

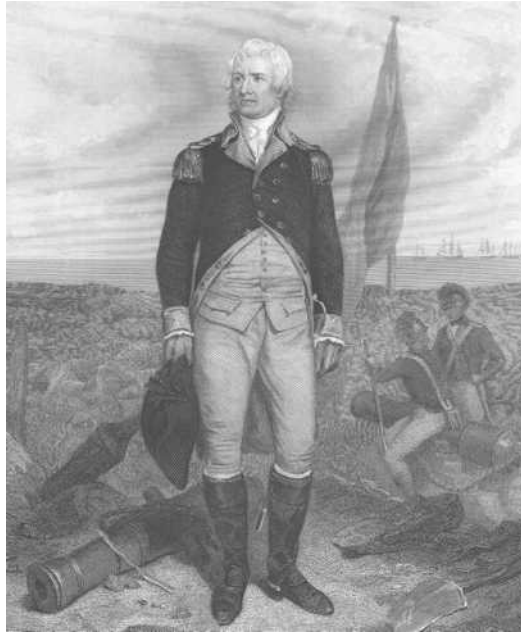
## The Swamp Fox – 1



An overly dramatized depiction of Marion leading his men through a pass against the Cherokees in 1761. Marion reportedly expressed regret about the subsequent atrocities committed by the British and colonials against the “poor creatures.”



The British attack on Charleston’s Fort Sullivan in 1776, in which Marion helped command South Carolina’s 2nd Regiment in its successful defense of the fort. The British would return to Charleston four years later.



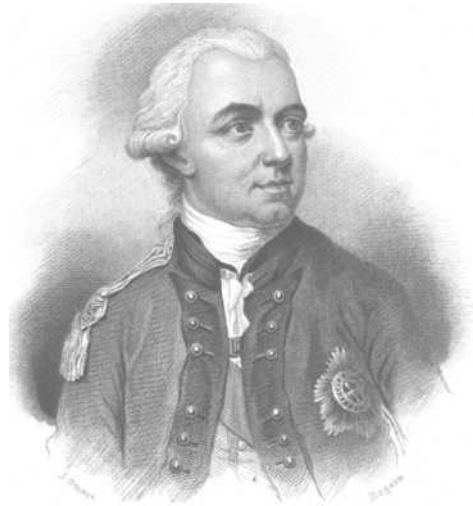
Colonel William Moultrie, Marion's mentor and overall commander of the defense of Fort Sullivan in 1776. The fort was soon renamed Fort Moultrie in his honor.



The Battle of Savannah, 1779. Marion led an unsuccessful patriot assault on a British fortification in which nearly half the Americans did not return. A British officer observed that "the ditch was choke full of their Dead."



106 Tradd Street in Charleston. According to legend, Marion jumped from a second-story window here in March 1780 to escape a drinking party where the host had locked the guests inside. It was a lucky quirk of history, as Marion broke his ankle and had retired to the countryside to recuperate when Charleston fell to the British and the American soldiers garrisoned there became prisoners of war.



Sir Henry Clinton, commander in chief of British operations in North America, who directed the siege that led to Charleston's fall in May 1780. A proclamation that Clinton soon issued, requiring rebels to sign an oath of allegiance to the king and actively assist the British government, ended up backfiring. Citizens who had been neutral rallied to the patriot cause and formed a resistance movement that Marion, among other guerrilla leaders, would spearhead.



General Horatio Gates, commander of the American southern army following the fall of Charleston. After Gates's disastrous defeat at the Battle of Camden in August 1780, Francis Marion's was the only viable patriot fighting force left in South Carolina.



Charles, Earl Cornwallis, commander of British southern operations from 1780 to 1782. Marion's constant harassment of British supply lines so infuriated Cornwallis that several "death squads" were dispatched in sequence to eliminate him as a threat.



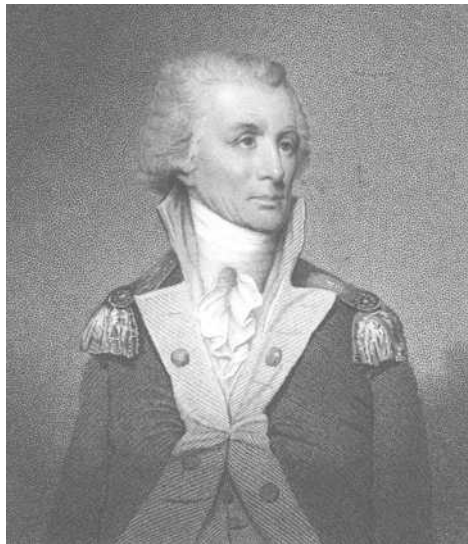
“Marion Crossing the Pee Dee.” (William Ranney, c. 1850). Marion is likely the second horseman from left, wearing the blanket.



