

Tidyman's Plantation February 25, 1782

Location: Tidyman's Planation near Jamestown, present day Berkeley County

Commanders: American: General Francis Marion

 Loyalists: Col. Benjamin Thompson

Casualties: American: Killed 4, Wounded: 1, Captured: 6

 Loyalists: Killed 0, Wounded: 1, Captured, 0

After crossing the Wambaw Bridge, the Patriots gathered themselves at nearby Tidyman's Plantation. When Brigadier General Francis Marion heard the news of the rout at Wambaw Bridge, he and Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham left the Assembly at Jacksonborough and rode hard to return to his brigade. He took Lt. Col. Maham's state dragoons and they covered thirty miles to Tidyman's Plantation, while Lt. Col. Maham continued on to his own plantation.

Col. Benjamin Thompson allowed his infantry to keep walking along the road with their stolen cattle, intentionally giving the appearance that this was a mere foraging party. Meanwhile, most of his men were heading towards Wambaw Bridge, knowing that Brigadier General Marion would learn of the previous day's rout and that he would arrive sooner or later on this day.

Both sides were startled to see each other's cavalry, but Col. Thompson quickly recovered and swung his mounted men into a field and formed a line of battle. Brig. Gen. Marion ordered Capt. John Carraway Smith to charge them. As Capt. Smith bore down on the enemy he was suddenly seized by panic and dashed into the woods on the right. His men followed, veering left in the woods to avoid a pond in their path.

This threw the entire attack into disorder and the British charged. Capt. Smith's dragoons broke and fled, some attempting to swim across the Santee River, with British riflemen killing as many as they could. Lt. Jacob Smiser of Lt. Col. Peter Horry's cavalry drowned trying to cross the river.

A half mile away, Brig. Gen. Marion rallied the confused horsemen, but Col. Thompson did not follow. Marion's men lost most of their firearms and many of their horses. The enemy

had killed 20 and captured another 12 Patriots. In addition, Col. Thompson captured the officers' baggage, some horses, Marion's tent, and some canteens filled with rum.

After this battle, there were only sixty dragoons left, and Lt. Col. Peter Horry's regiment was decimated. Due to this, Governor John Mathews ordered the two reduced regiments to be combined with Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham in command of the new single regiment. Lt. Col. Peter Horry felt slighted and resigned. Brig. Gen. Marion consoled him by placing him in command of Georgetown on March 7th. In the meantime, Marion went on to Cantey's Plantation.

Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene dispatched Lt. Col. John Laurens and his Continentals to support Brig. Gen. Marion's forces.

Col. Benjamin Thompson's raid did allow the British to forage "at will" from the end of February until the beginning of April.

Sources:

Barbour, R.L., *South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battles*, 2002

Oller, John *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution* 2016