



Edmund R. Taylor, M.D.

A REVIEW OF THE WINNS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

By Dr. Buford S. Chappell

THIS timely and lively production by Dr. Chappell, a member of our Columbia Medical Society, concerning an American Revolutionary family of Fairfield is a nice contribution to 1976. Men of upcountry *South Carolina were hearty fighters who won South Carolina back from Cornwallis after Charleston surrendered in 1780. This editor likes to say that the Charlestonians did the talking and we upcountrymen did the fighting. After the surrender of Charleston in 1780, this is historical fact. The Winns were specimens of those upcountry pioneer fighters.

Dr. Chappell in his preface says: "During these years of celebration of the bicentennial of the American Revolution and American Independence, a few of the more heroic figures of the Revolution will be selected for adoration: particularly the great partisan leaders, Sumter, Marion and Pickens...After the fall of Charleston in the Spring of 1780, the partisan warfare would depend on less well known leaders and heroes to support the actions of the Sumters, the Marions and the Pickens. To mention a few: Colonel John Winn, General Richard Winn, Colonel Thomas Taylor, Colonel Wade Hampton, Colonel John Hampton, Captain Henry Hampton, Colonel Robert Goodwyn, Colonel John Hopkins, Colonel David Hopkins, Colonel William Howell, Colonel Eli Kershaw, Colonel Joseph Kirkland, Captain William Kirkland, Captain Thomas Woodward, Major Hicks Chappell, Colonel Lacey, Colonel Hill and a long, almost interminable, list of these nearly forgotten heroes of that war."

There were three Winn brothers, John Willian anm and Richard, trained as surveyors, who came from Virginia. Colonel John Winn was prominent in the organizing of South Carolina against the British. At the surrender of Charleston, he was paroled by the British, which meant that he would not fight against them thereafter. In December, 1780, Colonel Richard Winn received word that his brother John had been taken by the British, conveyed to Winnsborough and was under the sentence of death by hanging for

(Continued On Page 13)

LEXINGTON COUNTY HOSPITAL

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF LEXINGTON COUNTY



EDITORIAL

(Continued From Page 7)

having broken his parole. From his camp in York County, he sent word to Cornwallis that he would execute the first hundred British officers and men that fell into his hands — and he already had several in captivity — if his brother was executed. He was not, but lived to lay out the town of Winnsborough and help establish its Mount Zion College which produced many distinguished men.

Colonel Richard Winn, after the fall of Charleston, and after all organized defense of the state had been reduced, made one of the earliest attacks against the British thus encouraging the pioneers to resist.

“May 12th, Charleston fell, 1780. 29th May '80, Col. Buford cut to pieces. About the middle of June, the British took a strong post at Shiroes (Shirer's) ferry on the east side of Broad River opposit(e) to the Dutch Fork and the inhabitants summons to come and take the oath of allegiance to the King. Those that did not were treated as enemies. Capt. Winn, living in that part of the country, finding that the Enemy was fast advancing, and that he could not raise one single person to oppose them, set out himself for the New Acquisition to see if he could not raise men with the help of Cols. Lacey, Bratton and Nelson. In the course of the (a?) day, they collected 100 militia and immediately marched to Gipson's (Gibson's?) Meeting House in Moberly Settlement; where we found a large body of Tories, strongly posted under Col. Ch. Coleman. As Capt. Winn was well acquainted with the strength and situation of the place, it was left to him to bring on the attack. In a few minutes, this force of Tories was drove from a strong house which answered for a Block House, and totally defeated (them) with a small loss of killed and wounded. The wig (Whig) party lost nothing . . .”

“Shortly after the Battle of Gipsons (Gibson's) Meeting House, Capt. Winn, by the British and Tories, had all his houses burnt to the ground and every Negro plundered, together with every other property he possessed in the world; his wife plundered of her clothes, and she drove off with two infant children. When this was made known to me, my answer was, it is no more than I expected.”

Before the battle of Hanging Rock, under Thomas Sumter, just north of Winnsborough, Colonel Winn has this to say: “Colonel Winn, halting the enemy often, gave time for the general to make his retreat good. Colonel kept two men ahead of him to watch and give notice of the enemy's motion. One of the men was Captain Coleman from Midway in Georgia: the other by the name of Stroud, a native of

(Continued On Page 15)

Page 13

SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

Artist's sketch of the Hospital as
it will appear upon completion
of the building program



this place. These men ventured too near the British, both were made prisoners, stripped naked and immediately hung up by the side of the road." Opposing the British often ended thus. Undaunted, Sumter, including Winn, attacked the British at Hanging Rock with about 600 men against twice their number. Listen to Winn: "Here Colonel Winn received a most dangerous wound but never quit the field until Gen'l. Sumter had gathered his men, and for victory, three cheers was given by the true friends of America. This action commenced about the appearance of the sun, Sunday, August seventh, and lasted until nine o'clock. The British force, including the Tories was from the best information about 1400. Their loss: the Prince of Wales (Wales) Regiment almost destroyed; the Tories totally defeated with a great loss of killed, wounded and prisoners; besides, a vast quantity of arms, etc. and 300 horses. The loss on the part of General Sumter was forty killed and wounded. The British and American flags were hoisted on the eighth for each to bury their dead and take off the wounded."

