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The Museum Shop is delighted to introduce the work of Greenville, SC, artist Sarah Rose. Sarah uses imagery drawn from hikes through wild Carolina landscapes and from her husband's lush garden beds on their historic property. Her goal is to bring the beauty of our environment into our everyday lives. The Museum Shop is offering a selection of Sarah's notecards, Swedish dish cloths, artwork on linen, and tea towels. Visit the shop in person at 100 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC, 29401 or shop online by visiting shop.schistory.org.









### CAROLOGUE

FALL 2025 | VOL. 41, NO. I

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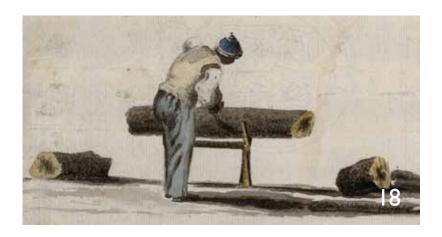
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Melina Testin, Education Coordinator

Design by Lauren Nivens Editing by Rebecca McClure

The South Carolina Historical Society 100 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401-2215 (843) 723-3225 | schistory.org



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#### ON THE COVER

An 1850 painting by William Tylee Ranney depicts General Francis Marion crossing the Pee Dee River on a raft accompanied by soldiers and guides, including two African Americans. By portraying them alongside the general, Ranney acknowledges Black contributions to the Revolution. Courtesy of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. For woodcutter image (above), see pages 18–19.

#### Voices of Revolution in South Carolina



This fall marks the opening of the exhibition *Voices of Revolution in South Carolina*, one of the South Carolina Historical Society's signature projects commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

This issue of *Carologue* considers how the American Revolution impacted people all over our state.

It has become commonplace to say that events changed the world, but the American Revolution did, and South Carolina and South Carolinians played major roles. South Carolinians in the Lowcountry led the way in protesting and resisting what they saw as unjust excesses of British rule, while keeping the British at bay until 1780. In the Backcountry, despite strong Loyalist sentiment, many skirmishes as well as major battles at Kings Mountain and Cowpens turned the tide for the Americans against the mighty British army.

While this transpired, all South Carolinians had to learn to survive in a world turned upside down.

Featuring items from the Historical Society's collection and generous loans from sister institutions across the state, the new exhibition tells interwoven stories of battles, women's actions, the complexities of what was really the first civil war in South Carolina, and the impact of the war on Native American tribes and enslaved people.

One of many fascinating stories connects an item in our Archives with objects from the Gibbes Museum of Art down the street, the Berkeley County Museum in Moncks Corner, and the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

We own the 4th SC Regiment Order Book, kept from

1775 to 1777 for the artillery regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Barnard Elliott. The 4th Regiment supported the 2nd SC Infantry Regiment during the Battle of Sullivan's Island. A remarkable survival, the Order Book contains firsthand accounts of the battle. It also tells us that three days after the battle, Susannah Smith Elliott, wife of Barnard Elliott, traveled to the island to present the 2nd Regiment with two banners she had made. She "honored the 2nd Regiment with a very elegant set of colors," praising the soldiers for their "gallant defense of Liberty."

Later, during the Siege of Savannah in 1779, the British 60th Royal American Regiment of Foot captured one of the 2nd SC Regiment banners. (In this battle the valiant Sergeant William Jasper lost his life.) That banner traveled to England with a returning soldier and did not come home to South Carolina until 1989. It is now jointly owned by the South Carolina State Museum and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Voices of Revolution in South Carolina tells this interconnected story: we will exhibit the Order Book, a miniature portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Elliott from the Gibbes, a replica of Susannah Smith Elliott's 2nd Regimental banner from the South Carolina State Museum, and uniform buttons from the Berkeley County Museum worn by the 60th Royal American Regiment of Foot.

I hope you will visit the Fireproof Building to see the exhibition and learn more about South Carolinians during this hinge point in American history. Remember that admission is only \$1 and free for our supporters!

Eljake Chev Elizabeth Chew, PhD

SCHS Chief Executive Officer elizabeth.chew@schsonline.org

#### Archives Amazon Wishlist

Support the SCHS Archives by shopping our Amazon Wishlist! These materials play an important role in our mission "to collect, preserve, and share the stories of all South Carolinians and use these stories—from significant historical events to everyday moments—to promote visibility, understanding, engagement, and conversation." Additionally, several items are disaster recovery supplies in case of a hurricane or other emergency. View our Wishlist at a.co/7EAXCTm and thank you for your continued support of our collections!



#### About This Issue

## REVOLUTION \* \* \* to \* \* \* REPUBLIC

In 2022, the South Carolina Historical Society received a state appropriation to highlight the important role that

South Carolina played in building the nation. These funds allow us to focus on the period spanning 1763 to the early 1800s through digitization of archival materials; educational outreach to students, teachers, and others throughout the state; a new exhibition in the SCHS Museum; and special publications, including this themed issue of *Carologue*. Thanks to Representative Leon Stavrinakis, Mayor William Cogswell, and Senator Dick Harpootlian for their support of the SCHS and help securing this appropriation.

#### American Revolution Institute Presentation



In May, chief executive officer Elizabeth Chew and education coordinator Melina Testin traveled to Washington, D.C., with the 4th South Carolina Regiment Order Book for a presentation at the Society of the Cincinnati's American Revolution Institute. The Order Book, kept between 1775-1777 for Colonel Barnard Elliott, features one of the few known

firsthand accounts of the Battle of Sullivan's Island. The Order Book has been conserved and was on display at Anderson House where Chew introduced the volume's significance and Testin provided a creative illustrated lecture that depicted the Battle of Sullivan's Island in the context of the popular 18th-century card game whist. Soldiers of the 4th Regiment were often punished for playing whist in the ranks.

Many South Carolinians joined the event online via Zoom, and a recording of the lecture is available at american revolution institute.org. The Order Book is now on display at the Fireproof Building in the SCHS Museum's new exhibition *Voices of Revolution in South Carolina*.

#### "Record Ready" Talks

During the spring and summer, chief operating officer Virginia Ellison and senior archivist Molly Silliman traveled throughout the state to present their talk, "Record Ready: Organizing and Preserving Your Organization's Records." The SCHS



was awarded a grant from the State Historical Records Advisory Board, or SHRAB, to offer free presentations throughout South Carolina discussing how to get started with preserving historic organizational archives, with the focus being on religious organizations. Ellison and Silliman offered tips on archival supplies and storage methods, as well as how to make collections manageable and accessible. Talks were given in Oconee, McCormick, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Allendale, and Jasper Counties. It was a delight for SCHS staff members to share their passion for preserving the state's documentary history with fellow South Carolinians!

