

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

[Although not a pension application, it is felt that some of the memoirs compiled by veterans should be included in this database in order to make those resources more readily available to researchers. The following is the memoir compiled by Richard Winn.]

General Richard Winn's Notes—1780

Transcribed by Will Graves

General Richard Winn's Notes—1780

May 12th Charleston fell 1780

29th May '80 Co^{lo} Buford¹ was cut to pieces. About the Middle of June the British took a strong post at Shiroes Ferry² on the East side of Broad River opposite to the Dutch Fork and the inhabitants summoned to come in and take the oath of allegiance to the King and those that did not was treated as enemies. Cap^t. Richard Winn living in that part of the country & finding the enemy was fast advancing and that he could not raise one single person to oppose them set out himself for the New Acquisition³ to see if he could not raise men, by the help of Colonels Lacey,⁴ Bratton⁵ & Nixon⁶ in the course of the day, they collected 150 militia and immediately marched for Gipson's Meeting House in Mobley's Settlement where we found a large Body of Tories Strongly posted under the Command of Co.^{lo} Charles 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 and in a few minutes this body of Tories was drove from a Strong House which answered for Block house and totally Defeated with a Small loss of Killed & wounded, the Whig party lost Nothing, this body of Tories two or three days previous to their Defeat had plundered the Hamtons [sic, Hamptons] on the Road of about thirty Negroes two or three Horses and a large Quantity of Household furniture besides many Other things, they also made prisoners of Captains John & Henry Hampton which the Day before the Action they sent them under a Strong guard to Camden the British Head Quarters, their property Recovered by us, this was the first fight After the Reduction of Charleston, Gipson Meeting House is 12 Miles above Shiroes ferry on the same Side of the River the British was posted as first Mentioned[.]

[W]hen Cap^t Hampton got his release from Camden he informed ~~me~~ Winn of the Action got to Camden as soon as he & his brother did and when they was taken before the British Commander that ~~I~~ Winn was grossly abused by him for the Damest [sic, damnest] Ruffen [sic, ruffian] & Scoundrel that Ever disgraced human being[.] [I]mmediately after this Capt Winn Sets Out for the Northward on foot for the Tories had taken all his Horses with a determination to travel until he could meet Men that he could depend on to fight[.] [H]e had not got more than 12 Miles day came on[;] Stopt [sic, stopped] at John Lee's where he was well acquainted tho this Man a Well wisher to the British[;] he gets this person Out who informed him their (sic) was 300 Tories just a head[.] I then told him he must let me have a Horse and pilote (sic) me into the Catawba Nation through the Woods, he informed me he had but two horses being plundered of the rest, but he immediately brought them up and let me have One and we in a few moments Set Out for the Nation[.] [T]he next day Arrive at Genl Rutherford's Camp near Charlotte in N^o. Carolina where I found 44 of the S^o. Carolinians in the Same Situation of myself[.] [W]e got together and held a Consultation, notwithstanding the Smallness of Our N^o. [I]t

was unanimously Agreed on to oppose the British & Tories under Expectation when the panick [sic, panic] of the people was over many would Join us, [T]he next Question was who Should Command[.] Capt. R Winn was Chosen without a Desenting Voice, Capt. Winn obs^d. that Co^{lo} Sumter was on the ground An Old Experienced Officer[.] [H]e shorely [sic, surely] was the most proper person to take the Command, for the mem^d [?] this was Objected too, however it was Agreed on that Co^{lo} Patton & Cap^l. Winn should without delay Consult the Co^{lo} on the Subject[.] [A]fter some Converstation and Explination Co^{lo} Sumter Accepted the nomination and the Next day Set Out with his party on Horse back and made a forced March to Reinforce Co^{lo}. Lock in Order to Attack a body of about 1000 Tories who had Collected at Ramsowers Mill in No. Carolina on the So. fork of Catawba under their leader Colo Moore, however Colo Sumter did not Arrive untill the Action was over but was so near as to be in hearing of the guns, Moore had Selected notwithstanding his Defeat be a handful of Men as fine a peace [sic, piece] of Ground for defense as Could be Chosen, on his Rear the River and Mills on his Right on Open plantation with a high fence on the left very Steep the Hill full of trees and Clear of under growth, the Death of Capt. Falls in this Acton was greatly lamented he was a brave daring officer. [T]his Action was fought some time in the last of June 1780. [T]his same Colo. Moore after his Defeat About a year was taken up as a Spy in So. Carolina tried as Such and Convicted & Hung 10 Miles below Granby on the Congaree River at the Same time another person by the Name of Fonderson was Condemned also but pardoned under the Gallos by Order of Genl. William Henderson[.] [A]fter the battle at Ramsours Colo. Sumter with his party set out for Charlotte and encamped that night in a few Miles of the Battle Ground[.] [A] small party of Georgians had joined him. Among them was a man by the name of Paddy Carr[.] [A]fter we had taken up Camp this same Paddy and Another Man went to a house about one or two Miles off[.] [They] inquired of the Man of the House if he had not Joined Colo Moore[.] Answer yes, but that he after being made a prisoner was set at liberty by Genl. Rutherford and had Just got home to his Wife & Children[.] [B]y this time it become it became Dushist, Paddy Inquiries the way to Camp[.] [T]he Man tells him the path forked in half Mile you take such a hand[.] Carr tells him you must get up behind me and show me the path I must take[.] [H]e did so[.] [W]hen they Came to the fork, the Man Jumpt off and told him that is your path then Paddy[,] Judas like[,] Shot him dead on the Spot on the Story being related to Capt. Winn by the Man who was with him I ordered Carr to be delivered over to the Civil Magistrate which was accordingly done but he was found in Camp Next morning[.] Colonel Sumter After this took post on Clem's Branch 14 Miles below Charlotte in the Neighborhood of New Providence[.] [A]bout the 7th or 8 July 1780 being informed that a Body of British was on their March from Camden towards the Waxhaws [Sumter] went with his whole force to meet them but after passing the Waxhaws finding the information not to be correct retreated and on Consulting his Officers, both Officers and Men was Disbanded for a few days to recreate[.] [B]y this time Capt. Winn begun to Rank as a Colonel tho with his party filled every Station from a private up well knowing the Situation of his Country.