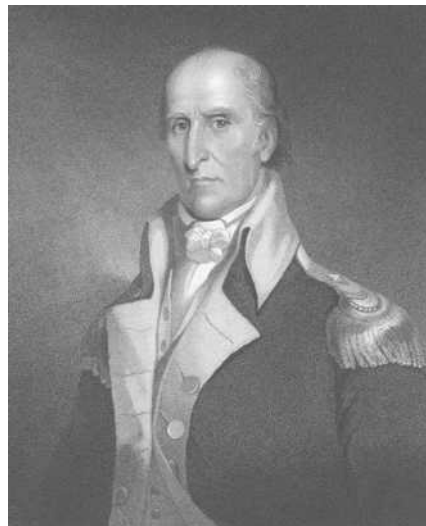
Banastre Tarleton, the dashing British cavalry leader reputed by legend to have given Marion his nickname. After pursuing Marion for seven hours through 26 miles of swamps, Tarleton called off the chase, saying, “as for this damned old fox, the Devil himself could not catch him.”



“Revolutionary Militia Crossing a River.” Marion is in front of the white flag.



Thomas Sumter, the “Gamecock,” who led the patriot militia in the middle part of South Carolina, while Marion covered the eastern portion. The two leaders disliked each other; Sumter was considered “bold and rash,” while Marion was “cautious and vigilant.”



Andrew Pickens, the third of the great triumvirate of “partisan” leaders in South Carolina, along with Marion and Sumter. Pickens led the militia in the northwest third of the state, closest to Indian Territory.



Modern day Halfway Swamp, much as it looked during Marion’s engagement with the enemy there in December 1780.



“General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal.” In his imagining of the famous “sweet potato” dinner, White painted the only portrait of Marion by someone who knew him during his lifetime. Standing behind Marion is his faithful African American slave and personal valet, Oscar, or “Buddy.”



Snow's Island, the location of Marion's secret base camp and place of rendezvous from which his men ventured forth to annoy the enemy.

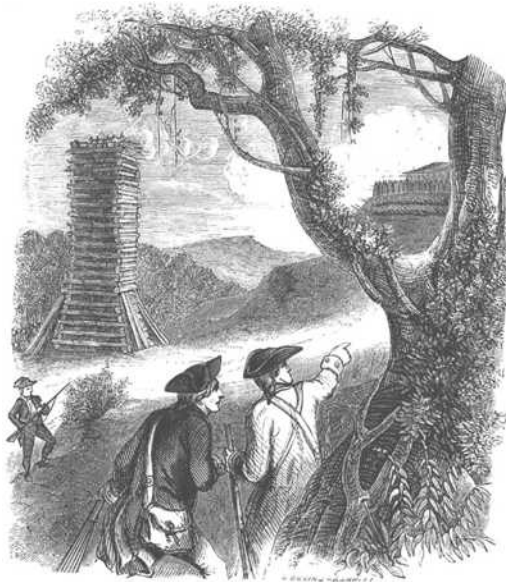


Francis, Lord Rawdon, was left in charge of the British field army in South Carolina when Cornwallis left for Yorktown in Virginia. "I must drive Marion out of that country [South Carolina]," Rawdon had declared to Cornwallis, "but I cannot yet say what steps I shall take to effect it."



Marion's Brigade (right) prepares to engage John Watson's British force at Wyboo Swamp, South Carolina, in March 1781.





Fort Watson, a key British outpost Marion and Lee besieged in April 1781 and eventually captured, with the benefit of the hastily-constructed “Maham Tower” (shown at left). Patriot marksmen rained rifle fire from the tower’s perch down upon the British defenders in the fort.