#### Penn Center Visit

In June, the SCHS's Board of Managers and staff had the honor of visiting the Penn Center on St. Helena Island in Beaufort County. Following a morning board meeting and lunch on site, the group received a guided tour from



Center Director Dr. Robert Adams and learned more about the historical and cultural significance of this remarkable institution. Founded in 1862 as one of the first schools for formerly enslaved people in the South, the Penn Center remains a vital landmark in the preservation and interpretation of African American history and Gullah Geechee culture. The visit offered board and staff members a deeper appreciation of the site's legacy and its role in South Carolina's story.

A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Robert Adams and the entire Penn Center team for their generous hospitality and for sharing their knowledge and time.

#### New SCHS Programs

Over the summer, the South Carolina Historical Society launched a new series, *Mornings at the Fireproof*, welcoming guests once a month to enjoy coffee, meet our chief executive officer, Elizabeth Chew, and chat about all things history (photos 1–4).

Held in our historic Fireproof Building's courtyard, these casual gatherings offered a great opportunity for conversation, connection, and curiosity. Book discussions were lively, with plenty of great recommendations.

We're grateful to all who joined us and helped make these mornings so engaging. A special thank you to our event sponsor, William R. Senn, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, for making this series possible.

The SCHS also recently launched its *Lunch and Learn* series, a program for our annual supporters (photos 5–8). Held in the conference room of the Fireproof Building, these intimate luncheons offer a unique opportunity to engage with historians, authors, preservationists, and traditional craftsmen through lively, in-depth conversations.

This season, attendees enjoyed thoughtful discussions with Dan Littlefield, curator of the SCHS's *Africa to America* exhibition; Brittany Lavelle Tulla, who explored the hidden stories behind Charleston's historic buildings; and Annette Guild, the SCHS's metadata specialist, who shared insights into her work digitizing the Henry Laurens Papers.

We are especially grateful to this summer's *Lunch and Learn* sponsors, Drs. Alex Pappas and Ann Maners, for their generous support in bringing this series to life.

We're thrilled to announce that the program will continue through 2026. Stay tuned for upcoming dates. We look forward to welcoming you to the table!

















#### SCHS Welcomes New Staff Members



Born and raised in Charleston, Lindsey Newton works as a library assistant in the SCHS Archives Reading Room at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library. In this role, Newton welcomes researchers and assists them with their

research needs, including conducting reference interviews and retrieving research materials. She also assists staff with archival services and general collections care. Newton received a BA in English from Clemson University in 2022 and completed a master's degree in Library and Information Science through the University of South Carolina in 2024. Before joining the SCHS staff, Newton worked for the Clemson Coastal Research and Education Farm and the Charleston Horticultural Society.

As project archivist for the SCHS, Jinene Foye is currently leading the processing and stewardship of the Mother Emanuel AME Condolence Correspondence Collection—a profoundly moving archive that captures the global response to



the tragic 2015 shooting. Before entering the archival field, Foye spent five years as a high school educator in the Charleston County School District, where she taught Hospitality and Tourism. Her background in Culinary Arts Technology—Baking and Pastry brought creativity and cultural depth to her teaching, allowing students to explore heritage through food and service. She holds a bachelor's degree in Communications and is pursuing her master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina.



#### Administrative Coordinator

Raised in Lexington, Kentucky, Ashley Bengtsson earned her BS in Business from Elon University. Her love of history and travel has taken her around the world, including time living in London and Silicon Valley before settling in Mount Pleasant in 2015. She fell in love with the Charleston area during a visit in her high school years and has been passionate about exploring its rich history ever since. As administrative coordinator, Bengtsson is excited to contribute to the mission of the SCHS and help preserve the stories that make South Carolina so unique.

#### Traveling Archive Program

In June, the Colonial Charleston Teacher Institute brought teachers from across the state to the South Carolina Historical Society to learn about incorporating primary sources into their lesson plans. Education coordinator Melina Testin walked the teachers through the SCHS's Traveling Archive program, which allows students to explore replicas of primary source documents in their classrooms. To learn more about the program and schedule a classroom visit, contact Testin at melina.testin@schsonline.org.





#### Native American Voices in the Henry Laurens Papers

In May 1779, while the British army was resuming its campaign to subjugate the South after capturing Savannah, the state of Virginia sent a message to the members of the Chickasaw Nation. Revered as the "Spartans of the Lower Mississippi Valley," the Chickasaw people inhabited parts of present-day Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. Evidently fearful of fighting both the British and the Chickasaw, Virginia officials ordered the Chickasaw Nation to stay neutral in the Revolution or

Included in the Henry Laurens Papers is a copy of a letter by three Chickasaw headmen directly challenging Virginia's demand that the Chickasaw Nation stay neutral in the Revolution or risk being invaded and punished by American forces. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

risk being invaded and punished by American forces. The Chickasaw, despite having long-standing ties to the British, had chosen to remain neutral when the war erupted four years earlier. This message made leaders reconsider that stance.

Angered by receiving such an unambiguous threat to their lives and territory, three Chickasaw headmen, Mingo Houma, Payamataha, and Tuskau Pautaupau, sent a written reply in which they directly challenged Virginia's

threat of war, stating that "[w]e desire no other friendship of you but only desire you will inform us when you are coming and we will save you the trouble of coming quite here for we will meet you half way . . . Take care that we don't serve you as we have served the French before with all of their Indians, [and] send you back without your heads." To make sure the Virginia officials had no doubts about where Chickasaw loyalties now lay, the three headmen further declared: "We are a Nation that fears or values no Nation as long as our Great Father King George stands by us . . ."

With its striking language and vividly expressed warnings, this letter unsurprisingly left an impression on the Virginia Patriots, enough so that the letter was copied at least five times and circulated widely. One copy fell into the hands of South Carolina Patriot Henry Laurens (1724–1792). It is now one of many documents in the SCHS's Henry Laurens Papers that can be used to study Native American involvement in the American Revolution.

While thoughts of the American Revolution often evoke images of musket-wielding Patriots, marching British Redcoats, and men in three-cornered hats clamoring for liberty and independence, the Revolution was fought and experienced by a diverse cast of people. For the 250,000 Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River in the late 18th century, the Revolution was not a conflict of their own making, but it quickly became one that affected their land, sovereignty, and survival.

In the South, Native Americans were directly pulled into the conflict as both the Americans and the British sought to sway Native nations into serving their own interests. Not only do the Henry Laurens Papers shed light on what Native Americans experienced during this extremely divisive conflict, they also offer direct insights.

In addition to the letter from the headmen of the Chickasaw Nation, the Henry Laurens Papers contain nine documents that record speeches (referred to as "talks") made by members of the Creek and Cherokee nations. These speeches were likely sent to Laurens by his good friend George Galphin (1708–1780), a wealthy fur trader and planter who was appointed by South Carolina and Georgia (and later the Continental Congress) to act as a commissioner for Native American affairs.

