians and using the same methods of warfare. They were Loyalists.

Williamson's army was disbanded at Seneca Town with the understanding that the frontiers were to be guarded in regular order. Accordingly, a line of posts was established from North Carolina to Georgia.

## McJunkin Commissioned Captain

In May, 1777, McJunkin received a captain's commission and was ordered by Col. Thomas to perform a tour of duty on the frontiers. He accordingly took the command of Jamieson's Fort on South Pacolet River in the vicinity of Hogback Mountain, where he remained three months. After this he spent the balance of the year in scouting. This service, in the circumstance of the country, required him to traverse the country beyond the forts established along the frontiers to watch the movements of the Indians and bring in intelligence to the commanding officer of his regiment. This service, in all cases dangerous and difficult when demanded by the necessities of war, is peculiarly hazardous when the enemy to be watched is sagacious, treacherous and cruel as were the Cherokees in 1777. This important trust was, however, well executed by Capt. McJunkin, whether employed in watching the red men of the wilderness or the white men who united their strength with the foes of their country and fell like beasts of prey upon the persons and property of their fellow citizens.

In the month of June, 1778, Capt. McJunkin was ordered to lead his company to Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River. In a few days after his arrival orders were received to disband the army. On his return he was again ordered to the frontier, and commanded at Wood's or Thompson's Station; the place was known by either of these names. He continued at this station until in February, 1779. It may be proper to remark that prior to the expedition to Bacon's the Spartan Regiment was divided and another regiment formed called the 2d Spartan Regiment. Thomas Brandon was promoted to the command of this regiment and Capt. McJunkin was comprehended within its limits.

## McJunkin Marries Miss Thomas

On March 9, 1779, Capt. McJunkin was married to Miss Ann, second daughter of Col. John and Jane Thomas. So that amid the bustle of arms and the dangers of war he found time to attend to matrimonial alliances. And though his choice was made in times that tried men's souls he certainly never had cause, if reports be true, to regret it; his wife was worthy to be reckoned among the generation that won the independence of this Nation.

### Col. John Thomas Sr.

It may not be disagreeable to the reader to know something of Col. Thomas, the father-in-law of Major McJunkin. In consideration of the fact that he occupied a prominent place in his own region of country during a considerable portion of the War of Independence and as he is now almost unknown to those who enjoy the benefits of his skill, efforts and privations, I shall make a short digression to introduce him to the reader's acquaintance.

Col. Thomas was a native of Wales, but brought up in Chester County, Pa. He married Jane Black, a sister of the Rev. John Black of Carlisle, Pa., and the first President of Dickinson College.

A number of years before the war Mr. Thomas removed to South Carolina, resided for some time upon Fishing Creek. Before hostilities commenced with the mother country he was residing upon Fairforest Creek, in the lower part of what is now Spartanburg District. He was one of the founders of Fairforest Church, and his wife was one of its most zealous members. He

was a militia captain and a magistrate under the Royal Government. He was industrious, intelligent, patriotic and highly distinguished for his devotion to the public welfare.

Upon the refusal of Col. Fletcher to accept a commission under the authority of the Province, an election was held and John Thomas was chosen Colonel of the Spartan Regiment, having previously resigned the commissions that he had held under the Royal Government. He directed the movements of this regiment until Charleston fell, soon after which he was taken prisoner by a Tory Captain by the name of Sam Brown and confined at Ninety Six and in Charleston until near the close of the war. The said Brown carried off his Negroes and horses.

Col. Thomas had four sons, two of whom watered the tree of liberty with their blood. Robert was killed at Roebuck's Defeat. Abraham was wounded and taken prisoner at Ninety Six and died in confinement. John succeeded his father in command of the Spartan Regiment and made his mark in many a well-fought battle. The other son was a youth in time of the war. Col. Thomas had also four daughters. The husband of each was a Whig, and all held commissions in the war and rendered their country most substantial service in securing victory and freedom. The ladies of South Carolina were proverbial for being true to the cause of independence, but the zeal and fidelity of Mrs. Thomas and her daughters will compare favorably with the brightest of that bright galaxy that adorns the history of the State. Soon after the war closed Col. Thomas removed to Greenville District, where he resided until the time of his death. His descendants are widely dispersed over the land and generally unknown to the writer.



## A Militant Family

The following incidents may illustrate what has been stated of the ladies of this family. In the early part of the war Gov. Rutledge had sent a quantity of arms and ammunition to the frontiers for the use of the Whigs. These were deposited at the house of Col. Thomas and kept under the protection of a guard of twenty-five men. Col. Moore of North Carolina, with 300 Tories, was approaching to take possession of the magazine. Col. Thomas deemed his force inadequate to a successful defense of the house and retired, the guard having taken off and concealed as much of the military stores as time permitted. Josiah Culbertson, a son-in-law of Col. Thomas, refused to leave the house. He had been brought up on the frontiers and was a first rate marksman. With William Thomas, a youth, and the women of the family, he remained, and as soon as Moore and his party came within gunshot a fire was opened upon them from the house and maintained with such vigor that Moore and his party soon withdrew from the conflict and left them in peaceful possession of the premises.

## Mrs. Thomas at Ninety Six

Some time after the fall of Charleston Mrs. Thomas was at Ninety Six on a visit to her husband and two of her sons who were prisoners with the British at that post. While there she heard two women in conversation, and one remarked to the other: "*On tomorrow night the Loyalists intend to surprise the rebels at Cedar Spring.*" This intelligence was interesting news to her, for the Cedar Spring was within a few miles of her house, and among the Whigs posted there were several of her own children. She therefore determined to apprise them of the attack, though the distance was at least fifty miles. The Whigs were informed



of their danger in time to provide for their safety, which they did by withdrawing from their fires until the enemy rushed within their light in confidence of an easy victory. Instead, however, of butchering a slumbering foe, they received the well-directed blows of their intended victims, and on that night victory perched upon the standard of liberty. The Whigs were in number about sixty, the Loyalists 150.

On Nov. 1, 1779, Capt. McJunkin was ordered by Col. Brandon to Charleston to do a tour of duty for four months. During this time he fell under the command of Lieut. Col. James Steen, who was stationed at the Ten Mile Spring. At the end of February, 1780, he returned home with his company.

When the news of the fall of Charleston reached the up-country the Whig population was greatly alarmed. And their consternation was by no means abated by the accounts of ravages committed by the victorious troops of Britain and the insolence of the Loyalists who thought proper no longer to disguise their devotion to the royal cause. As a large number of these had hitherto maintained a strict neutrality under the pretense of being non-combatants and as they now entertained but little doubt of success on the part of the British, they must need display a great zeal for the party in power to cast the veil of oblivion over their past lukewarmness, and meet the agents of despotism as though they were and ever had been the very champions of England.

### **Plan to Defend Their Homes**

Cols. Thomas, Brandon and Lysle met on June 4 to concert measures for mutual safety and for the protection of the country

comprehended within their several commands. They agreed to concentrate their troops and form a camp near Fairforest Creek, about four miles from the present site of Union, on the road to Adam's Ford on Tyger River. The present resident of Christopher Young is on the spot. As the place was near the center of Brandon's command, his men first arrived on the ground. He had in his possession a part of the powder formerly intrusted to Col. Thomas, and as he considered its preservation of the greatest importance, he directed Joseph Hughes, William Sharp, John Savage, Aquilla Hollingsworth, Samuel Otterman, Benjamin Jolley and Joseph McJunkin to conceal it with great care in the neighboring forests. They were engaged in this business and absent from the camp on the night on which Brandon's men were assembling at the place appointed.

### **Tory Informer**

Some one of the parties coming in arrested a Tory and brought him into camp. He was of the kind then denominated "a pet Tory." He was examined and presently let go or made his escape. He went immediately to the troop of Tories commanded by the famous William Cunningham, better known as "Bloody Bill". Cunningham immediately set out to surprise Brandon. He made a charge upon his camp soon after sunrise, killed a few of his men, took some prisoners and dispersed the remainder. Among the slain was a brother of Joseph McJunkin and a youth by the name of Young. This defeat occurred on the 8th or 10th of June, 1780. Intelligence of the intended movements of the Whigs had been conveyed to the Little River Tories a few days previous by Col. Fletcher, and Cunningham made immediate arrangements to meet them at that place.

Robert Lusk was taken prisoner on this occasion and compelled to disclose the place where the powder was concealed. But the work of hiding had been done so effectually that the Tories found very little of it. This powder was afterward carried off by stealth to the east side of Broad River and constituted the principal supply of Sumpter's men at Huck's Defeat, Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock. The Tories pursued some of the fugitives to the distance of fifteen miles. Among them was Samuel Clowney, who subsequently distinguished himself as one of the bravest of the brave.

Cols. Thomas and Lysle, hearing of Brandon's disaster, provided for the safety of their men.

The men who had been engaged in hiding the powder, learning very soon what had occurred at Brandon's camp, collected as many of their friends as possible and retreated over Broad River. Having appointed Bullock's Creek Church as a place of rendezvous, as many were directed thither as possible. The Rev. Joseph Alexander was at the time pastor of that church, and had been for a number of years past. He had, however, labored extensively as a supply among the Presbyterian population on the west side of Broad River and had always taken a firm stand for liberty. So that now he had been compelled to escape for his life, as the Tories were determined on his destruction.

### **Whigs Almost Despair**

On June 12 the refugees came together at the church. Among them were some of the regiments of Thomas, Lysle, Brandon, and a few refugees from Georgia. Their situation is talked over. The British are victorious, the Tories rising in large numbers

and asserting their zeal for the royal cause; not a single corps of Whigs is known to be embodied in the State; the cause of liberty is desperate. The offers of British protection is before them. What is to be done? What can they do? At length a young man calls his command together. He recites the facts connected with their present situation. He recounts their past toils, sufferings and dangers. He states at large the reasons for the contest in which they have been engaged, and the instances of success and defeat which has attended their efforts in the cause of independence. He says: "*Our cause must now be determined. Shall we join the British or strive like men for the noble end for which we have done and spent so much? Shall we declare ourselves cowards and traitors, or shall we fight for liberty as long as we have life? As for me, 'give me liberty or give me death!'*" The speaker was John Thomas, son of the Colonel of the same name.

Capt. McJunkin then addressed the assemblage, reiterating the sentiments of young Thomas. It was proposed that those who were in favor of fighting it out when the question was put should throw up their hats and clap their hands. The question was put. Every hat flew up, the air resounded with clapping of hands and shouts of defiance to the armies of Britain and the foes of freedom. It was then proposed that those who through the need of clothing or a wish to see their families had a desire to return home were at liberty to do so provided they would agree to meet the others at the Tuccasegee Ford on the Catawba River. Capt. McJunkin and most of the party set out at once for that place. Here they had the good fortune to meet Col. Thomas Sumpter. The late Major Samuel Morrow of Spartanburg District was one of the party above mentioned.

## Sumpter Chosen Leader

After some consultation and various efforts to collect scattered comrades, the party said to Col. Sumpter, "*If we choose you our leader, will you direct our operations?*" He replied, "*Our interests are the same. With me it is liberty or death.*" An election was held and Sumpter unanimously chosen General.

Just at this time intelligence was received that the Tories had assembled at Ramseur's Mill under Gen. Moore, and that Gen. Rutherford was collecting a force to attack them. Sumpter immediately joined Rutherford. Sumpter and party wished to proceed at once to the assault. Rutherford wished to defer the attack until the next day. Before day they were pushing forward for the Tory camp. But they barely reached the place in time to witness the close of the famous Battle of Ramseur's Mill. The gallant Whigs of the neighborhood had assembled under their own officers and drove the Tories from the country with great slaughter. The Liberty Party had, however, to deplore the loss of two of their intrepid leaders in this action. Capt. Fall was killed and Capt. Armstrong was mortally wounded.

Can any man living show a more detailed and authentic account of this spirited and important engagement?

The Battle of Ramseur's Mill being over, Sumpter remained a few days in the vicinity. In this time he held a court of inquiry to consult as to the course proper to be taken. Of the court says Major McJunkin, "*I had the honor to being a member.*" Let the reader now attempt to appreciate the magnitude of the questions coming legitimately under the consideration of this court.




Its members were solemnly pledged to liberate South Carolina or die in the attempt. Their number is so small as to render any important achievement hopeless. Aside from this, they possess neither arms, provisions nor any other military stores adequate for the equipment and sustenance for a single regiment for one week. Yet they resolved to return to South Carolina and repel force by force. By the aid of Gen. Rutherford they obtained a quantity of provisions, press a few wagons, hitch some of their own horses to them and set out to wrest South Carolina from the hands of her invaders. They turn their faces to ward the nearest British post, Rocky Mount, and enter their own State.

### Sumpter Establishes Camp

Sumpter established his headquarters east of the Catawba River in the territory assigned to the nation of Indians of the same name. Here the whole of July was spent, but not in idleness. His men go out in quest of provisions, arms, and to rally their friends to take a stand under the standard of liberty. Provisions were obtained with great difficulty, for the want of current funds, so that their fare often consisted of barley meal without meat, salt or any other seasoning, and scarce at that. All the powder which could be obtained was collected. The good ladies in the region round about gave up their pewter vessels to be moulded into bullets. Implements of husbandry were converted into swords. While engaged in these preparatory measures they were under the necessity of maintaining the strictest vigilance for the preservation of their lives. The Tories watched their movements, waylaid them and often fired upon them. An instance of this kind occurred to a small party led by Col. Brandon, near Bullock's Creek. A captain by the name of Reed fell behind the party for some purpose or other and was killed by two Tories.

