

THE BULLETIN

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THE CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 336,
Richburg, S. C. 29729

Dues: \$20.00 Per Calendar Year

President	Dr. James Gill Knox
Secretary	Mrs. Debbie N. McMinn
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President's Page

As we approach Thanksgiving, I recall the poem that I learned as a small boy at Oakley Hall School. The poem is Thanksgiving Day by Lydia Maria Child.

Thanksgiving Day

*by Lydia Maria Child
(1802 – 1880)*

*Over the river and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go.
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.
Over the river and through the wood—
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.*

*Over the river and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
"Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!
Over the river and through the wood
Trot fast, my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting hound,
For this is Thanksgiving Day!*

*Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barnyard gate.
We seem to go extremely slow
It is so hard to wait!
Over the river and through the wood—
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!*

I hope that each of you have a blessed and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Jim Knox

Reminder to all members

Your dues are now due for the calendar year 2006. Please remember to add your surnames and email address to your renewal form to be printed in the Bulletin. If you do not want your information printed, make a note on the form. Thank You.

We hope that everyone will have a safe and happy holiday season. Many of you have visited our library this year and we hope that many more will be able to visit in the coming year.

The following article was printed in the *Charlotte Observer*, Sunday 11, 2005. Permission to reprint the article was given by Dan Huntley. The article was submitted by William Hopper.

Artisan's Headstone laid to rest at last

Written by Dan Huntley

Godfrey Beimgard did what most of us will never do-carved his own headstone.

The York County artisan, who died Aug. 31, 1839, chiseled these words above his head: *"Adieu all both far and near, my loving wife and children, for my immortal soul has fled, I now lie numbered with the dead. Remember friends as you pass by, As you are now, so once was I, As I am now, so you must be. Prepare for death and follow me."*

He intended these words to be above his buried crypt for all eternity.

The German native has stayed put for 166 years, but his head stone has been on the move.

Beimgard was buried at Clover's Old Center Cemetery. Ten to 15 years ago, someone stole the 4 ½ -foot-high tombstone from Clover during vandalism that has destroyed most of the grave markers in the cemetery. In the mid-90's, the gravestone mysteriously appeared in the Union Grove United Methodist Church cemetery in Sevier County, Tenn. The church-about 25 miles east of Knoxville-has no connection to the Beimgard family,

Church officials were puzzled by the tombstone because no one was buried there before 1886.

“One look at it, and you knew it was out of place: One, because of the date, and two, there’s no one of that name in this community,” said Larry Elder, who is helping write a history of the Union Grove church.

There was no mention of a town on the tombstone, so Elder had no clue where it had come from. He went online and started searching genealogical Web site. After several false leads, he heard from one of Beimgard’s descendants who had been looking for the tombstone and who had a photograph of it in the ‘Clover cemetery. Elder then contracted Ed Stewart of Clover, who had written a history book on Clover’s cemeteries.

“I thought it was a joke at first because I couldn’t figure out how in the world a Clover tombstone over 150 years old had ended up in Tennessee,” said Stewart, who works at M. L. Ford Funeral Home in Clover.

Stewart and Elder managed to get the 100-pound stone delivered to Clover Thursday night. Stewart is planning a small family ceremony to re-install the headstone at another Clover cemetery where one of Beimgard’s sons is buried. Stewart said it’s unsafe to place the tombstone at the original cemetery because of the ongoing vandalism.

“After all this effort to get it returned, I would hate anything happening to it again,” he said.

So that gets us back to the question: How in the world did this York County Man’s tombstone end up in Tennessee? Elder, the man at the Tennessee Church, has a theory:

He believes some kids from Clover were planning a camping trip at the nearby Smoky Mountain National Park, and they stole the long stone table with plans to prop it up on cinder blocks to use as a table. They used it in the park and left it. Someone from the park service found the tombstone and brought it to the church, which is one of the closest to the park.

Stewart says it’s unlikely anyone will ever know how a 19th century headstone went on a 500-mile round trip.

“In some ways I guess it doesn’t really matter; the important thing is that it has been returned,” Stewart Said.

May Godfrey the stone carver’s head marker Rest in Peace.

Bill 71 1839
 Ex Parte the Heirs of Thomas Wilks Dec'd
 Bill for Partition 25 pages

Bill 72 A & B 1837
 Col. Wm. Woods Adm. Ads John B. Kennedy & Others
 Bill for Account A (49 pages) B (56 pages)

Bill 73 A & B 1824 (survey map in file)
 Harriet D. Mobley & Others by Gdn. Vs John Mc Daniel & Wife et al
 Bill for Discovery A (49 pages) B (49 pages)

Bill 74 A & B 1828 (survey map in file)
 Ex Parte Margaret Kennedy Exr, of George Kennedy Dec'd
 Bill for Real estate A (36 pages) B (68 pages)

Bill 75 1832 (survey map in file)
 John Montgomery Adm. Of Agness Allen Dec'd vs John Hays & Others
 Bill for Real Estate & To Marshal Assets (33 pages)

Bill 76 1835 (survey map in file)
 Charlotte Bradley Widow et al vs John A. Bradley
 Bill for Partition & Division of Lands (44 pages)

Bill 77 1835
 Joseph Caldwell vs John McCullough
 Bill to Foreclose Mortgage (21 pages)

Bill 78 A & B 1831
 A Westbrook & Others vs B. Jackson Jun. et al
 Bill for Account & Relief A (63 pages) B (55 pages)

Bill 79 1836 (survey map in file)
 John Griffin et al vs Eliza Long et al
 Bill for Partition (30 pages)

Bill 80 1835
 D. W. Doby & Wife vs Ampha. Patton
 Bill for Partition (19 pages)

Bill 81	1836	
Sarah Rodman Widow vs Thomas Rodman et al		
Bill for Partition of Lands		(27 pages)
Bill 82 A & B	1826	
John Peay Adm. of Samuel McCreary Dec'd vs Jas. S. Fleming et al		
Bill for Injunction and to Marshal Assets		A (58 pages) B (64 pages)
Bill 83 A & B	1830	
R. G. Stacks et al vs Jno. M. Barber et al		
Bill for Partition & Account		A (33 pages) B (40 pages)
Bill 84	1836	(survey map in file)
James Crain et al vs Sarah McCreary widow et al		
Bill for Partition of Lands		(33 pages)
Bill 85	1836	(survey map in file)
Coleman Crosby & Others vs Mary Terry & Others		
Bill for Partition		(28 pages)
Bill 86	1837	(survey map in file)
Mary A. Mills et al vs Robert G. Mills		
Bill for Partition		(14 pages)
Bill 87	1836	
Josiah Jardon & Others vs Henry N, Carter		
Bill for Partition		(19 pages)
Bill 88	1836	
Ezekiel Sanders vs Lem. W. Egger		
Bill for Account		(9 pages)

The following wills are from the Probate Judges Office at the Chester County Courthouse. The wills are copied as written. *Spelling and name errors are not corrected.*

