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January 13, 2000

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Please find enclosed the article on Colonel Richard Winn by Samuel C. Williams from the **Tennessee Historical Quarterly** volume 1, Number 1. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Diane Black

Diane Black
Librarian I

Reviewed by: LAS

Major-General Richard Winn; South Carolinian and Tennessean

BY SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS

In the fall of 1812 General Richard Winn, at the time a member of Congress from South Carolina, settled on a tract of land in the Duck River valley of Middle Tennessee, where he spent the remaining years of his life. Despite the fact that he had an imposing record of past military and civil service, he seems to have been received without comment and to have been absorbed into the community so completely that he was all but forgotten by posterity. The story of his career needs to be told, not only because of the importance of his services to South Carolina, but also because of the light which it sheds on the character and quality of those who migrated from the seaboard states to Tennessee in response to the lure of a new land of promise.

The family from which Richard Winn derived was Welsh. In Wales the well known use of the letter "y" made the family name appear as Wynne. The Wynnes were distinguished in the history of Wales, among great representatives being John Wynne, Bishop of Asaph, 1715; Sir John Wynne, antiquary (1553-1617); and in recent times Sir Hugh Wynne. John, above mentioned, is said to have descended from the Princes of Wales.

In the decade of the 1740's one of the family migrated to America and settled in Fauquier County, Virginia, there Anglicizing the name to "Winn." Five sons and three daughters were born there. Two of the sons migrated to Kentucky; one remained in Virginia, lived to a ripe age, and at death was possessed of a large estate. According to Dr. J. L. M. Curry, "his children and the children of his three sisters were connected by intermarriage, directly or collaterally, with the Gibsons, the Shackelfords, the Neals, the Bartons, the Pendletons, the Fairchilds, and even with Stonewall Jackson."¹

Three other sons of the first immigrant moved to the colonies south of Virginia, the first to remove being John Winn, 1765. Richard Winn, it is said, first settled for a short time in Georgia, but

¹J. L. M. Curry, "Richard Winn," in *Publications of the Southern History Association*, II (1898), 225. *Property of Bob Stevens*

about 1768 he shifted to South Carolina, settling in Fairfield District, near his brother. The two became large landowners and men of affairs. Their name was given to the town of Winnsborough. Richard was not of age when he reached South Carolina. He had received a fair education in Virginia and was particularly grounded in mathematics; and this led to his taking up practical surveying. As surveyor he was employed by a company of wealthy Britons to survey large boundaries for them. According to custom, his compensation was every eighth tract and, in this way, Winn gradually accumulated a handsome landed estate. He also engaged in planting and merchandising. Under the royal government of South Carolina he served as a justice of the peace until shortly before the breaking out of hostilities that led to the War of the Revolution.

The Winns in their new home were, through themselves or their children, allied to the leading families of Hamptons, Evanses, Jamesons, and others. Richard married Priscilla McKinney, and their children were: Minor, Margaret, Christina, John, Benjamin, William, Thomas, Richard, Samuel, Mary, and Priscilla.

At the beginning of the struggle for independence, as early as June, 1775, Winn, then twenty-five years of age, entered the service of his state as first lieutenant of Rangers. He assisted in the successful defense of Charleston in the early summer of 1776. In the British attack on Sullivan's Island his conduct was so gallant that he was placed in command of a small expeditionary force sent for the defense of Fort McIntosh on the Saltillo River. "For two days he kept off a strong body of Tories and Indians, but was compelled to capitulate to a heavy reinforcement of British soldiers."² The repulse of the British naval force before Charleston under Sir Peter Parker, and the failure of Sir Henry Clinton to effect a landing by the army, referred to above, obtained for South Carolina "a respite from the calamities of war for two years and a half."³ Young Winn returned to Fairfield District and began to embody and train militia for future service in defense of his state. He was at the time a captain of the First South Carolina Rangers.

Comparative quiet reigned in South Carolina until 1780, when the British launched their second effort to subjugate the Southern states by attacks on the leading seaports of Charleston and Savannah. Both of these cities were captured, and South Carolina and Georgia patriots in the interior were hard pressed.

²*Ibid.*, 227.