When Sumter Disbanded his Men Winn by Charles Miles then a Lieut. was the first to reach the Catawba Old Nation ford on the E. side and being informed that a Considerable force of British horse and tories had this day the 11th July '80 past up on the Other side of the River on their way towards Hills Iron works and knowing that most of the officers &

Men would pass this way determined to Stop and See if they could get as many Men as would fight Huck and his party, both Officers & Men seemed loath to Engage the Horse as they had cut Buford Men to pieces so shortly before but about 130 agreed to follow Winn and try the Business (Colo. Sumter gone to No. Carolina) and so we set Out and Marched all Night[.] [A]bout two hours before day Stopt at John Price's a respectable man to gain information of Huck & his party and was informed they had Stopt there a little before Night but had gone on to Colo. Brattons on the Main Road where I would find them, in this I was mistaken I found them at Williams plantation which Joined Colo. Brattons, Colo Laysey, Hill & Bratton being present it was Agreed on as Winn had been in the regular Service that he should take command and dispose of the Men as he thought best when he got in a Mile of the Enemy it was then about one hour to day brake here Colo Winn Ordered the party to file off to the Left of the Road & Dismount and immediately had the whole paraded then Capt. Read a bold daring Officer was Ordered to pick Out twenty five Men and file off to the left of Col. Brattons plantation and as soon as the Action begun in front he was to attack the rear of the Enemy & take all Stragging parties at the same time Capt Read received his Orders the Remaining part of the Men Commenced their march to bring on the Action (being the 12th July) on coming to the fork of the Road was informed by two Tories in Search of their Horses that Colo. Ferguson with his party lay in the Edge of a field which was in advance of the British Horse about three Hundred yards Capt. Hook who Commanded posted himself in a Strong log House around him prepared to Mount in a moment if Required, you must Understand when I took the two Tories I halted for a short time and sent Capt. McClure with his Company Round Williams plantation to attack the Enemy as soon as he heard the first firing the Sun was about to rise and notwithstanding I marched in 10 or 15 Steps for at least 200 yards of Colo Fergusons party I was not discovered until they were fired on Colo Ferguson and some of his Men was killed the first onset the rest ran and Chiefly left their Horses tho saddled and ready to Mount, here we did not stop one Minute but went on to commence our Attack on the British horse in a clear open old field we was paraded in About one Hundred yards from them, Capt Hook by the time he was Mounted was Shot dead with Several of his Men Kild & Wounded Chiefest part of, the rest ran off left behind them their horses Saddles pistols &c. we was in full possession of the field in five Minutes without the loss of a Single Man Either Kild or Wounded, as I am well convinced the Enemy during the Action Never fired a Single gun or pistol as they ran by Capt. McClure he gave them a fire but was not near enough to do them much damage he had the misfortune to lose one Man being a little advanced before the rest was I was inform kild by One of his Own party, and I do believe had I have not lost the Service of Capt. Read but few of the British or Tories would have been able to have Escaped, Lieut. Hunt of the British horse in trying to Escape on his Horse received a wound and finding he could not get off rais'd a white flag and delivered himself up to me a prisoner to Winn, the British had taken Several of Whig party which was retaken by us the Enemy lost Killed and Wounded & prisoners was Considerable besides about One Hundred Horses Saddles Bridles Pistols Swords and many Other things, after the Close of the Action Col. Winn Ordered the whole to be got together and divided Among the Officers & Men much to their Satisfaction but Winn did not take to himself a Copper worth of the Whole Spoil the day being Extremely hot Colo. Winn had as many of the Wounded as Could be found taken and put into a house a list of the Names of the prisoners taken, Lieut Hunt gave his

Own parole and was also bound that the Men should not take up Arms during the War or untill Exchanged after Lieut. Hunts applying and getting into Order for three Wagons to Convey his wounded to Rocky Mount which was the nearest British post thus ended a glorious day for So. Carolina as it put what few Men we had in high Spirits as many often told they had rather fight the Horse than the foot, I can say on this day both Officers and Privates behaved brave in the defense of their Country.

NB this Same Huck was one of those that Cut Buford's Men to pieces.

Colo. Winn the Night before the Action at Williams made Prisoner of One Owens which was Majr. to Colo Ferguson Regt. of Tories and took the Majr. on with him which was a Witness to Hookes Deft. & before he left the Battle ground I gave Owens a parole & employed him as a Spy without fee or reward to go to Rocky Mount Count the numbers of Men and report the State and Strength of the place and to meet him on Such a day all this Owens faithfully performed which I reported to Genl. Sumter as the laws of the State had Subsided about this time it was thought necessary to Call a Convention of the people which met in or near the Catawba Indian land, when the business of the Meeting was opened if was thought necessary to Choose a President when Colo. Richard Winn was called to the chair.

Secretary

The first thing that was taken under Consideration was the Critical Situation of the State and here it was Solemnly Agreed on by the Convention that they would Support the laws both Civil & Military by Every Means in their power and Called on the good people to aid them in this undertaking. Secondly, that they would oppose the British & Tories by force of Arms which Arms was never to be laid down until the British Troop was drove from the St. of So. Carolina and the Independence of the United States Acknowledged, It was then moved & Second that Colo Thomas Sumter should be appointed a Brigadier General and that the President be directed to make out a Commission to that Effect and to Sign the Same in Due form, which was accordingly so done.

By R. Winn Prest.

Countersigned by

Secretary

Several Other Officers being promoted, Moved, Second & agreed to

That all Such persons that would oppose the Common Enemy under the Comm. of Genl. Sumter Should Enlist for Six Weeks under proper Officers Sign an attestation and take the Oath for their faithful performance with the Exertion of the Officers in a day or two Genl. Sumter found himself at the head of 4 or five hundred Men.

Moved, Second & Agreed to

That all property of the Enemy taken in the field of Battle or Else where Shall be divided Among the Officers & Men who shall Serve as above, but it clearly to be understood that no Such property Shall be divided until first Condemned by the Commissioners which is hereby Appointed for the purpose, which Said Commissioners shall keep Books and make regular Entries of the property as aforesaid.

The people then directed the Pres[iden]t. to Adjoin the Convention (to meet Again).