The will of James McClure, recorded in File 49, package 779

Considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound mind and memory blessed be Almighty God for the same, do make this my last will and testament in the manner and form following: First, My body to be decently buried and headstones put to my grave the expense of which to paid out of my personal estate. I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Jennet, fifteen dollars and one-third of my personal estate, also one-third of what money I may have in hand or owing to me at the time of my death. She is to have all of my bedding and half of my farming tools and my kitchen furniture. She is also to have the use of one-third of the plantation on which I live and the use of half my housing, the land to be laid off in such a manner as to give her a fair proportion of clear land, wood land and water. These things I leave her in barr of her dower. She may not sell nor dispose of the land and housing to any other person or persons as I only allow her to have life estate in it; her attempting to sell it she be forfeiture of what property I have given her, the same to be forfeited, to my son James McClure. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary White two-thirds of my personal estate not otherwise disposed of. I give and bequeath to my son James McClure the plantation on which I live, two-thirds of which he is to have at my deceased and the remainder he is to have at the death of my wife, Jennet, the same to be to him, his heirs and assigns forever. My son James is to pay the children of my daughter Mary White ten dollars each as they arrive at their respective ages of twenty-one years of age, the same not to be paid to any of them till one year after my decease. My body clothes I leave to my grandson James White; my sorrel coalt I leave to my son James in trust for his son John McClure who is to have the value of it when come eighteen years of age. I bequeath unto my negro men David and Simon seven dollars each to buy them suits of mourning and allow the said negroes to be disposed of agreeable to my mother's will. I appoint my son James McClure and my nephew James McClure the executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this third day of December in the year of Our Lord on thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven. Signed sealed and published in the presence of

John Poag, Hugh Gaston
Mary x Porter
her mark

James McClure

Note: James McClure vilified as executor Jan. 29, 1828 in the Court of Ordinary

The will of Mary McClure

In the name of God Amen, I, Mary McClure of the State of South Carolina, Chester District, being weak of body but of sound mind & memory do make, constitute & ordain the following to be my last will and testament and do hereby disannul & make void all wills written or verbal, by me made.

First, I commit my soul to an Almighty God and my Redeemer and my body to Christian burial at the discession of my executors. As touching such worldly estate I will that all my debts, if any there should be at my decease, be speedily and punctually paid, then to my son William McClure, I give & bequeath five shillings sterling. Item. To my son James McClure, I give & bequeath five shillings sterling. I also give him the use of one negro boy named Isaac, also one negro woman named Phebe and her son, named David, and her son Simon, & at his death I give and bequeath said negroes to his surviving children. I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Mary White, daughter to my son James McClure, the use of one negro girl named Fanny. At decease I give and bequeath said negro to her surviving children. I give & bequeath to my son-in-law Hugh Gaston and my daughter Martha Gaston, five shillings sterling: also the use of one negro woman named Cloe & one negro boy named Sandy during said Martha Gaston's life. At her decease I give & bequeath said negroes to her surviving children. I give & bequeath unto my grandson James Gaston the use and benefit of one negro boy named James during his life. At his death I give and bequeath said negro boy to his legitimate issue. The said negro boy is to be under the direction of Hugh & Martha Gaston during the said James Gaston's celibacy but this is not to be so constructed as to deprive said James Gaston of obtaining reasonable wages for the labour of said negro from the persons who may have him in possession. If he died without any issue I ordain that he shall return to the heirs of his father's estate. I give and bequeath unto my son Hugh McClure five shillings sterling. I also give him the use of one negro boy named Simon & another named Guy during his life. At his death I give and bequeath said negro to his surviving children & I give and bequeath unto my grandson James McClure, son to Hugh McClure, a tract of land surveyed for myself joining a tract of land on which Hugh McClure now lives. I give and bequeath to my son-in-law Samuel Lowry and daughter Mary, five shillings

sterling. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Lowry the use of one negro girl named Ginny, and a negro boy named Andrew, during her life. At her death to her surviving children. I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Mary Lowry, a negro girl named Rose, now in the possession of my son James McClure and the Samuel Lowry is to cloath said negro till he thinks proper to take it unto his possession & pay the taxes. I further will & bequeath an equal share of my body & bed cloaths to my two daughters Martha & Mary. I will ordain and appoint that if Mary White should die without legitimate issue that the negro left to her at her decease shall be sold, the priced of which is to be equally divided between my daughter Martha Gaston, my son, Hugh McClure and daughter, Mary Lowry or their surviving children. I give and bequeath unto my granddaughters Rebekah, Mary Margret & Matta Martin twenty-one pounds five shillings sterling each, of if there can be money enough collected from notes & what may be in hand at my decease I then order that each of their legacies shall be as much as a hundred dollars and if their father, heir-at-law to my daughter Margret Martin deceased, requires a share of negro Roses price which was willed to be equally divided between my children at my decease then that share is taken equally out of the respective legacies of the four above mentioned sisters having, as executor of my husband's receipts but being lost in the convulsions of the war & otherwise I will claim against my husband's estate or any other account contrary to the legatee shall forfeit his, her or their legacy or legacies entirely except five shillings. I also will & ordain & appoint the land divided by my son, William McClure, may just remain according to his division thereof. I farther will & bequeath that if thares any money left of my estate after paying off the four above mentioned sisters it shall be equally divided between my two grand daughters Mary McClure & Mary Gaston, this last mentioned Mary Gaston is daughter of Hugh McClure. I do hereby constitute, appoint and ordain Hugh McClure, Hugh Gaston & Joseph Gaston, senior, sole executors of this my last will & testament & do by these appoint & ordain this to be my last will & testament & in testimony I do hereby set my hand and seal this fifth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand, eight hundred & two and of independence of the United States of America the Twenty-sixth.

Mary x McClure
her mark

Signed sealed, pronounced & declared in the
presence of us
James Douglas
John Miller
Samuel Miller

Will of William Lewis

In the Name of God Amen I William Lewis of the district of Chester in the State of South Carolina being weak of body by of perfect mind and memory and calling unto mind the certainty of death do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament.

It is my will and desire that all my just debts if any I have unpaid be settled and paid off and that at my decease my body be decently buried in Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors—as touching such Worldly goods wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I give and dispose of the same as follows.—1st . I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elisabeth lewis to be distributed and disposed as she thinks fit at her decease amongst her children one Negro Woman named Lydia and her child named Mary with their increase if any. Also one horse beast saddle and bridle of such as she may chose amongst my property of that description. Also two cows and calves and two feather beds besteads and furniture for each. Also on sow and pigs agreeable to her own choice. Also thirty dollars annually to be paid to her out of my estate or the accumulated monies thereof. Also one cotton Spinning Wheel and one pair of cotton cards. Also one Bureau one Table six sitting chairs One Clock-real one dinner pot one Spider one Skillet one other large port on case of knives and forks two pewter dishes Six pewter plates three pewter basins six pewter spoons half a dozen Cups and Saucers One Coffee pot one tea pot one set of fire logs tongs and Shovel Six small bowls two stone jars one pitcher two head of Sheep and the product or benefit of the present or crop now planted. Also a supply of hogs for the Next or ensuing year, And also all the meat at present laid in, for the use and benefit of my said Wife and my two daughters that are with her. Also the use and benefit of all the wine now on hand and also all the grain and profits of my Grist mill. And also all the profits arising from entertaining travelers until an actual sale of my real and personal estate in made. 2nd I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Ellenor Lewis One hours beast to be worth Seventy five Dollars and one bridle and Saddle in addition thereto. Also two cows and calves and one feather bed bedstead and furniture and one cotton Spinning Wheel and One pare of cotton cards.— 4 It is my will and desire that all my other estate both real and personal not herein before named or bequeathed be sold at public Ontery and that the amount or proceeds thereof be equally divided amongst all my Children; desiring that the portions or dividends so made be laid out in the purchase of lands which lands I wish to descend ultimately to the children of my children, provided that if any Children die without heir or heirs it is my wish in such case that the lands and other

property of such be equally divided between my other surviving children or their proper heirs.

