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Mr. John Winn:
Seattle, Washington

I have before me your letter to my Nephew, W.A. Winn, making certain inquiries regarding the fighting qualities of the Winn's in the far past and stating that your mother came of old revolutionary stock of 1776. Well that's a grand record and one to be proud of. However, my Great Granduncle was Colonel Richard Winn of South Carolina and when the Colonies revolted at Great Britains treatment of them, Richard Winn, then a young planter raised a Regiment (one third of a page lost here, probaly in my files) order them to join him in Pennsylvavania, but General Tarleton in command of the 12 thousand of British Troops at Charleston, thought to break up the Colonist force camped at the Cowpens in South Carolina who were armed with Squirrel Rifles only, and were adept at hitting a squirrels eye in the tallest trees. There was a Colonist force estimated at 1500 to 1800, and Tarleton engaged them in battle with a force of 12,000 and fought them all of one day at a loss to his forces greater than the whole force of Colonists engaged and the Colonists also had fearful loss in their small army with Col. Richard Winn in Command and so fearful were the losses on both sides that both the British and the Colonist retreated that night. Gen. Tarleton going back to Charleston and the Colonists into North Carolina and as a result Gen. Washington recongnized his error in estimating the loyalty of Col. Richard Winn's army of Southern patriots, and they remained loyal until Britain had to give the Colonies their independence.

Then Grandfather William Winn was a Captain in the War of 1812 to 1815, and was in the Army of the United States at Washington under Gen. Winder, who although had a greater force, that the British who landed below Washington cowardly retreated into Maryland and the British captured Washington and burned it. In the war of the rebellion in 1861 to 1865. I had 3 brothers in the Union Army and 4 brothers-in-laws, in fact the whole family of which I was the youngest, and the only one now living. I am nearly 86 years old, and were some foreign country to endeavor to over-throw this glorious Government I would cheerfully take my place in the lines of defense. I was in some desperate battles but am still loyal to the best government that ever existed on this Earth. The world war proved the fighting qualities of American soldiers, and so far as locality was concerned, both North and South showed the Spirit of the American in battle, and I think no foreign Country will ever want to engage the American Soldier in battle, after the experience of the World War, where the American soldiers gave the German's the first real licking they got in that war, and also the last one, when the Germans threw up their hands and called for a rest, the Armistice.

Yours loyally,

Richard Byrd Winn

Formerly of: Co. H, 40th Mo. Vol. Infantry