

Summer 2021

Message From the President



Gentlemen,

On Wednesday morning, June 30th my father passed peacefully in his sleep at home. This is a normal and anticipated event that we all must deal with. It's simply called life! Today, I find that I am a more quiet person than before. Maybe out of sadness or maybe respect. Over these past few weeks I've realized more than ever how important it is for us to keep the memories and events from the past alive. It has been said many times that it only takes one generation to fail keep the flame lit, for failure to do so will result in the loss of a family's history.

Recently I received a copy of "Sons of the Revolution- A History 1875-2000" by John Dwight Kilbourne. In this book there is a quote by Past Kentucky General President Ralph B. Stever in which he states the special role of our society:

"We perform a unique and vital function in preserving and disseminating to succeeding generations the awareness of our early principles, spirit, and memorabilia, without which these generations could easily chose new paths to old mistakes. We are not dealing in nostalgia. We are providing the opportunity to become aware of tested standards with which to create or measure current solutions. And, we are the one of the few remaining institutions able to do so without justifiable suspicion that our message is tainted by hope of financial, political or personal rewards. Our fundamental technique is through education...The object is to stimulate the general public to learn more about the vital history of this nation and apply the lessons to preserving it strong and intact. If there is one great challenge that all our Societies should apply themselves to, it is how we can more effectively take our message to the public and invite the public in to hear it."

The South Carolina Society I feel is moving in this direction with mindful attention to our future. Recently, it was my great pleasure to hold the first meeting for gentlemen interested in our society and present certificates of membership to three new members in Florence.

It is our charge to keep the flame lit for generations to come.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,
Jeffery D. Murrie

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of SC the Society of the Sons of Revolution was held in Cayce SC on May 15, 2021 at 2: 0 0 pm following the 240th Fort Granby Wreath Laying Ceremony and social luncheon. Dean Hunt describes the siege of the "Congarees Post" known as Fort Granby to an audience of 35 following the Wreath Ceremony at the historical museum front lawn.

Business Meeting Attendees: Ivan Bennett, Tom Weidner, William Suggs, Stephen Swoope, Jeff Murrie, Albert Furtrell and George Summers

•Special Recognition of two Jr. Patriots: William and Benjamin Suggs

Approval November 14th Minutes and Treasury reports

Reports

- Call to Order SCSR President Jeff Murrie recognizing attendance and event success, safely following state guidelines.
- Facebook and Website
- General Society www.sr1776.org with member login
- South Carolina – 250 Followers and growing
- <https://www.facebook.com/SRSC1776/>
- <https://www.srsc1776.org/>
- Greenville Chapter
- President Furtrell provided update on membership and Pickens project
- Vice President Vacancy
- Pickens monument dedication confirmed at Wreaths Across America Ceremony
- President Report – Jeff reviewed state activities including upcoming General Society meeting along with state events. Current focus on growing membership and updating State Seal for apparel and stationary, including launch of membership cards
- Treasure Report reviewed by Ivan Account-Balance \$1,278.33 SCSR
- Review of 2021 Accounts
- Greenville Chapter-Pickens Project \$3,650 Pledged
- Col. George Summers ROTC Scholarship
- Lt. Bradley Hudson Book Program
- Charles W Swoope Flag Fund
- Membership Report provided by Ivan
- New Members exceed 50 in 2021
- Introduction of New State Registrar-William Suggs
- Update on two new applicants

Business Agenda

- Newsletter – June 15th Deadline
- Merchandising table at General Society Meeting
- Liberty Trail Southern Campaign for wreath events sponsored by SCSR
- Symposium scheduled for October 22nd, 2021 provided by George Summers
- Florence Chapter formation

Motions

- State Registrar Vacancy nominated William Suggs – Approved
- 2021 Dedication for Pickens Project at Wreaths across America in December, 2021-Approved
- Florence Chapter formation - Approved

Regional Business

- Upstate – Ft. Hays Massacre Annual Event
- Southern Wesleyan University history class host SR member Tom Weidner
- Midstate – Ft Granby Annual Event
- ROTC program aligns with Sons of Revolution history George Summers
- Coastal –Isaac Hayne Memorial and Battle of Parkers Ferry Annual Event
- Remembrance of Liberty Tree shared in recent Crescent Moon by Matthew Breen

Recognition

- Col. George Summers contribution to the ROTC Scholarship Fund 2021
- Five Cadets Jr ROTC received \$300 Awards 2021
- Greenville Chapter President Albert Futrell presented with the signed Charter by President Murrie and Secretary Swoope
- A SCSR Gavel Presented to President Jeff Murrie during Lunch Social Events
- The 250th Semiquincentennial Commission activities www.america250.org
- Carolina Day Charleston- 28th of June Matthew Breen
- Ft Thicketty Gaffney- 24th Of July Tom Weidner
- Isaac Hayne and Parkers Ferry 4th of August Wm Suggs
- GSSR Triennial Boston of September 30th
- 3 Delegates
- SCSR Annual Membership Meeting TBD November Jeff Murrie
- Wreaths Across America and Pickens Monument Dedication- Albert Futrell

