



# Huck's Defeat



Battle of Huck's Defeat July 12, 1780



## Biography of General Thomas Sumter (August 14, 1734 – June 1, 1832)

Thomas Sumter was born in colonial Virginia.

Little is known about Thomas Sumter's father. The elder Sumter may have been an indentured servant. He settled on a homestead at Freddy's Creek in Louisa County, VA, where Thomas was born.

William Martin, a childhood associate of General Sumter, would say that Thomas "seems as if he felt mortified at the idea of his low birth (his father being a miller, and his mother a mid-wife) and that he wished everything connected with his early life be forgotten." (1)

Sumter would play a role in the capture of Fort Pitt in the French and Indian War. At the conclusion of that conflict, Sumter would embark on another journey as an escort of Cherokee chiefs to London. When he returned, he found himself in some financial trouble while waiting to be paid by the Royal government. He would end up settling near the Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. (2)

He became a merchant and sought to move up in social standing in his new colony. He married Mary Cantey and increased his property. He was a planter, a trader and even a ferry operator. He made business and social connections that would turn into political collateral later. He was elected as a delegate to the First Provincial Congress in December, 1774 for the District Eastward of Wateree River. (3)

The British burned the future General out of his home just north of Sumter, South Carolina on May 20, 1780. At the time he had resigned his commission as a Continental officer. Left homeless with his physically challenged wife and young son, he made the decision to return to the fight at the age of 46.

Sumter's men gave battle to the British at Williamson Plantation, Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Cary's Fort, Fishing Creek, Kings Mountain, Fishdam Ford, and Blackstock's. They killed, captured, or defeated British Captain Christian Huck, N.C. Loyalist Colonel Samuel Bryan, Loyalist Lt. Colonel James Cary, British Major Patrick Ferguson, British Cavalry Major James Wemyss and British Legion Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

General Sumter continued his war efforts even after being wounded twice. He would help supply the war effort with intel and provisions, even when he was not in the field fighting. However, his preference of independent command often put him at odds with American General Nathaniel Greene.

After the war he served the citizens of South Carolina for five terms in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. He also was elected to the U.S. Senate and served till 1810.

And for these and other momentous reasons, General Thomas Sumter is a proud hero of the South Carolina.

(1) Gregorie, A (1931) Thomas Sumter, RL Bryan Company (pg. 4)

(2) Jones, R (2011) Before They Were Heroes at King's Mountain, Daniel Boone Footsteps Publishing (pgs. 8-17)

(3) Gregorie, A (1931) Thomas Sumter, RL Bryan Company (pg. 39)



# Huck's Defeat

**Writers:** Eric Barnes  
**Artist:** Rick Emond  
**Color Artist:** Rick Emond  
**Creative Design:** Rick Emond  
**Editor:** Eric Barnes

# Huck's Defeat

is a volume of **Historyman Comics**,  
**Dedicated to revisiting the heroes of the  
American Revolution.** **Historyman Comics**  
**presents this volume as one in a series of  
books available for your reading pleasure.**



### ***The British have captured Savannah and Charleston***

The red tide of the Empire washes over South Carolina and the remaining Patriot forces are forced back to the borderlands with North Carolina. The days are dark as the British juggernaut moves north. These were the days of dread. These were the times when Liberty appeared to be breathing its last breath. Yet, *there is hope if there is still breath.*





At Ramsour's Mill, just inside of North Carolina, Thomas Sumter (the newly elected leader of the South Carolina resistance) has coordinated with North Carolina's General Griffith Rutherford to attack a loyalist stronghold.

They arrive after the victory is won, but are rewarded with a bevy of supplies.



Colonel Winn, I know we have both been burned out of our homes, but I am feeling pretty good now!



They then make their way back into South Carolina and camp among friends in the Catawba lands. The small band of 40-50 partisan fighters bring wagons of food stores, tents and weapons to begin their campaign.

In their makeshift camp, General Sumter sits by the fire with his band of leaders: Colonel William Hill, Colonel William Bratton, and Colonel Richard Winn. They talk about the recent events and are determined to make a stand against an invading British army.

