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

Battle of Sullivan's Island June 28, 1776

Location:	**Sullivan's Island, Charleston County,**
SC Commanders:	**American- Col. William Moultrie**
British	**Sir Henry Clinton, Adm. Sir Peter Parker**
Casualties:	**American - 10 killed 22 wounded**
British	**64 killed, 141 wounded**

On June 4, 1776, Maj. Francis Marion was ordered to help build Fort Sullivan on Sullivan's Island, just north of Charleston. The only materials at hand were palmetto trees and sand, both in plenteous supply. Only the front of the fort (facing the beach) and one side were completed, leaving the rear open when battle commenced. Gen. William Moultrie commanded 400 American troops of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, Francis Marion among them.

Adm. Sir Peter Parker of the British Navy began the battle at 11:00 am on June 28, 1776 with nine warships. The Thunder delivered 13-inch shells into the fort. Soon the Acteon, the Bristol, and the Experiment joined in. The Solebay and the Active sent solid shot into the ramparts, doing little damage. As the cannon fire reached Fort Sullivan, the effect was useless when the cannonballs embedded themselves in the soft, spongy trunks of the palmetto logs.

A British infantry force landed on Isle of Palms to assault the fort from the rear. Intelligence reported a depth of 18 inches in Breach Inlet, easy to ford. When the soldiers arrived they found a depth of 7 feet. Unable to ford the inlet, the British tried an amphibious landing, but riflemen repelled them with the British suffering heavy losses. Among those driven back was a young volunteer officer and law school dropout named Banastre Tarleton, then on his first mission in America.

A frigate ball severed the 2nd Regiment's colors from its flagstaff, sending it over the wall. Patriot Sgt. William Jasper safely leapt down into a rain of shot and shell to rescue the

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Battle of Fort Sullivan con't.

sfallen flag. Cutting it from the broken staff, he attached it to another staff and climbed safely back into the fort. He planted the staff on the summit of Fort Sullivan.
Sgt. Jasper is remembered today for his bravery.

Exasperated at his lack of progress, Adm. Parker ordered three of his ships through the channel and past the fort. There they ran aground on a sandbar; two even collided with one another, and while Sir Henry Clinton was suffering from "unspeakable mortification" at his predicament, Parker was experiencing his own embarrassment. He was wounded in the "hind part" of his breeches which were shot away, which laid his posterior bare. (Legend has it that this is the origin of the expression, "We beat the pants off them.")

Maj. Francis Marion commanded the left wing of the fort, in which were emplaced some of the heaviest cannon. Boldly, he directed his batteries throughout the day, and the battered ships began to slip their cables and withdraw at sunset. One legend is that Maj. Marion asked Col. Moultrie if he might fire a last shot.

"Yes," supposedly yelled the Colonel. "Give them a parting kick." Aiming one of the largest guns carefully, Marion touched a match to the powder, and watched the ball rip into the flagship. Sir Henry Clinton failed to renew the battle.

By early evening, all hope for a British victory had vanished. Parker's frigates fired some 7,000 rounds and burned more than 12 tons of powder – 220 barrels between Bristol and Experiment alone – compared to 960 shot and 4,766 pounds for the Americans. Yet overwhelmingly the damage fell hardest on the king's ships.

Because of the surprise effect of the Palmetto logs protecting American soldiers at Fort Sullivan, the Palmetto Tree was later added to the flag of the State of South Carolina and declared the South Carolina State Tree.

Sources:

Oller, John, The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution, 2016, p. 39-42

Barbour, R.L. South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battles. 2002, p. 16-18

Simms, William Gilmore, The Life of Francis Marion, 1844, p. 72-75

Seige of Savannah September 16 to October 18, 1779

Location : Savannah, Georgia

Commanders: American - Gen. Benjamin Lincoln

British - Gen. Augustine Prevost

Casualties: Americans - 948 killed

British - 155 killed

The British took Savannah, Georgia, on December 29, 1778, the first move in Britain's Southern Strategy. To protect Charleston, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln planned to retake Savannah. He was spurred to that plan when French Admiral Comte d'Estaing agreed to bring his French fleet with 4,000 men from the West Indies.

In Charleston, Lincoln ordered Lt. Col. Francis Marion, with 200 men, to be ready at a moment's notice, along with others to form a task force. Unfortunately, D'Estaing arrived before Lincoln and was too eager to engage and did not wait for Lincoln. He landed his men, and prematurely called for a surrender to the King of France. British Commander Prevost called for a 24-hour delay, thus giving him plenty of time to prepare for reinforcements and ammunition. Foolishly, d'Estaing permitted the delay, infuriating the Americans. Thus began a long siege with the Americans suffering huge losses, a bloodbath.

At the height of the battle, Lt. Col. Marion led his men forward across the abatis and into a ditch in front of the redoubt. There they were sprayed with shot by Carolina loyalist riflemen. As Marion's troops climbed forward, their standard bearer was wounded and fell. He passed the blue flag with the crescent symbol to Sgt. Jasper, the same hero of Fort Sullivan, but Jasper, too, was cut down.

Finally, the Franco-American forces were forced to retreat. Lincoln and Governor Rutledge pleaded with d'Estaing to continue the siege, but he had had enough. Wounded twice, he boarded his ship and sailed back to France, blaming the Americans for the debacle.

Sources:

Simms, William Gilmore, The History of South Carolina, 1840

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

Bass, Robert, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, 1959

Woodcut of Sgt. McDonald with Major Gainey

Sgt. Allen McDonald

Sergeant Allen McDonald, a patriot serving under Col. Peter Horry was part of Francis Marion's Brigade. The first mention of Sgt. McDonald is that he was one of three American prisoners rescued at the Battle of Nelson's Ferry by Francis Marion. He promptly joined Gen. Francis Marion's brigade.

In January of 1781, Sgt. McDonald was part of a skirmish on Black River Road near Georgetown between Horry's men and Loyalist Micajah Gainey. When they reached the corner of the Richmond Plantation fence on the Black River Road, the sergeant had gained so far upon his enemy as to be able to plunge his bayonet into Gainey's back. The steel parted from the gun, and with no time to extricate it, Major Gainey rushed back into Georgetown, with the weapon still conspicuously showing how close and fierce had been the charge, and how narrow the escape. Gainey miraculously survived the wound, returning to duty some weeks later.