His mother, having found out who his murderers were, followed Brandon to North Carolina and implored him to avenge the death of her son. Some of his men volunteered to go with him, and he hunted the Tories and killed them.

### **Brandon Takes Prisoners**

Their friends in turn sought vengeance; pursued Brandon in considerable force, and he retired before them until he came within the Bethel congregation, where he recruited his force and turned to meet his pursuers. They had followed him to the head of Fishing Creek and turned down that stream. Brandon paused. A short time before he overtook their party Col. Love fell in with him. This Love had encountered the Tories single handed but a short time before, killed two of their number and made his escape by dodging in a briery old field. Brandon soon learned that the Tories had stopped at the house of a man named  Sterling to get dinner. This Sterling had married the sister of Col. Love -- he was a Tory and his wife a Whig. Brandon divided his force into two parties, leading one himself and the other under the direction of Love. The house was surrounded and several rounds fired before the Tories surrendered. Mrs. Sterling was killed, and a son of William Kennedy was wounded in this battle. Several Tories were killed, one of them by Kennedy himself as soon as he saw his son shot. Brandon conducted his prisoners forthwith to Charlotte.

### **The Defeat of Huck**

The defeat of Capt. Huck at Williamson's plantation occurred almost simultaneously with the affair just recorded. This Huck had been sent by the British commandant at Rocky Mount into the section now known as York District at once to embody the



Tories and harass the Whigs. A large portion of this district had been settled by Presbyterians and persons of this persuasion were numerous in adjacent parts of North Carolina, particularly in Mecklenburg County. These were generally known as the staunch advocates of independence. Hence, when the Whigs were expelled from the country lying west of Broad River they found an asylum in the Presbyterian congregations in the Valley of the Catawba. Huck commenced his work in good earnest by burning churches, dwelling houses, and murdering the Whigs whenever they fell into his hands. He often used the most profane and impudent expressions while persecuting his work of pillage and carnage. Among other things, he swore that if the rebels were as thick as trees and Jesus Christ Himself were to command them he would defeat them. When his words and doings were reported in Sumpter's camp the Presbyterian Irish who rallied around his standard could stand it no longer. They demanded to be led against this vile man, Capt. Huck. Col. Bratton and others gratified their wishes, and everybody knows the result of that engagement.

Two events happened simultaneously with the attack on Huck which deserve to be mentioned. Some prisoners recently captured were on their knees begging for life when the assault commenced. Col. Bratton had engaged a devoutly pious old gentle man to stay with his family during his absence with the army. He did this for the double purpose of protection and his religious influence. The family were engaged in their evening devotions. A chapter had been read and the company were on their knees. The old man was offering fervent supplications to the throne of grace -- he offered an earnest petition for the destruction of that vile man, Capt. Huck. No sooner had the

petition been expressed than the company were startled by the crash of fire arms, and Huck's followers were swept from the field.

### Sumpter Assaults Rocky Mount

Near the end of July, Sumpter's force having increased to 600 effective men, he moved down the river and made a vigorous assault upon the British post at Rocky Mount. Finding himself unable to carry the place by storm and having no artillery to batter down the works, he made a forced march and came suddenly upon a body of British and Tories encamped upon the Hanging Rock Creek. These combined greatly exceeded in number his own force. Having marched all night on Aug. 6 and having divided his men into three battalions, he made a bold charge into the British camp about sunrise. The division in which Capt. McJunkin fought was led by Lieut. Col. James Steen, and in approaching the enemy was exposed to a very destructive fire from the Tories under Col. Bryan. The enemy were, however, forced from the field by the combined efforts of the three divisions and pursued to the distance of a mile, when the army was called back. The colonels mentioned by Major McJunkin as having participated in this action beside those mentioned above are Lysle, Watson and Ervin, and their conduct on the occasion is commended by him.

The battle being finished, Sumpter took up his line of march toward Charlotte, N. C., until 2 o'clock, when the army stopped and took some refreshments, which was the first for twenty-four hours, although they had marched all of the preceding night. Refreshments over, the march was resumed until night and again renewed in the morning.

## Sumpter Ordered to Join Gates

On this march Sumpter was joined by Col. James Williams, and also received instructions from Gen. Gates to co-operate with him in the contemplated attack on the British forces at Camden.

Williams preferred a return toward Ninety Six to a march down the Wateree, took that direction. Such of Sumpter's force as desired it joined Williams. Among these were Steen and McJunkin.

Col. Williams, having separated from Sumpter, turned his face toward the British post at Ninety Six. He was probably induced to take this course from several considerations. He resided but a short distance from that place, and his friends were suffering from the domination of the British Tories. Gen. McDowell had advanced with a considerable force into the northern portion of the state.

The Northern Army under Gates was advancing toward Camden. The recent spirited conflicts in which the command of Sumpter had been engaged had rekindled the spirit of liberty and taught the militia that it was possible for them to conquer a foe superior to them in number and equipment.

Williams, therefore, crossed the Catawba and took post near Smith's Ford on Broad River. Gen. McDowell lay at the Cherokee Ford, a few miles above, on the same river. The latter detached a part of his command under Cols. Shelby and Clark to unite with Williams for the purpose of surprising a body of 500 or 600 Loyalists who were understood to have taken post at

Musgrove's Mill, Enoree River, forty miles distant. This arrangement was completed Aug. 18. Just before sundown this combined force, consisting of about 700 horsemen, crossed at Smith's Ford. They kept through woods until after dark. They also turned off the route to avoid the army of Col. Ferguson, which lay in their way. Through the whole night they pressed forward, often at a gallop, and at dawn of day met a strong patrol party half a mile from the enemy's camp. With this a skirmish ensued, but it soon gave way and communicated the alarm to the main body. Just at this time a man residing in the community joined them and communicated the intelligence that the Tories had been reinforced by a body of 500 or 600 British troops under command of Col. Innis. To attack, under the circumstances, seemed imprudent; to escape, impossible. It was therefore determined to wear out the day as safely as possible and use the darkness of the ensuing night in effecting their retreat. A breastwork of old logs and brush was hastily constructed. Parties were thrown out to watch the movements of the enemy.

### **Battle of Musgrove's Mill**

It was soon ascertained that the enemy were formed near the ford of the river with the intention of giving battle. A corresponding preparation took place among the Whigs. The command of Williams was placed in the centre. That of Shelby on the right and that of Clark on the left. At his own request Capt. Inman was sent forward with a party to skirmish with the enemy as they advanced. A flanking party of twenty-four men under the direction of Josiah Culbertson was sent out from Shelby's command. Inman met the enemy at the moment they began to peep forward and gave them a hot reception. The word

of command passed along the American line, "Reserve your fire until you can see the whites of their eyes!" Meanwhile, Inman's command gradually fell back from place to place until the enemy made a general charge under the impression that they were driving the main body before them. Inman passed the American line and the main body of the British and Tories were rushing forward in the utmost confusion within seventy yards of their foes. A stream of fire revealed the hidden battalions of liberty. The British sank down in great numbers, the survivors recoiled, rallied and again pressed forward, but the fire from the American line continued with little abatement for one hour to thin their ranks, while their own produced little effect.

Culbertson's party, under cover of trees, was pouring in a deadly fire upon the flank and rear. Innis and other leaders were shot down and the whole of the royal forces fell back in consternation. Capt. Inman immediately rallied a party and pursued the fugitives to the river, but this onset proved fatal to the gallant Inman. In this engagement the royal force exceeded that of the Americans by at least 300. The British lost sixty-three killed and 160 wounded and prisoners. The American loss was four killed and nine wounded.

The Whigs were greatly exhilarated by the result of this conflict. They mounted their horses with the determination of being at Ninety Six that night. At this moment an express arrived from Gen. McDowell. Shelby received a letter from Gen. McDowell, inclosing one for himself from Gov. Caswell dated on the battleground where Gates's defeat occurred, giving an account of that disastrous engagement. McDowell advised Shelby and his companions to provide for their own safety. This intelligence

led to a change of operations. It was necessary to avoid Ferguson's army, which lay between them and McDowell. And there was a strong probability that Ferguson would lose no time in pursuing.

### **Retreat From Musgrove's**

They, therefore, turned their faces toward the mountains of North Carolina in order to make good their retreat and secure the results of their victory. Their march was continued the balance of the day, through the night and the next day without stopping to take any other refreshment than drinking from the brooks by the way, pulling green corn from the fields near their road and eating it raw. Ferguson pursued, but found the backwoods men too fleet to be overtaken. The writer remembers having heard the late Major John Alexander, who died in Lawrenceville, Ga., May, 1820, speak of this march. He stated that he was without food for nearly four days. When his engagements permitted and the opportunity offered he pulled some corn and ate it raw and found it delicious. Major Alexander's residence at the time was at the fork of Tyger River, in the Nazareth congregation, and the retreating army passed through this congregation and up the North Tyger. The panic which followed Gates's defeat induced McDowell's army to disperse, and the leaders of the heroes of Musgrove's Mill, having kept together for several days after the battle separated, each to obey his own impulses in rousing the spirits of his countrymen to resistance and in affording protection to their friends from the insults of a triumphant invader.

### **McJunkin Incapacitated by Illness**

Shortly after the battle at Musgrove's Mill Major McJunkin had



an attack of fever which disabled him from service until November, consequently he had no share in the stirring events which occurred in the region round about in September and October of that year. But the writer, after having enjoyed his guidance thus far, feels disposed to venture abroad for the season of his confinement and exhibit some of the transactions which took place on the arena where his guide had been accustomed to point out the doings of his contemporaries. In this the writer wishes rather to occupy the place of an inquirer than that of a teacher. He is conscious that his knowledge of the events to which he expects to allude is very imperfect, and if he has the good fortune to draw out information from persons better informed or discover where accurate information can be obtained, he will feel that his efforts have not been wholly in vain.

The writer has been told by Richard Thompson of Fairforest that he passed through the battleground at Musgrove's a few days after it occurred. He was then a lad of twelve or fourteen, and going in company with his mother to visit his father, John Thompson, who was a prisoner with the British at Ninety Six. He stated that there were marks of battle for two miles along the road on the east side of the river and that he made this observation in regard to the shooting of the different parties: The marks of the balls shot by the Whigs on the trees were generally from three to five feet above the ground, while their antagonists had generally shot entirely above the heads of the Whigs.

On his arrival at Ninety Six he learned from his father and other prisoners of his acquaintance that the fugitives from the battle had reported that the Whigs amounted to 5,000; that the garrison was in such a state of consternation that they would probably



have fled if the Whigs had showed themselves. He further remarked that the prisoners at that garrison were treated in a barbarous manner. They were crowded into the jail, notwithstanding the warmth of the season; food of an unpalatable and unhealthy kind alone was furnished and very inadequate in quantity. There was no attention to the cleanliness. Col. Thompson was handcuffed in addition to other hardships unbecoming his rank as an officer and his standing as a citizen. Mr. Thompson was released about the first of November, got home to his family and died Christmas of disease contracted during his imprisonment.

It has been previously stated that Col. Williams met Col. Sumpter a few days after the Battle of Hanging Rock, that a part of Sumpter's force united with Williams and were led by him to Musgrove's Mill and thence fell back toward North Carolina. Sumpter immediately went down the Catawba River in obedience to the requisition of Gen. Gates. The latter seems never to have entertained a doubt of gaining a complete victory over the British Army at Camden. And in order to cut off every facility for their retreat toward Charleston he despatched a small force under Col. Marion to destroy the boats on the river below that place. At the same time he ordered Sumpter to perform a similar service near the village; also to prevent their supplies from reaching the British camp. These daring partisans did the duties assigned them with their accustomed intrepidity. Sumpter, in addition to the work of destruction and interception, attacked and defeated Col. Carey at the head of a strong body of Loyalists, captured foraging parties, &c., until he had in his possession forty wagons well loaded with military stores and 300 prisoners.

## Sumpter Flees Before Tarleton

While engaged in this manner he received the intelligence of the defeat of Gen. Gates and the dispersal of the army under his command. He made a forced march for several days up the river to get out of striking distance of the British Army. At length, having reached the bank of Fishing Creek, on the west side of the Catawba, he halted to allow his men to refresh. Here, as is generally known, he was overtaken, surprised, and his force dispersed by Col. Tarleton of the British Army. The way in which this surprise was accomplished so completely was as follows:

The writer is indebted for this information to the late William Ashe of Franklin County, Ga., who was at the time with Sumpter. Mr. Ashe stated that the army was almost worn out with fatigue and watching when they stopped on the bank of Fishing Creek. It was near noon and the heat excessive. Sumpter had received no intelligence of the enemy since the retreat commenced and thought they might enjoy repose without danger. No great attention was paid to order, but a guard was placed at some distance in the rear.

The wearied soldiers had leave to prepare food and take rest for several hours before resuming their march. It happened that two Tory women passed the place soon after Sumpter halted and went on in the direction whence Sumpter had come. They had passed the rear guard about half a mile when they met Tarleton's force. They gave Tarleton precise information as to Sumpter's position and the arrangement of things connected with his army. They also informed him of a way by which he could leave the main road and fall into a road leading to Sumpter's position at

right angles to the main road. This way was taken by the British and hence came upon wholly unexpected. The guard placed in that direction was small and near the army. No alarm was given until the whole squadron was dashing up in full view. "Here," said the late Samuel Morrow of Spartanburg District, S. C., "I seized my gun and shot a Capt. Campbell of the British light horse. I looked around me and saw Sumpter's men running in every direction. I snatched up another gun and saw Col. Bratton rallying on a little eminence near me. I joined the little band that stood with him, fired again and the man at whom I took aim dropped. By this time the British were passed us in pursuit of those retiring and we saw no chance and our escape."