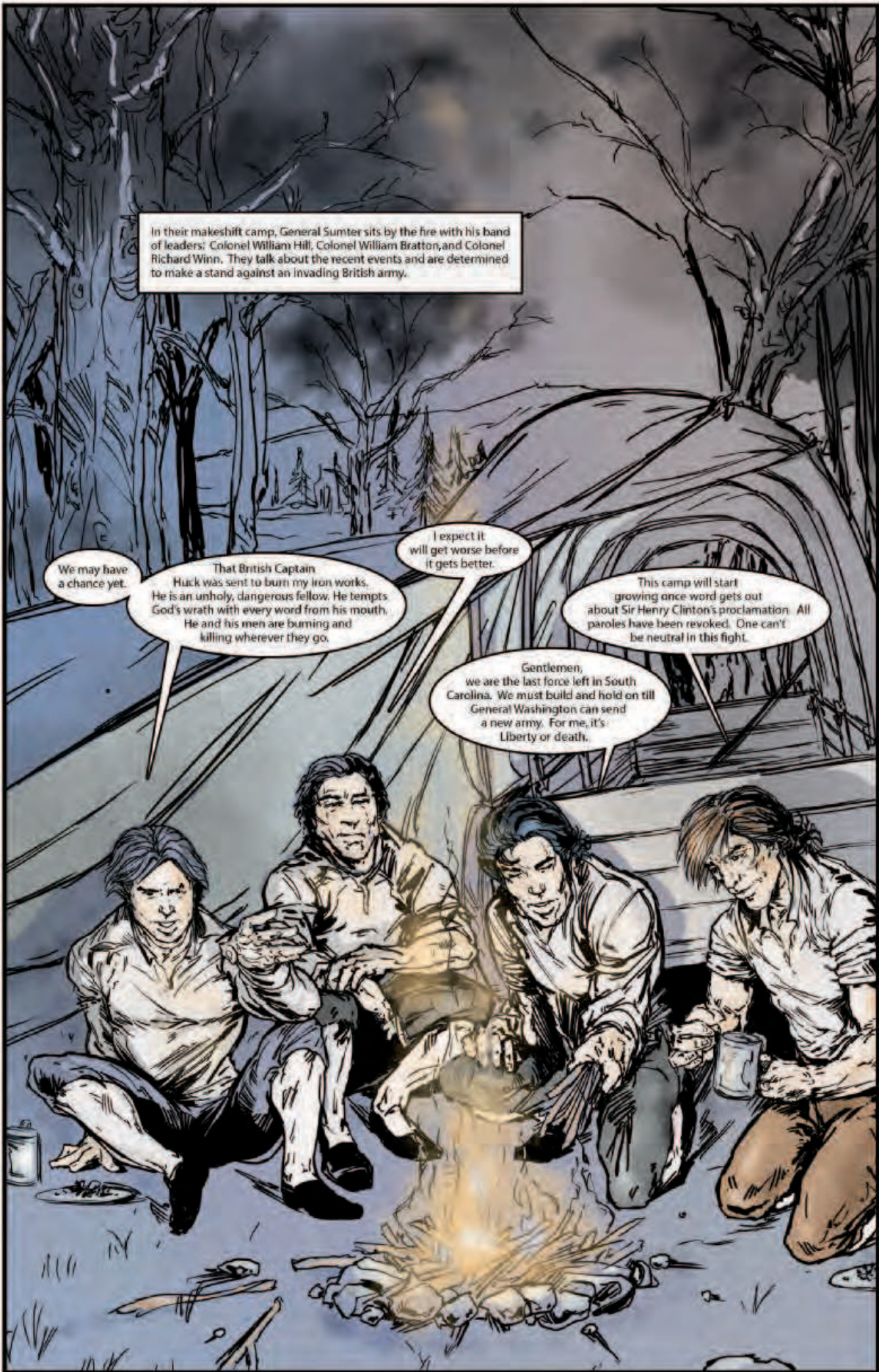
We may have a chance yet.


That British Captain Huick was sent to burn my iron works. He is an unholy, dangerous fellow. He tempts God's wrath with every word from his mouth. He and his men are burning and killing wherever they go.

I expect it will get worse before it gets better.

This camp will start growing once word gets out about Sir Henry Clinton's proclamation. All paroles have been revoked. One can't be neutral in this fight.

Gentlemen, we are the last force left in South Carolina. We must build and hold on till General Washington can send a new army. For me, it's: Liberty or death.






Lieutenant Colonel George Turnbull takes up post at Rocky Mount and attempts to raise Loyalist militia in the Catawba River Valley, between Camden, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina.