Adjournment

Stephen C. Swoope
May 15th, 2021

William Raymond Murrie

25 April 1935 - 30 June 2021

On Wednesday morning June 30th William passed away in his sleep. The only son of Frank Thomas and Rena Burleson Murrie, was born in Alamance County, North Carolina. Isaac Burleson his fourth great grandfather served in the Revolution. Isaac was born in Virginia around 1750 and eventually migrated with his family to North Carolina. In February of 1776 Isaac was serving as a Private in Captain Charles Polk's Clear Creek, North Carolina Militia. Most of his service was in the Cross Creek area of the state, helping suppress Loyalist forces who continued to support George III. In April of 1776 he joined the 5th South Carolina Regiment under the command of Col. Isaac Huger and Lt. Col. Peter Horry. After his service in the Revolution, Isaac settled on the banks of Big Bear Creek in Stanly County, North Carolina. Isaac is buried on a hilltop overlooking his farm near Oakboro, North Carolina.



William was also descended from the following patriots:

Robert Browning
Thomas Castle
John Kimbrough
Solomon Burris
Thomas Lowder

William was a true Tar Hill until the end. His loves were his vegetable garden, raising his prized heritage poultry and the game of golf.

Author: Jeff Murrie, President South Carolina Sons of the Revolution 2021



Son presenting his father SCSR Certificate
GSSR 42225 SC 312

Recruiting for Florence Chapter

On May 13 SCSR President Jeff Murrie emailed an invitation to three new members and potential members to attend the First Sons of the Revolution meeting for the Pee Dee / Florence area.

The meeting was held at the Saint Luke Lutheran Church on Cherokee Road in Florence.

In a failed attempt by a SAR Chapter in the area, President Murrie made lemonade out of lemons.

Jeff had the support from those interested in joining an ancestral historical society. He stated in the email, "if you are interested in learning more about Sons of the Revolution, consider joining him..." He presented certificates, rosettes and the new SCSR membership cards to three patriots:

Dr. Thomas Barnett

Dr. Dewey Ervin

Dr. David Kahn

"If you know of a family member or friend that may be interested then I encourage you to invite them to attend with you".



President Murrie has one additional prospect with an application pending approval.



The June 28, 2021 Carolina Day

By Matthew Breen, Esq. SCSR Vice President and Society Solicitor

On Monday, June 28, 2021, patriotic Americans celebrated the 244th Carolina Day, commemorating the Battle of Sullivan’s Island. On June 28, 1776, an assault by combined British naval and other military forces attempted to seize Charles Town, at the time, the fourth largest city in British North America, but far and away the wealthiest city in Britain’s American empire. A small force of Carolina patriots responded to this attack; they included South Carolinians, North Carolinians and Native Americans — all commanded by Colonel William Moultrie and Colonel William “Danger” Thomson.

Defending Breach Inlet and Fort Sullivan, a partially completed palmetto fort, the Carolinians defied the odds and successfully repelled the invasion force. In particular, Colonel Thomson’s crack sharpshooters turned back a poorly planned invasion at Breach Inlet. On the other side of Sullivan’s Island, Colonel Moultrie’s palmetto logs held together enormous sand bunkers into which many British cannonballs sank harmlessly. It was the amount of sand — not the palmetto logs — that was essential to victory, but a mound of sand is not very exciting to place on a state flag.

The American’s spectacular victory against the might of the British Empire — the most powerful military force in the world at the time — dampened British hopes for quickly subduing the rebellion in the American colonies and greatly strengthened the patriots’ resolve for independence. Days and weeks after July 4, 1776, patriots had not actually signed the Declaration of Independence, and many found their resolve to do so on August 2, 1776 by learning about this great triumph in Charleston Harbor. It was on this day when 50 of 56 signers actually inked the famous document.

First known as “Palmetto Day,” our Carolina Day celebration was born of this important victory. As was the case for the first celebration, church bells sounded throughout Charleston on June 28th.

This Carolina Day was similar to others with a schedule of events consisting of: a 10:00am-11:00am Church Service at St. Michael’s Church (where SC Society Member Michael Hull participates as Crucifer); 11:00am-11:30am Marching groups gathering at Washington Park; 11:30am-11:45am Parade to White Point Garden; and 11:45am-12:30pm Speaker and Dedication at White Point Garden. After the conclusion of the scheduled events, South Carolina Society members (Matthew Breen, Michael Hull, and Tom Weidner) and those members from the Georgia Society (Frank Hardeman, BG Steven Westgate, and David Wiley) who attended removed to Melvin’s BBQ in Mount Pleasant, SC where they enjoyed delicious food and fellowship. Carolina Day continues to be a successful joint South Carolina and Georgia event evidencing the collaboration of State Societies in General Society Sons of the Revolution in Region 3.