5th As my daughter Martha who intermarried with Thomas Grice is dead and has left two children namely a son Named Wade and a Daughter named Achsa it is my desire that of the portion which would otherwise have fallen to my Daughter Martha the sum of Two hundred and ten Dollars for each of the said children provided they or either of them live to lawful age marry and apply for the same be placed in the hands of Joel Lewis to be by him laid out in the purchase of lands for them and for which the said Joel must be held accountable and responsible. But in case the said children or either of them do live to lawful age nor marry then and in case it is my wish the portion or two hundred and ten dollars each as above said be equally divided amongst my other children.

6th I hereby Nominate and appoint William Jenkins and Ferdinand Hopkins my Executors to this my last Will and testament to do and perform all lawful Acts in my place and stead.

In testimony of the Above as my last Will and testament—I have hereunto set my had and Seal and have Acknowledged and declared that same in the presence of the Witnesses who Names are hereunto Subscribed this eleventh day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen and in the fortieth year of the Independence of the United States of America. -----

Witnesses
Wm Flemingway
her
Ellenor X Thomas
mark

William Lewis (Seal)

Probated Oct. 6, 1817
Recorded in Book G Page 49
Apartment No. 37, Package No. 577

The author of the following article is unknown.

Chester County Rich in History

Landsford-Roddy Town Home of Many Prominent Families Time Brings Changes

Before and during the American Revolution there lived on the eastern side of the Catawba River a patriot known as Captain Lann, who opened the wide and stony stream. This stream, while rough, was easily fordable at low water, and it is probable that it was an old and unused crossing even when Lord Cornwallis passed over it with his army in 1780 on his march from Charlotte to Winnsboro.

On the left or western side lived Gen. William Richardson Davie, a conspicuous and effective officer on American Revolutionary fame. He was not permanently settled there until some years subsequent to the war. His dwelling was located on an eminence overlooking the river, with a superb water front and splendid fish grounds.

Three of his sons lived near the father's home, William, where W. S. Garrison now lives, Allen where S. J. Cornwell lived, and Hydes where Mrs. J. J. Jordan lives. They were a very intellectual family. Some died, others went West, and for a number of years there was not one of the name in the county. Gen. Davie was buried at Old Waxhaw church in Lancaster County in 1820.

Church Jones, a grandson of Gen. Davie, in some way got possession of the property—a very large plantation, and held it until the late sixties. In 1872 a man by the name of Hayward (or Hagood) from the lower part of the State claimed and got possession of it. He held it a very short time. In 1877 Col. William Richardson Davis and his brother, Allen, great Grandson of Gen. Davie, came from Texas and took possession of the place. Allen soon died and he was buried at Waxhaw church. William lived here for 20 years. He was elected to the General Assembly one term, and also, was a candidate for Congress, but was defeated. Sometime later he sold his property here and went back to Texas in 1898—Nearly a hundred years after his grandfather had settled in Chester County. (Gen. Davis came to South Carolina from North Carolina.)

Soon after leaving here William ran for a state office and was elected and held the place a number of years. He died at Austin, Texas, in 1921.

Lann's ford was brought over to Landsford, one word, as now known, but a postoffice of that name, located three or four miles away in one of the prettiest parts of the county, was established about 1820. Its first postmaster was William Cherry. Later his son, Gregg Cherry, was postmaster until it was removed to the "Cross Roads", a mile nearer Rock Hill, where it

remained until the rural free delivery came. Now the railroad station retains the name which is all that is left to remind one of the old post office.

In the immediate vicinity of the post office it became populous and closely Roddy Town, a prominent and popular mechanic who did a large business manufacture of wagons, buggies, etc., with a necessary large blacksmith. He died in the early fifties, and his brother. T. F. Roddey. About 1900.

From an early day the place was a favorite and profitable spot for those who preferred mercantile pursuits for profitable employment and there were always stores—generally two —carrying heavy stocks of goods (general) merchandise as is the case with country merchants.

It was a common resort for horse drovers and especially hog drovers from Kentucky and Tennessee, and often it was said “the kivered wagons from North Kerliner will center here for the delectation of the folks around.” In fact it was a good market for most itinerant venders and dealers.

Such things are now no more and the place is settled by well-to-do farmers.

Some of the old property owners were Lewis A. Beckman Sr., the Cherries and others. Old Mr. Gregg Cherry was a patriotic soldier of the War of 1812. He lived to a great age, dying in 1873. He was buried at El Bethel church, almost on his own premises.

This church was built in 1859 and has since been replaced by a better but smaller house, and is a part of the Upper South Carolina Conference.

Some of the prominent names of the settlement forty years ago are Dr. D. M. Cox, (father of Dr. W.B. Cox of Chester), R. H. Bradley, a farmer who went west with his family a long time ago; Gregg Cherry , very tall man and confirmed celibate who died a few years ago; A. M. McMullan, and many others.

The Catawba Valley Railroad now passes over even the very spot, on which some of the houses stood.

The following article was written by M. Ron Cox. He was the speaker at our birthday party this year. This article is from his speech. We want to thank Mr. Cox for sending the article to us.

“History Through the Looking Glass” – Studying the American Revolution from the British Perspective

M. Ron Cox, Jr.
University of South Carolina Lancaster

To most people born and educated in the United States, the American Revolution is perhaps one of the simplest events to understand in our national history. Rarely is the conflict viewed or portrayed as anything other than a just and necessary war, waged valiantly by an oppressed people against and cruel, unreasonable, tyrannical king. Certainly there is historical evidence to support this interpretation. In the study of history, however, it is always important to keep in mind that rarely are events so totally one sided that they can be explained or understood by looking at only one viewpoint. If one wishes to comprehend an issue fully, it is almost always imperative that the issue be examined from different perspectives.

This is particularly true when one studies an event like the American Revolution. But while it is important to be familiar with the colonial perspective, few students take the time or the effort to acquaint themselves with the trans-Atlantic view. How did Englishmen – and in particular, English political leaders – view the conflict, and how did their views influence the decisions (and mistakes) they made in dealing with their colonies during the turbulent 1760s and 1770s?

If one is to understand the various viewpoints, it is important to recall that the American Revolution was fueled by two main ideas – liberty and equality. These terms must be defined within the context of their meaning in the late 18th century. *Liberty* would best be understood today as meaning basic human rights. The 18th century was still the age of monarchy in Europe, and even the most educated and enlightened king believed it was his God-given right and duty to regulate what his subjects read, wrote, and believed. Liberal thinkers of the age protested this control, asserting that people (meaning free white men) had the right to follow their own consciences in such matters. By *equality*, liberal thinkers did not mean economic or social equality, but rather identical legal rights and civil liberties. Protesting the legal division of society into classes with special rights and privileges, they insisted that everyone (again, meaning all free white men) should have an equal chance under the law.

To Englishmen of the age, theirs was the “freest” system the world had ever known. While governments on the continent had evolved into absolutism, Great Britain’s historical experience – from Magna Carta and the emergence of Parliament to the Glorious Revolution and the English Bill of Rights – had served to curtail the power of the Crown and establish the supremacy of **law** within the English system.