### Sumpter Has Narrow Escape

Mr. Ashe also stated that he was standing near Col. Sumpter when the attack began. Sumpter was sitting in the shade of a wagon shaving and the operation was about half finished. When the colonel saw the state of things around, he cut a rope with which a horse was tied to a wagon, dropped his razor, mounted the horse and made his escape without saddle or bridle. Mr. Ashe also stated that he cut a horse loose and mounted without any means of guiding him except his gun. His horse plunged into the thicket extending up the stream and lying between it and the road. He rode some distance at a gallop when he was knocked off the horse by a piece of projecting timber and lay for some time in a state of insensibility. When he recovered from the shock he heard the noise of battle in the road near him and escaped on foot.

### Sumpter's Command Disbanded

This disaster completely dispersed Sumpter's command for a

season and left the Whig population once more completely exposed. It is true that Williams and some other partisan leaders kept forces embodied, but without the power of even keeping up a show of resistance. Hence they moved from place to place and to some extent checked the ferocity of the Tories. The writer has often felt regret that Sumpter was not with Gates when he met Cornwallis. Sumpter's militia differed widely from the raw recruits from North Carolina and Virginia that were present on that occasion. His men had seen service in all its varieties and had recently learned that their equals were hard to find in the British Army. Hence had they stood with the Continentals the result might have been different when the hero of Saratoga exchanged his Northern laurels for Southern willows.

### An Old Graveyard

From Union to Spartanburg Court House there are three public high ways. The main route passes a considerable part of the way on the ridge between the Pacolet River and the Fairforest Creek; another of these ways crosses the latter stream a few miles west of Union and leads near a fashionable watering place known as Glenn's Spring. The third is an intermediate route and lies across the tributaries of the Fairforest until it intersects the main road at a place called the Rich Hill. Eleven miles from Union on this intermediate route you come to a small space enclosed with a substantial stone wall. A gate way through the northern wall affords an easy entrance. Over this space, perhaps near an acre, are dispersed a variety of tombstones, some of marble neatly polished and engraved; others of soapstone, more coarsely wrought and engraved, but bearing the most ancient dates.

The first which attracts attention on entering has the name

Margaret Hodge inscribed near the top. You might learn from what follows that she was born near the first of the last century and died near its close. Passing around near the eastern wall you find the name of James McIllwaine. In another part a slab marked Gen. Hugh Means. Close by another which covers the grave of John R. Golding, late professor in the University of Georgia. Under the bough of a majestic oak you find tablets marking the graves of the Rev. Daniel Gray and his wife, Mary. Over the whole space you discover mementos of man's mortality. At one moment a memorial of an infant of days excites sympathy for bereaved parents and the next you are reminded that you tread by the ashes of one whose locks were whitened by the snows of ninety winters.

### Fairforest Presbyterian Church

In the year 1776 a plain but spacious log building stood on the eminence where the western square of the wall passes. A traveler whose eye was practiced in such matters would have said that it had been erected twelve years before. That house was then called Fairforest Church. Around it for miles dwelt those who were accustomed to worship at the place. Families of the following names constituted the congregation at that period: Mayer, McIllwaine, Patton, Kelso, Davidson, Strong, Means, Saye, Hodge, Park, Harris, Shaw, Kennedy, Barron, Harbison, Cunningham, Thomas, Culberson, Hayney, Faris, Crawford, Clowney, Denny, Thompson, Simpson, Foster, Armstrong and Nesbit.

At the date above written this people had never had a settled pastor nor a stated supply, but were dependent upon ministers from a distance for what is termed occasional supplies. Among

those who had visited them for this purpose were the Rev. Mr. Edmonds, John Simpson and Joseph Alexander. The latter was pastor of the Bullock's Creek Church, twenty-five miles distant, and made frequent visits to the Fairforest people. The spirit of piety was promoted by society meetings. These meetings were held at the church or private houses, as convenience or inclination dictated. The Scriptures were read and other acts of religious worship attended to. Catechetical instruction in families was diligently maintained, and the morals of the rising generation carefully guarded. They who had once enjoyed the benefits of pastoral labor longed for these privileges again. An easy day's ride to the westward would have carried one beyond the limits of civilization, where the red man of the forest roamed over the wilderness in quest of game or for purposes of amusement or traffic.

### An Exclamation Became a Name

The population of the whole country was sparse and mostly confined to the more fertile land bordering on the streams. About twenty-four years before the United States became a Nation the first party of white men found a home in this vicinity. Among them were George Storo and James McIllwaine. They encamped upon an eminence commanding a beautiful prospect. A valley stretched far in the distance. A grove of lofty trees concealed the meanderings of the stream that fertilized the extended plain. The rays of the declining sun lit up the vast amphitheater of tree tops waving gently in the breeze, overlooked now for the first time by the eyes of white men. One of the party, believed to have been James McIllwaine, looked abroad for a time over the rich scenery of the place and exclaimed: "That is a fair forest!" The party immediately gave the name to the place



and it soon fastened upon the principal stream in the vicinity, hence the northeastern branch of the Tyger River has been called since those days Fairforest Creek, a bold and beautiful stream which, rising in the vicinity of the mountains, sweeps through the central part of the present districts of Spartanburg and Union. Fairforest was for a time the “ultima thule” of civilization. The poetry of its name and position attracted many a visitor and was a matter of intense discussion among the migratory tribes from the Delaware to the Catawba.

### Early Church History

The party above mentioned was from Pennsylvania. They located lands upon the Fairforest Creek and settled where the line between Spartanburg and Union now crosses that stream. Other friends from the North were soon with them -- among them persons named Means, Dugan and Kelso. When the Indian War commenced in 1760 the settlers retreated to the interior and some of them never returned. But most of them came back; a church was organized and gradually acquired strength until 1766. No written document shows the time of this organization, and tradition fails in the matter, but it probably took place in 1762. The first meeting of session which is on record was held Aug. 16, 1791. The Rev. David Barr, Moderator; elders present, John Davidson, William Patton, Joseph Kelso, James Mayes, Hugh Means, James McIllwaine and Robert Harris. A number of these, however, are known to have been ruling elders before the commencement of the Revolutionary War. Within a few years subsequent to this first meeting the following names appear on the list: James Means, Samuel Kelso, Henry Story, Richard Thompson, Samuel Morrow, Edward Mayes and William Davitt.

In October, 1794, the name of the first pastor appears on the sessional record, probably immediately after his ordination and induction into the pastoral office. He continued ten years with this church. In the time an interesting revival of religion took place in the congregation; indeed, it was a time of great interest to God's people through the whole Union. Perhaps in no country at any time has there been a more general or intense interest on the subject of religion than was experienced in this country during a few of the first years of the present century. Fairforest shared largely in this time of refreshing, but the pastor, William Williams, believing that his usefulness would be promoted by going to a different field, removed to the State of Ohio in 1804. He was succeeded by the Rev. Daniel Gray, who died pastor of this church in 1816. He was followed by the Rev. Joseph Hillhouse, who left in the course of a few years. The next pastor was the Rev. D. L. Gray, who also left after a stay of about four years.

### Pastors of Fairforest Church

The following persons are mentioned as having been stated or occasional supplies in times past---some before the first pastor and others in the intervals between the time of one pastor and another: The Rev. Messrs. McCollough, James Templeton, Robert Hall, Humphrey Hunter, William C. Davis, Francis Cummins, S. B. Wilson, Francis Porter, Jephtha Harrison and John Boggs. Under the labors of several of these men, seasons of revivals have passed in this congregation, when Zion has been enlarged and beautified. But the spirit of emigration has carried off successive colonies of her children to seek homes in the Far West until the congregation is now greatly reduced in numbers. It is, however, consolatory to know that these colonies have

constituted a nucleus around which new congregations have sprung up and new churches have arisen in the wilderness from the vigorous scions nurtured in old Fairforest.

### **New Church Building**

About the year 1787 a new place of worship was erected a mile or two west of the place above described and thus separating the place of worship from the place of interment for the congregation. At the time the United States became a Nation the congregation of Fairforest had none connected with it who were not prepared to sign the pledge annexed to the Declaration of Independence. How this work of preparation had been accomplished may be inferred from the preliminary observations connected with this sketch. It may not, however, be improper to remark that the men who composed the congregation were not an ignorant rabble, although their homes had been recently a wilderness. They were a body of citizens collected from various parts and had generally come from communities enjoying high privileges of a social and religious nature.

### **A Whig Minister Cordially Hated**

The pastoral letter of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia in 1775 may be regarded as a moderate and measured expression of the sentiments of intelligent Presbyterians in regard to the quarrel with the mother country at that time. It is presumed by the writer that this letter was read in every church under the care of that synod by the presiding minister, with such comments as might be thought proper on the occasion. The ministers who officiated at Fairforest in those days were Joseph Alexander and John Simpson. The latter was the leading champion of liberty on the Catawba and a member of the Council of Safety in Sumpter's

camp in the War of Independence. A living witness of those times recently remarked to the writer that the Tories would have roasted Alexander if they could have caught him. But the people did not wait to be roused by the ministry. Many of them demanded of their ministers that they should become missionaries of liberty and seize upon all suitable occasions to spread before the public the merits of the controversy. This was done. From some cause, or combination of causes, there was no division in this congregation in regard to Independence. Every man was true to his country and ready to stake fortune and life and sacred honor to secure its welfare. No important engagement occurred in the state or out of it where this state had soldiers without a respectable representation from Fairforest. Not a few fell in battle or wore scars of honor after the war. But this was not all this congregation was called to suffer and lose in the cause of freedom.

### British Come to the Piedmont

Soon after Charleston fell in May 1780 bodies of British troops were despatched into different portions of the state to enforce the proclamations of Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis. Among others, Col. Ferguson was sent on this enterprise. The special object of his mission was to compel the Whigs to take protection and to embody the Tories and to train them to war with a view to further conquests. In the prosecution of these designs he came in the month of June into that portion of Union District then called the Quaker Meadow, now the Meadow Woods. In this section were a number of determined Whigs residing on Sugar Creek by the name of Blassingame. One of these was arrested.

## Ferguson In Spartanburg

Thence Ferguson moved up into the Fairforest congregation, and seems to have made it his headquarters until about September. During this time the community was taxed with the support of his army and the disciples of his school. Five different positions were occupied at different times by his encampment. His object in moving seems to have been to get nearer the means of support as he soon eat out the immediate vicinity of his encampment. His horses were turned loose into any field of grain that might be convenient and foraging parties dispersed abroad. The cattle round about were driven to his camp and slaughtered or shot down in the woods and left. Every house was searched from time to time for provisions and plundered for every article of value. As many Whigs as could be found were apprehended, not even excepting those who had taken protection. A few had done this rather than forsake their families, but they were soon sent to Ninety Six and incarcerated in a loathsome prison and almost perished for want of food. But at the time of Ferguson's arrival most of the males capable of bearing arms took refuge in North Carolina, so that he had an excellent opportunity of drilling his raw recruits and supporting his army of devastation and pillage. Small parties of Whigs came into the neighborhood about often enough to afford good exercise in pursuing when they heard of their being in striking distance.

## A Discussion of the Tories

It may not be improper here to inquire: Who were the Tories? That class of citizens who took up arms for the King and fought against his fellow citizens who were contending for the liberties we now enjoy. Why did they think proper to pursue the course

they did? The Tories have been badly abused for the last sixty-five years. They have hardly dared to offer apology for their conduct, yet they were numerous in many states and their descendants are now proportionately so, yet no man boasts of his relationship to them. It has been a fashion to stigmatize their conduct and heap all manner of reproaches upon them. The issue of the war and the verdict of Whigs of posterity has sanctioned this. No man now supposes that he would have been a Tory if it had been the will of Providence that he should have been an actor in the scenes of the Revolution. Every man now supposes as he reads history of those events that he, as a matter of course, would have been on the right side, that he would have imperiled life and fortune in the cause of liberty.

But why do we think so? Is it easy for us to imagine when we read of deeds of humanity, generosity and noble daring that we should have acted in the same manner if we had been placed in the same situation with those who performed them. It is easy now to find a man professing the greatest devotion to the interests of the people, when a lucrative or honorable office is at their disposal. Meet a candidate when you will, he is at your service; his bosom seems literally inflamed with generosity and friendship. Meet him again and he treats you with shy reserve and casts upon you the conjectural glance of a stranger. It is as true now as it ever has been "that a man may smile and smile and be a villian." It is equally true that no man knows what he will do until he is tried, and it is perhaps equally certain that many persons who play at games of hazard prefer the winning side. But to the question: Who were the Tories? The writer has tried various methods of getting light on this subject and would gladly receive information on it now. From investigations had in



relation to this matter, I came to the following conclusion:

Various classes of men were Tories. The following divisions comprehend the most of them:

### **Tories Classified**

1. There were some men in the country conscientiously opposed to war and every sort of revolution which led to it or invoked its aids. They believed that they ought to be in subjection to the powers that be, hence they maintained their allegiance to the British crown. The Quakers were of this class. They were far more numerous in South Carolina then than now. They were non-combatants, but the weight of their influence fell on the wrong side.

2. There were many men who knew nothing of the merits of the question at issue. The world has always been sufficiently stocked with men of this class. Their days are passed in profound ignorance of everything which requires an exertion of intellect, yet often the most self-conceited, prejudiced beings that wear the human form -- perfect moles, delighting in dirt and darkness. Hence they are fit subjects for demagogues and tyrants. They followed their leaders in 1776 as at other times.

3. Another class thought the Government of George III. too good to exchange for an uncertainty. Let well enough alone. A little tax on tea won't hurt us, and as for principles and doctrines, leave them to the lawyers and parsons.