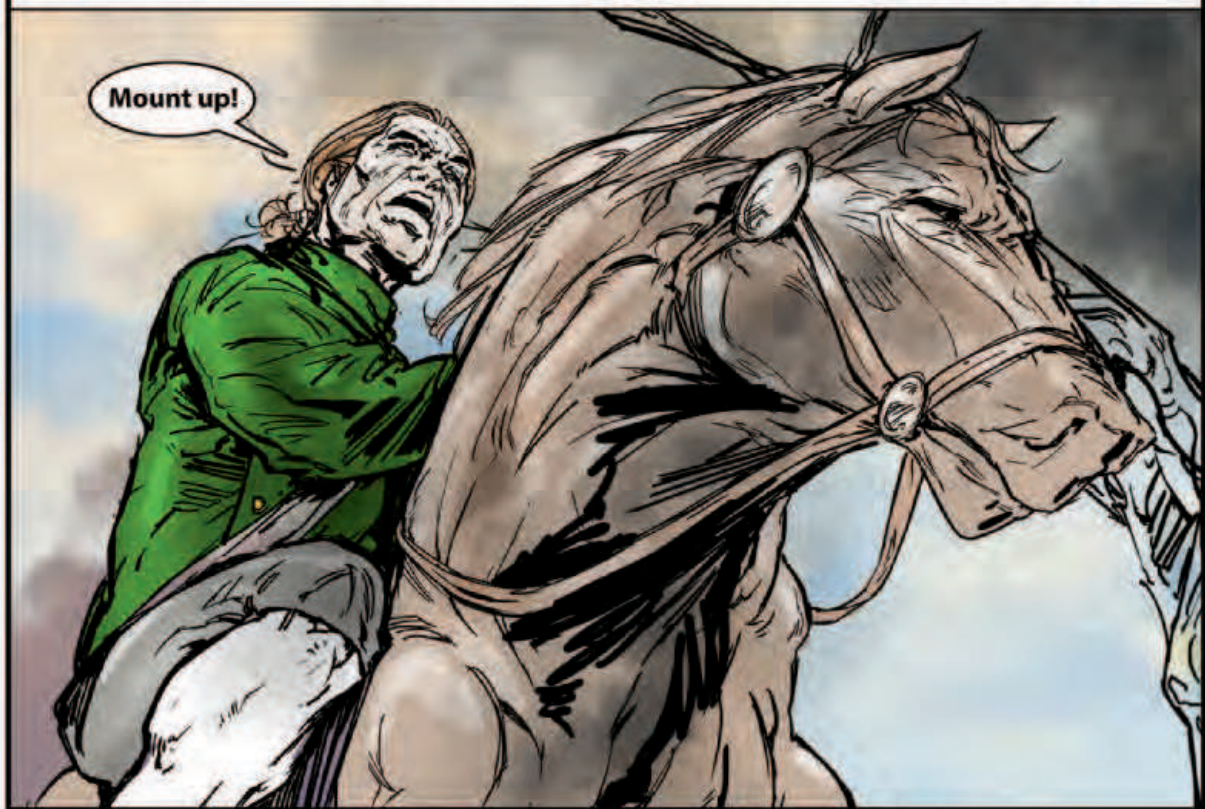
His efforts are thwarted by the recent Patriot militia activity.

We fear that the Whig militia will run us down if we help in any way. Every time we have gathered to take the King's oath, we have been attacked by their militia.



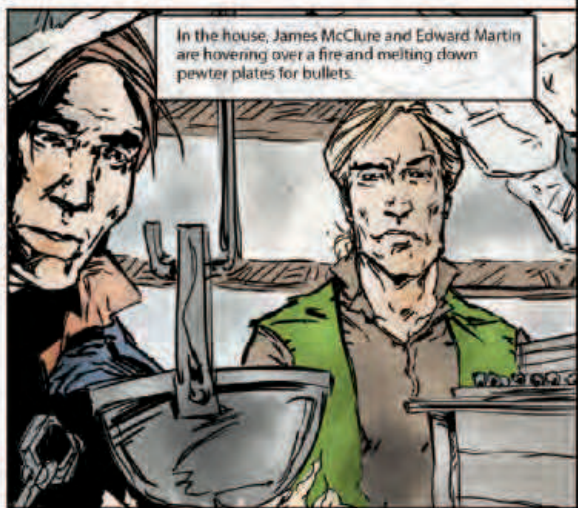
Turnbull sends out his cavalry officer, Captain Christian Huck to bring the "Bounty Irish" into submission. Weaver George, a body servant to Captain Huck, looks on.