Matthew Breen
Vice President

South Carolina
Sons of the Revolution

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Newsletter Publication Schedule and Deadlines

Spring: Articles are due **March 15** for print **April 30**

Summer: Articles are due **June 15** for print **July 31**

Fall: Articles are due **Sept. 15** for print **Nov. 30**

Winter: Articles are due **Jan. 15** for print **Feb. 28**

Greenville Chapter Charter Approved May 15, 2021

The SC SR Annual Meeting on May 15, 2021 at the Cayce Historical Museum served as the historical moment when the first SCSR Chapter was approved and the Charter signed by President Jeff Murrie and Secretary Stephen Swoope. In the photos (Credit: Ivan Bennett) Greenville Chapter President Albert Futrell looks on as three originals are signed and dated. One for President Murrie, one for Secretary Stephen Swoope (Archives) and one “suitable for framing” for Chapter President Albert Futrell. Albert displayed his framed Charter at the next membership meeting in Simpsonville.



Jeffery Murrie
President

South Carolina
Sons of the Revolution

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SCSR Events May through July

May 15 Inaugural SCSR Ft Granby in Cayce, South Carolina



Photo credit: **Stephen Swoope**

The South Carolina Sons of the Revolution in 2021 continue to plan and execute monthly events inviting SAR, DAR and CAR organizations to participate with SR and receive SCSR Streamers as they present their wreaths. In summary to date, February was the Battle of Port Royal and March was the Battle of Haynes Massacre.

On May 15th at the Cayce Historical Museum, Cayce, SC. Thirty five society members gathered for the 240th Anniversary of Ft. Granby. The event was held under the shade tree, a magnolia, in front of the Cayce Historical Museum by the DAR marker of Ft. Granby. Eight SCSR members participated and after a lunch social returned for the annual meeting of the Board of Managers in the Historical Museum.
(Reference Page 1)

SCSR Color Guard William Suggs and his two sons, Jr. Members, provided the flag display. Other societies offered their own flags along with wreaths from each society present. The SCSR invites a local DAR, SAR and CAR to participate. SCSR President Jeff Murrie presided and along with Regional VP Mid-State Col. George Summers, introduced each society officer and presented them with the SR Streamer for Ft. Granby:

Children of the American Revolution
Two grandchildren of DAR Member
Miriam Lovett (Granby Chap)



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

Daughters of the
American Revolution
SC Regent elect **Bonnibel Moffet** and
DAR Granby Chapter Regent **Elaine Roberts**



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

Sons of the American Revolution
Past President **Woody Carothers**
and President **Bill Wilson**,
Godfrey Dreher Chapter



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

Greenville Chapter, SCSR- President
Albert Futrell



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

South Carolina
Sons of the Revolution
President **Jeff Murrie** and Regional
VP Col. **George Summers**



Photos Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

The program of Ft. Granby was
presented by local historian and
retired teacher, **Dean Hunt**, from
Lexington, South Carolina.



Photo Credit: **Ivan Bennett**

July 5 Inaugural Pilgrimage to Thomas Heyward Jr. Grave Site, Ridgeland, South Carolina

An event for a Signer of the Declaration of Independence on the Independence Day Holiday 2021

Thomas Heyward Jr Descendants from Left to Right: Tommy Heyward Bluffton (Speaker) 5 Great Grandfathers, Fran Heyward Bolin Hilton Head Island, Anne Heyward Port Royal, Dyan Heyward Drew Okatie- All ladies earlier generation to Tommy 4 Great Grandfathers Thomas Heyward Jr.



Photo Credit: **Susan Bennett**



The traditional Thomas Heyward Jr. Pilgrimage alternated between SARs in Beaufort and Hilton Head Island through 2018 but was abandoned in 2019. The shut down of Covid 19 Pandemic in 2020 could not be avoided, but in 2021 neither SAR indicated in resuming it. The opportunity opened the door for the GSSR Region 3 and South Carolina Society SR to forge a new plan.

On July 5, 2021 Ivan Bennett, GSSR Region 3 and William Suggs, SCSR Regional VP Coastal hosted for 20 attendees an event for Jr members to participate in. William Jr and Benjamin Suggs (Moncks Corner) with Jack Gatlin (Hilton Head Island) led the group in the pledges (American Flag, SC Flag and SR Pledge). Ivan Bennett selected an invocation from the GSSR prayer book and gave a blessing to future generations to come. The SCSR and the Gov. Paul Hamilton SAR Chapter from Beaufort were recognized. President Joe Riddle brought his welcome from Beaufort. Joe was accompanied by his wife Jeannie and daughter Katie, from DC. Ivan Bennett was accompanied by his wife Susan.