4. Another class thought that how ever desirable the right of self-government might be, it was out of the question unless His

Most Gracious Majesty might be pleased to grant it. They thought the fleets and armies of Britain perfectly invincible. Defeat and utter ruin must follow rebellion against the King.

5. There was yet another class. A set of men who give themselves a good deal of credit for shrewdness and management. They pride themselves on being genteel and philosophical. If they ever had scruples of conscience they amount to very little. If they have religious principles at all they impose no self-denial and forbid no sensual gratifications. If they have a spark of patriotism it is because their country has a treasury and they see some prospect of getting their fingers in it. Upon the whole, the needle is no truer to the pole than they are to the prospect of gain. "Make money" is their maxim; "make money honestly if you can, but make it."

### War Profiteers

Accordingly, when Charleston fell in 1780 and the state was overrun something appeared in the proclamation of Sir Henry Clinton which was to them a law of promise. Pardon was offered to all rebels, but such, &c. That exception covered many persons of large estates and a far greater number possessed of comfortable means. Here now the shadow of a golden harvest flits before their longing eyes. The success of British arms is an inevitable result in South Carolina. The excepted Whigs have property enough to make many rich if informed against by the zealous advocates of the officers of the crown. The chance is too good to be lost by any of the Shylock family. Feelings of humanity and tenderness weigh not a feather against the well cultivated farms of the proscribed Whigs now marked as available stock.

6. There was another class that had a bad representation among the Tories. A class too, which, either on account of its numbers, industry or general influence, gave character to the whole fraternity. The writer has frequently asked Revolutionary Soldiers the question: "What sort of men were the Tories?" The answer has generally been the same: "A pack of rogues." An eminent example of this class was found in the person of Capt. S. Brown, who is understood to have been a notorious robber years before the war commenced. Yet this Brown, like other men who have money, had numerous friends. He had the shrewdness to perceive that the field suited him. Accordingly, he rallied his followers, joined Ferguson and for a time proved a very efficient ally, and although he had been an outlaw for years, yet few brought under the Royal standard a larger share of natural and acquired talents for the position assigned him. He now enjoys the liberty of plundering under the sanction of law and of arresting for reward those who have been long known as staunch defenders of honesty and justice.

### No Such Thing as Good Tory

Thus we perceive six classes among the Loyalists -- a conscientious class, an ignorant class, an indifferent class, a covetous, bargain-making class; a roguish class, and we might add a disappointed, revengeful class. The reader is not to suppose that these characteristics were never combined. Several of them have a natural affinity for each other and are almost invariably found united in the same person. Men conscientiously opposed to war rarely take pleasure in those exercises useful as a preparation for it; they choose to keep out of its noise and din. Cowards also prefer a peaceful fireside to the sharp shooting and broadsword of the battlefield. Men indifferent in feelings to the

issues of a contest generally avoid the exposure of toilsome conflicts. But Ferguson's camp was soon crowded with men making high professions of loyalty and willing to serve the King in any capacity required. And he set himself to work in training his raw recruits for the further subjugation of the country. And from what we have seen, it is not wonderful that the Tories were as heartily despised by the British officers as by their own countrymen, the Whigs. But Ferguson was not a man to be diverted from his purpose by acts of inhumanity and treachery. The crown had honors and rewards to bestow and his eye rested upon them. He knew that the "defender of the faith" generally gave more cash for one year of kind service in military enterprise than for a lifetime spent in such pursuits as exalt and ennoble human nature.

### Whigs Aroused by Ferguson

It is a fact recorded in history and generally well known that the deeds of atrocity committed by Ferguson's army alarmed the fears and aroused the indignation of the mountaineers of North Carolina so that on his advance into that state they flew to arms, joined the refugees from South Carolina under Williams, Brandon and Lacy, pursued Ferguson to King's Mountain, killed him, took nearly his whole force prisoners and fell back in safety to their own homes.

We have also seen in the preceding narrative that Ferguson's camp was passed on the night of Aug. 18 by a strong detachment of militia from North and South Carolina on their way to surprise a body of Tories at Musgrove's Mill, that having accomplished that object and more they retreated before Ferguson toward North Carolina.

It is now our purpose to exhibit some of the events connected with Ferguson's movements from the time he came into the Fairforest congregation until he went into North Carolina, and the measure of resistance offered by the Whig population to his movements in what is now Union and Spartanburg Districts in South Carolina.

In order to accomplish this object we must go back in the order of time and introduce new actors upon the stage. The first check given to Ferguson was by Gen. Charles McDowell of North Carolina. No allusion is made to this transaction by any historian of South Carolina. The only account of it in any published document is found in the Gazetteer of Tennessee, by Eastin Morris, and is as follows: "*The American forces commanded by Col. McDowell were attacked by Ferguson near Enoree River, aided by a reinforcement of Tories and regulars. The battle was severely fought, but ended in the defeat of the British, who retreated, leaving a number of dead and more than 200 prisoners. The prisoners equaled one-third the number of the American forces.*" This statement is made in such general terms as might possibly apply to the battle of Musgrove's Mill, already described, but the writer has evidence of a private nature that it was a previous affair and probably occurred in the month of July. Capt. James Thompson of Madison County, Ga., stated to the writer that he belonged to the army of Gen. McDowell.

### A Little Known Fight

While this army was in South Carolina and lying near the home of Col. Hampton it was surprised by the British, but held its ground and drove the British from the field. Capt. Thompson was not in the main action. His captain, Joseph McDowell, had

been ordered to reconnoitre, but failed to find the British. While engaged in searching for them they came and attacked the main army. He returned just as the British were retiring from the conflict, and finding that they had taken a number of prisoners, he rallied his men and as many others as would follow him, pursued the British, retook his friends and made a large number of prisoners. Living witnesses have stated to the writer that Col. Hampton's residence was on the Enoree River not far from Ford's Bridge. After this engagement Gen. McDowell retired toward North Carolina and took post near Cherokee Ford on Broad River.

### May Have Been Cedar Spring

*"Previous to this (that is, the Battle of Musgrove's Mill), in July, a battle was fought at the Green Springs, near Berwick's Iron Works, by Col. Clarke of Georgia, with 168 men. The enemy, consisting of 150 volunteer mounted riflemen and sixty well equipped dragoons, were defeated with the loss of twenty-eight killed on the spot and several wounded. Clarke had four killed and twenty-three wounded, all with the broadsword. Major Smith of Georgia, a brave, intelligent and active officer, was killed, Col. Clarke was severely wounded, Col. Robertson, a volunteer; Capt. Clarke, and several other officers were also wounded."*

Mr. Mills is probably mistaken in his statement that Col. Clarke was wounded in this battle; he was too soon in service again. Besides, Mr. Sherwood, in his Gazetteer of Georgia, states that Col. Clarke was wounded in the Battle of Musgrove's Mill some three weeks subsequent to this. We have a more detailed account of the battle at the Cedar Spring in the Magnolia of 1842, which is understood to be from the pen of a distinguished



**citizen of Greenville District. It is as follows:**

**Extract From Magnolia Magazine**

*"Col. Clarke of Georgia, well known in the American Revolution as a bold, active and useful officer, was on his march into North Carolina with a regiment of refugee Whigs for the purpose of joining the American Army then expected from the north. The news of his march reached the ears of Col. Ferguson, who immediately despatched Major Dunlop of the British Army with a detachment of troops consisting principally of Tories for the purpose of intercepting Col. Clarke and his regiment of militia. The colonel, not expecting an attack from the enemy, had encamped for the night two or three miles from the Cedar Spring, when he was alarmed by the firing of a gun by one of Major Dunlop's soldiers. It is said that this soldier, whose name is not at present remembered, was a Tory who felt some compunctious visitings at the idea of surprising and capturing his countrymen and took this opportunity of giving them information of an approaching enemy. He pretended, however, that his gun went off accidentally, and he was not suspected of treachery. Col. Clarke immediately decamped and marched to the Cedar Spring, where he passed the night undisturbed. Mr. Dunlop, not thinking it prudent to pursue the Americans in the night, took possession of Col. Clarke's encampment and waited for the day.*


*Josiah Culbertson, noted in Spartanburg for his desperate and daring courage, had left the American camp that evening for the purpose of returning home, two or three miles distant, to spend the night. He came back about daylight, expecting, of course, to find Col. Clarke and his regiment. But as he rode into the camp he observed that the army seemed to present a different appearance from what it did the evening before, but nevertheless rode on to where he expected to find*

*Col. Clarke before he became conscious that he was in the midst of an enemy's camp. With extraordinary coolness and presence of mind, he then leisurely turned around and rode very slowly out of the encampment with his trusty rifle lying on the pommel of his saddle. As he passed along he saw the dragoons catching their horses, and other preparations being made to strike up the line of march.*

*When out of sight of the British he put spurs to his horse and went in the direction he supposed Clarke had gone. While in the enemy's camp he had doubtless been taken for a Tory who was a little ahead of the others in his preparations for marching. He overtook Col. Clarke and found him in readiness for the attack of Major Dunlop. In a short time, too, that officer made his appearance and a warm engagement ensued. The British and Tories were repulsed with considerable loss. The Americans sustained very little injury. Major Dunlop hastily fled the country and Col. Clarke resumed his march toward North Carolina. During this engagement Culbertson was met by a dragoon some distance from the main battle who imperiously demanded his surrender, which Culbertson replied to with his rifle and felled the dragoon from his horse.*

### **The Peach Tree Grave**

*"The next day when the dead were buried this dragoon was thrown into a hole near where he lay and was covered with earth. He had some peaches in his pocket when buried, from which a peach tree came up and was known to bear peaches for years afterward. His grave is yet to be seen, but the tree has long since disappeared."*

**The next expedition against the enemy was set on foot at the camp of Gen. McDowell at Cherokee Ford. It was directed**  
 **against a fort north of Pacolet River, on the waters of Goucher**

**Creek. This was a strong position, well fortified and abundantly supplied with the munitions of war. It had been for some time a place or resort for the predatory bands of Tories who had been robbing the Whig families in the adjacent parts of the country. It was under the immediate command of that distinguished Tory chieftain, Col. Patrick Moore.**


**This fort was in front of McDowell's position and lay between him and Ferguson's camp and was perhaps regarded as an outpost of the battle. To take this place Cols. Shelby, Clarke and Sevier were detached with a squadron of 600 men.**

### **Col. Moore Surrenders Stronghold**

**With characteristic intrepidity these commanders appeared suddenly before this fortress, threw their lines around it and demanded its surrender. The second summons was obeyed. Moore surrendered 100 men, with 250 stands of arms loaded with ball and buckshot and so arranged at the portholes as to have repulsed double the number of the American detachment. (See biography of Gen. Shelby, National Portrait Gallery, No. 1.)**

**The effective force of Col. Ferguson at this time amounted to more than 2,500 men, composed of British and Tories. McDowell's force was too small to meet his antagonist in the field with any prospect of success. He therefore deemed it expedient to maintain his position at the Cherokee Ford, guard against surprise and harass his adversary in hope of soon acquiring a force sufficient to expel him from the country. He had under his command officers and men possessing peculiar**

**qualifications for accomplishing such a task, and by no means averse to daring enterprise.**

**Accordingly, soon after the return of the party from the capture of Moore, Shelby and Clarke were again in the field at the head of 600 mounted rifle men, with a view of passing beyond Pacolet River for the purpose of cutting off the foraging parties of the enemy. They crossed that stream near where the Rolling Mill Place now is and sent out patrol parties to give intelligence of the enemy and watch his movements. Ferguson soon penetrated the designs of his adversaries and set his army in motion to drive them from the country. Major Dunlop advanced to Cedar Spring and Ferguson with his whole force was but a few miles in his rear. Shelby's force occupied a position near the present  site of Bivingsville. Various attempts were made to fall upon the Americans by surprise, but these schemes were baffled.**

### **In Spartanburg's Suburbs**

**About four miles from the present site of Spartanburg Court House on the road to Union is an old plantation known as Thompson's Old Place. It is an elevated tract of country lying between the tributaries of Fairforest on the one side and of Lawson's Fork on the other. Cedar Spring was about a mile distant on the Fairforest side, and Shelby's position not much further on the other. A road leading from North Carolina to Georgia by way of the Cherokee Ford on Broad River passed through this place and then by or near Cedar Spring. A person passing at the present time from the direction of Union toward Spartanburg Court House crosses this ancient highway at Thompson's old residence.**

**After passing this, by looking to the left, the eye rests upon a parcel of land extending down a hollow, which was cleared and planted in fruit trees prior to the Revolutionary War. Beyond this hollow, just where the road now enters a body of woodlands, there is yet some traces of a former human habitation. In this orchard two patrol parties met from adverse armies. The party from Dunlop's camp were in the orchard gathering peaches; the Liberty Party fired on them and drove them from the place. In turn they entered the orchard, but the report of their guns brought out a strong detachment from Shelby. The Captain of the patrol, when he saw the enemy approaching, drew up his men under cover of the fence along the ridge, just where the old field and the woodland now meet, and where the traces of an old place of residence are now barely visible. Here he awaited their approach. The onset was furious, but vigorously met. The conflict was maintained against fearful odds until the arrival of reinforcements from Shelby's camp. The scales now turned and the assailants fell back. The whole force of Shelby and Clarke were soon in battle array, confronted by the whole British advance, numbering 600 or 700 men.**

**The onset was renewed with redoubled fury. Here it was that Clarke astonished Shelby by the energy and adroitness with which he dealt his blows. Shelby often said he stopped in the midst of the engagement to see Clarke fight. The Liberty Men drove back their foes, when the whole British Army came up. A retreat was now a matter of necessity as well as sound policy. Shelby and Clarke had taken fifty prisoners, most of them British and some of them officers. These Ferguson was extremely anxious to re take, and his antagonists by no means**

willing to lose. Hence the pursuit was pressed for miles with great vigor and the retreat managed so skillfully as to render the great superiority of the royal army of no avail. A kind of running fight was maintained for five miles, until the prisoners were entirely out of reach.