England’s North American colonies shared this historical experience. Although aware of many of the Mother Country’s shortcomings, they had successfully transplanted British society and the British form of government (with its representative assemblies, checks and balances, and separation of powers) across the Atlantic. Whatever factors had pushed them to leave Britain’s shores for the New World, it is evident that

they viewed themselves first and foremost as Englishmen, with all the rights and responsibilities of the same. The American Revolution was therefore unique in that it did not grow out of a desire to gain **new** rights, but rather sought to protect **rights which were already established**.

For much of their history, the colonies had benefited from a policy known as “salutary neglect.” Three thousand miles from the eyes and ears of London, the colonies had exerted considerable autonomy over their local affairs through elected assemblies, town meetings, and the like. Royal governors quickly found that their success in office was often much more dependent on relations with the colonial elite than it was on support from the Crown or the Privy Council.

The critical year in terms of Great Britain’s relationship with her North American colonies was 1763, although at the time this was by no means apparent. Britain had just emerged victorious against her arch-rival France in the Seven Years’ (French and Indian) War, giving the Crown a vast new empire, not only on the North American continent but also around the world. With a young and vigorous king on the throne (George III was but twenty-two years old), the future looked bright. As is often the case, however, victory in wartime gave way to new problems in peacetime and revealed a growing tension between the American colonies and their Mother Country. Within this tension lay a growing American nationalism.

The most immediate point of contention proved to be the new western lands. Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, Great Britain now controlled all North American territory east of the Mississippi River. To land-hungry colonists, the desire for expansion into this vast wilderness was all but irresistible. For policy makers in London, however, there were additional issues which had to be considered. This new territory was still inhabited by large numbers of Indians who appeared ready to resist further encroachments. Having just ended a violent and expensive war, it seemed only expedient to postpone settlement for a time sufficient to allow England to “catch her breath.” After all, planners reasoned, the land was not going anywhere. Therefore in October, King George issued the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which drew a line along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains and forbade settlers to venture beyond. To most colonists, however, this was nothing more than “royal meddling.” Many defied the edict and moved west in spite of the prohibition.

To policy makers in London, this was but one of many pressing issues demanding attention. Prominent among them was the problem of colonial defense. With thousands of Frenchmen still in Canada, as well as tens of thousands of potentially-hostile Indians, it seemed obvious that British troops would have to be stationed along the frontier. British Prime Minister George Grenville estimated that no fewer than fifteen regiments of redcoats – some 10,000 men – would be needed.¹

¹ While not publicly stated as a concern, Grenville privately reasoned that maintaining a large military force in America would also enable England to avoid the economic and social turmoil that would accompany such a massive demobilization.

Clearly, however, such a force would be costly, and British officials found (as have many victors in war) that there were no easy solutions. England's treasury was already bankrupted by the war, and Englishmen at home already paid the highest taxes in the western world. The colonies, by comparison, traditionally had been taxed very lightly.² It therefore seemed only reasonable that the colonists should bear at least a part of the cost of their own defense.

Thus ended the age of "salutary neglect." Over the next two years, English officials pushed to enforce revenue acts which were already on the books (but which had largely been ignored), and Parliament passed a series of new taxes on the American colonies. As every American student knows, these proved to be the issues which ultimately paved the path to revolution. From the colonial perspective, here lay the incontrovertible evidence of British "meddling" in local affairs and "tyranny." From the British perspective, however, these actions were taken with the goal of "tightening up" the organization of their new worldwide empire, a perfectly legitimate goal in light of the kingdom's newfound status as a leading world power.

It is interesting to note that while many of the new taxes (for example, the Sugar Act of 1764) caused much grumbling (after all, no one likes to pay additional taxes), there is little evidence that colonists challenged Parliament's *right* to pass such legislation. After all, these acts pertained to regulation of imperial trade and economic policy – areas over which Parliament traditionally exercised considerable authority.

The Stamp Act of 1765, however, proved to be a different issue entirely. Placing a tax on practically all materials printed in the colonies – newspapers, pamphlets, almanacs, books, bonds, deeds, licenses, college diplomas, playing cards, etc. – this was a *direct* tax which would affect almost every colonist, was designed solely for the purpose of raising revenue, and had nothing to do with the regulation of imperial trade. The act passed Parliament with little debate – only three opposition speeches were recorded in the House of Commons – and was set to go into effect on 01 November 1765.

Colonial reaction no doubt caught English officials off guard. Throughout the summer (before the law even went into effect), there were protests in every colony – mass meetings, bonfires, parades, and other demonstrations. Radicals calling themselves the "Sons of Liberty" held town meetings beneath "liberty trees" (in Boston, an elm; in Charleston, an oak) denouncing these assaults on their "liberty." In one Boston meeting, a stamp agent was burned in effigy, after which the enraged mob burned down the Stamp Office and attacked the home of the royal Lieutenant Governor. In several colonial ports, stamp agents were tarred and feathered or otherwise chased out of town, rightly fearing for their lives.

British leaders naturally viewed these as acts of lawlessness, promulgated by a few radicals and bandits. The "official" colonial response – the so-called "Stamp Act Congress" which met in October – demonstrated a much more moderate opposition. Only nine colonies responded to the call, and the

² According to several sources, the American colonies paid the second-lowest taxes in the western world. Only Poland paid lower rates. See George B. Tindall & David Shi, *America: A Narrative History*.

representatives who gathered did not endorse the summer's violence. Rather, they conferred, discussed, and issued statements and resolutions expressing displeasure with British actions, but at the same time reasserted their loyalty to the British Crown. By 01 November – the date that the legislation went into effect – the Stamp Act was essentially dead. Colonial business went on as usual, without the stamps, although in some cases printers placed a skull and crossbones where the stamp would have been affixed, as a symbol of their continued resistance.

While the Stamp Act produced no revenue, its political effect was profound. Many colonists began to re-examine their relationship with their Mother Country and began questioning whether or not they were being afforded the “rights of Englishmen.” Why, for example, were 10,000 British troops needed in the colonies? What was their *true* purpose – to protect the colonies or to keep them under control? Did this not violate the prohibition against maintaining standing armies in peacetime, which dated back to the English Bill of Rights of 1689? Did Englishmen not also have the right to trial by jury? Were they not considered “innocent until proven guilty”? And yet the English customs courts were being operated without juries and defendants were required to “prove” their innocence. Most importantly, did not Englishmen have the right to be taxed *only* by their elected representatives (a right which traced its origins back some five centuries, to *Magna Carta*)? An Englishman's right to property was considered inviolable, the very basis of his liberty. To tax was to take away property and thus, also to take away a part of a man's liberty.

The colonial argument was simple, and was based not only on English tradition but also on their own historical experience. Colonial assemblies were elected by the male property owners within each colony and representatives were expected (in many cases required) to reside (or at least to own property) in the district they represented. No colony elected members to Parliament; no colonist voted for the House of Commons. Therefore, they claimed, they were not represented in Parliament and thus could not be taxed without the approval of their local assemblies. This was commonly referred to as the theory of “direct” representation and was the source of the oft-repeated colonial protest that “Taxation without representation is tyranny.”