The speaker Tommy Heyward was accompanied with his young daughter, Abbie. Tommy presented the program on Thomas Heyward Jr. and was well received and appreciated. All Heyward descendants were very pleased that the July 4 Pilgrimage was renewed and revived by Sons of the Revolution. They asked to be invited to other events coming up and wanted to learn about SR. A flier of the next event August 4 Isaac Hayne Memorial follow by lunch at Ace Basin Fish Camp in Jacksonboro follow by the presentation by David Reuwer (SCBPT) at the Parker's Ferry Ambush, was shared with the four Heywards.

Tommy was presented with a lapel pin from the 250th Revolutionary War Commission 1770-1783. The Commission has multiple efforts in play, one nearby is a wall with story telling panels at the Morris Center of the Lowcountry in Ridgeland. Both Ivan Bennett and Joe Riddle are the managers for that project including Revolutionary War events in the surrounding four counties, Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, and Hampton. Joe Riddle provided the SAR Recessional to our group. We adjourned to lunch in Ridgeland.



Descendant Tommy Heyward



SCSR Jr Members and Regular Members



Heyward Descendants and SCSR Members SAR Member



July 24 Ft. Thicketty V “Taking of Ft. Thicketty “ SCSR Greenville Chapter Event

Liberation Day at Fort Thicketty

FORT THICKETTY — The Greenville SR Chapter and the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society hosted the 241st anniversary of the Liberation of Fort Thicketty at the fort in Cherokee County July 21. Patriot troops liberated the fort without firing a shot July 26, 1780.

John Hoyle, past president of the SAR’s Daniel Morgan Chapter, represented the SAR.

Chapter President Al Futrell was master of ceremonies, and Tom Weidner, state president emeritus, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag, the salute to the South Carolina Flag, and the Sons of Revolution Pledge.

Tom Hanson, state chaplain, delivered the invocation, quoting George Washington: *“No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.”*

Historian Durant Ashmore spoke on the Liberation of Fort Thicketty and its importance in shifting the tide of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina in favor of the Patriots.

After the presentation of wreaths and distribution of streamers, Tom Hanson delivered the benediction.

Al Futrell and Billy Pennington of the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society, lowered the British Flag and raised the Betsy Ross Flag.



Al Futrell
Master of Ceremonies



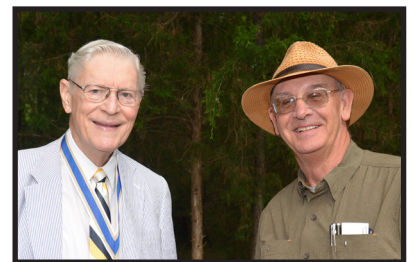
Al Futrell (left) and Billy Pennington
raise the U.S. Flag



Tom Weidner
SR State President Emeritus



Participants and Attendees



John Hoyle (left)
SAR Daniel Morgan Chapter and
Historian
Durant Ashmore



Historian
Durant Ashmore

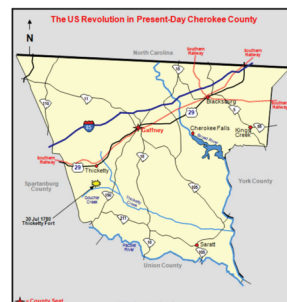
Liberation Day at Fort Thicketty

The 238th anniversary
of the taking of Fort Thicketty
Sons of the Revolution
July 28, 2018

WelcomeThomas W. Weidner Jr.
S.C. Society Vice President
Invocation.....Compatriot Tom Hanson
Presentation of Colors...Overmountain Victory Trail Assoc.
Pledge of Allegiance
Salute to the South Carolina Flag
Sons of Revolution Pledge
GreetingsS.C. Society President Ivan Bennett
Keynote Speaker.....Joseph L.V. Johnson
Cherokee County Preservation Society
Presentation of Wreaths.....
Closing remarks.....LeighAnn Smuggs
Benediction.....Ben Richardson
Lower British flag and raise American flag
Retirement of colors.....Overmountain Victory Trail Assoc.

Pledge to the South Carolina flag

"I salute the flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty and faith."¹⁸⁷⁷



DIRECTIONS (GPS)-
Use 604 Goncher School Road
Gaffney, SC 29340
This facility is not handicapped accessible. Bring your own chair(s). Bottled water will be provided. Use of parking area will be determined based on weather the day before the event. Follow the signs.
HansonCommunications.org

Photos by **Tom Hanson**
(HansonCommunications.org)

News and Notes : A Collage

April 24 George Summers
Commemorating with a Wreath
Laying at Ft. Watson in Santee
Wildlife Refuge on Lake Moultrie.



