

An authentic account of the late Action in South-Carolina, between Gen. Greene and the British.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26.

Camp, Saunders-Creek, April 27th, 1781.

SIR,

I DID myself the honour to address your Excellency on the second, and informed you that we lay before Camden, having found it impossible to storm the town with a prospect of success, and nothing left but to take a position to induce the enemy to rally. We choote a hill about a mile from the town, on the main road leading to Waxaws. It was covered with timber and flanked on the left by an impassible morais. The country between that and the town is covered by heavy wood and underbrush. In this situation we lay constantly upon our arms, ready for action at a moment's warning.

About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, our advanced pickets were fired upon, who gave the enemy a warm reception.

The line was formed in an instant. Gen. Huger's brigade upon the right of the road, Col. Williams's brigade of Marylanders upon the left, and the artillery in the center. Col. Read with a few militia in the rear as a second line, Capt. Kirkwood and the light infantry lay in our front, and as the enemy advanced he was soon engaged with them, and both he and his corps behaved with great gallantry. The pickets under the command of Captains Morgan and Benton, behaved with equal spirit and good conduct.

As the enemy were found to be advancing with only a small front, Lieut. Col. Ford with the second Maryland regiment, had orders to advance and flank them upon their left, and Lieut. Col. Campbell had orders to do the like upon the right. Col. Gunby with the first Maryland regiment, and Lieut. Col. Hawes with the second Virginia regiment had orders to advance down the hill, and charge them in front. Lieut. Col. Washington had orders to turn the enemy's right flank and charge them in the rear. The whole line was soon engaged in close firing, and the artillery under Col. Harrison playing on their front. The enemy were staggered on all quarters, and upon the left were retreating while our troops continued to advance; when unfortunately two companies of the right of the first Maryland regiment got a little disordered, and unhappily Col. Gunby gave an order for the rest of the regiment then advancing to take a new position in the rear, where the two companies were rallying, this impressed the whole regiment with an idea of retreat, and communicated itself to the second regiment, which immediately followed the first on their retiring, both were rallied but it was too late, the enemy had gained the hill and obliged the artillery to retire. The second Virginia regt. having advanced some distance down the hill, and the Maryland line being gone, the enemy immediately turned their flank while they were engaged in front.

Lieut. Col. Campbell's regiment had got into some disorder, and fallen back a little; this obliged me to order Col. Hawes to retire; the troops were frequently rallied, but had got into too much disorder to recover the fortune of the day, which once promised us a complete victory, as Col. Washington found the enemy, both horse and foot retiring, with the utmost precipitation towards the town and took upwards of 200 prisoners, and 10 or 15 officers, before he discovered our people had left the ground; more than 50 of which were brought off. The Colonel's behaviour and that of his regiment upon this occasion did them the highest honour; we retired about two or three miles, without any loss of artillery or ammunition waggons, the baggage having been sent off at the beginning of the action. The enemy suffered very greatly; our force was not materially different; but had we succeeded from the disposition made, we must have had the whole prisoners, as well as the full possession of Camden. Inclosed is the return of the killed and wounded. Among the former is Capt. Beatty, of the Maryland line, a most excellent officer and an ornament to his profession. Our army is in good spirits, and this little repulse will make no alteration in our general plan of operation. Inclosed I send you Excellency the conditions of the capitulation and surrender of fort Watson, which I hope will be followed by others.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

your Excellency's most obedient, and most humble servant,  
NATHANIEL GREENE.

P. S. The horse and part of the infantry, at the close of the evening, charged the enemy, who retreated immediately into the town with precipitation.

Hon. SAMUEL HURTI STON, Esq;  
List of the commissioned officers killed, wounded and captured, in the action before Camden, 25th April, 1781.

Lieut. Col. Ford, Maryland, dangerously wounded, elbow.

Lieut. Col. Campbell, Virginia, slight contusion, thigh.

Capt. William Beatty, Maryland, killed.

Capt. J. Smith, 3d Maryland, prisoner.

Capt. Dunholm, Virginia, slight contusion.

Capt. Lieut. Bluff, Maryland, wounded in both ankles, and prisoner on parole.

Lieut. M. Galloway, Maryland, slightly wounded.

Lieut. Ball, Virginia, in the leg, dangerously.

O. H. WILLIAMS, D. A. G.

Return of the killed and wounded in the action.

Killed. One Sergeant, 17 rank and file.

Wounded. Seven Sergeants, 101 rank and file.

Missing. Three Sergeants, 133 rank and file.

Most of the missing mistook the order to rally at Saunders-Creek; and took a different rout; some are killed, 47 wounded and in the British hospitals; one third of the remainder have been heard of, and are expected to rejoin.

O. H. WILLIAMS, D. A. G.

S I R,  
Fort-Watson, April 23, 1781.

Lieut. Col. Lee made a junction with me on Santee the 14th inst. after a very rapid march from Ramley's-Mills, on Deep-River, which he performed in eight days.

The 15th we marched to this place and invested it; our hope was to cut off their water; some riflemen and continentals immediately took post between the fort and the lake.

The fort was situated on a small hill, forty feet high, stockaded with three rows of abuties around it, and no trees near enough to cover our rear from their fire.

The third day we had invested it, we found the enemy had sunk a well near the stockade, which we could not prevent them from, as we had no intrenching tools to make our approaches.

