

From Woody Liles [wliles@live.com]

**From:** Woody Liles [mailto:wliles@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 11:42 PM  
**To:** Pelham Lyles  
**Subject:** General Richard Winn's Grave

Pelham .... At the reunion I promised your Dad that I would share all the information I could find on General Winn's life in Maury County Tennessee. I found that I only thought I understood his story.

First of all, I had always understood that he owned 5000 acres that was a Revolutionary War Grant for service. It is true that it was a grant, but it was a grant for land that he purchased from another individual. I believe the price he paid was fifty cents an acre. Upon his arrival, he sold approximately twenty-five hundred acres for approximately twenty-five hundred dollars.

When I checked General Winn's Revolutionary War Records I found that in reality, he was not a true Revolutionary War General. During the war, he entered the Army as a lieutenant and attained the rank of colonel of the State militia of South Carolina and it was not until after the war that he was promoted to the rank of major general of the militia.

When I went to the Greenwood Cemetery, his marker reads "Richard Winn, South Carolina, Colonel S.C. Militia, Revolutionary War, December 12, 1818." It also states that he was buried at his home that is eleven miles west on highway 50, not in Winnsboro, S.C.

In 1979, Maury County Historian Jill Garrett asked two men who were raised in Sawdust Valley to take her to the Winn Family Cemetery, located on the original plantation. This statement is not documented, but I believe the Winn plantation was named Arkland. There are no buildings still standing at the site.

Mike Kinzer and Jim Sargent, as children, were cautioned by their parents not to play around the general's grave. Even after a lapse of a number of years, they were still able to go right to the general's grave, located not too far from the old family spring. Mrs. Garrett found three mounds at the site, one still having an old fieldstone as a marker. Around the graves grows Yucca lilies, some with stalks as large as small trees.

There have been attempts to purchase a marker for the grave. In old minutes for the Maury County Historical Society, it is noted that a marble marker for General Winn arrived in Columbia, TN in December 1906. The minutes also state that the owner of the land had given permission to place the marker. Here the minutes for the society mysteriously stop and there is no further mention of the stone.

In the 1920's, it was reported to the local paper that the missing monument was found in a local warehouse. No further mention of the stone is noted in the paper. It seems that marking Winn's grave and erecting a monument in Columbia has had some type of jinx.

In the mid-sixties, the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Tombigbee Chapter, applied to the government for a monument. They received a stone, but this is the time when the people of Maury County first realized that the Federal Government only recognized Winn as a colonel and that he became a general after the end of the war. This is the marker that was placed in Greenwood Cemetery in Columbia.

I have to admit that I was personally disappointed at the information I found on General Winn. From the time I was a child in school, I was taught that General Winn was the only Revolutionary War General buried in Maury County, and that he was awarded a five thousand acres

of land for his service. I suspect the teachers back then were teaching us what they thought should be our history.

## Woody Liles

1787, but it uses no rank. He signs it Richard Winn. In essence, it reads (from the database transcription), "You will please to order a general muster of your regiments at Bever (Beaver) Creek on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of this inst tho if you can make it convenient I had much rather the rendezvous woud (sic) be at Granby. The Governor and myself will be at the review.....As it is possible your regiments may not be fully offered I haver herewith sent you ten blank commissions which you will please to have fil'd (sic) up I delivered to such gentlemen as may be appointed, observing to commission no person but such that will have a true sense of their appointment. You will also receive ten final coppers (?transcription error—copies?) of militia law's (sic) which yo8u distribute to your officers.....Your most obedient servant, Richard Winn"

**From:** Woody Liles [mailto:wiles@live.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013 1:25 PM  
**To:** Pelham Lyles  
**Subject:** RE: General Richard Winn's Grave

Pelham ..... General Winn died in 1813. Was the muster of the militia in the late 1770's? What was his rank at the time of the muster?

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