May 1 Albert Futrell with his two
grandsons both SCSR Jr Members
and Greenville Chapter Jr Members
presenting a check of \$100 toward
the balance for the Pickens
Cemetery Monument Project.
Joshua and Jonathan Faile



Also Joseph Bennett, SCSR Member
and his son Benjamin Bennett, SCSR
Jr Member, sent Albert Futrell,
President Greenville Chapter,
a check for \$200 toward the
balance for the Pickens Cemetery
Monument Project.



May 29 Georgia SOR hosted a
social event at the Savannah Yacht
Club for GSSR Sons Drumbeat
Editor David Swafford and
his wife Lucy.



May 31 Memorial Day Ceremony
at Berkeley County Veterans Park
at Moncks Corner. William Suggs
and his mother Harriette Suggs a
member VA DAR, represented SCSR.

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JRROTC Awards 2021

The South Carolina Sons of the Revolution in 2021 received a one time donation from member Col. George Summers of \$1500.

A separate account within our First Citizen's Bank Depository was created. Col. George Summers, MidState Region VP, was recognized in the May 15, 2021 Minutes of the Annual SCSR BOM Meeting at Cayce SC.

"Col. George Summers contribution to the ROTC Scholarship Fund 2021

(Five Cadets in JRROTC each received \$300 Awards) is recognized for his personal giving."

George has one condition to that donation, that SCSR actively seek matching amounts to his donation. Members can either make a contribution in a separate mailing to SCSR Treasurer or include the donation on the annual dues form starting in November as the society collects dues for the next year.

A category will be provided on the form titled, Col. George Summers ROTC Fund.

The Five Cadets in 2021 are:

April 22 - **Cadet Hogan Johnson**
Mann High School (Greenville)



May 18 - **Cadet Matthew Livingston-Scotts**
Branch High School (Summerton)



May 18 - Air Force JRROTC Cadet Leadership
Course Award- Manning High School
(Manning)



May 20 - **Cadet Carter Quattlebaum**
Stratford High School (Goose Creek)



May 26 - **Cadet Victor Moreno** - Hilton Head
Island High School (Hilton Head Island)



Each award was presented by officers of the SC Sons of the Revolution. This ceremony was a first for our society. Each officer was in uniform and presented a certificate we created and a SCSR check. One caveat we will create in 2022 is the creation of a "jacket" with SR insignia to present the prize.

A letter was received from Manning High School on the Department of the Air Force Air University (AETC) stationery. Lt Col. USAF (Ret) Franklin Larson addressed Sons of the Revolution Att: Col. Summers:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sons of the Revolution for their very thoughtful and kind \$300 donation to the Manning High School Air Force JRROTC Unit. ... these funds will be used to offset the cost of our cadets attending the Cadet Leadership Course at the Citadel....

We look forward to speaking to your organization this fall!

Without the support of organizations like yours, our program wouldn't be as successful!"

Author:

Ivan Bennett, MEd. - SCSR Treasurer
12 Highbush Drive • HHI, SC 29926

Meet South Carolina Sons of the Revolution Member Dr. Michael Hull



Photo Credit: **Matthew Breen**

Michael occasionally serves as the crucifer at St. Michael's Church in Charleston. Those members who participate in the Annual Carolina Day on June 28 commemorate the Battle of Sullivan Island and Breach's Inlet on June 28, 1776, will recognize Michael at the 10:00 am St. Michael's Service. He is the person out front of the procession and recession during the church service. In the attached photo taken by SCSR Vice President Matthew Breen, Esq. Michael is poised bearing the cross (6.28.2021).

Michael was the acolyte master at Saint Michael's Church for a number of years and his wife Molly and he were wed there in May, 1976. Molly's father and grandfather both served on the vestry and her second great grandfather, Judge Smith Bryan, rests in the graveyard.

As a descendant of Colonel William "Danger" Thomson, Molly has a close connection to the defense of Sullivan's Island in 1776.

Michael Hull has contributed the following article to The Crescent Moon, Summer Issue, on Mordecai Gist (1743-1792) a native of Maryland who served valiantly in the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776. Gist grave is in St. Michael's Church.

Gist was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1743 to Thomas and Susan Gist. His father had made a fortune in commercial trade in the bustling seaport, including helping layout the city, and Gist would grow up and learn the trades of a surveyor, working with George Washington to help survey the American frontier only fifty miles removed from the Atlantic seaboard. Because of his wealth and family prominence Gist was able to help raise, recruit, and equip at the beginning of the American Revolution an independent militia company known as the Baltimore Independent Company. One thing that set them apart from other militia companies and units raised in the colonies is that Gist's men were supplied with bayonets. They were also well trained and disciplined before they had their baptism of fire at the Battle of Long Island. This would serve them well on that fateful day. By the time Gist's men reached New York in the summer of 1776 they had been designated the 5th Maryland Infantry. While Gist had been elected as the captain of his unit (a practice not uncommon in colonial militia units) Congress promoted him to Major General in the Continental Army to which the 5th Maryland had been attached. Because they were well dressed and well equipped, the unit earned the sobriquet, "the Dandy 5th" When they joined the bulk of Washington's command in New York they were dubbed "macaronis" a pejorative term of the age equivalent of "dandy." By the end of the fateful Battle of Brooklyn the term "dandy" had a different meaning for Gist and his fellow Marylanders.

