

Robert:
The are some notes I made
many ago. years ago -

The following extracts are from McCrady's
"History of South Carolina in the Revolution"
Volume - 1775-1780

In re: Organization of regular regiments - 1775.

"It was manifest to the Provincial Congress that no reliance could be placed on the regularly organized militia to carry out their purpose as the militia would necessarily embrace men of all shades of political opinion. It was determined, therefore, to organize a force independent of that body. According to our present ideas, it would be supposed that volunteers would have been called for, and organized into regiments to take the field - a force in which the best men of all classes would serve in the ranks if necessary from motives of patriotism. Five years later we shall see a purely volunteer system springing into existence in South Carolina after the fall of Charleston and the loss of the Continental Army; and we shall see the redemption of the State begun by volunteers serving without pay, under Sumter, Marion and Pickens; but the Provincial Congress had no idea of such a system. Their plan was the organization of a regular force officered by gentlemen, the rank and file of which was to be formed of men enlisted for hire such as the regular armies of Europe, the ranks of which later we shall see filled up by vagrants and offenders against the law sentenced thereto by the courts. Gentlemen of family and fortune at once offered themselves as candidates for commissions and the Congress proceeded to choose these by ballot. Two of the three regiments now raised were to be of the line and designed for service on the Coast."

Pages 13-14.

McCrady's footnote on Page 14 gives a list of the officers thus elected in 1775 and mentions John Farr, as Second Lieutenant.

See also "Heitman's Register" - 1775-83 - Page 222.

"Ramsey's Revolution" - Vol. I - Page 35-37.

"Coll. History of Soc. S. C." - Vol. II - Page 26-27.

"Memoirs of the Revolution" - (Drayton) - Vol. 1775.

In re: Capture (Thomas) John (Smith) Farr by British

"On the 7th of March, 1780, one thousand British grenadiers and light infantry crossed Wappoo cut and advanced to within three miles of Ashley Ferry - twelve miles from town (Charleston) and advanced to within three miles of that post, taking possession of the land on the Ashley opposite the town. The immediate inducement of the move appears to have been the capture of a large number of cattle which had been collected on Ashley River. The movement was unexpected and the militia and the drivers in charge of the cattle were taken and Thomas Farr, the speaker of the House of Representatives, his son, a little boy, and Mr. Lloyd were surprised at breakfast and carried off. Mr. Farr was made to perform the undignified task of driving the cattle for his captors who encouraged him to do so by calling to him - 'Keep up Mr. Speaker, keep up!'"

Pages 445-446

"Thomas Farr was elected Speaker in place of John Matthews elected to Congress." - Gazette of State of South Carolina, August 11, 1779.

John Lloyd - See History of South Carolina - "Under Royal Government" McCrady - Pages 605-607-610.

In re: Arrest (Thomas) John (Smith) Farr by Cornwallis

"After the fall of Charleston on the 4th of June, 1780, Sir Henry Clinton wrote '---I may venture to assert that there are few men in South Carolina who are not either our prisoners or in arms with us.' This was undoubtedly true. There was not a Continental officer or soldier in the field. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Marion and Major Thomas Pinckney had been sent out of the garrison before the surrender and had escaped into North Carolina. So had General Isaac Hager who had not been in the town and so was not amongst the prisoners. All the rest of the South Carolina officers including General Moultrie, Colonel C. C. Pickney and Lieutenant Col. John Laurens were prisoners at Haddrell's Point and the soldiers in prison ship in the Harbor."

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In re: Arrest - Thomas John Smith Farr by Cornwallis (Cont'd)

"Though restrained by their paroles from doing anything injurious to the interests of his Britannic Majesty, the silent example of these men who were revered by their fellow citizens, exerted a powerful influence in restraining many from exchanging their paroles for the protection and privileges of British subjects and encouraged the spirit of resistance which was now finding its way through swamps even to the confines of the Capital (Charleston) held by the conquerors. To put an end to this source of trouble, Lord Cornwallis determined to send a number of the principal of these into exile. He issued his orders accordingly and early on Sunday morning, the 27th day of August, 1780, thirty-three of these prisoners on parole were suddenly siezed in their homes by armed soldiers under the direction of Major Benson and Captain McMahon. These were, Christopher Gadsden, the Lieutenant Governor, Thomas Farr, late Speaker, etc., etc."