House at 106 Tradd Street, Charleston, SC

Francis Marion Escapes Capture March, 1780

In May of 1780, Francis Marion was at the top of his game engaging the British successfully in hit-and-run ambush attacks along the Lowcountry of South Carolina. While taking a break from warfare, he attended a dinner party at the home of Col. Alexander McQueen, a fellow officer at 106 Tradd Street in Charleston. As a round of toasts began, the owner locked the doors and pocketed the key as was custom of the day. No one could leave until the toasting was over and all the liquor was consumed.

Francis Marion, being an abstemious man, quietly slipped away to the second floor where he made a daring escape. He jumped from a window to the ground, breaking his ankle. He limped away to recuperate in the country.

A few weeks later, Charleston fell to the British capturing almost 5,000 patriots. Francis Marion was not among them thanks to his lucky accident. Had he been in Charleston at the time, he would just be a name on a list of prisoners instead of one of South Carolina's most effective war heroes of the Revolutionary War.

Sources:

Bass, Robert, The Swamp Fox The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, 1959

Traditional Story

Skirmish at Nelson's Ferry con't

One of the prisoners was wounded. Ironically, of the freed Continentals, 85 refused to be liberated. They decided to accept whatever fate awaited them rather than be bound to Marion's ragtag militia. Although the remainder of the freed men followed Marion, all but three had deserted him by the time he reached his camp. Their loss had little effect on Marion's band of warriors, who remained devoted to their commander and his effective guerilla tactics.

This is thought to be the first time Lord Cornwallis heard of Col. Francis Marion.

Sources

American Battlefield Trust : https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/great-savannah

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

Skirmish at Nelson's Ferry August 24, 1780

(Also known as Skirmish at Great Savannah)

Location: North side of Nelson's Ferry on the Santee River, Clarendon County

Commanders: American – Col. Francis Marion

British – Capt. Jonathan Roberts

Casualties: American – 0 killed

British – 24 killed

Shortly before the Battle of Camden, Col. Francis Marion and his militia fighters offered their services to Patriot Major General Horatio Gates. Gates, thinking this rag tag group not worthy of fighting with his Patriot Regulars, tasked Marion with destroying boats along the Santee River to block a British escape to Charleston. Marion and his local militia were successfully carrying out their mission when Marion learned of the devastating Patriot defeat at Camden. Fearing that his men would mutiny and disperse, he kept the demoralizing news to himself.

Marion received two other pieces of information that stirred his anger toward the enemy. He heard from a deserter that the British had just burned his home, Pond Bluff, below Nelson's Ferry, and he was also informed that British Captain Jonathan Roberts's detachment of the 63rd Regiment of Foot was holding 150 Continental prisoners from Camden at Thomas Sumter's abandoned plantation, Great Savannah, near Nelson's Ferry.

"As is common in battle, things did not go exactly according to the script. In the darkness Col. Pete Horry's men stumbled upon a British sentinel who fired at their shadows and alerted the rest of the guard. Their cover blown, Horry did the only thing he could: he immediately led a mounted charge down the lane that led to the front of the house. To his surprise and delight, he discovered that the enemy had left all of their muskets carelessly piled outside the front door. Horry's patrol seized the weapons and burst inside, soon joined by Marion. The fight was over in minutes. Before the astonished British even has time to react, two of their number were killed, five were wounded, and twenty were taken prisoners. (The rest apparently fled for their lives.) Marion had none killed and only two wounded. His men had retrieved all of the 150 American prisoners. The victory, though small, was complete." (John Oller)

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Battle of Blue Savannah

September 4, 1780

Location: Near Port's Ferry on the PeeDee River

Commanders: Americans: Br. Gen. Francis Marion

British Loyalists: Maj. Michajah Ganey, Capt. Jesse Barefield

Casualties: Americans: 4 wounded

Loyalists: 30-50 killed or wounded

The Battle of Blue Savannah occurred on August 13, 1780, when Brigadier General Francis Marion and a band of Patriot guerrillas ambushed and defeated a force of 200 Loyalist militia. American Forces were commanded by Gen. Francis Marion and consisted of about 53 Soldiers. British Forces was commanded by Maj. Micajah Ganey and consisted of about 250 Soldiers. William Dobein James, one of Marion's men tells the story:

"On the second or third day after his arrival, [from the win at Nelson's Ferry] General Marion ordered his men to mount white cockades, to distinguish themselves from the tories, and crossed the Pedee, at Port's ferry, to disperse a large body of tories, under Major [Micajah]Ganey, stationed on Britton's neck, between great and little Pedee. He surprised them at dawn in the morning, killed one of their captains and several privates, and had two men wounded. Major [John] James was detached at the head of a volunteer troop of horse, to attack their horse; he came up with them, charged, and drove them before him. In this affair, Major James singled out Major Ganey, (as he supposed) as the object of his single attack. At his approach Ganey fled, and he pursued him closely, and nearly within the reach of his sword, for half a mile; when behind a thicket, he came upon a party of tories, who had rallied. Not at all intimidated, but with great presence of mind, Major James called out, "'Come on my boys! -- Here they are! -- Here they are!' And the whole body of tories broke again, and rushed into little Pedee swamp.

Another party of tories lay higher up the river, under the command of Capt. Barefield; who had been a soldier in one of the South Carolina regiments. These stood to their ranks, so well, and appeared to be so resolute, that Gen. Marion did not wish to expose his men, by an attack on equal terms; he therefore feigned a retreat, and led them into an ambuscade, near the Blue Savannah, where they [the Loyalists] were defeated. This was the first manoeuvre of the kind, for which he afterwards became so conspicuous."

Skirmish at Black Mingo September 28, 1780

Location: Near Rhems, Georgetown County

Commanders: **American – General Francis Marion**

British Loyalist – Col. John Coming Ball

Casualties: **Americans – 2 killed, 8 wounded**

Loyalists – 3 killed, 1 wounded, 13 captured

In early September, 1780 Francis Marion took his men to Great White Marsh, NC to rest and escape British Maj. James Wemyss' death squad that had been sent to neutralize him. After the American loss at Camden, the British then traveled across South Carolina, plundering and destroying Patriot properties. Concern for the property and lives of his people, Marion returned on September 24, 1780. He was alerted to the presence of a large number of Loyalists near Black Mingo Creek, (also known as Shepherd's Ferry) then 15 miles away. While the reports indicated that the Loyalist numbers were larger than his own, the enthusiasm of his men prompted him to agree to an attack.