Mordecai Gist (1743-1792), a native of Maryland, served valiantly in the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

After the British evacuated Boston in March 1776, George Washington presciently deduced that the next major British attack would be made against New York City. He ordered his nascent army out of their quarters around Boston and moved to defend New York.

The commander had been right. In July 1776, the largest British assault force appeared on the horizon off of New York Harbor. One Continental post said from his position on Staten Island that, "It looked like London all afloat." The British encountering little resistance disembarked on Staten Island from where they would launch their attack on New York City by way of Long Island and Brooklyn to the East of Manhattan.

Gist's claim to fame rested on his men's military attitude and disposition of August 27, 1776. The 5th Maryland had been assigned to William Smallwood's Maryland Battalion upon reaching New York. Smallwood's Battalion represented men from across the State of Maryland. Prior to the Battle of Brooklyn, Smallwood's Battalion was put under the command of General William Lord Stirling.

The overall command of American forces fell on the shoulders of Washington's most trusted general, Nathanael Greene, but Greene fell ill and was incapacitated, so Washington turned command of his army on Long Island over to General John Sullivan. Sullivan lacked Greene's tactical skills and that alone may have made the difference in the final outcome.

Washington's Plan was to form two lines of defense one on Gowanus Heights a rise several hundred yards in front of Washington's main defensive line on Brooklyn Heights. His total disposition of troops for the battle was 6,000 men. The command of the first American line was given to Sullivan and Stirling.

The defensive position on Brooklyn Heights was led by the aged and grizzled hero of the French and Indian War and the Battle of Bunker Hill General Israel Putnam, who Washington also directed to overseeing the general command of American forces. Washington's strategy was to hope that Stirling and Sullivan's line on Gowanus Heights would blunt the British advance and that Putnam's men would hold their line.

As was typical of Washington's style of leadership early in the war he failed to reconnoiter his positions and tactically left his flanks unprotected. This would be his army's undoing at Brooklyn. Loyalists in the area tipped off British commander Henry Clinton that one of the passes that led to Gowanus and Brooklyn Heights was lightly defended by only five members of the local American militia.

Knowing Washington's disposition British General Henry Clinton conceived a plan in which a feint would be thrown at the American forces on Gowanus, while the bulk of his army slipped through the weakly held American line at Jamaica Pass on the American left. On the evening of August 26, 1776 Clinton ordered his men to move out. By 5:00 am the next morning they had achieved tactical surprise on the Americans. The British force was 20,000 men strong including 5,000 Hessians. In a few short hours and with stealth they had almost encircled the forces on Gowanus heights including the Marylanders. The opening assault on the American position held by Stirling and Sullivan on Gowanus was led by General James Grant. Sullivan and Stirling's men numbered little more than 2,000 troops. The bulk of the American army, near 6,000 men, defended Brooklyn Heights.

Vastly outnumbered, Stirling tried to inspire his men reminding them of Grant's pompous boast before Parliament's House of Commons that he could with five thousand men march across the American continent unimpeded. Addressing his men in the moments before the impending attack Stirling exhorted, "Grant may have 5,000 men now – we are not so many – but I think we are enough to prevent his advancing further on his march over the continent than that mill pond." Smallwood who had been detached to court martial duty was not present for the battle so the command of all Marylander's fell to Gist.

The feint worked to perfection, too, as the American commanders erroneously believed that Grant's movements were the principle attack.

The fighting on the American left was intense and devolved into grim hand to hand combat in which both the bayonet and muskets used like clubs were employed. Men on both sides fell in heaps as the Americans put up a stiff resistance, but the larger numbers of the British overwhelmed them and by 10:00 am the American left collapsed.

An hour earlier, Washington arrived on the battlefield to assume overall command. The Americans still believed that the attack on their left was the main British assault. Stirling's forces still held the right and center of the American position. All of that changed at 11:00 am when the British launched their main assault against Stirling's men. It was a classic anvil and hammer maneuver employed by the British. The American line crumbled as the British slipped in to attack Stirling's rear. Horrified Gist's men recognized that they, too, had been flanked. Later Gist recalled, "We soon heard the fire on our left, and in a short time discovered part of our enemy in our rear. Surrounded, and [with] no probability of reinforcements, his Lordship ordered me to retreat with the remaining part of our men, and force our way through our camp." The Hessian's attacked the American center on Gowanus heights with pure German military precision. When Clinton's signal gun belched the Germans moved out to dislodge the American position. One eyewitness recounted, "with colors flying, to the music of drums and hautboys as if they were marching across Friedrich's Platz at Cassel...They did not fire a shot, but pressed steadily forward until they could employ their bayonets. Once breaching the American lines the efficient German butchery began as scores of Sullivan's men were slaughtered. Stragglers in the woods were hunted down, too, until they too were skewered to death.