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³David Ramsay, *History of the American Revolution* (Philadelphia, 1789), I, 289.

Few of our revolutionary officers left memoirs of their campaigns. Fortunately, Winn was among those who did. After the close of the struggle, he reduced to manuscript his reminiscences which began with the fall of Charleston, in May, 1780. To this document he gave the title; "General Richard Winn's Notes—1780," though it treats of a few events subsequent to 1780.⁴

The first engagement in which Captain Winn participated after the reduction of Charleston was at Gipson's or Moberly's Meeting House, in the Moberly settlement on Broad River, against a force of Tories commanded by Colonel Charles Coleman. In a few minutes the Tories were driven from their strong position, with a loss of several killed and wounded, the Whigs suffering no casualties. His next battle was at Ramsour's Mill in North Carolina, fought on June 20, 1780. General Griffith Rutherford was in command of the American forces, and Captain Winn with a number of South Carolinians fought under him. The Tories under Colonel James Moore were defeated.⁵

Captain Winn was now raised to the rank of colonel in the command of General Thomas Sumter.

The next action, which resulted in a signal victory for the Whigs, was fought on July 12, 1780, in York County, South Carolina. It is known in history as "Huck's Defeat." Major George Turnbull was in command of the British regulars, from headquarters at Rocky Mount.

Smarting under the defeat inflicted on the Tories at Gipson's (or Moberly's) Meeting House, Turnbull ordered Captain Christian Huck to take a strong force of cavalry and "collect all the loyal militia with you on your march and push the rebels as far as you deem convenient." About one hundred Whigs, learning of this expedition, determined to intercept the British force and give battle. There were several Whig colonels present with skeleton commands, but by agreement Colonel Winn was delegated to conduct the attack.⁶ This he did in a brilliantly successful manner. He em-

⁴Strangely enough, historians of the Revolutionary War seem to have been unaware of the existence of these "Notes." They have lain uncovered in the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress. Perhaps the reason for the oversight is the fact that the document was placed in the Georgia Collection instead of among the South Carolina material. It is in the beautiful handwriting of General Winn, and is amply worthy of reproduction and annotation in one of our Southern historical magazines.

⁵The fullest account of this battle is that by General Joseph Graham, in J. H. Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1851), II, 227. It was fought near the present Lincolnton, North Carolina. *Property of Bob Stevens*

⁶Colonels [Edward] Lacey, [William] Hill, and [William] Bratton being present,

ployed the strategy so often resorted to later by General Nathan B. Forrest in the Civil War. Captain David Read, a bold and daring officer, was ordered by Colonel Winn to take twenty-five men and file to the left, get in the enemy's rear, and when action began in the front, to attack in the rear. About sunrise, in the frontal attack, Huck was killed, along with several of his men, the others running away, leaving their horses and equipment. "We were in full possession of the field in five minutes," with the loss of only one private on the part of the Whigs. The casualties of the enemy amounted to forty. This victory had an inspiring effect upon the patriots of Upper South Carolina; in a few days some hundreds of recruits were added to Sumter's forces.

That commander was now (late in July) emboldened to attack Rocky Mount where the enemy was in force in a strong position. Two unsuccessful attacks were made, when reinforcements reached the British from Hanging Rock. It was then determined by Sumter to attack the enemy at Hanging Rock, with the aid of two North Carolina troops of horse under Major William R. Davie, just arrived to reinforce Sumter. Colonel Winn was placed in command of the right wing to confront the Prince of Wales Regiment, which was aided by North Carolina Tory Colonel Bryan. Major Davie's cavalry ably supported Winn. The first attack was by Winn's infantry; the horse followed up. The British regiment gave way. General Sumter was moved in from the left. Winn's men pushed on to the British camp, giving the Indian yell as they proceeded. The British regiment broke again, but Colonel Winn had received a severe wound. However, he refused to quit the field. He had just remarked to Major Davie, "Isn't this glorious?" This battle began at sunrise, Sunday, August 7, and lasted until nine o'clock in the morning. "The British force, including Tories was about 1,400; the loss of the Prince of Wales Regiment was almost total. The Tory contingent suffered severely, while a large amount of arms and 300 horses were captured. The loss on the part of Sumter was 40 killed and wounded."⁷ In consequence, the enemy evacuated Rocky

it was agreed on, as Winn had been in the regular service, that he should command and dispose of the men as he thought best" (Winn's Notes). One writer, at least, has placed Bratton in command.