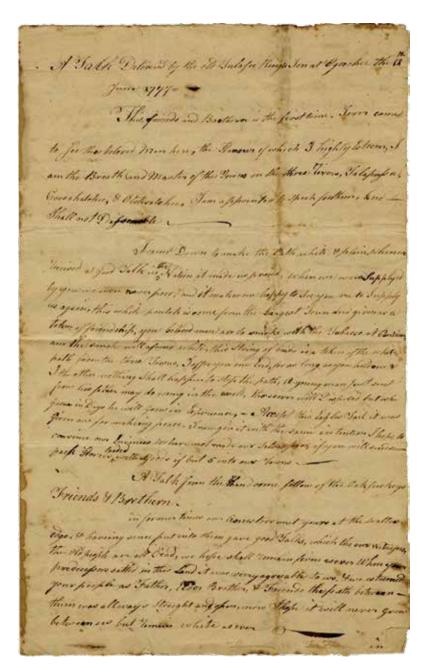
Throughout the war, Galphin used his extensive connections with the Creeks to meet frequently with their leaders to dissuade them from joining the conflict on the side of the British. The speeches Galphin sent to Laurens came from meetings held in the Backcountries of South Carolina and Georgia in 1777 and 1778, and they primarily record the words spoken by Creek headmen and warriors, including the Tallassee King, Handsome Fellow, Opeitley Mico, Tuskenahakta, the Cusseta King, and the Fat King.

Unlike the Chickasaw letter, many of the speeches express desire for peace and friendship between the Creek Nation and the American patriots, but with certain expectations. In the speech delivered by Handsome Fellow in June of 1777, for example, the leader tells Galphin and the other American representatives that "it is our Duty to Love and brace one and other as friends," but warns them that if they go back without gifts of ammunition and other goods from the Americans, "our Enemies will make a handle of it and Laugh at us."

Likewise, in a speech given a few months later, Tuskenahakta states that he has committed himself to the "good talks" of the Americans and expresses hope that they can maintain peace. However, Tuskenahakta also notes that they cannot obtain goods from the British after declaring their friendship with the Americans and advises the Patriot representatives to supply some of their towns with goods for winter.

Other speeches detail the extensive attempts of the British to win Creek loyalties and disrupt their meetings with the Americans, while another responds to Galphin's request for a Creek warrior to be punished for several murders committed on the frontier. Only one document records the talks delivered by a member of the Cherokee Nation, a messenger referred to as the Bird of the Valley, but it documents the diplomatic efforts of Galphin's fellow commissioners, Colonel LeRoy Hammond and Edward Wilkinson, and describes the exchanging of wampum belts, tobacco pipes, and beads as tokens of friendship.

Ultimately, these documents provide only small



Unlike the Chickasaw letter, speeches made by members of the Creek Nation that are found in the Henry Laurens Papers express desire for peace and friendship between the Creeks and the American Patriots. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

windows into the contentious politics that the American Revolution introduced to Native American communities. There is a much bigger—and more complex—story that can be told about the loyalties and involvement of the Chickasaw, Creek, and Cherokee nations. Nevertheless, it is still important to highlight these documents for the unique voices and perspectives that they preserve, and I highly recommend checking them out in their digital forms on the Lowcountry Digital Library.

Annette Guild serves as Metadata Specialist at the SCHS.



## Behind the Scenes: VOICES of REVOLUTION in SOUTH CAROLINA

By Gabrielle McCoy

Voices of Revolution in South Carolina emphasizes the central role that South Carolina and its people played in securing American independence. This exhibition, which features many archival documents, artifacts, and historical images, is but a small glimpse into South Carolina's Revolutionary history. Let's look behind the scenes to explore the decisions and discoveries made while creating it.

The South Carolina Historical Society holds a large archival collection with hundreds of documents telling stories related to the Revolution. One of the biggest challenges I faced was selecting which documents to include in the exhibition. In addition to the stories of those involved in the military campaigns, I wanted to feature the

perspectives of Loyalists, women, enslaved people, and Indigenous leaders. In searching through the archive, I was thrilled to find documents written by and related to all these groups. I was especially excited to find an English transcription of a Cherokee leader's speech where he sought alliance with American forces.

While this story appears in the exhibition and gives insight into shifting Indigenous loyalties, it was impossible to include all the accounts found in the archive, leading to some tough decisions. This was especially true for the huge variety of soldiers' perspectives. While the exhibition emphasizes major battles, tensions between soldiers and civilians, and the challenges of soldier recruitment, it does not focus on the experiences of American

prisoners of war taken during the British occupation of Charleston and later imprisoned in St. Augustine, Florida. That said, visitors can read a letter written by General William Moultrie while imprisoned by the British, which gives insight into his unique position as an American general.

After selecting which documents and themes to highlight in the exhibition, I began working with CEO Elizabeth Chew to request artifacts from various museums across South Carolina. As we collected objects related to civilian and military life, we uncovered some exciting connections. The South Carolina State Museum loaned us a replica of the 2nd SC Regiment banner. Susannah Smith Elliott crafted the banner to celebrate the American victory at the Battle of Sullivan's Island and delivered it there herself shortly after the battle. The British later captured it in Savannah. Interestingly, the SCHS holds the 4th SC Regiment Order Book which documents the orders, including those in the Battle of Sullivan's Island, of Colonel Barnard Elliott, Susannah's husband. Discovering this familial connection between two military artifacts reminded me how deeply the war affected all members of a family.

To emphasize this overlap between military and civilian life, I ultimately chose to display household goods and military weapons side by side in the exhibition's large artifact case. Visitors can see Francis Marion's powder horn and an infantry smallsword

alongside pottery crafted by enslaved people and elite Carolinians' fine silver. By displaying military and home front artifacts together, the exhibition shows how the American Revolution blurred the lines between military and civilian life as soldiers fought hundreds of battles and skirmishes in South Carolina.