In the dark of night, Marion approached. Some accounts say that as they crossed a bridge over Mingo Creek near Dollard's Tavern, they covered the bridge with blankets to muffle the sound of hooves on the wooden planks. Regardless, a sentinel fired a shot. The Tories in the tavern were alerted by the sound and Tory Col. John Coming Ball sent his men into an open field in formation to face their attackers.

The darkness and absence of moonlight made it difficult for either side to see each other. After the first volley by the Tories, their position was revealed and battle ensued. After about 15 minutes, the Tories took to the woods and swamps, leaving all guns, ammunition, baggage, and horses behind. Marion took the Tory commander's steed for himself and in a rare display of humor, renamed him "Ball" and rode him the rest of the war. Many of the Tories turned to join Marion's men.

Sources:

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

Simms, William Gilmore, The History of South Carolina 1840

Black Mingo Attack, a Hot Little Battle, taken from James A. Rogers (Florence Morning News, May 5, 1974

Marion's Four Attempts to Take Georgetown

On October 9, 1780, Francis Marion decided to enter Georgetown. He rode into the city unmolested with 40 men and once inside issued a rather audacious demand to the garrison commander to surrender. After the predictable refusal, Marion withdrew, finding the fortifications too strong to storm. He would need artillery which was too impractical to haul over long distances.

Before leaving, and to show the enemy he was a force to be reckoned with, he took his men on a little parade through the town. They made off with a few horses and some of the enemy's equipment and captured several notable Tory military men.

Just outside of Georgetown, a separate squad of Marion's men under the command of Col. Peter Horry ran into some mounted Tories under Major Macajah Gainey. (See Sgt. Allen McDonald's story in this series.)

November 15, 1780

Marion was sorely in need of ammunition, clothing, and salt. As he came upon Georgetown, he found it too heavily fortified. Yet again, his lack of artillery prevented him from success. He split his men into two groups to retreat. At White's Bridge, one band met up with Tory Capt. Jesse Barefield. After a light skirmish, the Patriots took twelve prisoners. However, a great loss occurred. Marion's beloved nephew, 21-year-old Lt. Gabriel Marion, son of his brother Gabriel, was viciously murdered. He was captured, and once his name was revealed, he was shot through the chest at point blank range.

January 24, 1781

Marion and Lee planned a two pronged attack to take Georgetown, one by river and one by land. (See "Attack Upon Georgetown" for complete story.)

May 28, 1781

On May 25, 1781, Francis Marion once more turned his attention to relieving Georgetown

cont'd

Marion's Four Attempts to Take Georgetown cont'd

from her British captors. He again did not have any artillery, so he wheeled in mounted peeled logs painted black to resemble cannons. He hoped his bluff would induce the enemy into surrendering. He acted as if he were beginning a siege. His clever trick was not even necessary. As he arrived at the town, he discovered the British had spiked their cannons, boarded their ships, and left the city the night before. Marion was able to ride into town unimpeded. Loyalist Commander of Georgetown, Robert Gray, had no intention of offering any resistance. Georgetown had fallen without firing a shot. The British ships lingered in Winyah Bay several days before sailing for Charleston. The only thing that prevented Marion's total elation was the death of his last remaining brother, Isaac, w ho died on May 31. He is buried in Prince George Churchyard. Today, his grave is impossible to locate.

Sources:

Bass, Robert, The Swamp Fox The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, 1959

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

Attack Upon Georgetown January 24, 1781

Location: Town of Georgetown, SC

On the night of January 24, 1781, General Francis Marion devised a two prong attack on Georgetown. Infantry under Lt. Col. Henry ("Light Horse Harry") Lee floated down the Black River, while Marion and Lee were to enter by land. A delay for Marion and Lee caused Capt. Patrick Carnes and Capt. Michael Rudolph of Lee's Infantry to commence the battle.

Their sites were set on the Redoubt (thought to be the brick jail at the corner of Duke and Highmarket) and the brick church (probably Prince George Winyah Church of England) where British soldiers were housed. They struck from the undefended waterfront at Mitchell's Landing (near where the two bridges going north stand today). Unable to breach the redoubt and the brick Church, they captured the British commandant, Lt. Col. George Campbell, in his lodgings (thought to be 222 Broad Street). He was paroled on the spot.

As Col. Peter Horry reported:

"Colonel Campbell, the commander, was made prisoner in his bed; adjutant Crookshank, Major [Alexander] Irwin, and other officers were sound asleep at a tavern belonging to a genteel family, with whom they had spent the evening with great hilarity. A detachment of our men approached the house, flew into the piazza flourishing their pistols and shouting to the charge. Soon as the alarm was given, the officers leaped out of bed, not waiting to dress. Major Irwin, with more courage than discretion, fired a pistol, and would have tried another shot, but just as he had cocked it, he was surrounded, stopped short by a stroke of a bayonet, which ended him and his courage together.

"Adjutant Crookshanks, acting in the same heroic style, would have shared the same fate, had it not been for an angel of a young woman, daughter of the gentleman of the house. This charming girl was engaged to be married to Crookshanks. Waked by the firing and horrid din of battle on the piazza, she was at first almost 'reft of her senses by the fright but the moment she heard her lover's voice, all her terrors vanished, and instead of hiding herself under the bedclothes, she rushed to the piazza amidst the mortal fray, with no

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Attack Upon Georgetown con't

armor but her love, no covering but her flowing tresses. Happily for her lover, she got to him just in time to throw her arms around his neck and scream out, "Oh save! Save Major Crookshanks!" Thus, with her own sweet body she shielded him against the uplifted swords of her enraged countrymen!

"Crookshanks yielded himself our prisoner, but we paroled him on the spot, and left him to those delicious sentiments which he must have felt in the arms of an elegant young woman, who had saved his life by an effort of love sufficient to endear her to him to all eternity.

"It was told us afterwards of this charming girl, that as soon as we were gone, and, of course, the danger past and the tumult of her bosom subsided, she fell into a swoon, from which it was with difficulty she was recovered. Her extreme fright, on being waked by the firing and horrid uproar of battle in the house, and her strong sympathy for her lover's danger, together with the alarm occasioned by finding herself in his arms, were too much for her delicate frame.

"There is a beauty in the generous actions which charms the souls of men! And a sweetness, which like the immortal love whence it flows, can never die. The eyes of all, even the poorest soldiers in our camp, sparkled with pleasure whenever they talked, as they often did, of this charming woman, and of our generosity to major Crookshanks; and to this day, even after a lapse of thirty years, I never think of it but with pleasure as exquisite, perhaps, as what I felt at the first moment of that transaction."