### **The Various Cedar Spring Fights**

The writer cannot close this account of the battles at Cedar Spring without a few remarks. The reader who has followed him through the whole of his narrative has noticed that he has described three conflicts at or near that place. **The first is contained in the account given of the Thomas family. This is stated upon the authority of Major Mc Junkin, and was probably the last in the order of time.** The second occurred when Col. Clarke was retreating from Georgia with his regiment of refugee militia. This is here described in the language of Mills, the author of “Statistics of South Carolina”, and a writer in the Magnolia for 1842.

The third took place between the forces of Clarke and Shelby combined, perhaps two weeks subsequent to the first. The biography of Shelby cited above and local tradition is the authority upon which I have relied in the statement given. I have no reason to doubt that statements from local traditions in regard to these engagements are extremely liable to error and confusion. This is especially the case from the fact that few of the citizens in that section were present. The Whigs were from neighboring states and probably strangers to the neighborhood, and the three conflicts occurring in the same vicinity, in the same summer, the traditions would become blended and



**confused. This is actually the case. One man will tell you of the fight which commenced at the orchard and then go back to the spring and tell about that affair.**

**In the early part of November, 1780, the following was about the state of things in South Carolina:**

**Lord Cornwallis, with the flower of the British force at the South, had his headquarters at Winnsboro. On his right a strong garrison was maintained at Camden, another at Georgetown, while his left had the posts at Ninety Six and Augusta. Another chain of posts extended across the state, including Granby and Orangeburg, in the rear of his position. Charleston, with other places on the sea coast, was strongly garrisoned. In front of His Lordship's most advanced posts strong bands of Tories were engaged in hunting the scattered Whigs, collecting provisions, plundering and burning houses. In these enterprises they were assisted by foraging parties from the garrisons above mentioned. To oppress these formidable demonstrations a remnant of the army recently led by Gen. Gates lay at Hillsboro, N.C. Some bodies of militia in different parts of the state were preparing to take the field. Gen. Marion, at the head of some two hundred followers, often darted on parties of the enemy and cut them off in the region of the Peedee.**

**Gen. Sumpter was also again at the head of a considerable force immediately in front of the position occupied by Cornwallis. Sumpter marched and counter-marched through the region lying between the Catawba and Enoree Rivers with a view of**

collecting his friends and checking the ferocity of his foes. Marion, however, at this time seems to have engrossed most of His Lordship's notice.

### **Marion a Thorn In the Flesh**

This daring partisan had proved an exceedingly troublesome customer for four months past. Pouncing like a lion on his enemies when in his power, and running like a fox when pursued by superior force. Every stratagem heretofore employed for his capture had proved abortive. His pursuers, instead of entrapping, found themselves drawn into the snare, and withdrew in a rage because he would not fight like a Christian. The notions of his barbarism had risen to such a height in the British Army that his capture was one of prime importance. To affect this purpose Cornwallis detached Col. Tarleton with the main body of his cavalry and a select portion of his light infantry to rush into the Peedee country. Apprised of this movement, Sumpter took a position at the Fishdam Ford on Broad River, within less than thirty miles of Winnsboro. In the absence of the British cavalry he felt safe in his position, thinking that he could elude any force which Cornwallis could send against him. The latter determined to drive him from his quarters or punish his audacity. For this he sent Major Wemyss with a force considered adequate to rout that under Sumpter.

### **Sumpter's Position at Fishdam**

Historians generally state that Sumpter's camp was on the east side of the river; this is a mistake. His position was west of Broad River, and his camp midway between that stream and a

small creek which, flowing from the west, falls into the river near a mile below the ford. Here, says local tradition, was Sumpter's camp. The whole section between the streams is now cleared and under cultivation, and is entirely overlooked by a high ridge, along which the road leading from Hamilton's Ford to the Fishdam passed. It is presumed that the road was then very near where it now is. About half a mile from the creek a road leading from the mouth of Tyger River intercepts the one leading from Hamilton's Ford. A traveler approaching the ford by this route has a fine view of Sumpter's position as he descends the long hill before reaching the creek.

Again, says local tradition, on the night of Nov. 12 the fires were kindled in Sumpter's camp at dark, and the soldiers began to divert themselves in various ways, apparently as devoid of care as a company of wagoners occupying the same spot for the night would be at the present day. No special pains were taken by the general to have guards placed.

### **Col. Taylor Saves the Day**

But one officer in the camp was oppressed by anxious solicitude. That man was Col. Thomas Taylor of Congaree. He had been out with his command during a part of the previous day toward the Tyger River. In his excursions he had heard of the approach of the party under Wemyss, and from his intelligence of their movements he conjectured their purpose. He went to Sumpter and remonstrated in regard to the state of things in his camp. Sumpter gave him to understand that he feared no danger, and felt prepared for any probable result. Taylor's apprehensions were not allayed by the security of his commander. He

determined to take measures to guard against surprise, and to this Sumpter gave his hearty assent. Taylor conjectured that if the enemy came that night his approach would be along the road leading from the mouth of the Tyger and hence must cross the creek at the ford to reach Sumpter's position.

He placed himself at the head of his own men, marched them across the creek, built up large fires of durable material, sent out a patrol party in the direction of the enemy, examined a way for a safe retreat for his party down the creek, and took all other precautions deemed proper in the circumstances. He withdrew his men from the fires some distance in the direction of the main army and directed them what to do in case of alarm.

### **Wemyss Attempts a Surprise**

They slept on their arms until midnight, when they were aroused by the fire of their sentinels. The patrol party had missed the enemy, and hence no alarm was given until the sentinels fired. The British, judging from the extent of Taylor's fire that the main body occupied that position and that no advance guard had been placed, immediately charged down the hill with the expectation of falling upon Sumpter's men in confusion. They crowded around the blazing fires in search of their victims. Taylor's men were ready and delivered their fire at this juncture. The enemy fell back, but were again brought to the charge, but were again repulsed and fled in consternation, leaving their bleeding commander to the mercy of their foes.

It is said that when Taylor's men delivered their first fire, a scene of confusion resulted in Sumpter's camp utterly beyond

description. The soldiers and officers ran hither and thither, whooping and yelling like maniacs. Some got ready for action and joined in it, while others ran clear off and did not join Sumpter again for weeks. Hence this action was denominated in the region round about as Sumpter's Second Defeat, though the rout of the enemy was complete and the American loss was nothing.

### **Tarleton Goes After Sumpter**

No sooner was the news of this disaster carried to Cornwallis than he ordered Tarleton from the pursuit of Marion to fall upon Sumpter. Soon after the action at Fishdam, Sumpter took up the line of march toward Ninety Six. At this time Capt. Joseph McJunkin, feeling sufficiently recruited to take the field once again, assembled as many of his command as possible and joined Sumpter at Padget's Creek, between the Tyger and Enoree Rivers. At the same time a number of the militia from Georgia effected a junction with Sumpter. McJunkin was then appointed Major and received a commission as such. This was probably to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Lieut. Col. James Steen. Major William Farr subsequent to this is called Lieutenant Colonel in Major McJunkin's written narrative. Hence the writer concludes that Farr succeeded Steen, and McJunkin ranked next to Farr in Brandon's regiment. Steen was killed some time previous to this in Rowan County, N. C., in an attempt to arrest some Tories.

Sumpter's march toward Ninety Six was arrested by the intelligence that Col. Tarleton was following him by forced marches with the manifest intention of falling upon him. He

turned to the north, which placed the Enoree River in his front. He had barely passed this stream with his main body when Tarleton's advance obstructed the passage of his rear guard. Sumpter, however, pushed on and was gaining ground on his pursuer. Tarleton, apprehensive that his flying foe would succeed in passing the Tyger without hindrance, which was only a few miles in advance, left his artillery and such of his infantry as he was unable to put on horseback, and pressed forward with double diligence. Sumpter having reached the margin of that stream, took a strong position with a view of allowing his troops to take refreshments. His main body occupied the hill on which Blackstock's house was situated. The rear guard was left some distance behind on the road. The men composing it set about getting their dinner -- fires were built and dough rolled around sticks and set before the fire to bake. Just at this stage of the preparations Tarleton's force came in sight.

### **The Affair at Blackstock's**

Major McJunkin, who was Officer of the Day, immediately sent a messenger to Sumpter to let him know that the enemy were in sight. Orders were returned to come up to the house. Tarleton having viewed Sumpter's position, concluded to guard his opponent and hold him there until the balance of his force should come up. Sumpter was not of the metal to submit to such bondage. He drew up his force and called for volunteers to sally out and commence an action.

Col. Farr and McJunkin were the first to step out. When a number deemed sufficient were out, Gen. Sumpter gave orders to advance, commence the attack and, if necessary, fall back.



The action was commenced with great spirit, the assailing party gradually yielding to superior numbers until Tarleton made a general charge with a view of pushing his adversary from his advantageous position. He was repulsed in the first onset with a heavy loss. A second was tried with no better success, when he drew off his whole force and left the field of conflict. The numbers of the respective parties are variously estimated. Tarleton's is thought to have been 400, and Sumpter's perhaps about equal. It is thought 150 Georgians were present under Col. Twiggs. There was a great disparity in the loss of the two parties. The British loss in killed and wounded amounted to near 200; that of the Americans about one-sixth of that number. Among the wounded was Gen. Sumpter, who received a bullet in the breast, by which he was disabled for service for several months. The command now devolved on Col. Twiggs.

### **The Retreat From Blackstock's**

It was thought expedient to retreat that night, though it was near sun down when the enemy quit the field. According, a bier was constructed, upon which Gen. Sumpter was carried between two horses. Not a few of the militia lodged that night among the Storys and McIlwaines, twelve miles distant from the scene of action. The retreat was continued the next day toward King's Mountain in York District. On the way thither a part of the Whigs encamped on Gilkie's Creek. A pet Tory lived near where they lay, and some of them told him they would press him into service and take him along with them in the morning. To escape that disaster he took a chisel that night and cut off one of his toes.

## **Tarleton In Ugly Mood**

In the morning after the battle Tarleton returned to the battle ground and, finding his opponent gone, hung John Johnson, a Whig who had been captured the day before. Mr. Johnson had taken protection some time in the summer, as many others had done, and when forced to fight had chosen to fight for liberty. His residence was on Tyger River in the vicinity of Hamilton's Ford, where some of his descendants may still be found. After the necessary arrangements were made, Tarleton renewed the pursuit and followed as far as Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River. Here he spent a night. William Hodge, a peaceable citizen, resided two miles above the shoals. The next morning a little after sunrise Tarleton with his whole army came to the house of Mr. Hodge, took him prisoner, seized provisions and provender, killed up his stock, burned his fence and house, and carried him off, telling his wife as they started that he should be hung on the first crooked tree on the road. He was carried to Camden and put in jail. Some time in ensuing April he made his escape by cutting the grating out of the window, with some others.

## **Brandon Returns to Love's Ford**

After seeing Gen. Sumpter out of striking distance from the enemy, the command of Col. Brandon returned to the vicinity of their own homes and took post at Love's Ford on Broad River. This position was well adapted to check the operations of the Tories on the west side of that river, and restrict their intercourse with the British Army at Winnsboro. While lying there, says Major Mc Junkin, a scout was sent over to Sandy River under Capt. Joseph Mc Cool. This party was worsted in a conflict with the Tories in that section and Daniel McJunkin,

the major's brother, was taken prisoner and carried to Winnsboro. *"At my instance,"* says the major, *"Col. Brandon sent a flag to Lord Cornwallis proposing to exchange Col. Fanning, who was a prisoner with us, for Daniel McJunkin. This proposition was rejected by His Lordship, and Daniel was sent forthwith to the jail in Camden."* Here he remained until April, when he escaped in company with William Hodge, above mentioned.

### **British Prison Barbarisms**

The writer is not certain but that the cause of humanity would be promoted by writing out a detailed statement of the sufferings of American prisoners in South Carolina during the period of the Revolutionary War and sending it over as a compliment to Queen Victoria, her House of Lords and Commons. It is stated upon good authority that the jail in Camden was literally crammed with men from the time of the defeat of Gen. Gates until the following spring; that for a considerable time in the autumn of 1780 not a morsel was given them to eat save pieces of pumpkins gathered from the troughs where horses had been fed. These remnants of horse feed were brought in baskets once a day and thrown into the jail among the prisoners, and it often occurred that some of them failed in getting a single morsel even of this fare. It is to be remembered that many of these persons were men of the purest morals and highest respectability. All of them prisoners of war, and of course many of them murdered by this process of -- shall I call it slow torture?