From London's perspective, the issue was equally simple and was put forth in the theory known as “virtual” representation. Conceding that colonists did not vote in Parliamentary elections, British officials reminded their overseas brethren that **neither did most Englishmen**. English law established a steep property requirement to exercise the franchise – a requirement that few Englishmen met.³ In addition, apportionment for Commons was extremely outdated, with many modern cities electing no members but older rural areas still electing several. In any case, the British argument ran, it did not matter, for members of Parliament did not represent only the areas that elected them. Rather, they represented **all** Englishmen throughout England, and indeed, throughout the empire. Following this line of thinking, Charleston and

³ Different sources cite figures ranging from 3% to 10% of Englishmen qualifying for the vote. The real issue appears to be that many of the colonial elite would have met the requirement had they resided in England.

Boston had equal representation to London and Manchester, and English leaders could not understand how colonists could demand a “right” that most Englishmen in England did not themselves possess.

However unreasonable they felt the colonists were being, English leaders nevertheless determined that compromise was in order. In March 1766, Parliament repealed the controversial Stamp Act. At the same time, they made it clear that they were not abandoning their claims to authority over North America. The Declaratory Act, passed on the same day, reaffirmed Parliament’s right to make laws binding on the colonies “in **all cases whatsoever**” [emphasis added]. With the offending act removed, colonists viewed this as a victory, while London considered it evidence of British tolerance, patience, and benevolence towards its American colonies.

Unfortunately, in studying the “lessons of history,” often the wrong “lessons” are learned. The next major political figure in England – Charles Townshend – still faced pressing financial issues and mistakenly believed that so long as new taxes pertained to trade, colonists would accept them willingly. He failed to understand that events of recent years had made many colonists suspicious of any British activity. The so-called “Townshend Acts” of May and June 1767 placed additional duties on products imported from Britain and also expanded the powers of customs courts to enforce the laws.⁴ Most troubling to many colonists was the fact that the new revenues would be used to pay royal governors and other officials, thus weakening the control of the colonial assemblies, which had often used the “power of the purse” against royal officials.

Again there was an explosion of protest throughout the colonies. Moderates still held that Parliament had the right to regulate imperial trade, but pointed out (correctly) that the Townshend Acts were designed solely for the intention of raising revenue. As such, they must first be approved by the colonial assemblies.

The city of Boston emerged during this crisis as a center of colonial radicalism. Tensions there ran so high that in the autumn of 1768, two regiments of British troops were dispatched to the city. Instead of restoring order, however, the presence of armed soldiers fanned the flames of resistance, for they clearly were not protecting any frontiers.

As every American student learns, these tensions smoldered until they exploded in the so-called “Boston Massacre” of March 1770. While often presented as an example of British “atrociousness,” it is important to remember that the soldiers who fired into the crowd did so without authorization. It appears evident that the troops, vastly outnumbered by an increasingly hostile mob, panicked and overreacted in defending themselves. Even then, the British government was responsive to colonial opinion and allowed the soldiers to be prosecuted in Massachusetts. During the trial, the soldiers were defended by a Boston lawyer named John Adams (later second President of the United States). Adams, himself no great fan of the British, took

⁴ The acts had further implications as well. New York, for example, had resisted enforcement of the Quartering Act, which required colonies to house and feed British soldiers. The Townshend legislation therefore disbanded the colonial assembly until it yielded. For his part, Townshend proved politically astute when in September, he died unexpectedly, never seeing the trouble unleashed by his legislative program.

the case because he believed the soldiers had been provoked. Ultimately he succeeded in reducing the soldiers' convictions from murder to manslaughter.

As further evidence of British desire to ease tensions, all of the controversial Townshend taxes were removed in April, with one exception. By a vote of five-to-four, the Privy Council voted to retain a tax of three pence per pound on tea. Clearly this was not done as a revenue measure, but rather as a symbolic gesture of Parliament's authority over the colonies. To all but the most extreme of colonial radicals, these actions were sufficient. With most taxes removed, relations with Great Britain eased for the next two years. The British government promised to enact no additional taxes. The redcoats were pulled out of Boston but still stationed nearby. The Sugar, Quartering, and Currency Acts were still in effect, English customs courts were still operating without juries, and the British navy still patrolled the colonial coast. In short, there was plenty of kindling piled up, just waiting for a spark.

Parliament's 1773 Tea Act provided just such a spark and again revealed how seriously British planners misjudged the colonial temper. From London's perspective, the act (which allowed the British East India Company to sell its wares directly in the colonies) would allow colonists to buy tea at a rate cheaper than Englishmen at home could purchase it and would, at the same time, increase royal profits. To colonists, however, this was but the latest example of English "meddling" and bypassing the local elected assemblies. In New York and Philadelphia, tea-laden ships were not allowed to dock. In Charleston, South Carolina, radicals planned to storm the ships and dump the tea into the harbor.⁵ Again, the situation proved most tense in Boston where, on the night of 16 December, a group of radicals disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians, boarded the English ships and dumped the cargo, sending some £15,000 worth of tea to the fishes as a crowd on shore cheered.

In American history texts, the Boston Tea Party is usually presented in a positive light – a shining example of colonial resistance to further acts of British tyranny. To put the event in perspective, a modern analogy might be used. If a radical group today were to disguise its members in some fashion and set off bombs in Wal Mart in order to make a political statement, we would refer to it as an act of terrorism. To the British, this is exactly what the Bostonians had done, and had London handled the situation with greater tact, they might well have undermined the radicals' credibility. Most colonists expressed shock at the "Tea Party" and condemned the wanton destruction of property. Even so well-known a personality as Benjamin Franklin called on Boston to apologize and pay for the tea. It is evident, however, that after nearly a decade of compromise with their colonies, British patience had finally run out. The general sentiment in London was that the British fleet should sail into Boston Harbor and level the city. Unwilling to take such drastic action,

⁵ Plans for this "Charleston Tea Party" were thwarted when word of the plot leaked and the tea was secretly unloaded and stored in Charleston warehouses. The South Carolina Assembly later confiscated the tea and sold it, using the proceeds to help finance the revolution. See Walter Edgar, *South Carolina: A History*.

King George III nevertheless believed a turning point had been reached, remarking to his prime minister that “The colonists must either submit or triumph.”

The Coercive Acts (or the “Intolerable Acts,” as the colonists called them) were designed to make an example of Massachusetts and to send a clear message to the other colonies that they had best think twice before challenging the Crown. Again, however, the British misjudged colonial reaction and instead pushed them towards a greater unity in defense of their Massachusetts brethren. When Virginia’s royal governor dissolved the House of Burgesses to prevent further debate, the representatives moved to a local tavern and there, amidst many rounds of rum and ale, passed a resolution calling for a Continental Congress to discuss a coordinated plan of action.

Contrary to popular perception today, the First Continental Congress reflected the triumph of colonial moderates. Fifty-five men representing twelve colonies gathered in Philadelphia in September 1774 not for the purpose of governing, not for the purpose of declaring independence, but rather to coordinate a loyal opposition and to protest what they viewed as violations of their rights as Englishmen.⁶

It was not long, of course, before fighting broke out at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. By the time the Second Continental Congress convened in May 1775, the conflict was quickly spreading and the representatives – with no resources or legal authority – found themselves taking on the role of a revolutionary government. Adopting the small colonial army of Massachusetts, they sought to promote colonial unity by naming a Virginian – George Washington – as commander-in-chief. Still, their purposes were not yet revolutionary. They were merely defending themselves, not seeking to break away from the Crown.