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⁷Winn's Notes. William Gordon, *History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the United States* (3rd ed., New York, 1801), III, 95, says: "The Prince of Wales's regiment, which defended the place, was nearly annihilated; and . . . the arms and ammunition taken from the British and Tories who fell in the beginning were turned against their associates."

Mount as well as Hanging Rock and gave the patriots "possession of the country from a few miles above Camden to Charlotte in North Carolina."⁸

Colonel Winn was taken to a point a short distance above Charlotte to recover from his wounds, and was not in action again until September 26. In the meantime the complexion of affairs in Upper South Carolina had changed much to the advantage of the British. Sumter suffered defeat in an engagement and General Horatio Gates had lost a general battle at Camden, in consequence of which the patriot forces dispersed. "At this time things looked very gloomy." Colonel Winn was not in the battle of King's Mountain; at the time he was with Sumter concocting plans to raise fresh troops and attack Lord Cornwallis at Charlotte.

After the signal defeat of Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Ferguson at King's Mountain, Cornwallis fell back to Winnsborough and there occupied Winn's home as headquarters.

Colonel Winn headed a delegation to go to Hillsborough, North Carolina, to solicit aid in the way of ammunition and supplies. None was to be had. The British were coming up from the south in force to the aid of Cornwallis, and Sumter had to "hit and run" as he found opportunity. A small engagement was fought near Winnsborough where Winn's "regiment" was composed of only 125 men. On November 20 an action was brilliantly won by the Americans at Blackstock on Tiger River. General Sumter was wounded and taken across the river, and Colonel Winn directed the strategy which brought victory over hard-hitting Colonel Banastre Tarleton with his British cavalry.

In both the Carolinas during the Revolutionary War the strife between Tories and Patriots was bitter, affecting neighbors, former friends, and, in instances, relatives. Under stress some who were at first companions in arms became enemies. The result was near-chaos. In this connection General Winn, in his Notes, relates how the life of Colonel John Winn, his brother, was placed in great jeopardy. To quote:

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The following took place in December, 1780: Col. Richard Winn, after the fight at Blackstocks in November, 1780, returned to the new acquisition and whilst there was informed that his brother, Col. John Winn, was under sentence of death at Winnsboro, the British headquarters. Col. Winn inquired into the cause and was informed that a certain Spen-

⁸Winn's Notes.

cer Tyler, one of Col. Richard Winn's men who had left camp and went to see his family, who lived in the neighborhood of J. Winn. This man on getting down was informed by some person that at such a house was two British soldiers. Tyler and another man that was with him made prisoners of the two soldiers. After tying them, with intention the next day to bring them to me, it now being night, the other man left Tyler with the soldiers. By some means or other they untied themselves and tied Tyler and carried him before Cornwallis. Tyler, as he had before taken protection, finding his life was to pay for his conduct, placed Col. John Winn between him and the gallows by giving evidence that Col. John Winn informed him of the soldiers and advised him to go and take them, though Col. Winn knew nothing of the business; and Tyler, well knowing that a trifling character would not save him, pitched on Col. Winn, who was immediately secured, tried, and convicted by a false witness and a day appointed for him to be hung. On getting full information of the facts, Col. R. Winn sent to Lord Cornwallis [a message] that if he hung Col. J. Winn, he would hang the first 100 British officers and soldiers who fell into his hands; and at that time he had several. When the day came that the Col. was to hang, Capt. John Milling, who as well as Col. Winn had taken parole, went to the boro to see the last of his friend and neighbor. On seeing several officers at H. Quarters he went near them . . . and heard one of them say: "We have a right to believe that this Winn will carry his threat into execution and that it would be better to save the life of this man than to cause the death of 100 of ours." So Col. Winn was pardoned, as I can recollect, under the gallows. This I had from Capt. Milling.

With civil government suspended and the governor of South Carolina absent from the state, Colonel Richard Winn was twice called upon to preside over meetings of the people of Upper South Carolina to formulate plans for civil control and military action.