I had wished that once you destroyed Hill's Iron Works in the New Acquisition District, that we would have plenty of Loyalists flocking to the King's standard. It seems that Sumner, Bratton, Winn, and Hill are back in the State making trouble for our friends. I am sending you back. These rebels are the worst of Creation.





Huck's force approaches a small cabin next to the road on the edge of fields of corn. This is John and Hugh McClure's home. A new room was under construction on the side of the house. Their mother and youngest sister are stringing beans on the front porch; the beans are spread over a tote bag and piled in two piles.



In the house, James McClure and Edward Martin are hovering over a fire and melting down pewter plates for bullets.



We need to hurry up and catch up to John and Hugh.

It's the Redcoats, grab your gun!



No, it's too late. If we fight, they will burn the house.



Arrest those two men!

George, shoot them if they resist!



Mrs. McClure, where are the other two, John and Hugh?

Those other two cowards are hiding somewhere. Find them!



That's a lie! My boys are no cowards. Find him at Sumter's camp if you dare.



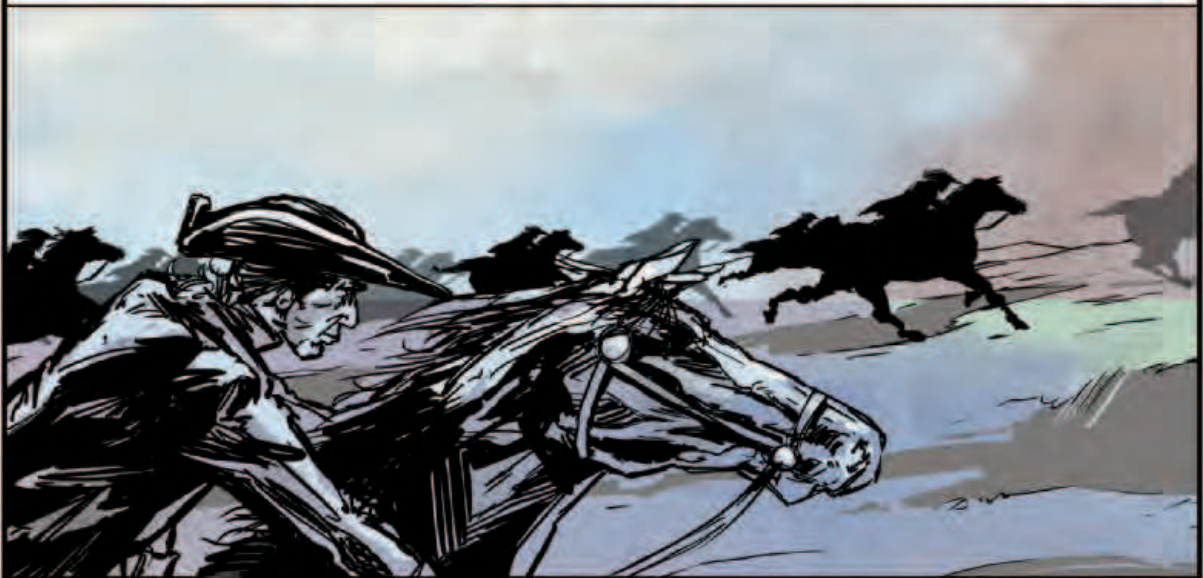
Mrs. McClure, summoning strength in a fit of rage, then tells her youngest daughter to ride to Sumter's camp.



Young Mary McClure rides into Sumter's camp and informs her brothers. They are enraged as they check their guns, ammo pouches and powder horns.



Send out for volunteers to meet us here!



- Boston Massacre March 5, 1770
- Charleston Tea Party December 3, 1773
- Boston Tea Party December 16, 1773
- Intolerable Acts March-May-1774
- 1st Continental Congress September 5, 1774
- Continental Congress passes Associational Acts October 18, 1774
- Camden Resolves November 5, 1774
- War begins at Lexington/Concord April 19, 1775
- Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" January 15, 1776
- British evacuate Boston, MA March 17, 1776
- British failed attack on Charleston, SC Sullivan's Island June 28, 1776
- Declaration of independence July 4, 1776
- The Ring Fight October 12, 1776
- Washington crosses Delaware river December 25, 1776
- Winter camp at Valley Forge December 18, 1777
- Battle of Monmouth, NJ June 28, 1778
- British occupy Savannah, GA December 29, 1778
- Battle of Stono Ferry, SC June 20, 1779
- Battle of Stoney Point, NY July 15-16, 1779