Congressional actions throughout 1775 and into early 1776 demonstrate this continued moderation. Even after August, when George III ordered the British army in Boston to regard the colonists as enemies and then declared all thirteen colonies in rebellion, Congress continued to petition for a redress of grievances, much to the consternation of its more radical members.⁷ Documents such as the *Olive Branch Petition* and the *Declaration of Causes and the Necessity of Taking Up Arms* were adopted after heated debate, but clearly reflected the moderate position, professing colonists’ continued loyalty to the Crown, imploring the king to cease further hostilities against his subjects, and explaining why they felt it necessary to defend themselves by force of arms. When such documents reached London, however, King George refused even to look at them, much less to consider their points and offer a response.

⁶ The royal colony of Georgia was the absent member. Facing continued problems with the Creek Indians on its frontiers, the Georgia Assembly fully realized its need for British support and protection and was unwilling, at least at this point, to take part in a meeting which would likely further alienate the Crown.

⁷ Massachusetts representative John Adams, who had earlier counted himself among the moderates (often in opposition to his more radical kinsman, Samuel Adams) now found himself aligning with those calling for independence and complained bitterly that this Congress did little but “piddle, twiddle, and resolve.”

Such refusal, compounded by the Crown's use of Hessian mercenaries, increased colonial support for independence, as did the publication that winter of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Within the colonial elite, fewer and fewer saw any hope of redressing their grievances within the confines of the British political system, and on 07 June 1776, Virginia representative Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution "that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states..."⁸ After nearly a month of heated debate, the Congress unanimously approved the resolution on 02 July and two days later, adopted a declaration of independence, written largely by Thomas Jefferson.⁹

The first sections of the declaration eloquently restated (some would say plagiarized) John Locke's political theories about government as a contract between sovereign and subject, and about man's "natural right" to rebel against tyranny. The majority of the document, however, is a detailed indictment of King George III, listing his many acts of "tyranny" and demonstrating why the colonies were entitled to resist and rebel. For all its role in the preceding controversies, Parliament is rarely mentioned – an intentional omission in light of the colonists' assertion that Parliament never had authority over them and thus there was no need to declare independence from that esteemed body.

The Declaration of Independence is a summation of the "official" American perspective, but it is important to remember that this perspective was far from unanimous. John Adams estimated that only about one-third of colonists were patriots. Another third were devout loyalists. The remaining third, he conceded, could (and would) go either way, depending on individual circumstances or the shifting fortunes of war.

South Carolina provides an excellent illustration of this division. In his recent history of South Carolina, Dr. Walter Edgar estimates that during the revolution between 12,000 and 15,000 South Carolinians assisted the British. An earlier historian, David Ramsay, estimated that nearly 25,000 South Carolinians fled the state after the peace treaty was signed in 1783. While this is probably an exaggeration, it is evident that many in the Palmetto State preferred to remain Englishmen.¹⁰ As Edgar wrote in *Partisans and Redcoats*, the revolutionary experience in South Carolina was that "neighbors killed neighbors, and fathers turned on sons. Trusting one's brother could be fatal. The only thing a man could trust was his best friend, his rifle."¹¹

⁸ As a member of one of the First Families of Virginia (F.F.V.'s), Lee's support for independence was critical. John Adams found the Southern aristocrat a useful but sometimes annoying ally. In his correspondence, Adams occasionally referred to him as "that idiot, Lee."

⁹ It should be noted that in the Continental Congress, each colony was given a single vote based on the majority will of its delegation. The unanimous vote in favor of independence does not mean, therefore, that every representative in Congress supported the resolution. There were in fact a considerable number of representatives who later refused to sign the Declaration of Independence. It is also interesting to note that in his diary, King George's entry for 04 July 1776 reads, "Nothing of importance happened today." It would be about two months before word of the independence resolution reached London.

¹⁰ More recent scholarship puts the actual figure at closer to 9,000, still a large number.

¹¹ See Edgar, *Partisans and Redcoats: The Southern Conflict That Turned the Tide of the American Revolution* (2001).

Even the behavior of British soldiers and their allies toward colonists – often cited by Americans as a justification for the revolution – is made somewhat more understandable (yet not necessarily excusable) if examined from the English perspective within the context of the time. They were fighting on unfamiliar ground, thousands of miles from home, against an enemy who oftentimes was not clearly defined and who did not follow the established “rules” of warfare. To the British, colonial militia leaders like Francis Marion and Thomas Sumter and the men who followed them – celebrated today as heroes in certain South Carolina locales – were outlaws, bandits, or terrorists. It seemed reasonable to British military planners that when fighting an unconventional enemy, one must of necessity adopt unconventional methods oneself – a strategy they employed regularly but never seemed to realize was counterproductive to their goal of “winning the hearts and minds of the people.”¹²

There are clearly many more examples of differing perspective which could be used in a discussion of the American Revolution. It is evident from the instances cited here that the conflict is far more intricate and complex than is often presented in many texts, and that anyone who wishes to truly understand the Revolution should carefully acquaint himself or herself with a variety of perspectives from many different participants on both sides of the conflict. One source that is excellent for doing so is an often-overlooked monograph published in 1975 (and regrettably long since out of print), Lewis Jones’ *The South Carolina Civil War of 1775*. In introducing his readers to the subject of perspective and point of view, Jones writes:

In some respects, the terms or phrases frequently used to describe world conditions from 1945 to 1975 seem eerily descriptive of the conditions and tensions which marked the province of SC during the year 1775. There was a tense “cold war” between two factions, both of whom were sincerely devoted to contrasting and competing principles and political philosophies.... Both talked much of “freedom” and “liberty,” but the words meant different things to each faction. Both thundered mightily about their concern for a “constitution” and yet certainly they did not have the same ideas about what was “constitutional.” Both groups were made up of sincere “patriots” but suspected that the other was composed of “traitors.”... Amid groups of sincere men and statesmen were also some venal souls and some who picked sides simply because of their own vested or personal interests.

By the end of the year, after much marching and countermarching, a somewhat uneasy peace...had been achieved... [This] was sufficiently secure that the more radical faction could now turn their backs on those who had embraced “neutralism” and concentrate their efforts on the struggle with Great Britain – a struggle which was not new but which was to reach a desperate stage in 1776.¹³

¹² By no means would be the last time that a major world military power took on an underdeveloped overseas society and failed in its efforts. Many historians have compared the British experience in the American Revolution to the much later U.S. experience in Vietnam, and some have begun to raise parallels with the current U.S. military excursion in Iraq.

¹³ Lewis P. Jones, *The South Carolina Civil War of 1775* (Orangeburg: Sandlapper Publishers, 1975). Dr. Jones taught at Wofford College for four decades and was this author’s instructor in four different history courses. Along with Dr. Edgar (under whom the author studied in graduate school at USC), they represent the best traditions of South Carolina scholars, historians, and perhaps most importantly, gentlemen.

The following article was found in the files at our library in Richburg.

Chester County ---Center of South Carolina's "Back Country."

Chester County has done her part in all wars in which the United States participate. Is center of Hydro-electric development in Palmetto state—Has wonderful record of stability and progress—Has given the sate and the Nation a gallery of great men and woman.

By Arthur Cornwell

The territory in Chester County was originally a part of Craven district. A vast region covering virtually the entire "back," or up-country of South Carolina.