It is regrettable that General Winn's Notes relate almost wholly to his military activities during 1780, as the caption shows. However, he remained active until the end of the long struggle. Did he toward the end meet any of the commanders of troops from the Tennessee country? It seems fairly certain that he became acquainted with Colonels John Sevier and Isaac Shelby, who with their riflemen were in South Carolina in 1781 in operations around Eutaw Springs and Monk's Corner, assisting in driving the British back and still farther back until they sought refuge in Charleston—the beginning of the end. To quote once more from the Notes:

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I was in the war from the beginning to the end. Shortly after the British evacuated Charleston I was made a Brigadier-General and held that commission for some time; then was made a Major-General, which commission I resigned June, the seventh, 1811. I commanded the

second division, which composed all the lower part of South Carolina, including five brigades. . . . After what I have stated I leave it to the people to say whether or not I have discharged my duty to my country.

The legislature of his state thought he had; it elevated him to the highest military rank it could bestow. He must be reckoned a resolute, methodical, and devoted soldier, at times almost brilliant as a strategist, in the small-scale actions in which he was called upon to engage. He was high in the councils of his leader, Sumter, "the Game Cock," and his advice was sought on occasion by General Daniel Morgan and others high in command. Much of the credit for the victories at Moberly's Meeting House, Hanging Rock, and Blackstock is attributable to him.⁹

After the close of the war Richard Winn became active in the civil affairs of his state. In 1782 he represented the district lying between the Broad and Catawba rivers in the Jacksborough Assembly. The year following he was appointed one of the commissioners to lay off Camden District into counties; and in 1784 he conveyed one hundred acres of land near Winnsborough to the Mount Zion Society for the education of youth. He had been a member of that Society from 1777. While a member of the state senate in 1786 he was named a commissioner to purchase a tract of land on which to build a new state capital, Columbia, and to sell lots in the town.

So far as available records show, Winn's most important public service during the period following the war was performed in the capacity of Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southern Department. About May 1, 1788, James White, of Nashville, resigned that office,¹⁰ and soon thereafter in the same year, Richard Winn was named his successor.¹¹ Thus he assumed his new duties at a time when the government of the nation was on the point of changing from control by the Articles of Confederation and the Continental Congress to government under a new Constitution by the Congress of the United States. It was not until April, 1789,

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⁹Draper Manuscripts, 13DD11, in Wisconsin Historical Society Library; *Calendar of King's Mountain Papers* (Madison, 1929), 392. The fact that the name of Richard Winn does not even appear in the rather full account of "Huck's Defeat" in Edward McCrady, *History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1776-1780* (New York, 1901), 589-599, illustrates the significance of the new light which Winn's Notes throw on this phase of the Revolutionary activities.

¹⁰*American State Papers, Indian Affairs*, I, 20.

¹¹*Ibid.*, I, 26.

that the new government could complete its organization and begin its work.

In this transition period the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southern Department was one of great delicacy, calling for sagacity, energy, and tact on the part of the occupant. The treaty of 1785 of Hopewell, in South Carolina, with the Southern Indians had given much and widespread offense to the citizens of North Carolina and particularly to those who lived west of the Alleghanies, who thought it surrendered lands to the Cherokees which that tribe had sold and parted with by treaty. Georgians also denounced the Hopewell treaty as "a direct attempt to violate the retained sovereignty and legislative rights of this State." those rights being yet measured, it must be remembered, by the Articles of Confederation. Governor Richard Caswell of North Carolina, on July 12, 1786, wrote to John Sevier that the treaty was so repugnant to the rights of the states that the Continental Congress "will not consider us by any means, bound to abide by that treaty."¹² The western folk were ready to accept this as sound doctrine, and they acted accordingly, continuing to inch up farther and farther toward the Cherokee towns on the Little Tennessee River.