The attack upon Georgetown was a semi-success. Marion's men did not rout the British out of Georgetown, but he did leave the British in awe of his tactics and valor.

Source:

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, Wayne Lynch's Webinar of Feb. 6, 2021, by Charles Baxley

Battle of Tearcoat Swamp October 25, 1780

Location: Northeast of Manning, SC, Clarendon County

Commanders: American – Col. Francis Marion

British – Loyalist Lt. Col. Samuel Tynes

Casualties: American – 0 killed, 0 wounded

British Loyalists - 23 killed, 14 wounded, Captured 23

Patriot Col. Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox," was on his way to surprise Tory Lt. Col. Samuel Tynes and his Loyalist militia at their camp in Tearcoat Swamp on October, 1780. The British command had pinned their hopes on recruiting Loyalists who would fight — and win — for the Crown in the South. Tynes was ordered to call up Loyalist militia from the Santee region and provide them with arms, ammunition, food, and training. He gathered the spirited but undisciplined troops at Tearcoat Swamp.

Marion, who relentlessly pursued the British in rural South Carolina, was informed of Tynes' location and was intent on disrupting his recruitment efforts. He led 150 partisan soldiers across the Pee Dee River and descended on Tynes's encampment between the swamp and the Black River after dark, when the unsuspecting Loyalist troops were relaxing by their campfires. After midnight on October 25, Marion made his move. Dividing his men into three columns — left, right, and center — he struck from all sides, completely routing the green soldiers. The panicked Loyalists bolted into the swamp as Marion's men fired at their backs. In the short skirmish, six Loyalists were killed and 14 were wounded. The Patriots did not lose a single man. Marion's soldiers captured 80 horses, muskets, baggage, food and ammunition, further depleting an already tenuous British supply line. Some of Tynes' shaken troops later emerged from the wetland and joined up with Marion's partisans. The defectors inspired the bog's humorous moniker "Turncoat Swamp."

Source:

American Battlefield Trust

Tarleton's Chase November 7, 1780

Location: From Richardson's Plantation to Ox Swamp (26 miles)

On November 7, 1780, British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was on the hunt for Francis Marion and his men. There had been other death squads sent to put an end to their nemesis. Tarleton tried to lure Marion into battle, but the careful Marion was not easily tricked.

Tarleton lit bonfires at Col. Richard Richardson's Plantation designed to give the impression that he was burning the home of the late revered patriot's family. (He actually did burn it later.) In the meantime he wheeled out two small artillery pieces capable of a kind of firepower Marion's men were not used to facing. Then, knowing Marion's penchant for making surprise attacks at night, Tarleton hid in the woods with his force of four hundred and waited for Marion to come to him.

Marion nearly took the bait. Seeing the light near Richardson's, he thought that it was the plantation house on fire and that Tarleton was there. Not knowing the size of the enemy force, he crept forward, deliberating over his next move. On his way he was met by a son of the late Col. Richardson. He brought information that Tarleton was camped a couple of miles away with one hundred cavalry and three hundred dragoons. The young Richardson, a thirty-nine-year-old militia major, had been taken prisoner at Charleston, paroled, and returned to service after being exchanged. By slipping away to alert Marion, he was risking his life. He also reported that Tarleton had two artillery pieces - a grasshopper (a light brass cannon, named for the way it jumped backward on firing) and a small field howitzer. He further informed Marion that one of Marion's men had deserted to the enemy and was now serving as a guide for Tarleton.

Realizing that Tarleton held the advantage, including artillery, which his men had not yet faced, Marion decided he needed to depart the area at once. He took his men on a fast ride in darkness through a major swamp, not stopping until they were past Richbourg's Mill Dam on Jack's Creek six miles away.

The next morning, November 8, Tarleton was puzzled over Marion's failure to attack, so he sent a few men to find out why. They brought back a prisoner who had managed to escape from Marion's brigade during the previous night's mad dash. He informed them that Marion would have attacked him had some "treacherous women" (the widow Richardson and others) not smuggled out an emissary to warn Marion of Tarleton's actual number.

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Tarleton's Chase con't

Tarleton immediately ordered his men to their arms and mounts, but they soon discovered that Marion had already flown from his camp at Jack's Creek in the direction of Kingstree.

Tarleton then embarked on a seven-hour hunt for his intended victim, trudging through 26 miles of miserable swamps and narrow gorges. Marion in turn took his men on a 35 mile route, up to the banks of one creek, down along a river and then across another creek, through bogs, always staying beyond shouting distance of his pursuers. Tarleton reported to Cornwallis that due to Marion's headstart and "the difficulties of the country," he was unable to catch him. He abandoned the chase at Ox Swamp, outside of present-day Manning, S.C. which was wide, mucky, and without roads for passage. It was there Tarleton is said to have uttered the words that gave Marion his now famous nickname. "Come my boys! Let us go back, and we will soon find the Gamecock [Thomas Sumter]. But as for this damned old fox, the Devil himself could not catch him."

Sources:
Bass, Robert D., *The Swamp Fox The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion* 1959
Oller, John, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marin Saved the American Revolution* 2016
Simms, William Gilmore, *The Life of Francis Marion* 1844

Snow's Island Developed mid-November 1780

Snow's Island is an area of slightly elevated land in the swamps along the Pee Dee River in Florence County, South Carolina. The area is historically significant as the secret stronghold for Gen. Francis Marion during the Revolutionary War. Bordered on east, west and north by the PeeDee River and Clark's and Lynches Creeks in Florence County

Employing guerrilla warfare, Marion significantly contributed to the American war effort by conducting numerous raids on British outposts, sometimes striking from Snow's Island. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

Francis Marion found Snow's Island ideal for the headquarters of a Partisan (Patriot) chief. Named for William Snow, an early settler of Williamsburg, the island is a low ridge three miles long and two miles wide. Gum, oak and pine stood tall among an undergrowth of dogwood, haw and hornbeam. Brambles and wild muscadine vines entangled in their branches. Cypress trees stood along the watercourses, dressed in cloaks of streaming Spanish moss. Along Clark's Creek the undergrowth gave way to a green, almost impenetrable cane brake.