### **Responsibility for Government**

For all actions there is a responsibility somewhere. Is a

**government answerable for the doings of its agents? Is a people in any sense responsible for the acts of those to whose government they submit, and whose authority they sustain? Who were responsible for the immense chain of frauds, cruelties, &c., practice by the agents of the British Government in the vain attempt to subdue this country? It appears to the writer that not only were the immediate agents responsible but that the Government and all who sustained its authority and measures must be held accountable. A government nominally Christian may decree a day of thanksgiving for victories achieved and multitudes repair to the House of God with hymns of praise for battles won, yet the hands lifted up may be stained with blood. A day of swift vengeance may be in reserve for a nation ringing with acclamations of joy and apparent gratitude.**

**Much may be said in regard to the laws of nations, by way of extenuating the moral turpitude of the events growing out of the prosecution of war. But what are the laws of nations? Are they of any higher origin than the laws of honor, falsely so called? Who enacted the laws of nations? Who enforces obedience to their precepts? If the laws of honor were invented by people of fashion to regulate their intercourse with each other without any regard to morality what ever, the laws of nations express nothing more than the usages of civilized nations in their intercourse with each other. Things usual may be a violation of the most obvious principals of morality, no less among nations than a single community. We never can make vice a virtue, nor a virtue vice. Use may blunt the moral perception of men and overcome our natural horror at atrocious cruelty, it may with many pass as a safe rule of conduct, but it can never determine**

**a thing to be right or justify a man or a nation in the sight of the Creator.**

**Hence the robberies and murders justified by the laws of nations and the laws of war are still robberies and murders. If war is ever justified it must be waged either under the immediate command of God, or to sustain the obvious principles of justice. And if the end be right it does not follow that all the means employed must be right also.**

### **Morgan Comes to South Carolina**

**In the month of December a part of the Continental Army, now under the command of Gen. Greene, was sent forward into South Carolina, while the main body took post on the Peedee in North Carolina. The detachment pushed forward into South Carolina was placed under the immediate command of Gen. Daniel Morgan, recently arrived from the main army at the North. The principal object of this expedition was to enable the Whigs in the northwestern part of the state to embody, for since the affair at Blackstock's the army then under the command of Gen. Sumpter had been dispersed in small squads, both to acquire a subsistence and for the want of a leader in whose talents and courage they had confidence.**

**After executing various movements the detachment under Morgan encamped at the Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River, about Christmas. It was soon joined by a body of militia from North Carolina, as the writer supposes from the region of Burke, and under the immediate command of Major Joseph McDowell. The regiments of Brandon and Thomas took post in**

the immediate vicinity of Morgan's camp. At the same time the regiment of McCall, a part of the brigade of Gen. Pickens, joined his standard. A corps of Georgians under Majors Jackson and Cunningham also came up. Pickens was approaching with the residue of his force from the region of Long Cane, in what is now Abbeville. Among other objects of importance which pressed upon the attention of the enterprising general was the means of subsisting his army, for small as it was its stores of provisions were much smaller. Its position was in the midst of a country which had within a few months been ravaged successively by the armies of Ferguson and Tarleton. And in addition to the supplies levied by these commanders and their subordinate officers, bands of Tories had visited every house owned by a Whig, with desolation in the whole region round about.

Mrs. Angelia Nott, widow of the late Judge Nott, lived in this vicinity at the time and states that the family with which she lived had nothing to eat but roasting ears during a considerable portion of the summer and autumn preceding, that every comfort in the shape of bedding was taken from them, that salt a great deal of the time was out of the question and that leather shoes was a luxury that no Whig family enjoyed that winter.

### **Morgan In Need of Provisions**

But Morgan's army must have provisions or quit the country, thence his commissaries are dispatched abroad to glean whatever could be found. In these excursions they were generally accompanied by portions of the commands of Thomas or Brandon. These colonels were aided by Lieut. Cols. Farr and

Roebuck and Majors Joseph McJunkin and Henry White, with the captains of their several regiments. While engaged in these preparations for action a body of Tories making Hammond's Store their headquarters advanced as far as Fairforest Creek to embarrass these operations. Morgan immediately despatched Cols. Washington and McCall with a command of some three hundred men to drive them from the country. Major McJunkin and some others familiar with the country were sent as pilots.

### **Skirmish at Hammond's Store**

Washington came suddenly upon the Tories at Hammond's Store and a general rout ensued. It was said Washington reported 100 killed and wounded, with forty prisoners. The whole party of Tories amounted to something over 200, so that but few escaped. They were commanded by a Col. Pearson and Major Ben Wofford.

A detachment from Washington's command then proceeded to a fort on Mudlick Creek commanded by Gen. Cunningham, but the Tories then made their escape to the garrison at Ninety Six, which was not far distant. The effect of these movements was that Cornwallis immediately despatched Col. Tarleton to Ninety Six.

### **"Push Morgan to the Utmost"**

When Cornwallis was informed of Washington's return he ordered Tarleton to turn upon Morgan and push him to the utmost. Washington, in going back to the Grindal Shoals, passed near the camp of Pickens; Major McJunkin asked and obtained leave to stop there for a time. In a short time after his



arrival there Pickens received intelligence of Tarleton's intended movement against Morgan. He accordingly despatched McJunkin and James Park to carry a verbal message to Morgan. They mounted their horses about dark, swam Fairforest and Mill Creeks and Pacolet River and reached the army in safety. When carried to Morgan's tent the message was delivered, and Morgan's plans immediately formed.

The world knows the result, perhaps no battle which occurred in the War of the Revolution is better known in the country than that the Cowpens. Writer after writer has tried to describe it, speech after speech has been made to celebrate it. The writer of this narrative will not try his hand at it. He will simply make a few observations in regard to it. The direction from which Tarleton approached Morgan was from where Newberry Court House now is. The plan of Lord Cornwallis was to move himself with the main army and place him self in the rear of Morgan's position on the Pacolet River. Accordingly, a few days before the battle he put his army in motion with a view of being in the vicinity of King's Mountain at the time of the attack on Morgan.

At the same time Gen. Leslie was directed to move from Camden up the Wateree toward Charlotte. The object of these movements was to cut off the retreat of Morgan and prevent his junction with Greene. His Lordship, however, halted on the west side of Turkey Creek and remained until after the battle. Why he did not execute his own part of his plan is a question. He tarried and ordered Leslie to join him, but why? He had a number of intelligent prisoners in his camp, among them Capt. Jamieson and Samuel McJunkin. They were of opinion that

while Cornwallis lay at Hillhouses's Old Field, where he continued about a week and where he was at the time of the battle, he was sadly under the influence of fear.

His dreams seemed to be about the recent tragedy at King's Mountain, which had so completely broken up his schemes while in North Carolina. There were some exciting causes for this. The army under his immediate view was comparatively small. His most effective troops for such a region were with Tarleton. Those under Leslie were two days march to the eastward and exposed to the enterprises of Greene and Marion, men on whose drowsiness he had not the right to presume.

### **Cornwallis Sees Ghosts**

But a more immediate cause of dread was about his own quarters. He had no cavalry of any worth. A strange looking set of horsemen prowled about his camp and seemed extremely busy looking into all of his arrangements. In vain he ordered them to be fired on; in vain he sent parties in pursuit. They went and came when they pleased, insulted sentinels and behaved as though they had as lieve charge right through his army as any other way. It added not a little to his perplexity that their dress was different from that of any rebels he had ever seen before, and his prisoners knew as little whence they had come as he did. He finally set a favorite dog after them one day and the fellow had the audacity to shoot the dog in sight of His Lordship. From dread or some other cause he was a day's march from the place where Tarleton had a right to expect he would be when he attacked Morgan.

## **Morgan Afraid of Own Men**

When Morgan was apprised of Tarleton's approach he fell back a day's march from his position on the Pacolet. He perhaps doubted the propriety of giving battle at all. His force was considerably inferior to that arrayed against him. The officers and men composing the entire body of his militia were almost wholly unknown to him except by report. He could not know what confidence to place in their skill and courage. A retrograde movement was necessary to enable him to call in scattered detachments. On the night of Jan. 16 the last of these joined him some time after dark. He now had his entire force and the question must be decided, "Shall we fight or fly?" The South Carolina militia demanded a fight. Their general could, from past experience and common fame, commend their courage in their present position, but let them cross Broad River and he would not answer for their conduct. Here the final decision is to risk a battle. The Cols. Brandon and Roebuck, with some others, had the special charge of watching Tarleton's movements from the time he reached the valley of the Pacolet. They sat on their horses as he approached and passed that stream and counted his men and sent their report to headquarters. They watched his camp on the night of the 16th until he began his march to give battle. Morgan appears to have had the most exact information of everything necessary.

## **Morgan Addresses His Army**

On the morning of the 17th he had his men called up. He addressed them in a strain well adapted to inflame their courage. Major Jackson of Georgia also spoke to the militia. The lines formed and the plan of battle disclosed. Three lines

of infantry were drawn across the plain. First the regulars and some companies of Virginia militia are posted where the final issue is expected. In front of these the main body of militia under Gen. Pickens are drawn up at the distance of 150 yards. Still in front of these at the distance of 150 yards a corps of picked riflemen is scattered in loose order along the whole front.

### **Battle of the Cowpens**

The guns of the videttes, led by Capt. Inman announce the approach of the foe, and soon the red coats stream before the eyes of the militia. A column marches up in front of Brandon's men led by a gayly dressed officer on horseback. The word passes along the line, "*Who can bring him down?*" John Savage looked Col. Farr full in the face and read yes in his eye. He darted a few paces in front, laid his rifle against a sapling, a blue gas streamed above his head, the sharp crack of a rifle broke the solemn stillness of the occasion and a horse without a rider wheeled from the front of the advancing column. In a few moments the fire is general. The sharpshooters fall behind Pickens and presently his line yields. Then there is a charge of the dragoons even past the line of regulars after the retreating militia. Numbers are cut down.

Two dragoons assault a large rifleman, Joseph Hughes by name. His gun was empty, but with it he parries their blows and dodges round a tree, but they still persist. At the moment the assault on Hughes began John Savage was priming his rifle. Just as they pass the tree to strike Hughes he levels his gun and one of the dragoons tumbles from his horse pierced with a

bullet. The next moment the rifle carried by Hughes, now literally hacked over, slips out of his hands and inflicts such a blow upon the other dragoon that he quits the contest and retires hanging by the mane of his horse.

Soon, however, the militia are relieved from the British dragoons by a charge of the American light horse. The British cavalry are borne from the field. Meanwhile the British infantry and the regulars under Col. Howard are hotly engaged; the fight becomes desperate. Howard orders a charge, the militia come back and fall in right and left. The British line is broken, some begin to call for quarters, the voice of Howard is heard amidst the rush of men and clangor of steel: "*Throw down your arms and you shall have good quarters.*"

### **The Surrender of the British**

One battalion throws down their arms and the men fall to the earth. Another commences flight, but Washington darts before them with his cavalry and they too ground their arms. In the conclusion of this last foray you might have seen Major Jackson of Georgia rush among the broken ranks of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment and attempting to seize their standard, while they are vainly trying to form by it; you might have seen Col. Howard interposing for the relief of his friend when entangled among his foes.

At the end of the strife you might have seen the same young man introducing Major McArthur, the commandant of the British infantry, to Gen. Morgan and receiving the General's thanks for the gallantry displayed on the occasion. You might have seen

some five or six hundred tall, brawny, well clad soldiers, the flower of the British Army, guarded by a set of militia clad in hunting shirts, "blackened, smoked and greasy."

The plain was strewn with the dead and dying. The scattered fragments of the British Army were hurrying from the scene of carnage. Washington hastily collected his cavalry and dashed off in pursuit of Tarleton. He was preceded, however, by a party that started with a view of taking possession of the baggage wagons of the enemy. The victory was complete.

### **American Units in the Engagement**

The militia engaged in this battle belonged to three States, the two Carolinas and Georgia. Two companies from Virginia were present, but were in line with the Maryland regiment under Howard. The North Carolina militia were led by Major McDowell. The Georgia militia were under the immediate command of Majors Cunningham and Jackson; the Captains were Samuel Hammond, George Walton and Joshua Inman. Major Jackson also acted as Brigade Major to all the militia present. The South Carolina militia were directed by Gen. Pickens. The Colonels were John Thomas, Thomas Brandon, Glenn Anderson and McCall; the Lieutenant Colonels, William Farr and Benjamin Roebuck; the Majors, Henry White and Joseph McJunkin; Captains, John Alexander, Collins, Elder, Crawford, with Lieuts. Thomas Moore and Hugh Means, (Can any one fill out the list?)

On the night before the battle forty-five militia soldiers were enrolled as dragoons and placed under the command of Col.

**McCall and annexed to Washington's Cavalry. These officers and men, in the respective commands, were far from being tyros in the art of war. They were marksmen and had generally been in the war from its commencement. In regard to the conduct of Major McJunkin on this occasion the testimony of those who acted under him and with him is to this effect: That he exhibited undaunted courage in action and contributed largely in bringing the militia in order to the final onset by which the battle so honorably terminated.**

### **Morgan Evades Cornwallis**

**Soon after the conflict was ended Morgan put his army in motion to evade the operations of Cornwallis and secure the fruits of his victory. He passed over the Broad River that day at Island Ford, whither he had sent his baggage wagons that morning. Thence he directed his march toward Beatty's Ford on the Catawba. Here commenced the famous race between him and Cornwallis. The latter, as soon as he heard of the affair at the Cowpens, put his army in motion to retake the prisoners and chastise the hero of the Cowpens. Morgan fully appreciated his danger and put forth all his energies to avert it, and hence the flight and pursuit to the Dan River in Virginia. When Morgan's army was safely across the Yadkin he advised a portion of the South Carolina militia to return and defend their homes in the best manner they could. The regiments of Brandon and Thomas accordingly did return.**

### **Brandon Camps at Union**

**Immediately after the return of Brandon's command from North Carolina a camp was formed in the vicinity of the present**



site of Union, with a view of protecting the Whig population in that region. Soon after his arrival in this section Col. Brandon received orders from Gen. Sumpter to collect as many men as possible and meet him on the east side of the Congaree River. In obedience to this requisition Brandon proceeded into the vicinity of Granby, where he understood that a superior force of the enemy were manoeuvring, with a view to prevent his junction with Sumpter, hence he deemed it expedient to effect a retreat toward home. When out of the reach of pursuit he received intelligence from Col. Roebuck that he designed to attack a body of Tories in the direction of Ninety Six.