About the time Winn took office, his difficulties were accentuated by the fact that North Carolina was not a member of the Federal Union, having in her convention of 1788 failed to accept the new Constitution. That instrument was not ratified or acceded to by that State until 1789, and the arm of federal power could not reach within her borders. As early as October 26, 1787, the old Congress felt compelled to provide for the negotiation of a new treaty with the Cherokees to remedy the situation, but that body, always feeble, was moving toward dissolution to give place to the one which was to function under the new Constitution. Nothing was done, and the tide of white population rolled on southwestward.¹³ One of Superintendent Winn's first acts was to write to Governor Samuel Johnston of North Carolina "to request that you will write to the commanding officer of the frontier of your State not to permit any party whatever to interrupt such towns of Indians as behave and declare themselves peaceable. It is my duty further

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¹²For the indignation felt in North Carolina and the West over the Hopewell treaty, see Samuel C. Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Rev. ed., New York, 1933), 100-101.

¹³*Ibid.*, 213, *et seq.*

to acquaint you that the Cherokee chiefs have given notice they mean to spill blood." He added that the overhill towns of the Cherokees were ready for war.¹⁴ Johnston replied that he had already issued orders for the arrest of John Sevier, who was considered as the leader of the dissatisfied whites.¹⁵

On September 1, 1788, a proclamation from the Continental Congress ordered all those who had settled across the Indian line promptly to remove. As a result Winn wrote the Cherokees, promising them justice from North Carolina, as well as from the general government, in a removal of the white settlers.¹⁶

Events in the West were occurring faster than Superintendent Winn knew. The Chickamauga Indians were actively engaged in hostilities at the very time Winn wrote the above letter, and the western whites were gathering forces to march southward to give them battle, under Brigadier-General Joseph Martin. The reds and the whites came to grips at Lookout Mountain in August, 1788, and the whites met a stinging defeat.

A treaty with the Indians now seemed imperative. By any conceptions of fair play, North Carolina owed it to the settlers south of the French Broad River to remove by a treaty the Indian claim from their lands. Governor Johnston stated the case against his own commonwealth fairly, in referring to the purpose of the general government to remove the settlers by force of arms: "The people inhabiting the lands in the Fork of French Broad and Holstein [Holston] Rivers claim under grants from this State, regularly issued from the Secretary's office, and executed by the governors. These people are therefore as much under the protection of the State as any other of her citizens."¹⁷

In October, Winn requested Governor Johnston to "use every exertion to provide your quota of supplies and send on a commissioner immediately in order to facilitate a peace as soon as pos-

¹⁴Winn to Johnston, August 9, 1788, in *North Carolina State Records*, XXI, 490. The letter was written from Winnsborough, South Carolina. In July, 1789, shortly after the new government went into operation, General Henry Knox, the secretary of war, recommended the appointment of a commission of three to deal with the Cherokee situation. *American State Papers, Indian Affairs*, I, 53.

¹⁵Johnston to Winn, August 31, 1788, in *North Carolina State Records*, XXI, 493.

¹⁶For references to this letter, see Winn to Johnston, October 17, 1788, *ibid.*, XXI, 502-503, and Winn to Henry Knox, December 8, 1788, in *American State Papers, Indian Affairs*, I, 29.

¹⁷Johnston to Hugh Williamson, September 22, 1788, in *North Carolina State Records*, XXI, 500-501.

sible."¹⁸ Finally Colonel John Steele of Salisbury was named North Carolina's commissioner, but on terms that he should pay for supplies with that state's depreciated paper currency, whereas the congressional stipulation was that specie should be voted and expended by the two Carolinas and Georgia. Steele wrote the Governor that North Carolina in so doing "had outwitted herself."¹⁹ To tardiness was now added parsimony. In its feebleness North Carolina was not able or was not willing to keep faith with her own grantees of lands south of the French Broad, whose money she continued to hold. No treaty was held, and the western folk had to wait three years (until 1791) for a clearance of the Indian claim—then, however, with money provided by the general government.

Superintendent Winn was in no sense to blame. Better results followed his efforts to obtain a cession of land from the Creeks, to the advantage of Georgia. Winn served as Superintendent for a little more than two years, retiring when the duties of the superintendency were added to those of the governor of the Southwest Territory on its establishment in 1790, William Blount serving in the double capacity of governor and superintendent.

The official records, national and state, demonstrate that Winn's administration of Indian affairs was forceful and efficient, especially in view of the peculiar adverse conditions he confronted; an enfeebled general government and more than one state in his jurisdiction faltering on the brink of bankruptcy, and one of them looking for any sort of excuse for not exerting power or expending money, even when the honor of the Commonwealth demanded it.