With the documents and artifacts quickly filling the exhibition cases, I turned my attention to choosing images which best represented the conflict in South Carolina. Elizabeth and I quickly agreed to feature Henry Gray's watercolor painting of the Battle of Sullivan's Island, which belongs to our neighbor, the Gibbes Museum of Art, because it embodied South Carolina's central-

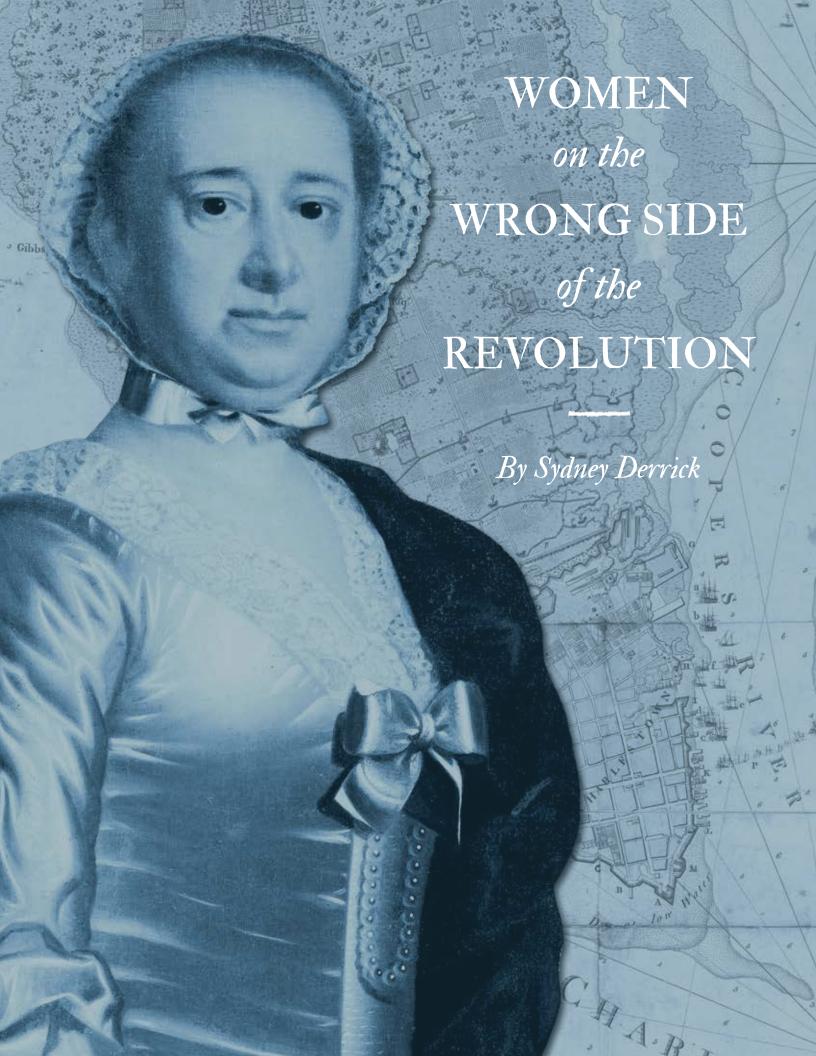
ity to the Revolution as early as 1776. Selecting the other images for individual panels was a more arduous, though still enjoyable, process as I explored collections from institutions across the United States and even abroad.

Just weeks before the deadline to finalize panels, I found a painting of a Black woodcutter in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, from the Library and Archives of Canada. At first glance, this image seemed unrelated to the story of South Carolina's struggle for independence. In actuality, it highlights the fact that thousands of enslaved people sought freedom by assisting the British army and eventually evacuating Charleston with the British in 1782. Many of these freedom seekers—including a woodworker named Boston King—later settled in Nova Scotia and established livelihoods as free people (see pages 18–19 for more on King). This image helped me tell a compelling story about Black freedom seekers and international migration that is often forgotten.

Creating this exhibition required countless, often difficult, decisions to distill a vast body of historical material into a visually compelling, engaging, and educational experience. I hope you will visit *Voices of Revolution in South Carolina* to discover more about the state's fight for independence.

*Gabrielle McCoy is Guest Curator of* Voices of Revolution in South Carolina *and a Ph.D. Candidate in U.S. History at the University of South Carolina.* 





## What happened to the wives of Patriots and Loyalists when the opposing side was in charge?

iving in South Carolina during the American Revolution meant enduring shifts in governance, depending on whether the British or Americans were in control. Prior to the Revolution, South Carolina had a royal governor representing the Crown. In the summer of 1775, as rebellious South Carolinians created their own government, the Provincial Council, Governor William Campbell fled to a British warship in Charleston Harbor. After five years of local self-government, the British recaptured Charleston and were back in charge from 1780 to 1782, departing permanently in 1783.

During the chaos of war, with men serving in the military or imprisoned, wealthy white women managed finances and properties. Some relocated to rural plantations to avoid the opposing forces or were forced to sell their belongings to join husbands who were arrested and not allowed to return to South Carolina.

Women on both sides wrote petitions to the government that spoke of the challenges of war. These petitions included requests for compensation for property that

was taken (including enslaved people), leniency for their husbands, or permission to sell items that were seized so they could pay to leave Charleston. When making these requests, many petitioners used humble language and emphasized their vulnerability, dependency, and need for assistance. This language allowed women to leverage ideas about how they should behave to secure compensation and support. When writing in their own diaries, journals, and letters, their tones were distinctly less helpless.

#### Ann Ashby Manigault

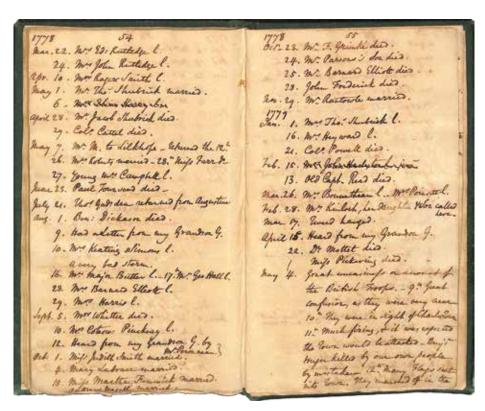
Ann Ashby Manigault was born into a prominent family in South Carolina and in 1730 married Gabriel Manigault, who became the wealthiest man in the colony. She kept a diary of daily life and social engagements, as well as births, marriages, and deaths, from 1754 to 1781. Many of her entries were filled with matter-of-record statements, like these from the first month of 1776:

Jan. 1. Mr. Barnard Elliott married.

- 3. Mr. Partridge Killed in a duel. Dr. Haly died.
- 11. Miss Ainslie and Miss Deas married.

Ann's journal also recorded the anxiety of that time leading up to the British seizing control of the city. In May of 1779, she wrote:

May 4. Great uneasiness on account of the British troops. 9th. Great confusion, as they were very near. 10th. They were in sight of Charles-Town. 11th. Much firing, and it was expected the town would be attacked—Benj. Huger killed by our own people by mistake. 12th. Many Flags sent into town. They marched off in the night. 13th. Pretty quiet, but they are very troublesome in the country. 15th. We hear nothing of them. 16th. We are still very uneasy, they are ravaging the country. 17th



In the diary she kept from 1754 to 1781, Ann Ashby Manigault recorded the sense of unease felt in Charleston as the British drew nearer to the city in 1779. Manigault diary from the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society; 1757 portrait of Manigault (opposite) courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; 1780 map of military operations in Charleston (opposite, background) courtesy of the Library of Congress.

to 21st. The same, and General Lincoln cannot prevent it. 22d. Some of our people went to Johnson's Fort, were fired upon, and a good many wounded. 23d. Count Pulawsky [sic] had a skirmish with them. 28th. They left James Island and went to Johns Island.