Pages 716-717

McCrary adds the following footnote:

"This list is that given by Tarleton (Campaigns 185) It contains the names of four persons found in no other list and who are not mentioned by Josiah Smith in his diary. These are: Thomas Farr, John Floyd, William Price and Joseph Atkinson. These were probably included in the order but for some cause were either not arrested or were immediately released."

In re: Snow Campaign - 1775 - (Condensed)

On December 2nd, 1775, Colonel Richardson encamped near McLauren's store fifteen miles from Saluda --- Here he was joined by Colonel Thomas with 200 men; Colonel Neel with 200; Col. Lyle with 150 which together with Colonel Thompson's regiments of Rangers and Militia made his force amount to 2,500 men in addition to which, Colonel Polk was in full march from North Carolina with 600 men. As Richardson's force advanced, the King's party fell back.

In re: Snow Campaign - 1775 - (Condensed) (Cont'd)

By December 12th they had penetrated far into the interior. He halted and encamped at Liberty Hill on the line between Newberry and Laurens Counties about four or five miles from the Enoree River. Here he sent his prisoners to Charleston in charge of his son. His force being now augmented by militia from North Carolina and a part of Colonel Bull's regiment to about 5,000 men, he scoured the whole of the upper country, penetrating four miles beyond the Cherokee boundary line to a place called the Great Cane Brake on Reedy River. Here an engagement was fought on December 21st between a party of Loyalists and a detachment of 1,300 men under Colonel Thompson resulting in the routing of the Tories.

Colonel Richardson now regarding the object of the campaign as accomplished, dismissed the North Carolina troops and marched homeward. From the snow which fell in the latter part of the expedition, it was called the Snow Campaign. It was supposed to have broken up the King's party in the upper country but its success to this extent was only apparent.

Pages 95-96-97.

See also: "Memoirs of the Revolution" - Drayton - Vol. II PP 126-132

In re: Colonel John Thomas, Sr.

A native of Wales; brought up in Chester County, Penna., later moving to South Carolina. Before hostilities commenced he lived on Fair Forrest Creek in Lower Spartanburg County.

He was a militia captain and magistrate under the Royal Government. Having resigned his commission, he was elected Colonel of the regiment in place of Fletchall when that officer refused to join the new government. After Charleston fell, he was under Sir Henry Clinton's proclamation, thrown into confinement in violation of the paroles he had given. He had four sons in the

In re: Colonel John Thomas, Sr. (Cont'd)

Rebel service, two of whom were killed. John Thomas, Jr. succeeded his father in command of the regiment and was a successful officer.

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In re: Lack of records

"For, as we have had occasion so often before to observe, the peculiarity of the condition and affairs in the State during this time precluded contemporaneous record of those who followed her partisan leaders as there was no government in the State outside of the military rule of the British within the line, held for a time securely by them. There was no such thing as a militia in the American service until the reorganization of the Government by Governor Rutledge in the Fall of 1781. Hence, there were no rolls. The men who did the fighting in South Carolina under Sumter, Marion and Pickens were purely volunteer partisan soldiers who came and went and fought as the occasion demanded without the prospect or hope of pay or reward. It is true that in years afterward, rolls were made upon which the grateful state issued pensions and rewards and those rolls may yet be found among miscellaneous records which were saved when the capital of the State was burned in 1865 but which have not yet been arranged and remain in a confused mass in a room in the State House.

Page 733

REFERENCES

E. McCrady: - "History of South Carolina in the Revolution"
1775-1780. See John (Thomas) Farr. Pages
14, 445, 446, 717.

Rocky Mount - August 1st, 1780
Hanging Rock - August 6th, 1780
Pages 624 - 631

Blackstock - November 20, 1780
Pages 825 - 827

Snow Campaign
Pages 94, 95, 96, 97

Heitman's Register:

Continental Army Officers - 1773 - 1783
Page 222 - John Farr, 2nd Lieutenant

Ramsey:

"History of the Revolution in South Carolina"
1785 - 2 volumes.

"History of South Carolina" - 2 volumes - 1809

Drayton:

"Memoirs of the Revolution" - 1821 - 2 volumes