Later, Cornwallis sent an emissary to the wounded Winn who "Was instructed by Lord Cornwallis that if he would give up and come in, my property should all be restored, my losses paid, and many other things should be done for me, not particularly pointed out, and that my life and property should be protected. Answer: I dam'd him and his protection, too, and as to my property, it went in the manner expected.

Richard Winn was not in the Battle of Cowpens but his account of this exchange with Gen'l Morgan before Cowpens is too interesting to omit. Winn was with Sumter when Colonel Tarleton was given his first defeat at the Battle of Blackstocks four months earlier, so knew first hand of Tarleton's tactics. "...as Gen'l Morgan had been intimately acquainted with me from a small boy, he conversed freely with me on every point respecting the War in the Southern States, as he was well satisfied but few men could give him a better account.

Question: "Do you think I shall be attacked by the British?"

Answer: "I do, and that by a strong force from Winnsboro."

Question: "Can you inform me the manner Col. Tarleton brings on his attacks?"

Answer: "I can. Tarleton never brings on the attacks himself; his mode of fighting is to surprise. By doing this, he sends up two or three Troops of Horse, and if he can throw the party into confusion, with his reserve he falls on and will cut them to pieces.

William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute

The Teaching and Research Facility of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health

P.O. Box 119 / Columbia, South Carolina 29202



(Continued From Page 15)

“However, from looking in Gordon’s History, I see Tarleton brought on the action at Cowpens, himself. I think upon a strict scrutiny, this will be found to be a mistake. I rather suppose he was with his reserve of Horse that took through the woods when it was found that Morgan kept the ground. My own opinion of Col. Tarleton as an officer; he was more civil than brave. In a day or two after the Battle (Cowpens), I met with Gen’l Morgan who gave a statement of the action. Gen’l Morgan was well apprised that Col. Tarleton was persuing of him: but when, or where, he would overtake him was uncertain. When he (General Morgan) got to the Cowpens, he halted and took up his encampment, and says: “on this grund I will defeat the British or lay (down) my bones”; and picked out the place for his grave. Curiosity led me, afterwards, to view the ground, and I can say it would not have been my choice. In the first place, it was even enough to make race paths, cover’d over with a small growth of middling open without underwood, and nothing to defend either in front, rear, of flank. When the force of the British Horse and the advantage of the ground they (the British) had, the advantage over Morgan as two to one.”

This attractive lean, green book by Dr. Chappell takes two hours to read. Sketched here are examples of a new development and contribution to the world, the American man. At age twenty-five, Richard Winn was opposing the mightiest military force in the world, undaunted. Unable to find kindred spirits to oppose tyranny, he searched elsewhere until he found them. Through determination and organization, he won victories leading to the birth of this nation. Such men submerged mammon and interests in their own necks, putting principle first.

Perhaps in this little book a lesson forgotten by too many American men, professions, and institutions will be brought to light again. Endurable men such as the Winns of Winnsborough made America; without their like she will not endure. Read it and see.

E. R. T.

(These books can be obtained at the R. L. Bryan Company, Columbia, South Carolina.)

*The editor uses “upcountry” to mean that area of S. C. outside of a twenty mile area about Charleston.

DUNBAR FUNERAL HOME

**GERVAIS STREET CHAPEL
DEVINE STREET CHAPEL**

PHONE 256-3441

**SPECIALIZING IN
MEDICAL ACCOUNTS**

A-1
Medical Collection Service, Inc.
Suite 200
South Carolina Medical Building
3325 Medical Park Road
Columbia, S. C. 29203
Phone (803) 252-7600

McGregor's Drug Store

PRESCRIPTIONS

DRUGS

BIOLOGICALS

Telephone 252-3308 1308 Main Street

CAMPBELL'S DRUG STORE

City-Wide Prescription Delivery Service

600 Kilbourne Road - Heathwood
252-7771

Hours:
Monday - Saturday
9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays

POWERS & ANDERSON OF S. C., INC.

"Serving All South Carolina Since 1890"

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS - HOSPITAL SUPPLIES, ETC.

1510 Barnwell Street Columbia, South Carolina

TELEPHONES 252-3729 - 252-3720

- WE CAN DELIVER YOUR NEEDS TODAY
- OUR STORE IS HERE FOR YOUR SERVICE
- PATRONIZE US. WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD
ON THE SAME TRADE MARKED GOODS OR QUALITY

A. HINES McWATERS - - -

• *Office Outfitters* •

**WOOD AND STEEL
FURNITURE**

**1819 TAYLOR STREET
TELEPHONE 253-7503**

**COMPLETE OFFICE
LAYOUT SERVICE**