In 1785 South Carolina was divided into 37 minor judicial subdivisions, and Chester as a county in mentioned for the first time, for then the county was surveyed and its present boundaries established as Chester District.

Previous to, or about the time that Chester became a recognized district a district court was held and established for 10 years at a place called Walker's near what is now Lewis Turn Out. Chester, now, with York, Fairfield and Lancaster composed the sixth judicial district court. In 1798 the state was again divided, but this time into 23 districts, Chester still holding the survey made in 1785. Chester received its town charter in 1849 and its city charter in 1893.

Some of the early settlers suffered greatly from the savage Cherokee Indians, who inhabited the western part of the State. In order to protect themselves against the Indians they built forts as places of refuge. One of these forts was on Fishing Creek, and know as Steele's Fort, and the other at Landsford, know as Taylor's Fort.

Geographical Center

About 1791 commissioners were appointed to locate and erect a court house. Old Purity church, being the geographical center of the county, the commissioners were at first disposed to locate it there. Chester is located on the plantation of Hugh Stewart—on the crossroads formed by Saluda road and the Turkey Creek Charleston road—according to Deed Book "B", page 493, in Clerk of Court's office. It is dated May 16, 1791, and it is signed by Charles Pinckney. The first Court house was erected on the site now occupied by the Balser building in front of the Confederate monument. The

old Courthouse was torn down and the bricks sold. The present building was erected in 1850.

Major John Kennedy, who came to Chester from County Antrim, Ireland, in 1784, was called the "Father of Chesterville". In front of his house which was situated on the top of the hill, the present site of W. R. Nail's store, was a kind of museum or curiosity shop. In this collection was a silver trumpet, which had been captured from the British, and sent to Mr. Kennedy by a friend from Camden.

The first store in Chester was operated by a man named Stewart, more than likely Hugh Stewart. The Baptists had the first Church building within the limits of the present City. It occupied the same site as the present building. The Charlotte and South Carolina railroad, to run from Charlotte to Columbia, was commenced in 1840, and in 1852 it extended to Augusta, Georgia. It was Chester's first railroad; now she has four. After it was extended to Augusta it was known as the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad.

The Chester Public Library was a key-sketch by Miss Margaret Ann Kennedy, which gives a picture of Chester in 1835. It gives the following buildings; Major Kennedy's house, Major Eave's house, John McKee's house, Old Court House, James Graham's house, Baptist Church, store, and the McCormick house.

First Masonic Records

On the first Masonic records of Chester are three names, Major John Kennedy, John McKee and John Knox.

Chester has had two big fires—1869 and 1872. On February 19, 1884, a terrific storm of wind and rain struck Chester. Everything that could be lifted went flying that night, and strong new houses rocked. On August 31, 1866, a visiting earthquake, after having nearly ruined Charleston, Columbia and other places landed in Chester, Chester suffered some, but Charleston was badly hurt.

Aaron Burr was brought thru Chester, Perkins was in charge of the prisoner. As they approached the village of this district, Perkins halted his party and changed the order of their march, placing two of his men in front of the prisoner, two more behind, and one at each side of him. In this manner they proceeded, without incident, until they passed near a tavern, before which a considerable number of persons were standing, while music and dancing were heard from within. Here Burr threw himself from his horse, and exclaimed in a loud voice, "I am Aaron Burr, under military arrest, and claim the protection of the civil authorities."

Perkins snatched his pistol from his holster, sprang to the ground, and in a instant was at the side of his prisoner. With a pistol in each hand, he sternly ordered him to remount. "I will not," shouted Burr, in his most defiant manner, Perkins, Unwilling to shed blood, but resolute to execute the commission entrusted to him, threw his pistols upon the ground, caught the prisoner around the waist, which the resistless grasp of a frontiersman, and threw him into the saddle. One of the guards seizing the bridle of Burr's horse, le him rapidly away, and the whole party swept thru the village in a mass and disappeared before the group of spectators had recovered from their astonishment at the scene.

A mile or two beyond the village, Perkins halted the party to consult with his comrades,. Burr was wild with excitement. After conversing with his men, Perkins sent them forward, with the prisoner, under the command of his lieutenant, and returned himself to Chester, where he bought a rig and rejoined the party before night. Burr was then transferred to the vehicle. With one of the guards to drive, and in that manner, traveled the remainder of the distance to Richmond, Virginia.

Revolutionary Chester

At the beginning of the Revolution the Scotch-Irish of Chester were almost to a man on the side of Liberty. This was quite natural, as many of their ancestors had been persecuted because of their views on civil and religious liberties.

The first resistance made in this part of the state against the British was at Beckhamville, situated in the southeastern part of Chester County. Early in 1780 an English officer was sent to Beckhamville. He had a company of 100 soldiers. Circulars were sent thru the surrounding country commanding the people to come in and take British protection and swear allegiance to the English government. Justice John Gaston, a man of great influence, who lived in that community, instead of accepting the proposition, went to work to run the officer and his supporter out of the county.

Justice Gaston was 80 years old, and so of course was not able to bear arms, but he had nice sons, who were always ready to do their duty. Runners were sent out thru the county to notify the friends of liberty to assemble that night at the home of Justice Gaston for the purpose of making an attack on the British the next morning. That night 24 men joined the Gaston brothers. This party of men, led by Captain John McClure, attacked the British early the next morning and completely routed them, killing several of them. Eight of this party were from the immediate neighborhood of what is now the city of Chester. Two of them were Walkers, and their descendents are living and

in the immediate vicinity of the city. The date of the fight at Beckhamville was November 12, 1780.

A short time after his route of the enemy, Capt. McClure led a party of men against a force of British stationed at Mobley's Meeting House, in the upper edge of Fairfield County, who had been sent there for the same purpose, as those at Beckhamville. They were also routed and several killed. The battles of Sumter's Defeat and Fish Dam were fought in Chester County.

Capt. John McClure, the Gastons, General Adair, Capt. Hugh Knox, General Edward Lacey were some of the outstanding Chester soldiers in the Revolution, John Steele, also distinguished himself as a soldier.

The ministers had a part in arousing the people. It is said that the Rev. William Martin, pastor of the Covenanter Church at Beaver Dam, near Bascomville, preached a sermon denouncing the British and exhorting the people to rise against him.

Rev. John Simpson was likewise vigorous in arousing his congregation, the church at Fishing Creek.

The Tories were now recognizing their forces. A party of them collected at Beckhamville Old Field, in the vicinity of Fishing Creek. Whigs, hearing of the meeting, attacked under John McClure and defeated them. The forces engaged were 30 Whigs to 200 Tories. No casualties were reported. The engagement was important in that it was the first uprising in this part of the country.

The first engagement of large proportions took place at Brattonville. This is in Union County, but the engagement was begun in Chester County. Capt. Huck, of the British army had encamped at White's Mill, what is now known as Alexander Williford's Mill. On Fishing Creek. From here he plundered the Whigs homes in the neighborhood. William Ferguson was in charge of these depredations. There were several of Ferguson's brothers in Sumter's Army.

Huck was especially vindictive against the Rev. John Simpson, pastor of Fishing Creek Church. He held a grudge against Simpson for two reasons. One because the Rev. Simpson had been influential in planning the attack by McClure at Beckhamville. The other was because he burned whenever found by the enemy.

