

## **Francis Marion and the Indian Uprising of 1759**

On October 31, 1759, young Francis Marion enlisted in a military unit of the Royal government in South Carolina as a British Regular. He wore the uniform, trained in British warfare, and went to battle against the uprising Cherokees in South Carolina. His first foray ended with no action; a treaty settled the dispute before any fighting took place. However, he witnessed the abusive treatment of the arrogant British on the Indians and in a short time, the Indians retaliated ferociously. Frontier settlements in South Carolina experienced killings, scalping, and utter abuse of women and children.

As a result, the British led another expedition against the Indians, commanded by Lt. Col. James Grant. Francis Marion was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. This time, Marion observed the unusual method of stealth fighting used by the Indians: a lightening attack, then retreat. Marion later used these tactics in his own warfare in the Revolutionary War against the British and Tories.

Marion came away from the experience with a profound distaste for the cycle of vengeance that is set off when one side's atrocity is met with barbarism from the other. He understood that a lighter hand was the better way to win.

Source:

Oller, John, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolutionary War 2016

Bass, Robert D., The Life and Campaigns of Francis Marion, 1959