The Night before Huck's Defeat Colo Winn made Prisoner of One Owens a Majr. of the Royal Militia who said he left Rocky Mount that day sometime late in the day and gave information the British was in possession of that place, this Owens was an Eye witness to

Huck's Deft. after the fight was over I gave him a parole I employed him to go to the Mount to find Out the Number of Men and Strength of the place and to meet me on Such a day and at Such a place, this piece of Business however dangerous Owens punctually complied with and reported that Colo Turnbull Commanded had about 300 Men and was posted in a Strong Block House two Stories high properly prepared for defense and sufficient abbates this Information I got about 20th July Genl. Sumter still in No. Carolina on my communicating the Information to him he returned to the State and Marched with his force to the lands ford on the west side of the Catawba River 18 Miles above the Mount here a Council was held by the Officers and finally Determined to make an attack on Rocky Mount on Sunday 31st July According left our Encampment the Evening before and March'd all night at day was ready for Action and Should have completely Surprised the place had it not have been for a Tory Colonel by the Name of Black with about 100 Tory Militia from Broad River to reinforce the Mount they getting to the place late encampt Out with intention of going on Early in the Morning these people we had no Knowledge until we were among them Winn being in the Advance gave them a fire & they Ran and left many of their Horses & Cloathing, this gave the alarm to the Mount, however in a few Minutes the place was attacked Colonels Winn & Niel marched up in front of the Abbatis and Sustained a heavy fire for some time from the Block House which was returned, here Colo Niel was Killed. Colo Winn being in a Clear Old field and finding his Men much Exposed Ordered a Retr[ea]t for a Small Distance. Meantime Colonels Lacey, Bratton & Hill attacked the Enemy to the Right, but Genl. Sumter finding nothing Could be done thought it best to refresh his Men for a Short time and bring on the Attack from a nother Quarter by Marching round the place and under the Cover of large Rocks got with his whole force in about 50 yards of the Block H[ouse] from this point the Enemy was prevented from firing on us as they dare Not come to their post Holes it was here that Genl. Sumter Directed Colo. Winn to demand a Sunder of the place.

Summons
31 July 1780

Sir

I am directed by Genl. Sumter to Demand a Surrender of Rocky Mount, therefore you will Surrender this place with the Men &c under your Command which will be considered as prisoner of war.

S/ R. Winn

To this Colo. Turnbull required that Hostilities should Cease for one Hour for Consideration—Granted, meantime return the following Answer.

Sir

I have considered your Summons & return for Answer that duty and Inclination induces me to defend this place to the last extremity.

31 July 1780

S/ Turnbull

Colo. Comm[an]d[an]t

In consequence of this Sumter Commenced a heavy fire on the House having nothing but Small Arms which could make little [or] no impression on the building Notwithstanding this place would Shortly fall into Our hands as the House could have been Easily Set on

fire had it not been for the powerful rains that fell one after another as we had failed in all Our Attempts to reduce the place Genl. Sumter in the Evening Retreated about 8 Miles on the Road leading to Lands ford the Rains Continued to fall in great abundance.

Augt 1st Colo. Winn with 100 Men returned to Rock Mt. and fell down below on the Main Road leading to Camden Fell in with a body of Tories he Shortly Disposed making Several prisoners and release some of Our Men One or two of which was to be hung the Next day at the Mount then returned to Camp.

On Tuesday 2nd Aug.t Rocky Mount got a Reinforcement from Hanging Rock of 800 Men & 2 field p[ieces]. Genl. Sumter could not move from the Encampment untill the 3rd on Ac[coun]t of big water in Rocky Creek this day 11 O'Clock he crossed the Creek & Halted the Men turned Out their Horses & they themselves Scattered About in Search of Roasting Ears & Green peaches, for this in fact was the Most we could get to Eat. In this Situation the first thing we knew the Enemy to the No. 8 or 900 Men and 2 p[ieces] of Artillery was in a mile in Our Rear. Colo. Winn immediately called Out for 100 Men & Officers that could first get their Horses to Join him with Intention to hang on the Enemy untill Genl. Sumter could move off. Colo Winn halting the Enemy often gave time for the Genl. to Make his retreat good. Colo. Winn Kept two Men a head of him to watch and give Notice of the En[emy]'s motions. One of these Men was Capt. Coleman from Midway in Georgia the Other by the Name of Stroud a Native of this place these two Men Ventured too Near the British. Both was made prisoner Stript naked & immediately hung up by the Side of the Road. Colo. Winn finding the Enemy on their R[etrea]t back to the Mount pursued his party without delay. Genl. Sumter at night took possession of his Old encampment Near lands ford.

The day after the Battle of R. M. Colo. Harthorn was Sent with a Flag to Bury Colo. Niel, he says from the best information he could gain the Enemies loss in Killed and wounded was twelve or fourteen Men we had one man wounded Colo. Niel K[ille]d.

On finding the Reinforcement sent from Hang. Rock Still at R. Mount it was finally determined by Genl. Sumter & Colo. Winn to attack the British at Hanging Rock. Genl. Sumter being Reinforced by Majr. Davie from Mecklingburgh in No. Carolina with two Troops of Horse on Saturday the 6th Augt. Crossed Lands Ford Catawba River Marched all Night about two Hours to day light halted for the coming of two Spyes Sent into the Enemies Camp those Men Shortly arrive & Reported they left the British Camp ab[ou]t the Middle of the Night therefore Did not Exceed 300 and that their reinforcement Sent to R. Mount had not returned. Here a deposition was made of the Men 500 with & 200 without Guns with Colo. R. Winn Supported by Majr. Davies Horse was to bring on the Attack [of] the British with the rest of the Men was divided into four parts and Commanded by Colonels Lacey, Bratton, Hill I think the Other Colo. was Harthorn or Mofte Say both, in this Order we March up & Dismounted and left the Men without Arms to take care of the Horses but if we drove the Enemy, they was to follow us & take the Arms of the Killed & Wounded and to join their respective Commands which was Obeyed. At this it was Now fully light near Sunrise. At this place we took two Tories They informed us that the Reinforcement Sent to Rocky Mount had Returned between 12 O'C[loc]k at night and this time. Genl. Sumter & the filed officers being present a Council for a few Minutes was held the Officers divided some for fighting others for retreating as no Officer was willing to be Out done by the Other in Bravery. The Action immediately Commenced. Genl. Sumter with the main body wheeled to the left Colo