We immediately determined to raise a work equal to the height of the fort, this arduous work was completed this morning by Major Maham, who undertook it. We then made a lodgment on the side of the mount near the stockade, this was performed with great spirit and address, by Ensign Robinson, and R. Lee, a volunteer in Col. Lee's legion, who with difficulty ascended the hill and pulled away the abuties, which induced the commandant to hoist a flag. Inclosed is the capitulation, which I hope will be approved of by you.

Our loss was two militia killed, and three continentals wounded. On this occasion I am particularly indebted to Col. Lee, for his advice and indefatigable diligence in every part of this tedious operation, against as strong a little fort as could be made, on the most advantageous spot that could be wished for.

The officers and men performed every thing that could be expected, and Major Maham of my brigade, had in a particular manner a great share in this success, by his unwearied diligence in executing a tower which was the principal occasion of the reduction of the fort.—In short sir, I have the greatest satisfaction from every one under my command.

Inclosed is a list of the prisoners and stores taken. I shall without loss of time, demolish the fort, after which I shall proceed to the High-Hills of Santee, and halt at Capt. Richardson's plantation, until further orders. I have the honour to be, with great respect, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
FRANCIS MARION, B. G.

Terms of CAPITULATION proposed by Lieut. MACKAY, commander at Fort Watson.

I. THE officers to be permitted their parole, to wear their side-arms, and to possess their private baggage. Agreed.

II. The British officers to be permitted to march to Charlestown, where they are to continue perfectly out of service until exchanged, and liable to be ordered elsewhere by the commander in chief of the American Southern army. Agreed.

III. The irregulars to be treated as prisoners of war. Agreed.

IV. All publick stores to be delivered to the legion Quarter-Master, and the fort to be delivered up to Capt. Oldham, who will take possession this evening, with a detachment of Marylanders.

The capitulation is acceded to as it now stands in compliance to the gallantry with which it has been defended. (Signed)

JAMES MACKAY, Lieut.  
PATRICK CARNES, Capt. Leg. Infantry.  
April 23, 1781.

List of prisoners taken at Scott's-Lake, April, 23, 1781.

Commanding officers.  
Lieut. M'Kay, commander of the fort.  
Surgeon Campbell, King's American regt.  
Ensign Robinson, Loyal American regt.  
Lieut. Lewis, South-Carolina rangers.  
Ensign and Q. M. M'Kellam, ditto.  
73 British privates,  
36 Tories.

Total. 5 commissioned officers and 159 privates.

Extract of a letter from General Mariani, dated April 21, 1781.

"A small detachment which I sent to watch the enemy's movements in Camden, took at the mouth of Kenshaw's-Creek, a boat laden with corn, killed 2, wounded 4, and took 6 British soldiers and 1 tory.

"Colonel Horry crossed the Pedee with 70 men, to intercept the tories who I expected would join Col. Watson, in his march up Pedee. He fell in with a party of 30 foragers, and as many more to cover them; he charged them on horse-back, in Mr. McPherson's plantation, killed 2 and took 13 British soldiers, 2 tories and 2 negroes, without the loss of a man.

"Gen. Littleton reports, That the Bladen militia of N. Carolina, fell with great spirit on the rear of Lord Cornwallis's army, as he was retreating to Wilmington, and killed 13 men and took 15 or 16 prisoners,

"Gen. Pickens reports, That Col. Clarke, on the 24th of March, had an action with Major Dunlap, near Ninety-Six, killed 34 and took 42 prisoners, among the former the Major himself is numbered." Published by order of Congress,  
CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

THE Brethren of the most Ancient and Honourable Society of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, are hereby notified, that the Festival of St. JOHN the Evangelist will be celebrated by the Brethren of TRINITY LODGE, at Freemasons Hall, in LANCASTER, on the 25th instant. The Brethren are desired to attend at the Hall precisely at 10 o'clock: The Procession will move at 11—An Oration will be delivered at 12—and Dinner ready at 2 o'clock. By order,  
WILLIAM MACCARTY, Secy.  
\*\* TICKETS to be had of the Stewards at the Hall.  
June 6, A. L. 5781.

SIXTY HARD DOLLARS REWARD.  
DESERVED on the 23d inst. a person, named AMBROSE FILLEY, justified for three years, for the town of Shrewsbury, a Taylor by trade, belongs to Bedford, about 23 years of age, black eyes, very dark complexion, short black hair, five feet seven inches high, firm built, long large legs, had on when he went away, a striped damask calico coat, light brown jacket, blue breeches, white thread stockings, a pair of plated buckles, yellow mottle knee-buckles, an old beaver hat, two drops of pitch on the top of it. Whoever will take up said deserter, and confine him, or bring him to Squire Child's in Holden, shall have the above reward, and all necessary charges paid by JONAS PARMENTER.

THE Commissioners appointed by the Hon. Levi Lincoln, Esq; Judge of Probate for the County of Worcester, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of Capt. THOMAS BRAMAN, and NATHANIEL CHANDLER, late of Petersham, absentees, do hereby give notice, that we shall attend that service at the dwelling house of Samuel Pickham, inhabitant in Petersham, on the last Thursday of June next, and the last Thursday of the four succeeding months, from one to six o'clock in the afternoon of said days, all demands must be properly authenticated as the law directs.  
EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE, }  
JONATHAN LYNDE, } Commissioners.  
DAVID SANDERSON, }  
Petersham, May 27, 1781.

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