### **McJunkin Goes to Aid Roebuck**

Brandon immediately detached part of his force under the command of Major McJunkin to co-operate with Roebuck in this enterprise. On the arrival of the latter in the region of the contemplated operation he received intelligence that Roebuck had already met the enemy and the result of that meeting, and hence he fell back with his party to unite with Brandon.

This battle has sometimes been called Roebuck's Defeat. No history of the country, it is believed, ever alludes to the transaction. It possesses some interest, and hence we transcribe an account of it found in the Magnolia for 1842, which, upon the whole, we believe may be relied upon as a correct statement, but not without some mistakes, which we shall point out as far as we can.

### **Battle of Mudlick Creek**

*"The Battle of Mudlick was fought in the summer of 1781 by the*

*remnant of a regiment of militia under the command of Col. Benjamin Roebuck and a garrison of British soldiers and Tories stationed at Williams's Fort in Newberry District. The Whigs did not exceed 150 men, while the enemy was greatly superior in point of numbers and had the protection of a strong fortress. In order to deprive them of this advantage the following stratagem was resorted to by Col. Roebuck and Lieut, Col. White.*

*"Those of the Whigs who were mounted riflemen were ordered to show themselves in front of the fortress and then retreat to an advantageous position selected by the commanding officer. The enemy no sooner saw the militia retreating than they commenced a hot pursuit, confident of an easy victory. Their first onset was a furious one, but was in some measure checked by Col. White and his riflemen. As soon as the 'green coat cavalry' made their appearance Col. White leveled his rifle at one of the officers in front and felled him to the ground.*

*"This successful shot was immediately followed by others from the mounted riflemen, which brought the cavalry to a halt until the infantry came up. The engagement then became general and waged with great heat for some time. The fate of the battle seemed uncertain for fifty or sixty minutes. At length the British and Tories were entirely routed, after having sustained considerable loss in proportion to their numbers. The loss of the Whigs was nothing like so great, but they had to lament the loss of several officers and brave soldiers. Among the former was Capt. Robert Thomas. Col. White was badly wounded, but recovered. This engagement was known as the Battle of Mudlick from the creek on which Williams's Fort stood. It is not mentioned in any history of the American Revolution, though its consequences were of the highest importance to the Whigs of Newberry and adjoining districts. It broke up the enemy's stronghold in that*

*section of country and relieved the people from those marauding bands which infested every part of the state where there was a British station.*

### **Cols. Roebuck and White**

*"The names of Col. Benjamin Roebuck and Lieut. Col. Henry White are not mentioned in our Revolutionary history, and yet there were not two more active or useful partisan officers at the time in the service of their country. Col. Roebuck was the beau ideal of a gallant officer, brave to a fault and as disinterested as he was brave. There never lived a man more devoted, heart, soul and body, to the service of his country than this gentleman. His memory is now cherished by the few surviving soldiers of his regiment with a fondness and enthusiasm bordering on idolatry. He was, as is believed, a native of Spartanburg District, and commanded a regiment of her militia throughout the American Revolution. He had the command of a Colonel in the Battle of Cowpens, and was the first who received the attack of the British in that memorable engagement. He was in many other battles and in all of them displayed the undaunted courage of a hero and the skill of an experienced officer. He was taken prisoner and confined in close custody at Ninety Six. He was several times wounded, and suffered much from his wounds. He died at the close of the war. He was never married.*

*"Col. White was the intimate friend and companion-in-arms of Col. Roebuck. He, too, was a most active, gallant and useful officer throughout the whole of our struggle for independence. He served at the Siege of Ninety Six, was in the battles of Cowpens and Eutaw under Gen. Greene. After the last named battle he returned home and was actively employed in Spartanburg District in purging the community of those predatory bands of Tories which were the terror and pest of the country. He lived to a good old age and saw his country*

*enjoy peace and prosperity, those blessings for which he had so manfully fought and bled in his younger days."*

**This long extract has been transcribed by the writer for the following reasons: 1. It falls naturally into his narrative of events. 2. It is due to the actors that their hard-earned fame should be preserved. 3. With a view to offering criticisms in reference to some of the facts stated. The writer, however, is far from wishing to excite unpleasant feelings in the mind of the gentleman who penned this extract. On the contrary he takes this opportunity of tendering him thanks for his industry and zeal in collecting his "Revolutionary Incidents," published in the Magnolia for 1842.**

### **Date of Mudlick Engagement Fixed**

**The battle above described is stated to have occurred in the summer of 1781. The written narrative of Major McJunkin, before the writer, fixes the date on March 2. This narrative was written in 1837, five years before the publication of above extract. The statement of Major McJunkin is corroborated by the testimony of Mr. Samuel Smith, a surviving soldier of the Revolution who then resided in the same vicinity with Col. Benjamin Roebuck and knew him well. The statement of Mr. Smith will be given as our criticism on the above statement in reference to Col. Roebuck. Mr. Smith was then in his sixteenth year, the youngest of the six sons of Ralph Smith, all engaged more or less in service. One of them, William, held a Major's commission in the same regiment with Roebuck. His account of Roebuck is in substance as follows:**

## **Sketch of Col. Benjamin Roebuck**

**The father of Col. Roebuck removed from the North (probably Virginia) in 1777 and settled upon Tyger River a short distance above Blackstock's Ford. Upon the first call for soldiers after his arrival his son, Benjamin, turned out and was made First Lieutenant in the company of Capt. William Smith; was with Gen. Lincoln in Georgia and participated in the various campaigns until the fall of Charleston. Shortly after that event he fled with others into North Carolina. During his absence he was appointed a Major in the 1<sup>st</sup> Spartan Regiment, of which Col. John Thomas Jr. was about that time appointed Colonel. He was Lieut. Colonel at the Battle of the Cowpens. Soon after that event Thomas received a Colonel's commission in a different department of the service and Roebuck succeeded in command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Spartan Regiment and White rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.**

**Mr. Smith further states that as soon as Col. Roebuck returned to the neighborhood after the Battle of the Cowpens he engaged actively in warfare with the Tories who came up from the direction of Ninety Six to harass the Whigs in the region round about. (Mr. Smith had come back in a few days after that battle; Roebuck probably accompanied Morgan beyond the Yadkin.) After various conflicts, marches and countermarches, Roebuck was surprised one night in the neighborhood of his home in company with Capt. Matthew Patton, and both were taken. On the same night Mr. Smith was also taken prisoner, and perhaps a dozen more in the same section.**

## **Tories Make Arrest**

**They were brought together and marched off in the direction of Ninety Six. At a place of rendezvous on Little River they were all tried for their lives. Capts. Patton and Elder, with Charles Bruce and another man named Elder, were condemned to be hung. Col. Roebuck and the rest were sent to jail in Ninety Six and continued there until within a few days of the time when Gen. Greene laid siege to that place. Some of the prisoners were then paroled and allowed to return to their homes, while others, and among them Col. Roebuck, were sent off to the prison ships.**

**Mr. Smith thinks Col. Roebuck was not exchanged until the fall. He was taken on the night on March 10. His death occurred in the year 1787. Mr. Smith further states that Col. Roebuck was in the Battles of Ramseur's Mill and King's Mountain. And the writer supposes he was also in the others in that campaign in which some of his regiments were present, viz.: Hanging Rock, Rocky Mount and Musgrove's Mill. He was not at Blackstock's, but near, and in the course of the succeeding night was very busy in giving notice to the Whigs round about of the impending danger, by which a number escaped capture. But unfortunately his aged father fell into the hands of the British and died of disease in confinement.**

**Capt. Robert Thomas, mentioned above, was the son of Col. John Thomas sr. Mrs. McHargue of Green County, Ga., is his daughter. His brother, William Thomas, was wounded in the same engagement. The descendants of Col. Henry White may be found in great numbers at present in Spartanburg District.**

## McJunkin Disabled by Wound

Major McJunkin, as has been stated, having received intelligence of Roebuck's battle, started on his return to Brandon's headquarters. On the night of the same day, March 2, 1781, while absent from the main body of his command accompanied by a single soldier, as a scouting party, he had an encounter with a few Tories and received a ball in his right arm, which measurably disabled him from service for the balance of the war. The details of this transaction are not given in the written narrative before the writer. He therefore takes the liberty of making another extract from the Magnolia. (See January number of the Magnolia for 1843, page 39.) The whole article is understood to be from the pen of a distinguished judge of South Carolina:

## Magnolia Magazine Quoted

*"On his return he and Lawson, one of his men, scouting at a distance from the rest of the party, rode up toward a house at night. At the gate they were confronted by three Tories; Fight or die was the only alternative. He and Lawson presented their rifles at two. Lawson's gun fired clear and killed his man. The Major's gun fired also, but was a mere squib and produced no other effect than to set fire to his adversary's shirt. As Lawson's antagonist fell he jumped down, picked up his gun and shot down the other Tory and passed his sword through his body. The Major's fire so disconcerted his adversary that he missed him. The Major charged, sword in hand; his adversary fled. His flight on horseback soon caused his shirt to burn like a candle. This light so disconcerted McJunkin's horse that he could not make him charge the fugitive. After running him a mile to get a blow at him he ran his horse alongside. At that instant the flying Tory drew a*



*pistol, fired, and the ball struck and broke McJunkin's sword arm. His sword was, luckily, fastened to his wrist by a leather string. As his arm fell powerless by his side he caught the sword in his left hand and drew it off his sword arm, and with a back handed blow as their horses ran side by side he killed his man. Lawson's second man recovered, notwithstanding he was shot and run through with a sword."*

**Notwithstanding the severity and inconvenience of this wound, Major McJunkin rejoined his men and continued his march to Brandon's camp that night. Here his pain became so excruciating that some of his soldiers cut the ball out of his arm with a dull razor.**

### **McJunkin to Brown's Creek Retreat**

**For safety during the period necessary for his recovery he was carried by a party of his men into an unfrequented part of the country lying on Brown's Creek and his wants cared for in the midst of a dense thicket. The appearance of his wounded arm beginning to indicate great danger, one of his fellow soldiers by great exertions and personal danger succeeded in bringing Dr. Ross to his place of concealment. The name of this soldier was David Brown.**

**Under the treatment of Dr. Ross his wound began to heal and the prospect of recovery to grow bright. But here a new danger appeared. The Tories, learning the place of his retreat, were making arrangements to march upon his party. To avoid this difficulty he was carried by his men across Broad River into the vicinity of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Alexander, whose house, says Major McJunkin, was a real Lazaretto for the sick and**

wounded of our army.

### **Anderson Takes McJunkin Captive**

Here he took the smallpox in the natural way. His mother came over to wait upon him, took the disease and died. Here he remained how ever, until partially recovered both of his wound and disease.

On May 7 he returned to his father's house. The Tories, hearing that night of his arrival, a party came next morning and made him prisoner. The party was commanded by one Bud Anderson. This party, immediately after his capture, set out toward the iron works on Lawson's Fork. These works have sometimes been called Wofford's, at others, Berwick's.

On this march other prisoners were taken, some of whom were killed on their knees begging for quarter. Being arrived at or near the works, a kind of trial was gone through to decide what should be done with him. The sentence of the court was that he should be hanged in five minutes from the reading of the verdict. A rope was tied around his neck, he was set upon some kind of scaffolding under the limb of a tree and the rope fastened to it.

### **Timely Interference Saves McJunkin**

At this moment a party was seen approaching on horseback at full speed. The commander of those having him in charge ordered the execution stopped until the object of the approaching party was ascertained. One of them came up and whispered something in the ear of the leader. The leader

ordered the execution suspended for the present and the whole party to mount. They hurried away, and after beating about the country for a short time set off in the direction of the British garrison at Ninety Six. The motive of the delay of his execution was the approach of a party of Whigs, as he afterward learned.

While in the custody of this party of Tories no epithets were too abusive or insulting to be applied to him with the greatest freedom and frequency. When arrived within a mile of the British post the party halted some time for consultation or some other purpose. While here he lay on the ground, with his wounded arm resting on his forehead. Another party of Tories came up, their leader believed to have been the famous William Cunningham. As soon as he cast his eyes on Major McJunkin he rushed upon him with his sword drawn.

Just as the major expected to receive its descending point he suddenly wheeled off and said, "*I was mistaken in the man.*"

### **Incarcerated at Ninety Six**

Thence he was carried into Ninety Six. A court martial was summoned to investigate his case. The forms observed were somewhat honorable. He was charged with killing one of His Majesty's subjects -- the man that broke his arm. He showed them his arm, told them where they met the Tories and where the man was killed, and asked if it was possible that a man whose sword arm was broken to pursue a man a mile and kill him. Gen. Cunningham, the president of the court, said it was impossible, and the whole court concurred. He was therefore

acquitted of the charge, but sentenced to close confinement as a prisoner of war. He remained in jail at this place from that time, about the 12th or 14th of May, until a few days before Gen. Greene lay siege to the place, the 23d of the same month. He was paroled, with some others, and allowed to return home.

### **Meet Greene at Island Ford**

When they arrived at the ferry on the Saluda River they heard of a skirmish that had recently occurred up that river, and soon a detachment of Greene's army came in sight. The paroled prisoners were taken by this party to Gen. Greene. Upon consultation and advice from Col. Brandon, they turned back with Greene's army and remained with it until near the time the siege was raised. They then got an opportunity and returned to their several homes.

Major McJunkin having been disabled so as to disqualify him for the active and arduous duties of the army, had no share in the great events of the subsequent part of that campaign in South Carolina, but participated in such measures as were necessary to protect the persons and property of the Whig population from the aggressions of the Tories until the close of the war.