Sullivan ordered a retreat to the American lines on Brooklyn Heights. And while most of his made it to the safety of the American position, Sullivan did not and was captured.

Maryland troops near the Vechte-Cortelyou House battled fiercely with British regulars to buy time for Washington to escape [Wikimedia Commons](#)

The only avenue of escape open to was across a small millpond and Gowanus Creek across from Brooklyn Heights. Stirling ordered his men to pull back with the exception of Gist and his Marylanders, numbering no more than 270 men, who were asked to fight a rearguard action buying time for Stirling's men and the rest of the American Army. In an act of bravery Stirling remained behind to fight with Gist's men. Rather than deploy and wait for the enemy to attack Stirling and Gist ordered their men twice to counterattack the British whose numbers ran close to 2,000 men. The British formed a line of battle near the Vechte-Cortelyou House sometimes referred to as the Old Stone House, led by Earl Charles Cornwallis. The scene was dramatically captured by painter Alonzo Chappel in his 1858 painting "The Battle of Long Island." After the second attack the Marylanders retreated, their numbers well depleted. As they withdrew some of them drowned in the eighty yard-wide creek and others got stuck in the mud only to be felled by British fire. Stirling rather than be captured by the British surrendered to the Hessians. Two hundred and fifty-six Marylanders were killed in the combined assaults, and only twelve managed to safely reach the American position. The rest were captured. Of the furious melee, Capt. Nathaniel Ramsay of Gist's men recalled, "Our men fought with more than Roman valor." As the British and their Hessian allies moved in as a pincer to cut off Gist's men Gist recounted, "Surrounded on all sides by at least 20,000 men, we were drove with precipitation and confusion. The result was a bloodbath as the Hessians and British Highlanders methodically gave no quarter or mercy. One British officer reported, "The Hessians and our brave Highlanders gave no quarters; and it was a fine fight sight to see with what alacrity they dispatched the rebels with their bayonets, after we had surrounded them so they could not resist." Another British soldier claimed that, "the Americans fought bravely, and (to do them justice) could not be broken till they were greatly outnumbered and taken in flank, front, and rear." For some Redcoats the carnage was inexcusable one writing after the fight, "We were greatly shocked at the massacre made by the Hessians and Highlanders after victory was decided."

In part the British used cunning guile to destroy the American force. Gist reminiscing said, "We soon fell in with a party of the enemy, who clubbed their firelocks, and waved their hats to us, as if they meant to surrender as prisoners; but on our advancing within sixty yards, they presented their pieces and fired, which we returned with so much warmth that they soon quitted their post and retired to a large body that was lying in ambush. Fortunately for Gist and his men the British overshot the Americans and killed men running in flight. One of Gist's men reported, "They entirely overshot us and killed some men away behind in our rear. I had the satisfaction of dropping one of them the first fire I made. As the vortex of battle continued unabated Gist remained on the field with his men. At one point to one of Gist's men it seemed as if they were the only thing standing to keep the flames of the Revolution burning so the army could escape, Major Gist [and his men] kept the ground, while the rest of the brigade crossed a creek... The major and his party were drove, and I expected never to see them again." Somehow Gist miraculously survived.

Washington watched the carnage unfold from a nearby knoll and famously was supposed to say, "Good God, what brave fellows I must lose today." To Private Yankee Doodle, sixteen-year-old Connecticut soldier Joseph Plumb Martin recorded in his wartime chronicle that the survivors emerged "out of the water and mud, to us, looking like water rats."

In the confusion and fog of war Stirling, too tried to escape with his men after realizing the cause was lost. His attempt to escape the battlefield seemed hopeless, so he gave himself up to the Hessians. Cornwallis offered Stirling high praise later saying, "General Stirling fought like a wolf."

In spite of the carnage and high percentage of casualties the Marylanders bought precious time for the rest of the American Army. To History they became known as the "Immortal 400." Looking back on the affair, Gist and his men bought "an hour, more precious to American liberty than any other in history."

For reasons that remain inexplicable today the British never pressed their advantage and when the day closed the Continental Army badly mauled and bloodied survived to fight on.

For Gist and his men it had been one hell of a baptism of fire. They would continue to fight for the duration of the war and distinguish themselves on various battlefields in both the Northern and Southern Campaigns.