By February of 1780, people around Ann were taking action because of the British, and you can see the fear and hopelessness in her writing:

- Feb. 13. Mr. Wm. Gibbes dined here. We are much afraid of the British, who are on John's Island.
- 15. People go out of town very fast.
- 16. Mrs. Wragg and my grand-daughter A. went to day [sic].
- 17. My two grandsons went to Goose-creek.
- 23. The British upon James Island.
- 26. People very much distressed. The British are trying to repair Johnson's Fort.
- 28. Our Frigates fired on them all day, but to little purpose.

Despite Ann's concerns about the British army in Charleston, Gabriel took an oath of loyalty to the King once the British took control. The Manigaults left the city, retiring to their plantation in Goose Creek. He died in 1781, before the British retreated, and Ann died in April of 1782.

Ann Ashby Manigault's diary is on view in *Voices of Revolution in South Carolina* in the SCHS Museum.

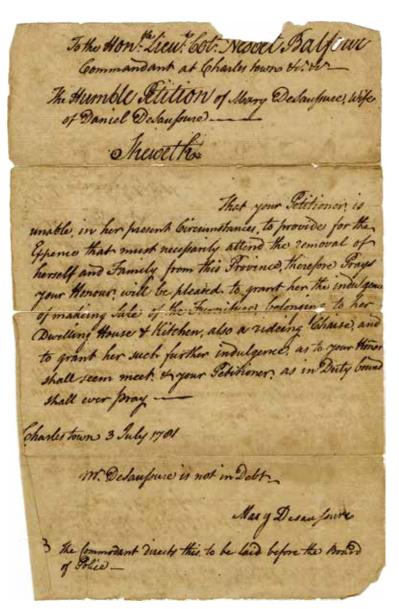
#### Mary DeSaussure

Unlike Ann Ashby Manigault's husband, Mary DeSaussure's husband Daniel was imprisoned after the British took control of Charleston. He was first transported to St. Augustine, Florida, before being exchanged for British prisoners of war and ordered to Philadelphia; his wife and children were ordered to follow him. By this time, the British had seized the property of most of the prominent Patriots, so Mary had no money to get herself and their many children to safety. To pay for the trip, she wrote to Lt. Col. Nisbet Balfour and the Board of Police, the British governing body in Charleston, requesting permission to sell her own furniture. She was granted it and arrived in Philadelphia, along with other Charleston families of men who were exchanged there, on August 3, 1781.

In her petition, Mary emphasizes that her husband had no debt, and asks to "grant her the indulgence of makeing [sic] sale of the Furniture belonging to her dwelling house and Kitchen, also a rideing [sic] Chaise, and to grant her such further indulgences as to your Honor shall seem meet, and your Petitioner, as in Duty bound shall ever pray."

#### Sarah Stuart

It wasn't only Patriot wives who were affected by the war—wives of Loyalists were also under pressure before and after the British took control. Sarah Fenwick Stuart was married to John Stuart, who had served as Great Britain's superintendent of Indian affairs for the Southern District since 1762.



In a 1781 petition to Lt. Col. Nisbet Balfour and the Board of Police, Mary DeSaussure requested permission to sell her furniture so she could fund her journey to join her husband in Philadelphia. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

Once the South Carolina Council of Safety formed in June of 1775 to help govern the state, John was almost immediately accused of trying to gather Native Americans to fight for the British, leading him to flee to the British stronghold of St. Augustine, Florida.

Because John was gone, Sarah and her daughter were considered flight risks, and South Carolina's leaders wanted to keep her there—perhaps to give John a reason to return and be tried for his alleged crimes. In February of 1776, a few months after John's escape, there is an order in the 4th Regiment's Order Book that Sarah and her daughter Christiana Fenwick "be restrained from absenting themselves from his house in Charles Town." This imprisonment continued for some time.

The closest we get to a contemporary account from her point of view is a letter to her husband, written February 14, 1776, and now held in the James Grant Papers at the National Archives of Scotland. In it, she wrote:

I am a state prisoner in my own house. There is a 12-man guard. They permit my daughter Mrs. Fenwick to be with me. Dr. Chalmers, Mr. Rose, and Mrs. Olyphant have been permitted to call. One of your letters to General Grant, saying that the Indians are to be brought in, has been intercepted.

In April of that year, the General Assembly of South Carolina authorized the Treasury to pay Sarah one hundred pounds a month while she was imprisoned, to be reimbursed from the profits of selling John Stuart's estate.

Sarah later sent claims for a pension to the British government, describing with strong words her experience under the Americans. In 1783, in her first claim for a postwar pension from the British government, she wrote:

... the many personal indignities that your memorialist received at this period, her close confinement under a guard for upwards of eight months with threats of violence, even of death itself, and the hazardous escape to Augustine, are among the circumstances that are very well known and can be sufficiently testified by every Loyalist from that province.

In 1786, Sarah wrote again, asking for an increase in what she initially received. By that point, her daughter Christiana had died, and Sarah was raising her daughter's children, so she needed more money. In this petition, she wrote:

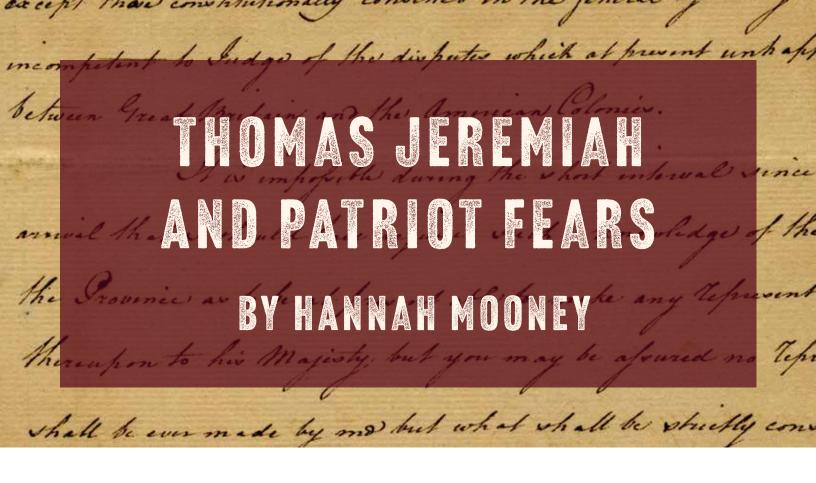


Sarah Stuart was imprisoned along with her daughter at her Tradd Street home, now known as the Colonel John Stuart House, after her husband fled to St. Augustine in 1775. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

Your Memorialist and her late daughter, Christiana Fenwick, were confined as hostages in Charles Town during a space of near two years—daily mortified by being obliged to witness the destruction of their fortune—and treated with many disrespectfull [sic] indignities from which their sex, and the humanity of a civilized people, ought to have protected them—and which only terminated by your memorialist effecting a most difficult and hazardous escape to Saint Augustine.