When the Tories reached the church of the Rev. Simpson on June 11th, they found no congregation. It is probable that the members learned of the attack and dispersed. The Tories, engaged, went on to the home of the Rev. Simpson, who had gone to join Sumter's army. Mrs. Simpson, seeing the approaching enemy, took the children and a very valuable set of silver

spoons, a gift from her mother, and hid in the orchard. From here they watched the British plunder their home and then set fire to it.

That same day the Tories came upon a young man, William Strong, reading the bible. He was shot. The body was taken to the home of the mother of Captain McClure, and was from there later buried.

In the meantime on the west side of Catawba, Edward Lacey, John Mills, and William Bratton, all Chester County men save Bratton, were arousing the people to drive out Huck. Col. Billy Hill joined them for an attack on July 11th, at White's Mill. About sundown they arrived there only to find that Huck had gone to Brattonville. Undaunted they set out again for Huck with 300 men.

Huck was found dead with two bullet holes in his head. The sword of Huck was given to Thomas Carroll, probably because he killed him.

This battle was important because it was the first real check of the British troops after the fall of Charleston. It was the first time Regulars had been opposed by militia. It averted predatory warfare, gave security to the neighborhood, inspired the people and added about 600 men to Sumter's army.

The next battles were fought at Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock. Rocky Mount is in the extreme southeastern part of Chester County between Big Rocky Creek and the Catawba River. The British garrison was commanded by Colonel Turnbull, with about 300 Loyalists.

Hanging Rock is just across the line in Lancaster County, 15 miles from Rocky Mount.

The battle of Rocky Mount took place on July 31st. Sumter, with his men, moved across the Catawba, while Davie continued down the east side of the river. Sumter reached Rocky Mount on the morning of the 31st. Turnbull, in command of the garrison, had been informed of their approach by a Tory. He was ready for them, but the British were routed from the fort into long houses. The first attempt by means of a wagon loaded with straw was unsuccessful. Sumter then called for two men to volunteer to set the house on fire. Col. William Hill and James Johnson offered. One carrying pine, the other watching the enemy they ran for a distance under the protection of a large rock. Then they ran boldly out into the open, threw the burning fagots on the house and rushed back, their clothes being riddled with bullets and locks of their hair being shot away. Turnbull raised the flag of surrender but it began to rain. The flames being extinguished Sumter could only retire.

Seven hundred Americans fought at Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780, under Gen. Sumter. Capt. John Steele of Chester, also, fought in this battle. Of the 700 Americans in the battle 150 were killed, and 310 taken prisoners. Three hundred and fifty of the British were killed, and sixteen wounded.

Woman's Activities

The women of the district showed themselves the possessor of strong characters stamped with the spirit of lofty heroism, homely simplicity, patience, constancy and self sacrifice with out any aspiration for praise or thought of reward. A list of the older women follows Katherine Steele, Mrs. Bread, Barbara McKinney, Nancy Green, Mrs. Strong, Sarah McCalla, Mary Adair, Mary Nixon, Mary Mills, Isabella Wylie, Jane Morrow, and Mary McClure. The Young girls, no less that their mothers, gloried in deeds of generous enterprise with all who needed help. Mary, Margaret and Ellen Gill, Isabella and Margaret Kelso, Sarah Knox, Margaret, Elizabeth and Mary McClure, Nancy Brown, Esther Gaston and divers other revealed their love and common humanity. And proved that true nobility and Christianity are one and the same.

Some of the men who served in the war were: The McClures, Steels, McCowans, Walkers, and Irish Walkers, Gastons, Hemphills, Strouds, Craigs, Laceys, Wallaces, Dixons, Bishops, Houstons, Colvins, Hannas, Andersons, Bonds, Hardages, Evans, McCallas, Adairs, Leaches, Lovings, Ashes, Townsends, Burns, Knoxes, Neeley and other. This list was secured from a sketch of John Craig Revolutionary soldier, which was published in the Chester Standard in 1854.

Chester's division of the Palmetto Troops left Chester in 1846 for the Mexican War and came back in 1848. Company B, Palmetto Regiment, was composed of R. G. M. Dunovant Captain, First Lieutenant John T. Walker, Second Lieutenant, W. B. Lilley, Third Lieutenant Benjamin Culp, First Sergeant G. W. Curtis. Second Sergeant R. A. Pagan, Third Sergeant William W. Tripplett, First Corporal Jackson Hood, Second Corporal E. T. Gibbes, fourth Corporal William Wilkes, and 85 privates.

During the Mexican War Major John Kennedy organized a company of men in case they should be needed. He was elected major and was ever after given that title.

The Confederate War

After South Carolina seceded she was not long alone. Alabama soon followed, then Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and so on until seven states formed the Southern Confederacy, elected a president and made their own

laws. The day South Carolina seceded, Georgia stretched a rope across the Savannah River; in the center were two great iron hands clasped, typical of her being heart and soul in the movement.

Chester's signers of the ordinance of secession were Richard Woods, Quay Dunovant, Dr. Tom Moore and John McKee, who was the oldest man in the convention.

The first call went out in the spring of 1861. The gray haired men who will survive that period were boys and young men then. They and hundreds of others like them obeyed the call of their native state in April, 1861. Before the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter, before there was any Confederate War and Before Lincoln had called out volunteers. Chester County responded to the call of the Palmetto State. She sent five companies; Chester Guards, under Capt. Obadiah Hardin; Chester Blues under Capt. E. C. McLure; Calhoun Guards, under Capt. J. T. Walker; Pickens Guards, under Capt. J. Michael Moore; Catawba Guards, under Capt. G. Lafayette Strait.

These companies were mustered into the sixth regiment. The officers were Col. J. H. Rion, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Secret and Major Thomas W. Wood, Later Col. C. B. Winder was put in command at the request of the regiment. He became Brigadier-general and was killed at Cedar Run, August 9, 1862, while commanding the Stonewall Brigade under Jackson. The regiment was re-organized in the spring of 1862, with Col. John Bratton, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Steadman, and Major E. C. McLure.

This article will be continued in the March issues of the Bulletin

The National Genealogy Societies Annual Conference for 2006 will be June 7th to the 10th, in Chicago, Illinois.

The Federation of Genealogy Societies Annual Conference for 2006 will be August 30th to September 2nd, in Boston, Massachusetts. The 2006 conference will be the largest genealogical event ever held with more than 370 educational opportunities in classes, workshops, and luncheons presentations.

The Surnames in the queries are not indexed

Queries

05---22 Graham: Marsha Strader, 16 Country Club Lane, Arcola, IL , 61910; grahamstrader@yahoo.com : Looking for information about the marriage and parents of Garrett and Esther Graham. (resided Chester County, in 1800, but sold their land to Paul Ferguson and moved to KY.

05---23 McKinney: Col. Allen E. Weh USMCR (RET), 6722 Rio Grande N. W., Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107; Any information on the Darnall – McKinney lines and Guthrie – Robinson lines would be appreciated

05---24 McWilliams: Roy McWilliams, 9630 Clippinger Road, Evansville, IN 47725, roymcwilliam@sigecom.net : I need help in Clearing up the lineage of McWilliams Clan in Ireland to South Carolina.

1. Who is Archibald ?
2. Did James or John McWilliams come over to the U. S. with Archibald McWilliams?

Your help will very much be appreciated.

The following is the continuation of the Member Surname Index from the September Issue of the Bulletin.

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