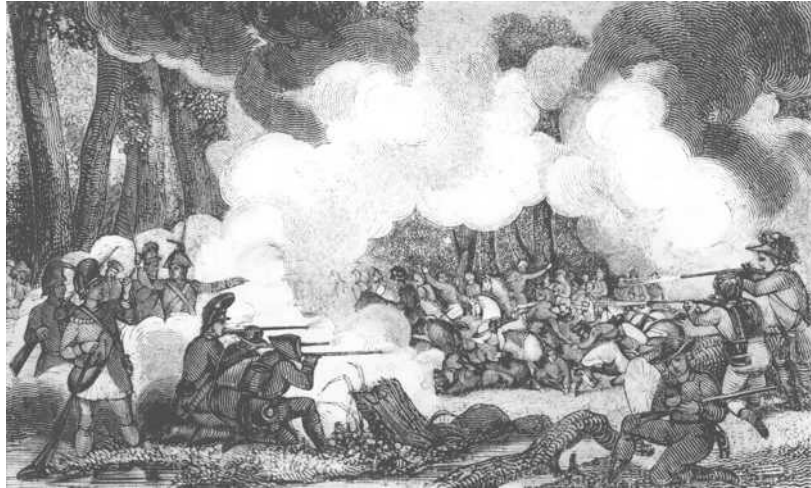
A modern view of the Indian temple mound atop which the British built Fort Watson. The patriots built their tower more than 30 feet high to enable their sharpshooters to fire down into the fort.



Three weeks after the fall of Fort Watson, Marion and Lee forced the surrender of Fort Motte, another strategic British post, by setting the fort's roof on fire with flaming arrows. Here they are shown with patriot Rebecca Motte, who owned the mansion commandeered by the British for their fort; she willingly provided the bow and arrows with which to burn down her own house.



The ruins of Biggin Church, near Monck's Corner and Marion's birthplace, and where he likely was baptized. In July 1781 it played a crucial role in the lead-up to one of Marion's bloodiest battles.



Marion's ambush of the enemy at Parker's Ferry in August 1781, perhaps his greatest victory as a partisan commander. One loyalist (Tory) officer caught in the surprise attack called it "the most galling fire ever troops experienced." (c. 1844)



A modern view of the Parker's Ferry causeway, where the British were wedged in so closely that they were forced to "run the gauntlet" of Marion's ambush.



The Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781, one of the bloodiest of the war, was the last major field engagement in the South. Marion was in charge of the front line of militia, which distinguished itself by firing 17 volleys per man.



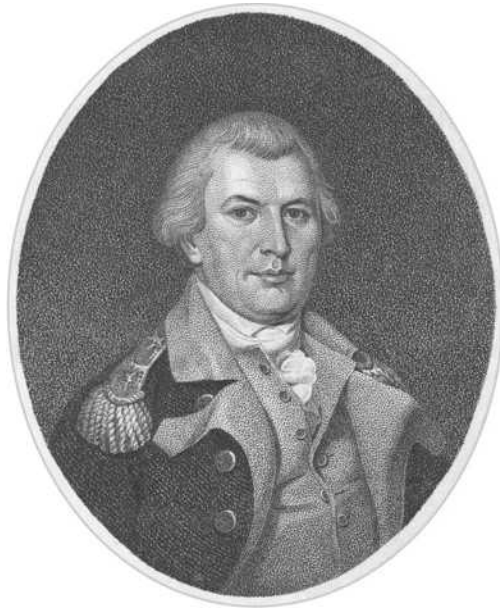
Peter Horry, Marion's longtime friend and subordinate commander, who provided a written manuscript that Mason L. "Parson" Weems turned into a highly fictionalized popular biography of Marion.



Hezekiah Maham, who came up with the idea for the “Maham Tower” that toppled Fort Watson. Although a capable cavalry commander, Maham had a long-running dispute with Peter Horry over rank that created constant headaches for Marion, under whom both men served.



Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee, a young Continental cavalry commander, was sent by General Greene to join Marion at Snow’s Island in January 1781 to begin conducting joint operations (but had trouble finding the secret lair).



General Nathanael Greene, who replaced Gates as the American Continental commander in the South in December 1780, and forged a close working relationship with Marion.



Marion, at Eutaw Springs. In typically understated fashion, he reported afterward, "My men behaved well."



Marion, by an unknown artist c. 1847.



An idealized depiction of the “Swamp Fox” in action.



Replica of a soldier from Marion's South Carolina 2nd Regiment, in National Parks museum at Fort Moultrie. The inscription on the crescent reads "Liberty."



Marion's grave in Pineville, South Carolina. His marker describes him as "a soldier who lived without fear and died without reproach." His wife, Mary Videau, is buried alongside him.





Francis Marion immortalized, in statues across South Carolina. Upper left: sculpture by Garland Weeks at Francis Marion University, Florence. Upper right: sculpture by Robert Barinowski, displayed at 2014 Francis Marion/Swamp Fox Symposium, Manning. Bottom: sculpture by Alex Palkovich at Venters' Landing (formerly Witherspoon's Ferry) in Johnsonville, where Marion first took charge of a partisan guerrilla brigade.

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