After retiring from the office of superintendent, General Winn was not long out of public life. He was elected a member of the House of Representatives of the Third Congress, taking his seat on March 4, 1793, and was returned to the Fourth Congress. Among his fellow-members from South Carolina were such leaders as Robert Goodloe Harper, Andrew Pickens, and Wade Hampton. Except for one term as lieutenant-governor of South Carolina, 1800-1802, he remained in private life from 1797 until 1803, when he was returned to the Seventh Congress to complete the unexpired term of Representative Thomas Sumter, who had been advanced to a seat in the Senate of the United States. He took his seat on

¹⁸Winn to Johnston, October 17, 1788, *ibid.*, XXI, 502. The request was repeated on December 13. See *ibid.*, 509.

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¹⁹Steele to Johnston, April 9, 1789, *ibid.*, XXI, 544; also in Henry M. Wagstaff, ed., *The Papers of John Steele* (Raleigh, 1924), I, 36.

January 24, 1803,²⁰ and remained in the House of Representatives until the end of the Twelfth Congress, on March 3, 1813.

Among the important measures debated in Congress during his tenures were the Indian wars of the 1790's, the admission of Tennessee into the Union, the near-war with France, and the War of 1812 with Great Britain. Young John C. Calhoun, whose home was near Winn's, appeared in the House of Representatives a short time before Winn retired. Both, joined by Felix Grundy and John Sevier of Tennessee, advocated the declaration of war with Great Britain. General Winn was too old to serve actively during that contest but he obtained commissions for two of his sons, Thomas and William, as lieutenants in the United States Army in 1812.

So far as the records show, Winn seldom spoke in Congress, though he is said to have been a forceful speaker, not fluent or eloquent. His talents, rather, ran to work in committee rooms where his wide experience made him a valuable counselor.

It is altogether probable that in his association with his Tennessee colleagues in Congress Winn obtained information concerning the economic prospects in Tennessee which led to his decision to migrate to the newer region. Whatever the cause, however, the decision was carried out in the fall of 1812, and his service as a representative from South Carolina in the second session of the Twelfth Congress was performed after he had ceased to be a resident of that state. The fact that he did not reach Washington until November 16, 1812,²¹ two weeks after the beginning of the session, was probably due to circumstances connected with the establishment of his new home in Tennessee.

Back of General Winn's decision to remove to Tennessee is an interesting bit of history. The revolutionary soldiers of South Carolina at the close of the war found themselves in lines that were hard as compared with those of the soldiers of Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. The last three states had vast western possessions out of which to grant bonus lands to their soldiers for their services in behalf of the American cause. South Carolina did assert a claim to a small strip of territory extending westward to the Mississippi River, but even that claim was challenged and denied by Georgia. As between the two contending states, Georgia had the better case. The claim of South Carolina was always tenuous and in time it proved to have no basis in fact.²² In 1787

²⁰*Annals of Congress*, 7 Cong., 2 sess., 413.

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²¹*Ibid.*, 12 Cong., 2 sess., 149.

²²When the Colony of Georgia was established in 1732, a part of its northern

South Carolina went through the form of making a cession of the disputed strip to the national government which thereafter never seriously asserted it against Georgia; all with the result that the last-named state exercised jurisdiction over it and granted lands within the strip for the benefit of her public treasury.

The soldiers of the Palmetto State who desired to remove to the West had to shift for themselves and purchase lands from North Carolina or Georgia or the grantees of those states. In this situation a goodly number of South Carolinians migrated to Tennessee, particularly to the Duck River country (Maury County),²³ where extraordinarily fertile lands were the lure. The two brothers, John²⁴ and Richard Winn, somewhat later resolved to move to Tennessee, the former locating in Rutherford County, in 1808, where he obtained considerable holding of good land.