All three women, no matter which side their families were on, managed to escape to a safer place—a new country, a new state, or just out in the country, away from the watchful eyes of those in power. In the process, though, they endured hardships and fear, watching as everything they knew changed quickly around them.

Sydney Derrick serves as Librarian at the SCHS.



n June 1775, a free Black man in Charleston named Thomas Jeremiah was accused of plotting to incite a rebellion of enslaved people in support of British forces. He was found guilty, and on August 18, 1775, he was hanged for this crime. Jeremiah's trial and death serve as reminders of the fear that white elites had for the people they held in slavery in early Revolutionary South Carolina.

By 1715, enslaved Blacks comprised the majority of South Carolina's population. Plantation agriculture, especially rice cultivation, depended on a large enslaved workforce. Outnumbered, white Carolinians lived in constant fear of slave revolts. Their fears were realized in 1739 with the Stono Rebellion, the largest slave insurrection in British North America, which resulted in the deaths of over 20 white South

Carolinians and over 40 enslaved Africans. Following the Stono Rebellion, stricter laws known as the Negro Act of 1740 were passed to further control Blacks in South Carolina. Under the Negro Act, inciting a slave revolt was punishable by death.

By the 1770s, white South Carolinians also feared violence at the hands of the British. In May 1775, the news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord reached Charleston. To prepare for possible assault from British troops, the Provincial Congress of South Carolina appointed a

group of 13 men to serve as South Carolina's Council of Safety. The group served as one of the branches of government during the early days of the American Revolution in South Carolina. The Council of Safety's main jobs were to form militia regiments and give orders as to where they went. They also created a currency for the state, oversaw the Secret Committee (who acted on secret

missions), communicated about the British with Indigenous tribes, and handled citizen reports on identities of Loyalists. The Council of Safety also handled accusations of potential slave revolts.

Increasingly, white Carolinians worried that British forces would encourage or even support slave revolts in their attempts to suppress American resistance. In the spring of 1775, rumors swirled of such a revolt in Charleston. A committee of the

Provincial Congress was tasked to investigate such plans and eventually submitted a report which named Thomas Jeremiah among those accused of plotting revolt.

Thomas Jeremiah was a free Black man living in Charleston. It is unclear whether he was born a free man or whether he was enslaved before being granted or buying his freedom. By the 1770s, he was a successful harbor pilot, fisherman, and merchant. He even owned slaves to work his boats and in his home. He was, by all accounts, well known and respected throughout the city.

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In June 1775, two enslaved men gave testimony before the Council of Safety that confirmed the committee's findings and implicated Jeremiah in plotting a potential slave insurrection. Despite inconsistent testimonies and an overall lack of evidence, Thomas Jeremiah was arrested and held in solitary confinement at the Charleston Workhouse, a prison where slave owners paid the city to punish enslaved people.

Though he was not enslaved, Jeremiah was subject to the terms of the Negro Act of 1740. Under the rules of the Negro Act, he was tried by a jury of two justices of the peace and three property owners. He was originally brought to trial in late June 1775, but due to insufficient evidence, the trial was put on hold. On August 11, Jeremiah was put on trial a second time and unanimously found guilty. He was sentenced to death by hanging and his body to be burned.

Some of the only existing primary sources on the Thomas Jeremiah trial and hanging are found in the Henry Laurens Papers at the SCHS. Henry Laurens, a wealthy merchant, planter, and slave trader, served as the president of the Council of Safety at the time of this incident. He believed Jeremiah was guilty of plotting to incite a revolt. In letters to his son, John, Laurens notes

that Jeremiah's arrest and imprisonment at the workhouse eased anxieties among white Patriots. He also describes Jeremiah as a "forward fellow, puffed up by prosperity, ruined by Luxury & debauchery & grown to an amazing pitch of vanity & ambition."

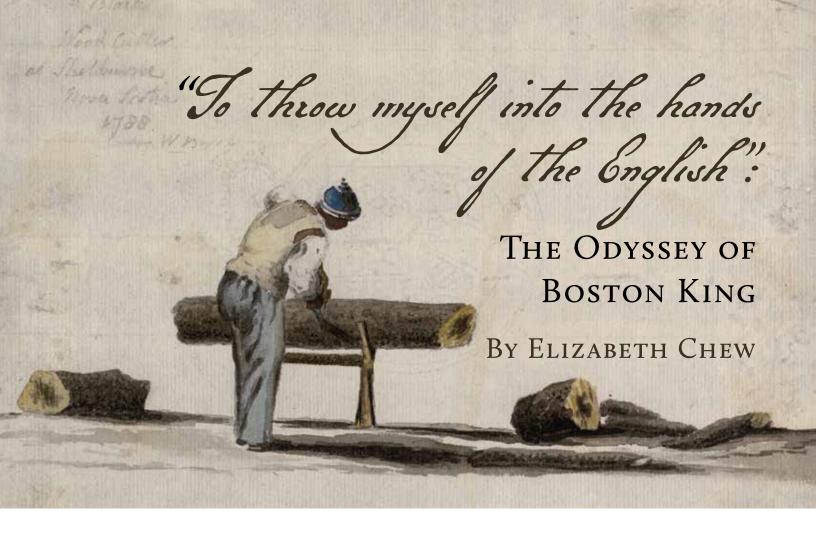
In the days between his verdict and his hanging, Lord William Campbell, the royal governor of South Carolina, sought a petition in favor of pardoning Thomas Jeremiah. Having learned of the trial, Campbell believed the evidence used against Jeremiah was weak. In a series of exchanges with Laurens, also documented in the Henry Laurens Papers, Campbell attempted to persuade Laurens of the injustice of this verdict. However, Campbell's attempts to intervene were unsuccessful. On August 18, Thomas Jeremiah was hanged in the public green across from the workhouse.

We will never know for sure if Thomas Jeremiah was guilty of intending to incite a slave revolt. What we do know is that the trial and death of Thomas Jeremiah speak to the fear and anxiety that overwhelmed white Americans during this period.

Hannah Mooney serves as Donor Relations Manager at the SCHS.



A lithograph depicts the Charleston Workhouse as it appeared in the 19th century. Thomas Jeremiah was imprisoned in the workhouse and hanged on its green on August 18, 1775. Workhouse lithograph courtesy of the Library of Congress; 1775 letter from William Campbell to Henry Laurens (opposite) courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.



oston King, born into slavery around 1760 in Dorchester County, South Carolina, published his memoirs in 1798. His writings, brimming with religious zeal, provide important evidence for the experiences of "Black Loyalists," those enslaved by American rebels who sought safety and eventual freedom with the British army during the Revolution.

