

BOLLING WRIGHT

By- Mary Dickey Boulware

Bolling Wright was born May 12, 1759 in Brunswick County, Virginia, a son of Solomon Wright. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and served four tours of duty with the 2nd Virginia Militia.

In a deposition made in 1834 when he applied for a pension he stated that he had been a resident of Fairfield County, S. C. for some 45 years, having left Virginia 5 or 6 years after the Peace of 1783. Listed as his neighbors who could testify as to his character and truthfulness were: David R. Coleman, Thomas Lyles, Jacob Feaster, Robert Coleman, Andrew Feaster, John Feaster, Samuel Fant and Isaac Means.

He described his military service as follows:

First Tour

When called into service he was living in Brunswick Co., Virginia, was called out in the month of January, and marched to Portsmouth, where the troops were stationed throughout this tour. The houses were used as barracks. There was a small fort above the town on the north side, mounting 8 cannons, which was manned by some of the troops. Bolling Wright was stationed in the town. General Weadon commanded the whole militia. Asap Gregory was orderly sergeant. Bolling Hair and Lugar Sinclair, privates. Solomon Wright, father of Bolling, served as a private this tour. There were no regular troops along this tour and no engagement with the enemy.

Second Tour

He was living in Mecklenburg Co. when this and following tours were served. Was called this time during the month of December, and served under Capt. Oliver, Arthur Fox was first lieutenant. He was marched through Petersburg, on to a place called Pitch Landing, remembers the company stopping and getting turnips on their march above Petersburg.

When the company arrived at Pitch Landing it was placed under command of Col. Fleming, who was under Gen. Mecklinburg. There were some regular troops under his command. John Bolling was adjutant to Col. Fleming's regiment, and Jacob Beasley was orderly sergeant to the company Bolling Wright was attached to. Capt. Graves also commanded one of the militia companies.

There was no serious engagement with the enemy. Bolling Wright volunteered along with about 50 men, under Col. Fleming to reconiter the enemy, and drive in their regiment guard in the old field near Portsmouth; one of the party was wounded by a ball, in the thigh.

The troops had temporary huts erected at Pitch Landing, and were stationed there during the tour which was for three months. The object was to protect the country against the inroads of the enemy from Portsmouth.

Third Tour

This tour started in the spring, and the weather was very warm before he got

home. Cap. James Harrison was commanding officer, Wm. Lewis, 1st lieutenant. Bolling Wright's company was marched to Cumberland Court House, Virginia, and joined by another militia company; thence was marched to Purity Creek on the James River, and joined General Stuban, who had about 900 regulars under his command. Some of his men were Blacks. General Stuban had command of the combined companies.

The British were on the opposite side and fired cannon rounds. A horse belonging to Major Cunningham was shot. Gen. Stuban had no cannon, and retreated to Willis Creek. The regulars and militia separated and the militia fell under command of Gen. Lawson, and were commanded by him for the remainder of the tour. Tarleton was said to have been with the British at the James River. Bolling Wright became ill and had no knowledge of the movements of the enemy during the remainder of the tour, which lasted 3 months.

Fourth Tour

The fourth tour was in the year 1781. He remembers the year because it was the one in which Cornwallis surrendered at York Town. The company was commanded by Capt. Stephen Maberry, with Edward Kensington as first lieutenant - was marched to the Mattaway River, River James Bridge. The bridge (he believes) was in Amelia County, Virginia. They marched on crossing the Mattaway River at Hey Island, thence through Williamsburg Town, thence to Mattaponi River, one being of Little York River, crossed at Ruffries, thence over the Pawmunki, until the troops joined General Lafayette before York Town. They were joined by another company in the march between the Appomattox and James Rivers, at York Town. Bolling Wright's company was placed under command of a militia colonel. Graves was the major, General Washington commanded the whole American force and was on the other side of the river from General Lafayette who was the commander on his side. Nineteen days after his (Wright's) arrival in York Town, the enemy under command of Cornwallis surrendered. Captain Maberry and company remained at York Town for some time after the surrender, and until arrangements were made to secure the captured property and afterwards assisted in escorting the prisoners. The tour was for 3 months.

He kept no written record of his service at the time, and now (1834) due to his age and consequent loss of memory, he is unable to state months or years in which the service was rendered, but can clearly remember the tours, and the length of time served in each tour. He served 11 months as a private soldier.