Appointed in January 1779 by Congress to the rank of Brigadier-General Gist was given command of the 2nd Maryland Brigade. That same year he and his men were assigned to the American Army in the South. At the Battle of Camden he once again narrowly escaped death in that grim American defeat. By 1781 as American forces fought through the Carolina's shadowing Cornwallis and his Army he found himself in October of that year standing amongst the ranks of the American officers who stood next to George Washington accepting the British surrender at Yorktown.

Rather than return home to Maryland he chose to retire after the war and take up the life of a plantation owner outside Charleston, South Carolina. He was married three times and raised two sons whom he named Independent and States. Like others of Washington's officers of the American Revolution he joined the Society of the Cincinnati serving as the first Vice President of the Maryland chapter. And like others of Washington's officers he incurred massive debts due to his service in the war and lack of proper compensation by Congress. He died at the age of 49. One of his descendants went on to his own immortality during the Civil War during the equally horrific Battle of Franklin. General States Rights Gist was one of six Confederate generals to die at Franklin as they assaulted an impregnable Union line.

Announcement

The Annual Francis Marion Swamp Fox Symposium

October 22-23, 2021 in Manning, South Carolina

FE Dubose Campus

Central Carolina Technical College

I 95 Exit 122 Manning SC

Explore the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign with General Francis Marion

**Immerse yourself in the Francis Marion World and the Significance of the
Southern Campaign of the American Revolution**

“Times of Francis Marion 1723-1795”



Includes two days of presentations and one evening with dinner.

Meet Samuel Whatley II, MS.

South Carolina Sons of the Revolution Webmaster (2016- Present)

www.srsc1776.org

Samuel has served the SC SR beginning at a young age. In that period he graduated from high school and now has earned degrees from several colleges. This article in the Issue of the Summer 2021 The Crescent Moon is necessary to review Samuel's list of accomplishments.

Samuel is currently working on his doctoral in criminal justice major with the highest honors and has experience with social science-related issues and criminal justice technology. He earned a Master of Science in Criminal Justice graduating Summa Cum Laude from Fayetteville State University (Fall 2020), a Bachelor's of the Arts in Criminal Justice graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (Fall 2018), and an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology from Fayetteville Technical Community College graduating with highest honors (Fall 2017).

Experience:

Webmaster SC Society General Sons of the Revolution 5 Years

Webmaster SC Branch National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims 1 year

Counselor Guide Point 1 ½ years

Education:

Liberty University Doctorate Candidate January 2021- August 2023 GPA 4.0

Fayetteville State University Masters Science March 2019-December 2020 GPA 4.0

University of North Carolina at Pembroke Bachelor of Arts January 2017-December 2018 GPA 4.0

Volunteer Experience:

Boy Scouts of America March 2011-March 2017

Civil Air Patrol Senior Member (2019-) Cadet Member (2014-2018)

Experimental Aircraft Assoc. Young Eagles Members August 2013-March 2017

Police Explorers August 2016-March 2020

Summerville Orchestra Violinist September 2016- November 2019

Southeast Coast Symphony Orchestra Violinist January 2020- Present

Midtown Columbia Church SDA Youth Counselor July 2013

Irmo Baptist Church Youth Counselor July 2011-July 2013

Hope Lutheran Church Youth Counselor July 2011-June 2013

Samuel speaks five languages (Japanese, French, Spanish, German and English)

Samuel resides in Charleston, South Carolina.



SCSR Annual Meeting November 2018 Officer Induction



Samuel providing presentation of SCSR Website to BOM
November 2018 Winnsboro, South Carolina
(Photo: Tom Hanson)



General Society Sons of the Revolution

June 15, 2021

TO: State Society Presidents

Re: Headquarters Update

There is a lot happening at General Society Headquarters to report to you as many of the State Society are beginning to return to normal. Many of you are holding your annual meeting and electing new officers and board of managers members.

Please remember to send the names of new officers and managers with their contact information especially email addresses to us. We are updating our lists to send out information and announcements and to update State Society information on the web.

We have switched over to the new website. We are still improving and adding new content with the Members Only site being very popular.

Please pass along to your members the instructions for first time use. All active members of the General Society are pre-registered, and only need to Log on; User id is your GS number and Password is your last name with only first letter in CAP, and after you log on you can go to Profile and update your information and change your password.

We are offering our most popular merchandise and have an easy click and add check out method, with easy pay by credit card. We are now able to take credit cards for merchandise on the old mail in form and call in to the office. I will be attaching a copy of the new merchandise order form which will be in the next Drumbeat.

The Triennial will be in Boston, MA September 30th – October 3rd at the Fairmont Copley Plaza 138 St. James Street. The Massachusetts Society is planning some very nice venues for our events that weekend.

The Thursday evening welcome reception will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Society Color Guard and scheduled for the Historic Faneuil Hall in a very popular area of Boston.

Friday Evening we will travel by buses from the Fairmont to the Historic and famed Wayside inn in Sudbury, MA for an evening of fun and dining.