Winn with his Command to the Right to Attack the Prince [of] Whales (sic) Regt. but his pilot not Knowing where Colo. Brian Regt. was posted which composed of about 500 Men Winn with his party was within 30 Steps of them before they was discovered by Majr. Davie who was in front he was Ordered to move On to make room form the foot, here we Rec'd a Most tremendous fire from Brian. The Enemy being On the top of a big hill Over shot us and before they could load Again Winn's party was Ordered to put up the Indian hollow & rush up the hill before they discharged their p[ieces]. This took place in an Instance at this same time the Horse was Ordered to Charge Brian Men gave way immediately after suffering much damage in Kild & Wounded notwithstanding So heavy a fire from the Enemy here we lost but one Man killed & 2 Wounded by this time Genl. Sumter got to the Ground he meant to take and as Brian Men went by him he give them a severe fire. I have been well informed that many of these men was so frightened they Never Stopt untill they got into Georgia to return. Colo. Winn as soon as Brian gave way Marched with his party for the British Camp which he found in an Open Old filed about half Mile from where Brian was posted. The British immediately commenced firing from behind Some Bush tents. Winn According to Custom Set up the Indian hollo rushed and fire on their Enemy as they went with Bullets in their Mouths & powder in their pockets and t load as they ran up but by no means to take a tree Even where trees was. The British at this place finding Such a Charge made on them Retreated leaving behind them their two field p[iece]s. This time Winn hearing a Considerable firing he rep[aire]d to the place as quick as possible and coming immediately on the back of the British who a party of our Men was in Action with I directly ordered our Men to Commence firing as usual the British between two fires gave way. Here I was An Eye Witness to the British taking trees to defend themselves. On hearing a Severe firing to my Right I Ordered my Men to Repair to the place this was a Short time before the Action Ended here Colo. Winn Rec'd a most Dangerous wound but Never quit the field untill Genl. Sumter had Gathered his Men & for Victory three Cheers was given by the true friends of America. This Action Commenced about the Appearance of the Sun on Sunday Augt. 7th and lasted untill 9 O'Clock. The British force Including Tories was from the best Information ab[ou]t 1400 their loss, the Prince Whales Rt. almost destroyed the Tories totally Defeated with a great loss of Killed Wounded Pris[oner]s besides a Vast Quantity of Arms &c and 300 Horses. The loss on the part of Genl. Sumter was 40 Killed & wounded, the American & British flags was hoisted on the 8th for each to bury their dead & take off the Wounded. I can safely say the fights at Williams, Huck Def[ea]t Rock Mt. & Hanging Rock was great days in Favor of the Americans Cause for the Enemy as soon as they could get away Evacuated R. Mount & the Rock & put us in possession of the Country from a few Miles above Camden to Charlotte in North Carolina. The Consequence was this a Number of good men from Waxhaws and as well as other parts in the State Joined the American Standard.

NB: The Majr. Davie mentioned is the Same person after Sent as a Minister to France.

18th A[u]gt. –Colo Tarlton Defeats Genl. Sumter at Fishing Creek by Surprise owing to the inattention of his patrols and Rear Guard Commanded by Majr. Crofford, at this time Colo Winn lay wounded above Charlotte General Sumter Calls to See the Colo and after relating to him the Occasion of the Deft says had you have been there I should have not been Def[eate]d at this time things took very Gloomy Gen'l Tates & Sumter both Def[eate]d & their Men Dispersed Notwithstanding this Genl. Sumter forms an

encampment Just below Bigger's Ferry on the Catawba River and begins to Collect his Men a Convention of the people is called Colo. Winn the President Advertises for the people to Meet in Convention in Sumter's Camp on the 26th of Sept 1780 on the day before Colo Winn Arrives at the Camp to preside in Convention at this time Genl. Sumner lay with about 1000 Men below Carlotte (sic, Charlotte) on McAlpins Creek. Colo. Winn had not been in Camp more than One Hour before he Rec'd an Express from G[en]l. Sumner that Cornwallis with the British Army was fast advancing toward Charlotte & that he had begun to Retreat before him. Genl. Sumter not being pres[en]t it was Natural for Winn to Conclude the Camp was in great Danger and immed[iate]ly Ordered that the Men should cross the River which together with the baggage Wagons was by Sun down Completed and Strong Guards placed at the ferry & ford. Winn Sent an Express to G. Sumter notifying him what was done, but as the Genl. was unwell he did not Come to Camp untill Next ~~Morning~~ day the Morning of the 26th before Sunrise Colo Tarlton with the British Horse Each having a British Infantry Man behind him Surrounded the Ground we left the Evening before. Had this precaution not having taken place, I have the world to Judge what would have been the Consequence. Here we were the British on One Side of the River, we on the Other. The people some in agreeable to the Advertisement the Convention m[e]t & Colo. Winn took the Chair After taking Several Weighty matters into Consideration it was unanimously decided that Colonels Winn, Thomas & Capt. Henry Hampton should without delay proceed on to Hillsbough and to use their best Means with the Board of war, Governor John Rutledge & Genl. Gates in procuring Arms Ammunition Camp Utensils & Clothing &c in Order to enable us More fully to prosecute the War in South Carolina. Notwithstanding the necessity and Urgency of the Demand not a Single Article Could be Obtained. Genl. Sumter being present Governor Rutledge Confirmed the Genl. in his Command and so we immediately returned to So. Carolina in the mean time left Colo Lacey in Command, Lacey being inf[orme]d that Majr. Ferguson with a large party of Men was on their March for Charlotte to Join L. Cornwallis was determined to give him battle tho not having more than 300 Men but on approaching the Enemy to his great Joy he found (See Gordon's or Ramsay's history) in this Action I am well informed no Men in the World could behave more brave that the So. Carolin[ian]s which was the Case with the Officers & Men for Other Quarters. I was well informed After Ferguson had taken his Encamping place many of his Tories Said we have got to the King's ground at last and for the Honor of Our King we will Support it or Die in the Attempt. Sometime after the flight Colo Winn took a View of Kings Mountain for the purpose of Seeing which party had the Advantage of Ground, the British Officer here made the Same mistake in the Selection of his Encampment as Colo Brian had done at the Hanging Rock.