FROM VIRGINIA TO S. C.

On July 30, 1787 Bolling Wright and Millie Sanders, daughter of John Sanders posted their marriage bans, in Mecklenburg. Co. They were wed August 4, 1787. At this time Bolling was 28 years old and Millie was 15.

Shortly thereafter, they left their families, friends, and neighbors and embarked on a journey southward to establish a home. What an arduous trip it must have been, over rough, rutted wagon roads, and at days end, the evening meal must be prepared without any of the comforts of a house.

At their journey's end they settled in up-state South Carolina, in the hill country of northwestern Fairfield County. In October 1788 their first child was born, a daughter, they named Elizabeth. Their next surviving child was born 8 years later, a son, William.

The babies that did not survive the harsh life of the back country were the first to rest in the family burying ground, located on a gently sloping rise, within sight of the house.

Over the years Bolling and Millie became the parents of six more children, Jones, Uriah, Mary (Polly), Lucinda, Nancy, and David. All of the children were given their mother's maiden name, Sanders.

Edrington's "History of Fairfield" states that of the 8 children, William and Uriah were the most notable. William was a "Baptist preacher of the old school." Uriah was a home doctor and his services were in great demand in three counties. He was called by nearly all, "Doctor Wright."

William married Gemima Mobley, daughter of Micajah (Cage) Mobley, and later removed to Georgia.

David and Mary also went to Georgia. On Decmeber 27, 1826, Mary married Sion Hill.

David Wright and Elizabeth Ann Bedingfield were wed February 11, 1841, in Walton County, Georgia.

On January 12, 1824, Uriah Wright and Pinkey Ackland Smith were united in marriage. Pinkey was the second eldest daughter of John Smith.

Edrington depicts Uriah as an avid fox hunter, who was justly proud of his pack of hounds. The three most outstanding of the pack were named Jolly Wright, Molly Clowney, and Ring Smith. According to Edrington, he was eccentric and erratic. Despite these characteristics, he had some redeeming qualities - he was generous and hospitable. He played the fiddle. (Three of Uriah's grandsons were known to be accomplished fiddlers, Randal, William, and Henry Jenkins).

THE FINAL MOVE

Bolling and Millie lived in Fairfield County for 53 years. In January 1840 Bolling Wright sold his land - 185 acres to Uriah Wright, and 55 acres to Meredith Meador. This was done in preparation for a move to Georgia. At that time he had reached the age of 81. This rugged old pioneer uprooted himself from neighbors and friends of long standing, and leaving the red hills of South Carolina behind, removed to Jackson County, Georgia.

He died January 12, 1841 at Jug Tavern (now Winder), Georgia. What a proud heritage he left us (his decendents). He lived a full and honorable life, and had an active part in the shaping of our country's history. His courage, fortitude, and perserverance should ever shine as a beacon to guide us.

References:

Pension file of Bolling Wright, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
 Mecklenburg County Marriages- Elliott, page 135
 A History of Fairfield- William Edrington
 Fairfield County Deeds- Book NN pp 270-271, 320-321

URIAH WRIGHT md. PINKEY ACKLAND SMITH

CHILDREN:

Harriet md. Thomas Jenkins
 Nancy unmarried
 Wiley Jackson md. N. J. Hill
 Milly Jane md. William E. Hill
 Isabella md. James W. Parnell
 Rebecca md. Thomas A. Crowder
 Lucinda unmarried
 John David
 Hiram S. unmarried

HARRIET WRIGHT md. Thomas Jenkins

CHILDREN:

Elizabeth md. John Q. Bolin
 Pinkey md. Mullinax
 Crecy md. 1. Thomas Smith 2. Solomon Varnadore
 William md. Betty Bogett
 Thomas Randal unmarried
 Emily md. Thomas W. Jenkins
 Henry W. md. Eugenia Gatling

REBECCA WRIGHT md. Thomas A. Crowder

CHILDREN:

Savilla Isabelle md. 1. Billy Young, 2. Jack McLain
 James Uriah md. Ida Suber
 Robert Wiley md. Mary M. Suber
 Sarah Precious md. John Jenkins
 Jennie W. md. Jonathan Shedd
 David Walton unmarried
 Benjamin Franklin md. Julia Beam