Hugh Giles, a surveyor and area landowner, had established the Snow's Island camp by mid-November, 1780. By Christmas it had become Marion's main hide-out and place of rendezvous from which his men ventured forth. To insulate themselves as much as possible, Marion's men felled trees and broke down ridges across creek fords and difficult passes. They threw up a small earthworks, or redoubt, at Dunham's Bluff on the east side of the PeeDee, opposite the island, and set up camp there as well. In March of 1781, British Lt. Col. Welbore Ellis Doyle found Snow's Island and destroyed Francis Marion's camp. He may have been led there by one of Marion's men.

There may have been multiple camps in the same vicinity, both on and off the island and his men moved constantly from one to the other to maximize security. According to Steven Smith, Archaeologist and Historian for the SC Department of Archives and History, Snow's Island has not yielded much in the way of artifacts that proved it was used as much as previously thought. It is possible that the main camp was on Dunham's Bluff, where plenty of artifacts have been found.

Sources:
South Carolina Department of Archives and History - National Register Properties in South Carolina
Bass, Robert D., The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, 1959
Youtube, Smith, Steven D., SC Department of Archeology and Anthropology, "Francis Marion and the Snow's Island Community"

Skirmish of Halfway Swamp December 13, 1781

Location: Near Rimini, South Carolina
Commanders: American – Gen. Francis Marion
British – Maj. Robert McLeroth
Casualties: American – 6 wounded
British – 6 killed

On December 13, 1781, Francis Marion and his men came upon British Maj. Robert McLeroth escorting 200 green recruits from England along with some seasoned British regulars. Their destination was to deliver these recruits to Cornwallis' army at Winnsboro, SC just below Camden.

Marion began by firing upon the rear guard causing McLeroth to wheel around and begin an attack. Marion's men attacked the flank and front, killing or wounding several. McLeroth, who was at a disadvantage, sent his men into an open field behind a rail fence. As a waiting game became tedious, Marion issued a unique challenge – 20 of their best marksmen against 20 of his to settle the question with a duel. Later that day, the duelists were picked from each side and the two lines faced each other. They marched forward to within 100 yards when suddenly the British shouldered their arms and retreated back to their main body. Both sides retired for the night to plan the next day's operations.

It turns out that McLeroth was stalling for time. He had sent for reinforcements. He set campfires burning to create appearances and before dawn slipped away toward Singleton's Mill, nearly 15 miles away. It was one of the few times that the Swamp Fox had been outfoxed. McLeroth left his supply wagons and heavy baggage behind, a costly sacrifice that indicated how much he wanted to avoid a general engagement.

Sources

Bass, Robert D., *The Swamp Fox The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion,* 1959
Oller, John, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marin Saved the American Revolution,* 2016

Siege of Fort Watson April 15, 1781

Location: Near Summerton, SC in Clarendon County
Commanders: American - Gen. Francis Marion, Col. Henry (Lighthorse Harry) Lee
British – Lt. James McKay
CasualtiesL American – 2 killed, 6 wounded
British – 120 captured

Named for its builder, British Col. John Watso -Tadwell Watson, this outpost was constructed on top of an old Indian mound at Wright's Bluff on the Santee River. Its location made it a major supply and communications link between Charleston and Camden.

Marion used different tactics in his attempt to take the fort. Together with Col. Henry Lee, he laid siege to the post. Partisan bands traveled light and without the artillery necessary to barrage the fort, so Marion had to devise alternate methods of forcing a surrender. He first cut off their water supply, but the British simply dug a well. Starving the British out would take months. Col. Hezekiah Maham, of Marion's brigade, came up with an idea. He took a number of men into the woods to fell trees, remove their branches, and notch the ends as though they were going to build a log cabin – something most of them had experience with. During the night, they carried the logs next to the fort and constructed a square tower that rose to a height of 50 feet, 10 feet higher than the fort walls. When dawn broke, riflemen standing on a platform in the tower rained a deadly fire into the fort. Its commander, Lt. James McKay, quickly surrendered. The device was so effective that Maham's Tower, as it was thereafter known, was used in other sieges in the Southern Campaign. The victorious Americans captured over 100 British and their supplies and then destroyed the fort. Marion reported two killed and six wounded on his side in the siege. It was the first fort captured from the British.

Sources:
Barbour, R.L., *South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battlefields,* 2002
Oller, John, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution,* 2016

Siege of Fort Mott

May 6 - 12, 1781

Location: Near the town of Fort Motte, Calhoun County, SC
Commanders: American – Gen. Francis Marion, Col. Henry (Lighthorse Harry) Lee
British – Lt. McPherson
Casualties: American – Unknown
British – 150 captured

Rebecca Brewton Motte had prominent Charleston family connections. Sister to Miles Brewton and widow of the long-serving provincial treasurer, Jacob Motte, Rebecca nevertheless removed to her plantation, Mount Joseph, on the Congaree River following the British occupation of Charleston. The British soon took over the house and fortified it with earthworks and abatis (sharpened poles imbedded in the ground at an angle), and strong palisades for use as an outpost along their supply line from Charleston. Mrs. Motte was forced to take up residence in the overseer's house.

It was May 6, 1781, when Francis Marion and Lighthorse Harry Lee arrived after their success at Fort Watson, ready to mete out the same punishment to the British posted here at Fort Motte. As fate would have it, the fort had been recently reinforced and now held 150 men under Lt. McPherson. Marion had one artillery piece with him and prepared to lay siege to the fort. He had his men dig trenches along a natural ravine in an effort to get as close as possible before launching an all-out assault.

In the meantime, Lord Francis Rawdon was on his way from Camden, only 35 miles north and Marion quickly realized that more expedient measures were called for. He decided to set the house on fire and, being a gentleman, consulted Mrs. Motte before taking action. She not only consented but provided Marion with the means necessary to put his plan to work. She gave him some "fire arrows" that ignited on impact, which her late husband had procured on his worldly travels. She may have also provided the bow with which to shoot them, although the Patriots could have quickly fashioned their own bow or even shot the arrows from their muskets. Either way, the hot, dry, wood-shingled roof was soon ablaze. The British tried to tear off the shingles but were discouraged by Marion's artillery fire, and Lt. McPherson was forced to surrender. Formalities of the capitulation were delayed while all available hands, both British and American, worked to put out the fire in order to save at least part of Mrs. Motte's home.