It seems probable that for many years before his removal to Middle Tennessee Richard Winn had that region in mind as a place desirable for settlement. His eldest son, Minor,²⁵ no doubt

boundary was "the most northern part of the Savannah River." Georgia's contention was that this included that stream's northernmost tributary, and this South Carolina could not well refute. By comparatively recent surveys on the part of the general government it has been demonstrated that the upper reaches of the Savannah are so far north that South Carolina never had any real claim to any part of the strip. See R. S. Cotterill, "The South Carolina Land Cession," in *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XII (1925), 376-384.

²³Among the group, headed by John Dickey, were the Friersons, Coopers, Mayes, Flemings, Armstrongs, Stephensons, and Wilsons. All were from the Williamsburg District. They purchased a good portion of the 25,000-acre grant made to General Nathanael Greene by North Carolina in appreciation of that officer's services in the Revolution. It may well be doubted whether any similar group produced so many Tennesseans of distinction. See W. S. Fleming, *History of Old Mount Zion Church* (Columbia, Tenn., 1907), *passim*.

²⁴John Winn was, as already seen, a colonel of South Carolina militia during the Revolution. He married, first, Dorothy Wright, and, second, Penelope Kirkland. By each he had several children whose descendants are to be found in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, as well as in the farther West. A descendant married into the noted Lamar family of Georgia (Prudence Lamar), and their most distinguished descendant was Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry, educator, author, and publicist, whose reminiscences of John and Richard Winn appear in *Publications of the Southern History Association*, II, 225-229.

²⁵He bore an ancestral name. As a mere stripling, in 1782, he was a cornet of cavalry in Lieutenant-Colonel Wade Hampton's regiment. A. S. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Documents During the Revolution* (Columbia, S. C., 1908), 59. Minor had received a college education and had the qualities of a polished gentleman. Had he lived he would probably have become an outstanding figure in the public life of Tennessee. Another son, Samuel, was yet in school in South Carolina when the family removed. His education was continued in Harpeth Academy, near the new home. When troops were called out to go south in 1814, he and about thirty other students in that academy marched to New Orleans under General William Carroll and took part in the battle of January 8, 1815. After merchandising for some years in Middle Tennessee, he settled in Henry County, West Tennessee, where he lived until his death.

on his father's advice, migrated to the Cumberland country about 1798 and read law under Andrew Jackson, then a judge of the superior court of Tennessee. The young man lived in Jackson's home and died there in 1799. A letter from Jackson to General Winn notifying of the death of this son was long treasured by the Winn family.

General Winn moved to Maury County in the fall of 1812 and settled on a tract of 5,000 acres in Duck River valley.²⁶ He had become financially involved in South Carolina through becoming surety for friends, and looked westward for a fresh start for himself as well as better opportunities for his children. In the new home he was planter and merchant as he had been in South Carolina. Settling near others from the old home state, some of whom had been soldiers of the Revolution, he must have found life agreeable and enjoyable. He was the highest ranking revolutionary officer to settle in Maury County; and he held the highest rank of any soldier who migrated from a seaboard state to Tennessee. While his arrival and settlement apparently attracted little attention at the time, he seems to have contributed in an unobtrusive way to the development of the community. In recognition of his rank and worth, the citizens of Maury County, during the centennial celebration held in 1876, appointed a committee to search for and locate his grave; and, in course of time, a granite marker suitable to his rank was furnished by the national government. He died on December 18, 1818, at or near the incipient village of Winnsborough, which had its name from the town of his residence in South Carolina.²⁷ The General's life in the new home, therefore, covered but little more than a half-decade. Apparently he did not try to reenter public life, but without doubt he was a whole-hearted supporter of General Jackson.

In a beauty spot of Tennessee, surrounded by blue-grass hills and vales, repose in the last, long sleep the ashes of General Winn. The people of South Carolina, Tennessee, and Maury County owe it to themselves to see to it that the life and labors of this manly man and valiant soldier shall not pass into the realm of the forgotten.

²⁶Later, he sold 2,500 acres to Abram Blanding and others. Maury County Registry, Book C, p. 518. The 5,000-acre tract was either a part of the General Greene grant, or near it.

Property of Bob Stevens

²⁷"Ten miles west of Columbia, just north of the Columbia-Williamsport pike, near Winnsborough." The brief sketch of General Winn in the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1927* (Washington, 1928) states that he was buried at Winnsborough, South Carolina—a mistake readily to be understood under the circumstances.