Genl. Sumter returns from Hillsboro to the New acquisition and forms his Encampment at Stallions plantation high up Fishing Creek in Order to Collect his Men and get Supplies as soon as this was done Sumter with his party Consisting of about 400 Men begun their March for Fish dam ford on Broad River. About this place he was Reinforced Colos Clark, Farr, Chandler Majr. James Jackson & Other Officers by about 100 Men from Georgia. As Genl. Sumter & Colo. Winn was together day & Night they Conversed with Each Other on all confidential points as well as other matters as respected War Measures Genl. Sumter previous to leaving Stallions Communicated to the Colo. the Object of his intended Movement & wished his Opinion Ld. Cornwallis's head

Quarters at Winnsboro—Sumter goes on to Say it has been Agreed that I shall March as near Winnsborough as can be done with Safety this will draw Tarleton and a large Body of Infantry after me this will weaken Cornwallis so much that Genl. Smallwood with the Continental Troops and what No. Carolinians as Could be Collected was to fall on Cornwallis. Smallwood failing on his part as I was after informed was that Genl. Green was Expected on Every day to take the Command if he miscarried in this enterprise he would be highly blamed. *To return to the Fish dam Genl. Sumter arrived here on the 9th of Novr. in the Evening Colo. McCall with some of his Men from long Cain Joins him the Genl. takes post immediately at the ford Colo. Winn to his left directly on the Bank of the River Colo. Taylor on the Square to the left of Colo Winn, Lacey Bratton & Hill in front about 3 or 4 Hundred yards. On the morning of the 12th Novr. Colo Taylor with 50 Men was Ordered to fall down on the Road towards Winnsboro to make what discoveries he Could of the Enemy return about 12 O'C[lock] at night & Reported None. Genl. Sumter on the same day called a Council of their Field Officers ab[ou]t Eighteen in Number to See what was best to be done. Being together in a Tory Country Lord Cornwallis to Our left with British Army at Winnsboro in 27 Miles, a Strong British force below at Shiroes ferry and a large British force in Our front at Ninety Six under the Command of Colo. Cruger in this situation of things it was the Opinion of Every Officer pres[en]t that Genl. Sumter ought to Cross the River without delay and particular[ly] so by Colo. Winn who was well acquainted with the people & Country—however After this Genl. Sumter thought otherwise. Colo. Winn being so Sure of an Attack made his men keep up good fires and Sleep with their Guns in their Arms & Shot bags under their heads and on the very Spot they was on there they was to fight and not to fire a Single Gun untill the Enemy Came up to the fires. Two Hours to day the Picquets fires Alarm Guns and by the time I had my Men in Order the Horse made a Violent Charge they too put up the Indian Hollo my Men strictly Obeyed my Orders and as soon as the Enemy came up to the fires they Halted with Surprise my people poured in upon them a well directed fire which they did not stay to return. As well Knowing that I should be immediately attacked by the foot I drew my Men into Close Order and took the advantage of a fence. By this time the foot was within 50 yards of us Crying Out G. D. your Souls who are you. One of my Capts by the name of Kirkland a big Spoken Man Answered and G. Dam your S[ou]ls & who are you. The fire from Both sides in a twinkling Commenced the British Charged with Bayonet my Men having the advantage of the fence Stood the Shock and made the Second fire. I had only One Man Bayoneted through the arm. Majr. Weems their Commander being badly wounded the Enemy begins to retreat Colo. Winn's party fell back Colo. Taylor gave the Retreating party two or three fires but being dark and two (sic, too) far off Could not have done very great damage. Genl. Sumter's Markee was about 40 yards from one directly where the Road Enters the ford, at the first onset 5 or 6 Horse men piloted by a tory Strained down to make prisoner of the Genl. which they nearly effected Owing to the Orderly Serg[ean]t not giving him notice of the Alarm in time. Before he could put on his Cloths they was up with him by Jumping a fence and running through a Brier patch he Saved himself but his Service was entirely lost. I now believe [that] had not this Accident taken place and the Genl. could have got with Lacey, Bratton & Hill but few or none of the British would Even got back to the borough. Notwithstanding the force of Lacey, Bratton & Hill was upwards of three Hundred Men they did not fire a Single gun. When I met Lacey I asked him why did you not fight.*

*Answer I was afraid of Killing some of you. Next morning After the Sun got up Genl. Sumter from a Hill took a View found his Men was in possession of the Battle Ground he also discovered Our Horses in the field to the No. 500 the Baggage Wagons Standing he went to the Camp found the ground Stained with Killed & Wounded & the Commanding British Officer in his power without the loss of a Single Man Except Capt. Carr of Colonel McCall's Regt. who was wounded who waded the River Chilled his Blood and he died on the W. Bank. [I]t is true a young man by the name of Sealy had been taken as a Tory in Arms. This day his Arms was restored & he taken from Under Guard. The next day his messmate told me as the British Horse made their charge this man dash down his Gun & Cried Out I am a prisoner they Cut him to pieces. On the 13th Sumter Crossed the River and Encamped at Nixson's plantation on the Enoree River to give time for his Men to Join him, when Genl. Sumter & myself met at Nickson's he informed me when he was Cut off being in his shirt sheaves he verily believed he would have perished from the Cold had he have not got a Horse getting on him bareback & hugging his Neck. He also assured me from the Manner in which the British brought on the Attack he did not Expect to hear a Single Gun fired from you & concluded how he Should provide for his own safety but Said if ever their was a Man that deserves the thanks of his Country, it is you— In fighting the Above Action Winn had about 125 or 130 Men Taylor about fifty the Action lasted about 15 or 20 Minutes. When the British Doctor came to the Ground he expressed himself I have never Seen as much damage done by so few Men in so short a time Since I have been in America. *This I had from Colo. Winn who was on the Spot with the Doctor (42).* Sumter Moves from Nixson's down to Sheroes ferry and gives a Challenge to the British at that Station to come Out and fight him. They decline the invitation. Sumter Moves up the Country Arrives at Blackstocks on Tiger River 18th Novr Leaving Colo. Taylor in his Rare with 50 Men & their Wagons to Collect & bring in flour Colo. Taylor with his party and Wagons just past the Picquets when they fired On the Enemy and as Tarleton me[a]nt a Surprise Colo Taylor's party & the British Horse all run in together which made a very great Noise as they had to pass Over a poled Ca[u]s[e]way for two or three Hundred yards. All this took place in Such a Flurry and Unexpected we had but three or four minutes to make disposition of Our Men. The Georgians on the left under Cols. Clark, Few & Chandler, Colo. Lacey to the Right Cols Bratton & Hill & Taylor in Front also a Colonel Hampton from High up Broad River was thrown into a log House with his party and Colo. Winn in a Small distance of the Hole on the top of Blackstock's Hill. This Hill is high and Steep and makes down to the Road which passes at its base and from this Situation it was soon discovered by the Colo. it would be impossible for the Horse to make any Effectual charge on him. On the first onset the Enemy made a Violent Charge on the Georgians which they Sustained manfully for sometime but their Ground being Open & level they fell back Over the River, Colo. Lacey being posted in a thick Woody Ground gave him a great advantage. When the British made an attempt to attack the front Lacey firing on them then Jumping on their Horses ride Out of Site (sic, sight) loaded Mounted their Horses road in Gun Shot discharging in like Manner and so Off again in this way he kept the Enemy at Bay for at least two Hours tho they had in the Meantime mad Several attempts to dislodge the front which was immediatly under the Com[man]d of Genl. Sumter. The Genl. in attempting to lead on his Men Rec'd a bad wound in his Shoulder Colo. Winn was soon made Acquainted with this by Capt. Henry Hampton one of his Aids. Winn requested Hampton*