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Siege of Fort Mott con't

That evening, she served dinner to officers of both sides in the part of her house that had survived the fire. Another account says that she served the dinner under an arbor in front of her cabin. As they dined, Marion was in exceedingly high spirits, but as he mingled and chatted, he saw a British soldier run up and whisper something to McPherson. Greatly agitated, the lieutenant relayed the message to Marion. The little brigadier sprang up, grabbed his sword, and ran downhill toward his camp. On turning the corner of the garden, he saw a grisly scene. Two men lay dead on the ground and a notorious Tory named Levy Smith was swinging by the neck from the beam of the garden gate. Marion ordered him cut down immediately. He would not tolerate the killing of prisoners.

Although Rawdon had seen the entire affair from across the river, Marion's forces prevented him from coming to the aid of his compatriots. He moved toward Moncks Corner, while Marion continued his endeavor to capture the British outposts that dotted South Carolina's midlands.

Sources:

Barbour, R.L., *South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battles,* 2002
Bass, Robert D., *The Swamp Fox, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion* 1959

Battle at Quinby Bridge – Shubrick's Plantation July 17, 1781

Location: Near Huger, Berkeley County
Commanders: American - Generals Francis Marion and Thomas Sumter, Col. Henry (Lighthorse Harry) Lee
British - Lt. Col. John Coats
Casualties: Americans - 30 killed, 30 wounded
British - 7 killed, 39 wounded

By the summer of 1781, British outposts in South Carolina had been falling like dominoes for months and now they were reduced to a few posts around Charleston. Lt. Col. John Coates was the commander at Moncks Corner. With Thomas Sumter breathing down his neck, he began his retreat. His first stop was Biggin Church, which was being used as a storehouse by the British. Coates torched the building at 3 a.m. to prevent the Americans from capturing supplies, and fell back to Quinby Bridge. After crossing, the rear guard was to remove the planks of the bridge, but in their haste the boards were only loosened.

By this time, Lee and Marion had joined Sumter's forces. It was Lee's cavalry that first reached the bridge and, once across, his lead brigade caused great panic among the British infantry. However, their crossing further loosened the planks. As Lee's later-arriving reinforcements attempted to cross, the planks fell into the river and Lee's forces became separated. Deadly hand-to-hand fighting took place before Lee was able to ford the river and reorganize his troops.

The British then took up a position several miles downstream at Thomas Shubrick's plantation. The men hid in and behind the house, outbuildings, and fences and waited for the Americans. Lee and Marion decided the position was too formidable to engage in a frontal assault without Sumter's artillery which had not yet arrived. At Sumter's arrival, without the necessary artillery, Sumter overruled them, and the results were disastrous. After a useless carnage that lasted three hours, the Patriot forces retreated to the newly repaired Quinby Bridge. Stunned and grief stricken, Francis Marion left the field in silence, but he now knew that he had been right in his appraisal of Thomas Sumter. His dead and wounded justified his former reluctance and refusal to fight under a man whose courage exceeded his judgment. He resolved never again to fight under the command of the Gamecock again.

Sources:
Bass, Robert D., *The Swamp Fox, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion, 1*959
Simms, William Gilmore, *The Life of Francis Marion,* 1844
Oller, John, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution,* 2016

Battle of Eutaw Springs September 8, 1781

Location: Eutawville, Orangeburg County
Commanders: American – Gen. Nathanael Greene, Marion, Sumter, Pickens, Lee, William Washington and Wade Hampton
British – Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart
Casualties: American 138 killed, 375 wounded, 41 captured
British – 85 killed, 351 wounded, 251 missing

By early fall of 1781, all the British outposts in the midlands of the state had been captured by the Americans and the British army was inching back closer to its home base in Charleston. British Lt. Col. Alexander Stewart was now in command, having taken over for Lord Rawdon, who returned to England due to illness. The American army under General Nathanael Greene included the troops of Francis Marion, Lighthorse Harry Lee, Andrew Pickens, William Washington, and Wade Hampton. This illustrious and talented group was camped across the river from the British near where the Congaree and Wateree rivers join to form the Santee River, but because of recent flooding, the Americans were forced to take a rather circuitous route to get to the other side. Meanwhile, Stewart had moved his men southeast and camped at Eutaw Springs, today under the waters of Lake Marion.

The strength of each of the armies was roughly 2,200. Probably no two opposing armies in any large-scale engagement during the southern phase of the war were as evenly matched as these. Severe shortages of both food and cavalry forced Stewart to send out 100 armed men to forage and dig sweet potatoes. The Americans were close by and easily captured all of them.

Fighting began around 9 a.m. with the British holding the southern end of the battlefield. The soldiers on this field were the cream of the crop, and fighting was fierce and relentless as the tide of battle turned several times. Casualties began to mount up all over the field, and it would be nearly four hours before the enemy line finally began to waver. British Maj. Marjoribanks was in command of the only part of the British that held, while the Americans rushed forward towards their encampment. Artillery was brought up to help capture the large brick Eutaw House, where British sharpshooters were holed up.

With the taste of victory on their lips, the Patriots streamed into the British camp and

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Battle of Eutaw Springs con't

came upon their supplies, including barrels of rum to which they helped themselves and then some, making many of them unmanageable. As the men began to loot, eat, and drink, Marjoribanks reorganized his men and launched a spectacular counterattack. Snipers in the house were able to pick off the artillerymen, and the American guns were captured. Once again, Greene had to withdraw. Casualties were heavy – almost 700 for the British, including Marjoribanks, who was buried elsewhere and then reinterred on the field many years later. Over 500 Americans fell, including Pickens and Washington, who were both wounded, the latter also captured. Though technically a British victory, they once again retreated towards Charleston, their ranks now decimated. One month later, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia.

Sources:

Barbour, R.L., *South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battles,* 2002
Oller, John, *The Swamp Fox, How Francis Marin Saved the Revolution,* 2016

Wambaw Bridge February 24, 1781

Location: Near McClellanville, SC

Commanders: American: Francis Marion's Brigade under Col. Wm. Benison
Loyalists: Col. Benjamin Thompson

Casualties Unknown

While Francis Marion was serving in the SC Geneal Assembly, he turned over command of his men to Lt. Col. Peter Horry. This angered Lt. Col. Hezehiah Maham so that he refused to take any orders from Horry. By February, Maham turned over command of his part of Marion's Brigade to Capt. John Carraway Smith. Horry became quite ill, and returned to his home, turning command to Col. Archibald McDonald.

Loyalist Col. Benjamin Thompson learned of the confusion among Marion's ranks and began his move to attack on February 24. News of this activity was conveyed to Col. William Benison who rode to alert McDonald. Having dinner at the time, McDonald simple didn't believe the news. Benton rode on to Durant's Plantation only to encounter Thompson's advance guard.