In 1780, King fled to the British in occupied Charleston, later settling briefly in New York, then in Nova Scotia, and eventually in the British colony of Sierra Leone in west Africa, a common path for those who aided the British army and received their freedom.

King's experiences along the way included working as a servant and messenger for British officers in South Carolina, risking re-enslavement in New York, and once in Canada, undergoing a profound religious transformation that led him to the Methodist ministry. We know his remarkable life story from his memoirs, written in 1798, and because the British documented him and his wife in the *Book of Negroes*. This invaluable ledger recorded approximately 3,000 emancipated people evacuated to Canada in 1783. It lists his age (23), a generic physical description ("stout fellow"), and the information that his enslaver was a Richard Waring in South Carolina.

Details about Richard Waring help us place King geographically during his early life. Scholars have argued

plausibly that of several Richard Warings in Revolutionary-era South Carolina, the enslaver of Boston King was most likely Richard Waring III (1748–1781).

At the time of King's birth, Waring, only 12 years old but already master of his late father's and grandfather's estates, lived at Beech Hill, a Waring rice plantation on the Ashley River about 28 miles from Charleston. King's parents were also at Beech Hill, so he likely was born there. Beech Hill was in present-day Dorchester County on the west side of the river, south of the intersection of today's Dorchester Road and Highway 17, near what was then known as Slann's Bridge. A Beech Hill Road (Rt. 61) survives in the area as a place name.

King says that his father, born in Africa, was literate and "had the charge of the Plantation as a driver for many years," telling us that though enslaved, his father worked as an overseer at Beech Hill. Later in life, he served in a sawmill. King's mother worked as a seamstress and nurse, using knowledge of traditional herbal healing.

As a six-year-old, King worked as a house servant at Beech Hill and was sent to mind cattle at nine. He also recalled that he traveled with racehorses, which comports with the Waring family's documented interest in horse racing.

Richard Waring's second marriage to Ann Ball provides the context for his purchase of an additional nearby

plantation. In 1773, Waring bought White Hall, also in Dorchester County, from Daniel Huger, changing its name to Tranquil Hill. Though Richard Waring died in 1781, Ann Ball Waring lived at Tranquil Hill until 1826.

Tranquil Hill was on the east side of the Ashley River in present-day Ladson, between what is now Old Fort Drive and Eagle Creek. A subdivision called Tranquil Hill occupies part of the site today.

Richard and Ann Waring took Boston King to Tranquil Hill, leaving his parents at Beech Hill. From King's memoir, we know that when he was 16 (in 1776), Waring apprenticed him to a woodworker away from the plantation. After the British captured Charleston in May 1780, King says he "determined to go to Charles Town and throw [him]self into the hands of the English," where he "began to feel the happiness of liberty of which I knew nothing before."

King relates his experiences after joining the British as a servant to several different officers, including in Camden and Nelson's Ferry during those battles in August 1780. Later that year or the next, he returned to Charleston and boarded a British man o' war bound for New York, home to British general headquarters. Although some 5,000 formerly enslaved people left Charleston with the British during their withdrawal in 1783, King managed to escape earlier. He never returned to the United States.

TRANQUIL- HHL
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Boston King was taken to Tranquil Hill Plantation after Richard Waring bought the property in 1773. Tranquil Hill painting courtesy of the Gibbes Museum of Art; 1788 painting of a Black woodcutter at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, possibly Boston King (opposite), courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives, National Archives of Canada C-040162, W.H. Coverdale Collection of Canadiana.

In New York, King worked as a domestic servant, a carpenter, and on a harbor pilot boat. He married a woman named Violet who was recorded in the *Book of Negroes* as a "stout wench" twelve years his senior who had been enslaved in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Boston and Violet King left New York around July 31, 1783, on a ship named *L'Abondance* (*Abundance*) bound for Shelburne, Nova Scotia. They settled in nearby Birchtown. King supported himself and Violet through his carpentry work in sometimes difficult circumstances without promised British support. During this time, King experienced a profound religious awakening and became a Methodist, committed to preaching the Gospel.

In 1792, King took advantage of an opportunity to immigrate to Sierra Leone, a British colony in Africa for the formerly enslaved, along with about 1,000 other Black Nova Scotians. He wrote that this was for financial benefit and because of his desire to assist with "the conversion of the Africans," expressing that his goal was for "all pain and wretchedness to be at an end."

Violet died shortly after their arrival. The next year he left to attend school in England with support from sponsors, writing "that I may be better qualified to teach the natives." King studied and wrote his autobiography at Kingswood School in Bristol, a Methodist institution founded by John Wesley in 1748. In 1796, he returned to

Sierra Leone to continue his missionary work. He died there in 1802.

King's odyssey from Beech Hill Plantation to Sierra Leone demonstrates the Revolution's positive impact on the lives of some of the people enslaved in colonial America, while most remained in slavery after the fight for freedom. The British did not emancipate the human property of Loyalists, indicating that their efforts were more about destabilizing Americans than acts of altruism. King's experiences as a slave in South Carolina, a free man in New York, Canada, England, and Africa, an artisan, and a profoundly devout minister and missionary demonstrate his resilience, selfdetermination, and desire to serve others in an era of intense instability and change.

Elizabeth Chew serves as Chief Executive Officer of the SCHS.



# BATTLE IN THE BACKCOUNTRY: Huck's Defeat at Williamson's Plantation

### By Molly Silliman

In his *History of the United States*, 19th-century historian George Bancroft states that South Carolina citizens "suffered more, and dared more, and achieved more than the men of any other state" during the American Revolution. Walter Edgar posits in his *Partisans and Redcoats* that, had the events of the Revolution occurred in the 1990s, British commanders would have been indicted as war criminals by the United Nations for their violent tactics. Perhaps this is no more apparent than when exploring the history of the numerous brutal engagements that occurred throughout the South Carolina Backcountry in 1780 and 1781.

Following the fall of Charleston to British forces in May 1780, British General Sir Henry Clinton turned control of the British army in the South over to Earl Charles Cornwallis, believing that the Backcountry of South Carolina was home to large numbers of loyal subjects who would take up arms to keep the province subdued and in British control. This assumption proved false. Thanks in part to vicious methods employed by British officers, such as the infamous Colonel Banastre Tarleton, the Backcountry did not respond as Clinton and Cornwallis hoped. With the British in control of Charleston and other key locations—Camden, Georgetown, Ninety-

Six, and Cheraw—partisan crews led by Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, and Andrew Pickens harried outposts and disrupted British supply lines, picking away at British control. Each partisan victory served to boost morale for the Patriot cause.

One such victory was the defeat of British troops at James Williamson's plantation in present-day York County. The property is now part of the Historic Brattonsville site. Known popularly as the Battle of Huck's Defeat, this engagement took place on July 12, 1780. Captain Christian Huck, originally from Germany, was a Philadelphia lawyer and British commander serving under Tarleton who had

earned the nickname "the swearing captain" for his rough language, quick temper, and cruel methods.