to have the Genl. taken off the field and Carried on the Other Side of the River and to Say Nothing about it. In a Short time after Majr. James Jackson afterwards Maj. General of Georgia came to me and give me to understand that Our Men in the Front was giving way & Sir says he I will tell you that the Salvation of this Country depends on this One Single fight. I told him we must try it. In about 15 Minutes After this information from Majr. Jackson the firing Ceased from Every Quarter my Men was all fresh as they not been Engaged. In a line on the top of the Hill I made them Sit down to prevent discovery about 5 yards from Each Other to make greatest shown possible and when I gave them the word they was to Jump up Set up the Indian Hollo and run down the Hill on the Enemy & to fire as they run at the same time Bullets in their Mouths & powder in their pockets. In a few Minutes the British Horse advanced as appeared with much Caution at the foot of the Hill and when they got to the far End of my line I gave the word the Officers & Men Obeyed & in an Instance the Horse wheeled Right About & it did appear to me whose Horse Could run fastest was the Cleverest fellows. Thus Ended this Battle. The Enemy immediately begun to retreat I sent a Small party after them to watch this Motion on their return they reported Tarleton had taken up Camp in two Miles of the Battle ground. I then moved the Men from the Hill to where the first Attack begun Collected what of them I could and had them paraded by this time night was coming on & it beginning to rain, I Ordered a party Out to Examine the Ground Collect as many of the wounded as could be found of the Enemy & take them to Blackstock's House & requested the[y] might be well treated. From the position Tarleton had taken I was Convinced he me[a]nt to try the Causeway again. I left a party on the Ground with Order to make a long row of fires, and Marched off to where Sumter lay found that the Doctor had just Extracted the Ball. I got One of the Men to lite a Torch and immediately wrote to Genl. Smallwood & Acquainted him with what was done here & at the Fish dam Which he rec'd by my Express Capt. Andrew Love. Sumter wounded the Officers and Men worn down wit Fatigue & Hunger it was thought Advisable to move up the Country Cross Broad River and Halt in the New Acquisition to refresh, but to return to Colo. Tarleton I could wish I had it in my power to say as much of his humanity as he has done of Ours, this Officer makes his retreat good to Winn's borough but on his Way he Hangs Esquire Johnston a Respectable Citizen, With a large family, what was his Crime I no not unless taking up Arms on the American Side—he takes Every Old Man & Stout boys he could find Carried them to the borough there Reported he made them prisoners at Blackstocks. These unfortunate people was Sent and Confined in Camden Goal ([interlined]Except Some of them deserted to be Tories) where they lay a Considerable time without friends or Money. In the Action at Blackstocks there was not a prisoner on Either Side carried from the Ground. The Americans had five or Six wounded but a Man killed the loss on the part of the British Considerable, See Gordon's History.

I must here Mention the Catawba Ind[ian]s. At the Commencement of the Revolutionary War the Catawbas had a King of their Nation by the Name of Flaghler when they found the Americans was about to Shake off their King these Indians Exiled King Flagher and Appointed a Native Indian by the Name of New River to be their General. When we took the field after the fall of Charleston we often Encamped on their land for days together those friendly Indians drove to us Beef from their Own Stocks, and Several times brought Out their whole force and Encamped near us & After the Def[ea]ts of Genls. Gates and Sumter those Indians was so [a]fraid of the British that they Deserted

their Nation, Men Women & Children with a few Exceptions & Moved on towards Virginia, and as we begun to make heat ag[ains]t the Enemy they Returned with Joy to their Own land.

When Genl. Smallwood rec'd my letter and After Reading it he Summoned his Officers to Attend him Among them was Genl. Morgan & Colo. Washington, the letter was again read to them On talking over the Subject they Said the letter could not be correct for it was impossible for our party to Defeat the British Horse. Love being present I will tell you Gentlemen I will be Dam'd if Every word in that letter is true for I was an Eye Witness to the whole. This I had from Capt. Love himself.

Had Genl. Smallwood fell on lord Cornwallis at Winn's borough at the time Colo. Tarleton followed Sumter to Blackstock, Cornwallis must have fallen an Easy prey to Smallwood as he had at that time only about four Hundred Men with him, no Horse. Cornwallis for his Safety depended on the Tories which in the End did him much more harm than Good.

This Information I got from Capt. J. Milling who had been in the Regular Service, then a prisoner on parole & who lived Near Winn's borough & was in the British Camp Almost Every day, and had Genl. Smallwood Aailed himself of this Advantage he would have done himself Immortal Honor & Retrieved Gates' Defeat. Cornwallis' Retreat in October 1780 at the time Cornwallis was advancing towards Virginia to Join the British forces in that State a person was Sent on to inform them of Cornwallis' movements and Intentions, that was when their force was Concentered they intended a line of Forts up the Roanoke River & the three Southern States was then to be Considered as British Provinces. The Above mention[ed] person being Suspected was taken up and Examined and Not being able to give a good Account of himself his things was Searched & in the pad of his Saddle a Musket Ball was found and from the lightness led the party to Open it the inside being scooped Out they discovered a paper Containing Account which was written on Silk paper. This Information I had from an Officer in No. Carolina on my Return from Hills borough. At the this time Our Officers was at the lowest Ebb as we Scarcely Knew of Men any where in Arms, however the Defeat of Ferguson at King Mountain put a Stop to the British Scheme & Drove L. Cornwallis Out of No. Carolina to Winn's borough & Genl. Leslie with a Strong British force from Virginia to Charles town and from thence to Winn's boro to Reinforce Cornwallis.