Benison's dragoons raced across Wambaw Bridge but the old bridge broke down, sending Benison's men into the creek. Some tried to swim across and a few drowned. The rest made it to nearby thickets.

Patriot Maj. John James charged the broken bridge with 2 pistols blazing and his horse leapt the 20-foot chasm to safety. The remainder of the Patriots withdrew to Tidyman's Plantation.

This ordeal of confusion among his men and the poor leadership of his officers caused Francis Marion to leave the Assembly at a very crucial time of important decision making. The safety and wellbeing of his troops was paramount to him.

Source

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

Skirmish of Fort Fairlawn November 27, 1781

Location: Moncks Corner, Berkeley County, SC
Commanders: American – Cols. Isaac Shelby and Hezekiah Maham (Marion's officers)
British – Capt. McLean
Casualties: Americans – 0
British – 150 captured

After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, large numbers of Continental soldiers were dispatched to South Carolina to help send the last of the British forces back to Charleston and on to England. In addition, nearly 600 over-mountain men (from over the mountains of North Carolina) augmented Francis Marion's brigade, so Greene directed his amassed forces against Fort Fair Lawn, a British post a few miles east of Moncks Corner. The plantation was originally granted to Sir Peter Colleton, eldest son of one of the original eight lords proprietors. The estate was so large that it was a small village in itself, with outbuildings, mills and a landing on the Cooper River, protected by a redoubt (earthenworks or small fortification). The British were using the large brick mansion as a hospital.

The redoubt was guarded by 50 men under the command of Capt. McLean but was soon fortified by reinforcements who had seen the Americans on their way to Fair Lawn. When Marion arrived, he sent some of the over-mountain men under Colonels Hezekiah Maham and Isaac Shelby to storm the house first, expecting that McLean would leave the protection of the redoubt and fight in the open. Badly outnumbered, McLean refused to be lured from his stronghold and allowed about 150 British soldiers and doctors to be taken prisoner. Those who were able were marched off; those who were too ill to be moved were paroled. The Patriots also captured a good deal of supplies and arms there.

What happened next is certain – the Colleton House burned to the ground. How it happened is a mystery, with each side blaming the other. Several theories and justifications have been put forth, each one as plausible as the next. The senior surgeon on duty, Dr. Dowse, testified at a court of inquiry that the house was in flames no more than 20-30 minutes after the Americans first arrived. Colonels Maham and Shelby, on the other hand, claim that they were the last men to leave and there was no sign of smoke or fire at that time. The Colleton family held the British responsible.

Another unproven act was that Col. Maham forced the dying patients from the hospital to be taken to the swamp to expire there, a direct contradiction of Francis Marion's orders throughout the war. Marion abhorred unnecessary violence of any kind. The outcome of these matters is not known.

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

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Tidyman's Plantation con't.

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 Marin Saved the American Revolution* 2016

Second Skirmish at Fort Fairlawn August 29, 1782

About the middle of July, 1782, Francis Marion marched from the Santee to Wadboo near Fair Lawn Plantation, home of Sir John Colleton. As the buildings were strong, they were safe from rifle and musket fire. The long lane flanked by cedars, with branches sweeping to the ground, offered a perfect ambush against attackers.

The attack came on the morning of August 29. British Maj. Thomas Fraser, with 100 dragoons, crossed the Cooper River and set out to surprise the guards at Biggin Bridge and Strawberry Ferry. Learning of the raid, Marion called in his pickets, posted his marksmen among the cedars, and sent out a reconnaissance party under Capt. Gavin Witherspoon.

Meeting Witherspoon in the woods, Fraser charged. The Marion's men turned back toward Fair Lawn. As they were approaching the lane at full gallop, Witherspoon bore to the left and then fell back as if to cover the retreat. A dragoon darted forward to cut him down but, as he rose in his stirrups for the stroke, the captain toppled him with his carbine. At that, the concealed Americans gave a roaring shout. The surprised British wheeled and charged toward the cedars. The marksmen fired. Twenty men and five horses fell. At the sound of the volley, the horses drawing Francis Marion's ammunition wagon bolted. Also lost was Marion's tent and personal baggage. Five Americans ran out and recovered the wagon but they fled when Fraser's dragoons gave chase. Without powder, as he had so often been, Marion gave an order for his men to retreat again to the Santee. At that moment, among the cedars of Fair Lawn, Francis Marion ended his fighting days. He commanded his Brigade until the end of the war, but he never again gave a command to fire.

Sources:

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

Bass, Robert *The Swamp Fox, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion* 1959

Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox

Francis Marion, the legendary patriot General in the Revolutionary Army, was born in Berkeley County, South Carolina during the winter of 1732-1733 into a Huguenot family. When he was a young child, his father moved the family to Georgetown, SC, a port city. He developed a fascination with ships, and even sailed aboard a schooner at about the age of fifteen, but after suffering a traumatic incident of being adrift in a lifeboat for a week, he gave up his dreams of a sea-faring life. He took up farming instead and began to explore the swamps and back country of the South Carolina lowcountry on hunting and fishing expeditions. In 1750, he returned his widowed mother to her people in Moncks Corner and quietly farmed there.

In 1756, Francis joined the militia and by 1761 became a first lieutenant in an infantry regiment raised by the South Carolina government for a campaign against the Cherokee. At the end of the campaign, he returned to the life of a planter along the Santee River until 1773, when he bought Pond Bluff Plantation near Eutaw Springs.

In 1775, at the age of 44, Francis was again called to duty and in February of 1776 found himself at Fort Moultrie during the British naval attack on June 28, 1776 and successfully helped to turn the British fleet away, and thus began his illustrious career as one of the most effective military leaders in South Carolina.

His intimate knowledge of the swamps and back country of the area proved invaluable in his ability to attack and melt away into terrain where no British soldier would dare step. He became the most hated American and at least three death squads were sent to neutralize him, but none succeeded. British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, informed of Marion's whereabouts by an escaped prisoner, chased the American for seven hours, covering some 26 miles. Marion escaped into a swamp, and Tarleton gave up the chase. From then on, the name of Francis Marion, that wily old Swamp Fox, was revered. In December of 1782, the British finally withdrew from Charleston, the last British holding in the colonies.