Huck had been ordered to track and capture Patriot leaders in the areas surrounding the Catawba River valley, and in this mission, he burned the homes of known Patriots in the area and terrorized civilians. In the weeks leading up to the Battle of Huck's Defeat, he had ordered the destruction of the Fishing Creek Presbyterian Meeting House in present-day Chester County, where Patriot community members often met. He ordered the burning of William Hill's ironworks on Allison's Creek in what

is now York County. As part of their attempts to stop the growth of the rebel ranks, Huck was given orders to capture militia leaders Captain John McClure and Colonel William Bratton. The British suspected Bratton of convincing Loyalists and those neutral to the cause to join the Patriot militia, a task made easier as tales of British harassment in the Backcountry spread.

Stopping first at McClure's plantation and not finding him there, Huck threatened McClure's family. Martha Robertson McClure was struck with the flat of a sword when she refused to provide any information about her husband's location. Huck imprisoned the McClures' son and son-in-law, sentencing them to hang after he discovered newly-made bullets in their pockets. The McClures'

daughter, Mary, was able to evade the soldiers and ride to her father at Thomas Sumter's camp near the Catawba River. She informed her father and others of what had happened.

After leaving McClure's, Huck and his troops moved on to the plantation of William Bratton. In a handwritten document now in the SCHS Archives, Colonel William Bratton's grandson John Bratton recounts his father's (Dr. William Bratton's) experiences as a young boy when the British arrived at his home. The account describes Loyalist troops arriving ahead of Captain Huck and questioning his mother, Martha Bratton, about the whereabouts

of his father. When she replied that she did not know where her husband was, he reported that a "red-headed ruffian" threatened her with a reaping hook.

Mrs. Bratton may have been killed if it were not for the intervention of a Loyalist captain named John Adamson, who struck the man and ordered him to stop. When Captain Huck arrived, he ordered her to cook for him and his officers. They then departed and made their way to the neighboring plantation of James Williamson. Meanwhile. Mrs. Bratton sent an enslaved man named Watt to deliver to her

According to her grandson, Martha Bratton was threatened by a "red-headed ruffian" with a reaping hook when she told Loyalist troops that she did not know the whereabouts of her husband. Mid-19th-century illustration from Harper's Weekly; photograph of the Colonel William Bratton House (opposite) courtesy of Culture & Heritage Museums, York County, SC.

husband, at Fishing Creek with Sumter's camp, the news of what had happened. Watt informed Colonel Bratton about the activities of Huck and his men and the British camp at the nearby abandoned Williamson plantation.

Bratton set out with about 140 militiamen to track Huck down. With him were other leading Patriot neighbors: Captain John McClure and Colonels Edward Lacey, William Hill, and Andrew Neel. Just as the sun rose on July 12, the group attacked the British camp from multiple sides. They surprised the roughly 120 men camped there, which included a detachment of Banastre Tarleton's feared troops, New York volunteers, and local Loyalist militia. The relatively relaxed security of the camp, the surprise attack, and the strategic actions of the Patriot

forces, which included using the fence line of the plantation for added cover, allowed Bratton and the others to overwhelm the British forces. There were roughly 30

killed and many more wounded on the British side and only one killed among the Patriot forces. Captain Huck was killed, and Captain John Adamson, who had previously helped defend Mrs. Bratton, was severely injured.

According to the account recorded by Colonel Bratton's grandson John and housed in the SCHS Archives, after the battle, Colonel Bratton was looking for the individual who had threatened his wife the day before and at first believed Captain Adamson was the man.

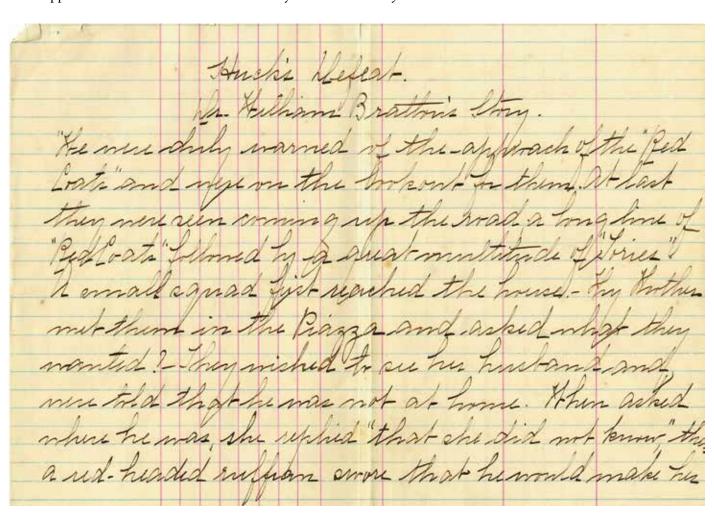
Adamson requested that Bratton question his wife before executing him. Bratton agreed and sent for Mrs. Bratton. She positively identified Adamson as the man who had stepped in when she was threatened the day before.

Adamson was then transported to the Brattons' home, where he received care, along with others injured in the battle, and would survive long after the Revolution.

The Battle of Huck's Defeat not only exemplifies the brutal effects of the war on communities in the Backcountry of South Carolina, it is also often cited as a turning point in the war in the South. As the first victory over British forces following the dramatic fall of Charleston earlier in the year, partisan militia groups were boosted by the news of the defeat over Tarleton's forces and the death of Captain Huck. The victory helped influence others to join the militia. Historians have argued that this early positive outcome

helped pave the way for future Patriot successes at the Battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

Molly Silliman serves as Senior Archivist at the SCHS.



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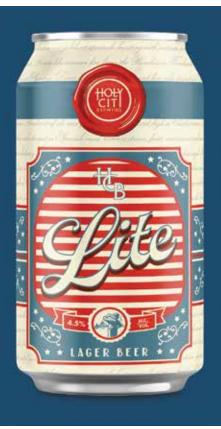
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In a handwritten document, Colonel William Bratton's grandson John Bratton recounts his father's (Dr. William Bratton's) experiences as a young boy when the British arrived at his home in present-day York County. From the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.



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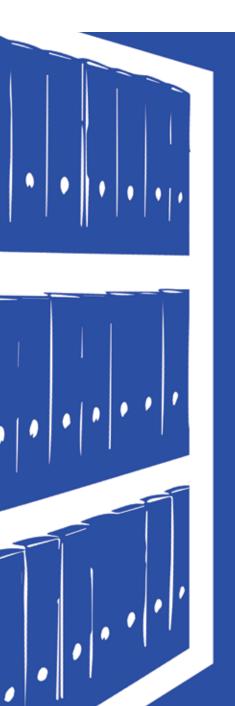


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