I am of Opinion this Statement is worthy of Remark as it shows at Once the good Effect the Battle of Kings Mountain had in favor of the friends of Congress in the So.[rn] States and gave them time to Collect a Strong force & to procure Arms & Ammunition. The following took place in December 1780 Colo. Richard Winn after the fight at Blackstocks in November 1780 Return to the New Acquisition and whilst there was informed that his Brother Colo. John Winn was under Sentence of Death at Winns boro the British head Quarters. Colo. R. Winn inquired into the cause & was informed that a Certain Spencer Tyler one of Colo. Rich^d Winn Men who had left Camp and went to See his family who lived in the neighborhood of J. Winn this man on getting down was informed by Some person that at Such a house was two Bri... Soldiers Tyler & another Man that was with him made prisoners of the two Soldiers after tying them with intention the next day to bring them to me, it now being Night the Other Man left Tyler with the Soldiers by some means or Other they untied themselves & ties Tyler and Carried Him before Cornwallis. Tyler as he had before taken protection finding his life was to pay for

his Conduct places Colo. John Winn Between him & the Gallows by giving Evidence that the Colo. Winn inf[orme]d him of the Soldiers & Advised him to go and take them tho Colo. Winn knew nothing of the business and Tyler well Knowing that a thrifty Charactors would not Save him pitched on Colo. Winn who was immediately Secured tried & Convicted by a false Witness & a day App[ointe]d for him to be hung. On getting a full information of the facts Colo. R. Winn Sent to Lord Cornwallis that if he hung Colo. J. Winn that he would hang the first 100 British Officers that fall into his hand & at that time he had Several. When the day came that the Colo. was to be hung Capt. John Milling who as well as Colo. Winn had taken parole the Capt. went to the boro... to see the last of his friend & neighbor. On Seeing Several Officers at H[ead] Quarters he went Among them as he often had done before. He heard One of the Officers say we have a Right to believe that this Winn will Carry his Threat into Execution & that it would be better to Save the life of the Man than to Cause the death of 100 of Ours, so Colo. Winn was pardoned as well as I can recollect under the Gallows. This I had from Capt. John Milling himself.

In Dec. 1780

In a few days after I rec'd a letter from Colo. John Winn by the hands of a Man by the Name of Tindal, a Tory who lives on the Borders of N. Acquisition that he was pardoned & that he was instructed by L. Cornwallis that if I would give up and Come in my property Should be all restored & my losses paid and many other things to be done for me Not particular pointed out and that my life and property Should be protected. (Ans. was) I dam'd him & his protection too & as to my property, it went in the Manner I expected.

On the same day I got this letter I Rec'd one by Express from Genl. Morgan then lying at Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River. The Genl. mentioned he had a great desire to See me. I rept'd to his Camp ab't 30 Miles from where I lay. He summoned his priciple Officers Colos. Washington, Howard & Majr. Taliaferro who commanded the Virginia Militia. After talking about the British head Quarters and the Situation of the Country and people and as Genl. Morgan had been intimately Acquainted with me from a Small boy he conversed with me freely 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 Winn's boro....

Q..[:] Can you inform me the Manner Colo. Tarleton brings on his Attack[?]

A[:] I can, Tarleton never brings on the Attack 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 is reserve he falls on and will cut them to pie[ce]s however from looking in Gordons History I see Tarleton brought on the Action at the 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 was of Colo. Tarleton as an Officer he was more Cruel than brave. In a day or two after the battle I met with Genl. Morgan who gave me a Statement of the Action. Genl. Morgan was well appri'd that Colo Tarleton was pursuing him but when or where he would Over take him was uncertain, when the Genl. Got to the Cowpens he halted & took up hi Encampment & Says on this ground I will

Defeat the British or lay my Bones by picking out the place for his grave. Curiosity led me afterwards to view the Ground, and I can Say if would not have been my Choice.

In the first place it was Even Enough to make race paths Covered Over with a Small Growth of trees midling Open without underwoods, & Nothing to defend Either in front Rear or flank, when the force of the British Horse and Advantage of the Ground they had, the Advantage Over Morgan as two is to One.

Myself I was in the War from the beginning to the End, Shortly after the British Evacuated Charleston I was made a Brig. Genl. which Commission I held for some time then made a Major General which Commission I resigned on the 7th June 1811 I commanded the 2nd Division which Composed all the lower part of So. Carolina including five Brigades.

I have been in Congress from the year 1793 all Except three years after what I have stated I leave it to the people & you if I have Not Discharged my Duty to my Country.

Some time before the fight at Williams' this same Capt. Huck with his party Burnt Hill's Iron Works on their way they Burnt the Meeting House of the Rev'd Mr. Sampson who was at the head of a large Presbyterian Congregation the people in that Quarter Fishing Creek immediately Cried Out they wanted no protection form Such a Set as burnt Churches & the word of God, & Billy Hill's Iron Works, the Consequence of this was Mr. Simson & about 80 of his Church took up Arms and Joined Genl. Sumter, by this you will See Out of Evil cometh good.

Something like this was my words at the time these Men came to us. [Shortly after the Battle at Gipson's Meeting House Capt. Winn by the British & Tories had all his houses Burnt to the ground & every Negro plundered together with every other property he possessed in the world, his wife plundered of her clothes & she drove off with two Infant Children, when this was made known to me, my answer was it is no more than I expected.

Copy letter from Genl. Winn, to Hugh McCall of Savannah, dated Washington Apr. 10, 1812.

I think your statement pretty correct so far as they goes however I will State to you some particulars you can take of them such parts as you may think necessary or proper.