Francis Marion showed compassion for the men he fought with and those he fought for, even his enemies. He would not allow his soldiers to descend into the barbarity he witnessed throughout the war, even intervening when his men tried to harm or kill an

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Francis Marion, The Swamp Fox con't

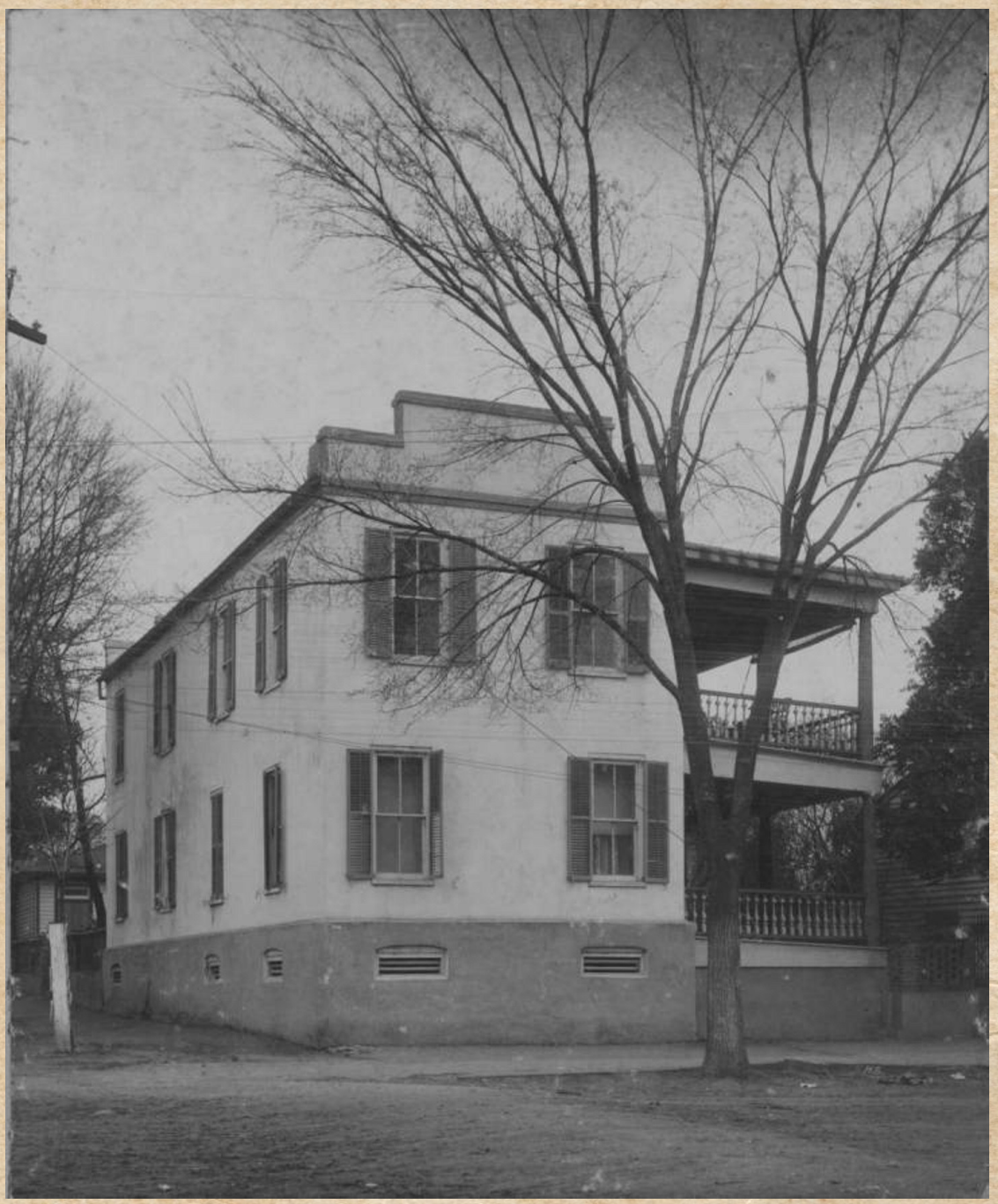
enemy off the battlefield. Yet his genius as a tactitian on the battlefield caused his enemies to name him The Swamp Fox, wily and brave. He knew when to pick a fight and when to pass. His hit and run guerilla warfare was so successful, he bled the British to death by a thousand cuts. (Oller)

When the war ended in 1782, his Pond Bluff plantation was in ruins having been plundered by both sides. Almost penniless, having never been paid for his services with the militia, he was able to get his plantation into a workable state. He was finally awarded a gold medal by the State Senate in 1783 and was given a comfortable salary as commandant of Fort Johnson.

On April 20, 1786 he married Mary Esther Videau. Although the marriage was a happy one, they remained childless. With Mary's family fortune, he was able to resign his post at Fort Johnson and build a new house at Pond Bluff. He remained active in community life, helping to draw up the State Constitution in 1790. Although in declining health, he was still active in the militia until 1794. His final days were spent visiting friends and former colleagues. He died on February 27, 1795 and is buried in Berkeley County.

Marion has lent his name to 29 cities and 17 counties across America, a four year university, a National Forest and countless babies. Francis Marion did have a talent for guerilla tactics, but his real greatness was that he was never infected by the spirit of cruelty and revenge that usually accompanies such fighting as he saw in the Indian Wars and the Revolutionary War. His epitaph states he "lived without fear and died without reproach."

British Headquarters Georgetown



The British Army arrived in Georgetown on July 1, 1780. The first commandant was British Major James Wemyss (prononced Weems).
A harsh taskmaster, he underestimated the loyalty of Georgetown residents to the American cause.

This building was located at the northeast corner of Front and Broad Streets.

Notes on This Series

There are several terms used in the stories of the Revolutionary War that need description.

Parole: Captured soldiers are sometimes given "parole" which means they may return home after signing a document in which they swear not to bear arms or in any way aid the enemy (their fellow soldiers) and if discovered breaking this oath, immediate death is carried out.

Who Was Who?

It isn't easy to understand who was who in reading accounts of events in the Revolutionary War. Here are some of the terms relating to combatants.

Americans Continental Army	British
Continentals	Redcoats
Regulars	Lobsterbacks
American Army	Royalists

American Volunteers	American Volunteers for the British
Patriots	Loyalists
Militia	Tories
Whigs	King's American Army
Rebels	King's Men
Colonials	Provincials
Partisans	Royal Militia
Sons of Liberty	
Irregulars	