### **Interesting Random Accounts**

The reader having followed Major McJunkin through a narrative of his personal adventures in the great war that once devastated this country, broke up the peace and order of society, armed brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, made thousands of wives widows, filled the country with

orphans, but finally closed in giving us nationality and independence, may now have some faint conceptions of the horrors of war. But the picture lacks much of being finished. The illustration can never be complete, the conception never fully adequate from any recital of facts. It may be proper to close this narrative by mentioning some incidents connected with the main events already alluded to or described. Some of these were learned from Major McJunkin, and some are given from the authority of others who were witnesses of the times that try men's souls.

### **A Prophetic Dream**

*“On the second night before the Battle of Compens”, says Major McJunkin, “my mess in sleeping consisted of Col. Glenn of Newberry and Major Jackson of Georgia. Col. Glenn, after having slept, said he had a dream. He was asked to tell it. He said he had just dreamed he had a dreadful conflict with a very large and terrible looking snake with his sword; he had cut it in two. That the head had escaped, but the tail lay powerless at his feet. He then asked Major Jackson if he could construe the dream.”*

*“I do not profess to be a construer of dreams,” said the Major, “but suppose the party to which you belong and the enemy now pursuing as a great serpent will have a battle, that the snake Tarleton will suffer a partial defeat, lose a considerable portion of his force, but at the head effect his escape in safety from the scene of conflict.”*

### **Clowney Makes Big Haul**

Some time during the heat of the conflict in upper South Carolina, Samuel Clowney, an Irishman and a most determined

Whig, was on a scout accompanied by a Negro man of remarkable fidelity to his master and withal a strong Whig. As Clowney was approaching the margin of a stream he heard a party of horsemen approaching from the opposite direction. It was dark. He conjectured that they must be Tories and determined to try his hand with the whole party. He gave the Negro an intimation of his intention and of the part he should act. They remained quietly at the brink of the creek until the party was within the banks. He then demanded who they were. They answered, "*Friends to the King!*" He ordered them to come out instantly and give up their arms or they would be cut to pieces. They obeyed. He directed his men, as though he had a dozen or two, to gather up the arms and surround the prisoners. He then ordered them forward march, under the direction of the guide, and conducted them in safety to his own party. The prisoners were much chagrined when they found their captors to be only two in number, while they were five.

### A Surprise for Whigs and Tories

A day or two before the Battle of King's Mountain a party of Whigs consisting of some eight or ten men were lurking about the thickets along Brown's Creek near Broad River to gain intelligence of both friends and enemies. Joseph Hughes, John Savage, William Sharp, William Giles and Charles Crade are said to have been in the party. Late in the afternoon they took a pet Tory. From him they ascertained that a party of Tories, some 250 in number, intended to encamp that night at a school house near Hollingsworth Mill on Brown's Creek. The house

was on a high hill which was covered with thick woods. Hughes and party determined to try to give them an alarm. They accordingly arranged their plan of attack.

Some time after dark they approached the enemy's camp, spread themselves in open order around the hill at some distance from each other with the understanding that they should approach until hailed by the sentinels, lie down until they fired, then make a rush toward the camp, commence firing one at a time, raise a shout and rush into the camp.

Accordingly they moved forward with great caution. The fires in the camp threw a glaring light toward the canopy of heaven and lit up the forest far and near. All was joy and gladness in the camp. The jovial song and merry laugh told the listening ears of the approaching Whigs that good cheer abounded among the friends of King George around the fires.

But hark! The sentinel hails and then fires and then a rush. Bang, bang, go the guns, and then such screams and yells throughout the woods. Mercy, mercy, cry the Tories, and away they go. The poor scattered Whigs come one after another among the fires and pass around, but not a Tory can be found. They hear a rushing, rumbling sound among the woods, but growing fainter and more faint at each successive moment.

They look cautiously around, see wagons standing hither and thither, horses hitched to them and at the surrounding trees, guns stacked, cooking utensils about the fires, clothing and hats and caps scattered in merry confusion, but not a man could they



**find.**

**They kept guard until the gray twilight streaked the eastern sky, momentarily expecting the returning party, but nobody came. The sun rises and mounts high above the hills and still no report from the fugitives. What is to be done with the beasts, arms, baggage and baggage wagons? They cut a road from the camp around the hill some distance to a secluded spot. Thither the wagons, &c. are transported and watched for several days. Finally the one on guard sees a party of fifteen horse men rapidly approaching. He notifies the others and they consult for a moment. Their conclusion is that it is the advance guard of an army coming to retake the spoils, but they are resolved to test the matter.**

### **Fleeing From King's Mountain**

**They advance and hail their visitors while permitting their horses to drink at the creek. But the horsemen responded only by a confused flight. They fired upon the flying corps and a single horse stops, unable to proceed. His rider surrenders in dismay. From him they learned that his party was just from King's Mountain and escaping as best they could from their assailants. Having gotten off from that scene of carnage, they were pushing on with no other object than personal safety.**

**Then they went out and collected as many friends as could be gathered and conveyed away their spoils where they and their friends could enjoy the benefit.**

## **A Rendezvous for Whigs**

**Love's Ford of Broad River is some miles below the mouth of Pacolet. Crossing at this place was somewhat difficult and not without danger to persons not acquainted with the place. In addition to the difficulties in the stream itself, the country around was in a wild, unsettled state at the period of the Revolutionary War. The low ground was covered with dense canebrakes, the hills, abundant round about, clad with reeds and wild peavines to their very summits. This vicinity afforded an excellent shelter for fugitives during the period of the Tory ascendancy in South Carolina. At this time the ford was rarely passed except by armed bands and the more adventurous persons of the vicinity. The Whigs resident in adjacent parts of the country were accustomed to frequent the locality for the double purpose of concealment and to embarrass the movements of the enemy through this section.**

**On the evening of the next day after the Battle at Cowpens a party of some fifty or sixty British troops, having succeeded in making good their retreat that far from the battle, were moving on toward Love's Ford. Their object was to reach the camp of Lord Cornwallis. Some distance from the river their leader turned off the road to the house of a Mr. Palmer to get directions. Here he met Mr. Sharp. The latter immediately presented his rifle and ordered him to surrender. The officer obeyed. Sharp learned his character, object, &c., as quick as possible.**

## **Sharp Captures British Refugees**

**Having secured the commander, he determined to lose no time**

in pursuing his party. Accordingly, he went to his hiding place in the woods to rally his force. This consisted of James Savage, Richard Hughes, and perhaps others. About the time the men were gotten together a Mrs. Hall, a resident in the vicinity, came up in great haste. She had seen the British on their way and ran to give notice to the Whigs.

Sharp and party pursued. Half a mile from the ford they met a man running as for life. He reported on crossing the river he had come upon a party of British soldiers, that they had stopped on top of a hill, apparently with a view of spending the night. Their armor and uniforms glistened in the sun, and though they took no notice of him, yet he was greatly alarmed at his situation. Sharp led on his men. They presented themselves suddenly before the enemy and ordered them to surrender. The summons was obeyed by some thirty or forty men. The balance ran off, some down the river, others threw their guns into it and leaped in themselves. Sharp led his prisoners to Morgan's camp and delivered them up prisoners of war. The above instance has its counter part in the following, which is found in Mills's Statistics of South Carolina:

### Otterson and Companion Take 30

*"Major Samuel Otterson being on his way to join Morgan at Cowpens, was followed by a few badly mounted volunteers. Finding on his approach to the place that the battle was begun, he determined to halt his men near a cross road, which he knew the enemy would take on the return, and wait either to make prisoners in case of their defeat or to attempt the rescue of our men who might be prisoners in their hands."*

*"It was not long before a considerable body of the British horsemen, were discovered in full speed coming down the road. They appeared evidently to have been defeated. Major (then Captain) Otterson now proposed to his men to follow the enemy and attempt to make some prisoners, but found only one man willing to join him. Having mounted him on the best horse in the company and having armed themselves in the best possible manner, they pushed on after the flying enemy. In the pursuit Capt. Otterson prudently determined to keep at some distance in the rear until dark. He occasionally stopped at some of the houses along the road, ascertained the situation, number and distance of the enemy, and found his suspicions were verified that they had been defeated and that these horsemen were a part of Tarleton's cavalry. Toward dusk Capt. Otterson and his companion pushed their horses nearer the enemy, and when it was dark dashed in among them with a shout, fired their arms and ordered them to surrender. The darkness prevented the enemy from knowing the number of those by whom they were surprised and they surrendered at once. They were required to dismount, come forward and deliver up their arms, which they did. Being all secured and light struck, nothing could exceed the mortification of the British officer in command when he found that he had surrendered to two men.*

*"But this was not the end of this gallant affair. These British troopers, thirty in number, were all conducted by their captors in safety into North Carolina and delivered to Morgan as prisoners of war. Several days had to elapse before this was done, during which time these men never closed their eyes in sleep.*

*"Major Otterson's residence was on Tyger River in the vicinity of Hamilton's Ford. He distinguished himself on several occasions in time of the war and proved a highly respectable and useful citizen after*

*its close. Some thirty years ago he removed to Alabama."*

### **Whig Scouts Surprised**

**A party of eight persons were set on a scout. They stopped at the house of an old man named Leighton. The house was near Fairforest Creek and not far from its mouth. A lane passed through the plantation by his house. Leighton was of doubtful politics, with an inclination to the strongest side. At the time the scouts stopped a party of 100 Tories were lying on the other side of the creek. In a short time they came over and formed on each side of the house, unperceived by the Whigs. Two of their party came near and fired. Two of the Whigs, William Sharp and William Giles, mounted their horses and charged through the Tories and made good their escape. Two others, John Jolly and Charles Crane, ran off on foot through the field. Crane succeeded, but Jolly was shot dead. The remaining four staid in the house, made a gallant defense, killed and wounded a number of their assailants, but after night were compelled to capitulate. They were put in jail at Ninety Six, where two of them, Richard Hughes Sr., and his son, John, died. The other two, James Johnson and Allbritton, returned. This affair occurred in the latter part of 1780.**

### **Major Thomas Young**

**Persons in the habit of attending at Union upon public days within the last twenty years have hardly failed to notice an old gentleman moving about in the crowd. He was of rather a thick make, broad shoulders and brawny arms. Among his gray locks several deep scars may be traced across his head. If his right arm were made bare similar evidences of violent dealing would**

be manifest. This gentleman was familiarly known as Major Tom Young. Whence these scars? On the night before the Battle of Cowpens it was considered a matter of importance to strengthen Washington's squadron of horsemen preparatory to battle. A call was made among the militia for volunteers to augment this corps. Thomas Young was then a youth of sixteen, but he had already taken some practical lessons on the battlefield. On that night he joined the cavalry under McCall. He went through the battle of the next day in safety, having accompanied Washington in his very effective evolutions on that occasion. After the surrender of the British infantry a company of fourteen dashed off to take possession of the British baggage wagons ten miles distant. Major Benjamin Jolly and a Frenchman called De Barron headed this party. It happened to pass Col. Tarleton while he was collecting his men after the retreat. Unconscious of this fact, they pressed on in comparative security.

A number of prisoners and pack horses were soon picked up. Jolly, not wishing to be impeded, ordered Thomas Young and some others to take charge of the prisoners and horses and conduct them to head quarters. In the exertion of this trust Mr. Young and party were met by Col. Tarleton and his cavalry.

Young wheeled and fled. Unfortunately he had exchanged horses in time of the battle. He was soon overtaken and, refusing to surrender, his head and arm were literally hacked over. He was finally overpowered and taken back to Tarleton. Though bleeding profusely he was taken along with the flying cavalry in their retreat.

## **Tarleton Grills Young En Route**

*"After we had proceeded some distance," says Major Young, "Col. Tarleton sent for me and I rode with him several miles. He questioned me about our force and whether Morgan had not received reinforcements on the night before. I told him," said the Major, "that we had not been reinforced, but that Morgan was in hourly expectation of new recruits. This last," said he, "was false, but I wished to alarm them as much as possible."*

**There was another prisoner along, taken at the same time with Mr, Young, named Deshazes. The two got together and determined to escape if possible during the night, which was now approaching. A British dragoon agreed to desert with them. About dark they reached Hamilton's Ford on Broad River. Here a scene of great confusion took place about taking the river. In the midst of the dispute Young and Deshazes rode into the woods and remained quiet until the British were gone. They then struck across Pacolet River and got among friends. Mr. Young presently recovered from his wounds and entered the service of his country again. He still lives, one of the very few surviving members of the Revolution.**

## **McJunkin In Peaceful Pursuits**

**About the close of the Revolutionary, War Major McJunkin purchased a tract of land in the vicinity in which he was brought up and applied himself assiduously to business as long as physical energy permitted. He raised a large family. His worthy companion lived to an old age. He united with the Presbyterian Church at Brown's Creek, of which he was for many years a ruling elder.**



**Some thirty-five years ago the Quaker residents in that section moved off in a body to the Northwest. They sold their place of worship to a citizen who purchased it with a view of moving the building to the plantation for a barn. Before the removal was commenced Majors McJunkin, Otterson, James Dugan, William Hobson and others made arrangements and bought the Quaker meeting house for a place of worship. Religious worship was commenced here by Rev. Daniel Gray, and Cane Creek Church has grown up from that beginning.**

**Through life he was a peaceable, industrious, enterprising man, & public spirited, upright citizen, a friend to science and a devout Christian.**

**He died on Sabbath morning, May 31, 1846, near the end of his ninety-first year. He was buried on the day following at his family burying ground, near the road leading from Union to Cook's Bridge, on Tyger River.**

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**(THE END)**