Frasier was a British Colo. & sent a flag to me to surrender Fort McIntosh on the second day of fighting—this flag was answered by another from me that if my person could be secure from hurt I would meet him half way between his Troops & mine this was agreed on & the outlines of a stipulation for the surrender of the Fort was agreed on all but one point, to wit, that Col. Frasier should be answerable for the Conduct of the Indians in the same manner as was to be done for the British Troops & Rangers & for my further Safety a company of British should escort me & my men to the River Altamaha opposite Fort Barrington. This was absolutely refused that the could not be answerable for the Indians. When my answer was the Fort was mine & that I would protect it as long as I had a man. Here all further negotiation was broke off & on my returning to the Fort the Colo. sent a messenger after me desiring my return that we might converse more on the subject—This I complied with—He then proposed to agree to my Imposition—Then a capitulation was drawn up for the giving up the Fort—which contained Twelve or fourteen distinct Articles which was signed by Colo. Frasier & myself & delivered to

each in form about four in the Evening of the 18th—the Tower was given up & our arms laid down—the Swords of the Officers demanded by a British officer—my sword I refused to hand him but laid it on a stump—My Officers did the same—In a short time after Colo. Frasier came into the Fort & returned each officer his sword saying it was a practice made by Genl. Washington & he would follow the same—About the going down of the Sun I set out on my march for Fort Barrington with my British Guard—I had not got more than two miles night came on –my guard left me notwithstanding the most sacred stipulation to the Contrary—my men knowing that their Escorts was to go with us to the River got much alarmed on account of the Indians & the Florida Scout as they full understood that Colo. Brown & the Two Notorious Villains Cunningham & McGirt was at their head—However after passing through a Most dismal Country of saw palmetto & swamps I arrive safe with my men on the morning of the 19 at Fort Barrington. The only Officer left me was Lieut. Oliver Toles. I here remark had I have not included the Indians in this Treaty I am satisfied from what passed between Colo. Frasier & myself that as soon as we had laid down our arms we should have been cut to pieces & what impressed this more fully on my mind I had seen in a northern paper where such a thing did actually take place between Montreal & Albany—this the more put me on my guard.

When hostages was required from me Lieuts Coldwell & Milton Volunteered their services to go as such in the Treaty for their Safety I took care to stipulate that they was not to be confined but well treated as Officers. This was immediately violated on the part of the British about one week before the attack was made on the Fort the Indians in the dead time of Night fell on a small party of my men—killed on e & badly wounded another—one Indian killed in the fight.

In all this affair too much praise cannot be given to both officers & men—when I called them up & after informing them of their dangerous situation & the great force they had to contend with I asked them will you fight with me—their answer was we will not only fight, but Captain, we will die with you to a man.

The above mentioned Indians is a part of the Creek Nation & goes by the name of Seminola which is English is Wonderer—Cussuppa was at their head as he was their great warrior.

Capt. Winn Commanded the Same Company or nearly so at Sullivan's Island on the 28th June '76 under the Command of Colonels Moultry & Thomson the day that the British fleet & Lord Cornwallis was defeated & the winter following was ordered to Fort McIntosh—Fort McIntosh was built on the N. East side of Satilla & about 100 yds from the River 80 yards to the South of the Fort a branch run which immediately Emptied into the River. The Fort stood on ground somewhat sideling from the No—their Enemy taking their stand on an Eminence to the So. beyond the branch their guns could bear upon the No. part of the Fort—which obliged me to call of my men from that quarter for a that point I sustained all my loss.

Capt. Richard Winn 3rd So. Carolina Regt. Aged 23 or 24 yrs

Lieut. Oliver Toles " " " 40 or there abt.

Lieut William Coldwell do aged 23 years or Thereabout

Lieut. John Milton Georgia Regiment aged 21 years or thereabouts

The number of my men that was mad prisoners was form 50 to sixty, Including Officers.

I did suppose the Enemies Strength was from 4 to 5 hundred but I expect you have their no. pretty correct which was better known by Lt. Milton & Coldwell who

returned with then to St. Augustine—I think that Col. Frasier's age was between forty & fifty—If you will refer to the Military papers of either Genl. McIntosh or Colo. Elbert you will find a copy of the Capitulation of Fort McIntosh. This being the first that was mad in the Southern Waters—The Original of which was lost after the fall of Charleston.

Satilla River is abt. 16 miles East of St. Mary's River

Sir

I wish to have the Honor of Introducing Col. George Roots to the notice of the House who is recommended by some of the first Characters as a man of influence & ability. Col. Roots and Major Willis are sent as Deputies from the farming Counties of Berkley, Frederick, Shenandoah & Hampstin in Virginia and propose bringing in three hundred Families next fall each of whom shall at least have one good Gunman & well armed providing they can have lands secured to them. The Col. himself will best explain to the house the encouragement they wish to receive.

¹ Abraham Buford (1749-1833) was the commanding colonel of the 3rd Detachment of the 2nd Virginia Brigade of the Continental Line. He led his 350-man detachment from Virginia toward Charleston to participate in the defense of that city, but he arrived too late. Retreating from the Charleston area back toward Virginia, his detachment was overrun by the British Legion under the command of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton on Monday, May 29, 1780. The result of the confrontation was the total defeat of Buford's force by Tarleton in what became known as "Buford's Defeat." The alleged massacre of Buford's forces by the Legion after a failed attempt by the Continentals to surrender helped create Tarleton's reputation as a butcher unwilling to give quarter to defenseless opponents. This encounter gave rise to the rallying cry of "Tarleton's Quarter" used by the Whigs to justify their own refusal to grant quarter to surrendering British and Tory forces in later engagements.

² Shirer's Ferry. Winn's statement that this ferry was located "opposite the Dutch fork" would indicate that the ferry was at or very near the confluence of the Saluda and Broad Rivers since the area between those two rivers was referred to in contemporary documents as the "Dutch Fork."

³ The term New Acquisition refers to the area ceded by North Carolina to South Carolina in 1772 in settlement of the long-standing boundary line dispute between the two royal colonies. The area is largely encompassed within modern day York County, South Carolina, and lies just south of Charlotte, North Carolina.

⁴ Edward Lacey (1742-1813) was a South Carolina militia officer under the command of Thomas Sumter. M. A. Moore, Sr., *Life of General Edward Lacey* (A Press, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina, 1981, reprint from 1859 edition)

⁵ William Bratton (1743-1815), a South Carolina militia colonel and the commander of the forces in the engagement at Williamson's Plantation (also known as the Battle of Brattonsville and Huck's Defeat). Moss, *Patriots*, 96.