1. Burning of Sumter's home in High Hill of the Santee
2. Williamson Plantation
3. Rocky Mount
4. Hanging Rock
5. Cary's Fort
6. Fishing Creek



- Fall of Charleston, SC May 12, 1780
- Thomas Sumter's House burned May 27, 1780 Dark Times Need Heroes
- Buford's Massacre in Waxhaws May 29, 1780
- Battle of Ramsour's Mill June 20, 1780
- Battle of Williamson's Plantation July 12, 1780 Huck's Defeat
- Battle of Rocky Mount and 1st battle of Hanging Rock July 31, 1780 A Rocky Response
- 2nd Battle of Hanging Rock August 6, 1780 The Shattering
- Battle at Cary's Fort August 15, 1780 On the Warpath to Cary's Fort
- Battle of Camden August 16, 1780
- Battle of Fishing Creek August 18, 1780 The Battle at Fishing Creek
- Battle of Musgrove Mill's August 19, 1780
- Battle at Blue Savannah September 4, 1780
- Battle of Kings Mountain, SC October 7, 1780
- Battle of Fishdam Ford, SC November 9, 1780
- Battle of Blackstocks, SC November 20, 1780
- Battle of Cowpens, SC January 17, 1781
- Raid on Georgetown, SC January 24, 1781
- Battle of Guilford Courthouse, NC March 15, 1781
- Capture of Fort Watson, SC April 23, 1781
- Battle of Hobkirk Hill, Camden, SC April 25, 1781
- Battle of Hayes Station, SC May 8, 1781
- Capture of Orangeburg, SC May 11, 1781
- Capture of Ft. Motte, SC May 12, 1781
- Capture of Ft. Granby, SC May 15, 1781
- Capture of Augusta, GA June 6, 1781
- Siege of Ninety-Six, SC May 21-June 18, 1781
- Battle at Shubrick's Plantation, SC July 17, 1781
- Battle of Eutaw Springs, SC September 8, 1781
- British surrender at Yorktown, VA October 19, 1781
- British evacuation day in Charleston, SC December 14, 1782
- Peace Treaty of Paris September 3, 1783

**Thomas Sumter**, 46, District Eastward of the Wateree River, South Carolina (Stateburg and Eutaw Springs), Husband, Father, Businessman, Planter, Soldier, Politician.



**Mrs. Mary Gaston McClure**, 68, Chester County, South Carolina, mother, grandmother.



### *Patriots*

### *The Battle of Williamson's Plantation (Huck's Defeat)*

**William Bratton**, 40, York County, South Carolina, husband, father, Sheriff, planter, soldier.

**Watt**, unk. age (died in 1837), York County, South Carolina, Husband, Slave.



**Martha Bratton**, 31, York County, South Carolina, wife, mother.



**SC Loyalist Lieutenant John Adamson, ?**  
36, Camden, South Carolina, Merchant, Soldier



**British**

**General Cornwallis, 41, Suffolk County, England, Widower, Father, Soldier**

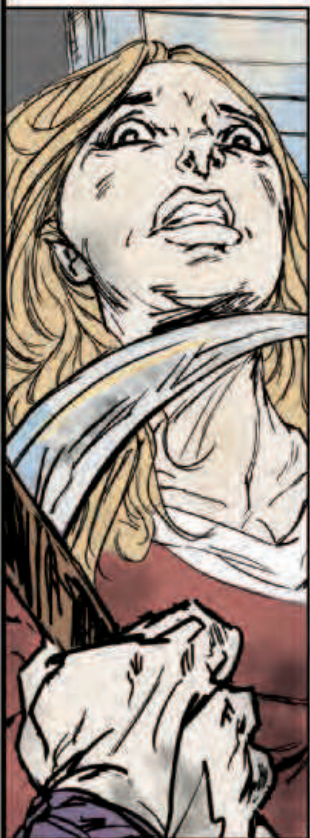


**Lt. Colonel George Turnbull, 52, New York, New York, Soldier**

**Captain Christian Huck, 33, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Lawyer, Soldier**



Meanwhile Huck's men approach the Bratton home.





Christian Huck strides into the house, walking past the cowered dragon and Lt. Adamson. As Huck sits in a chair inside, he reaches out and places the young boy on his knee.



Now, where is your husband, Mrs. Bratton?



He is with Sumter.



And he will fight for his country and cause. **He is no traitor**



Mrs. Bratton, your pride is wasted on me. Your husband will answer to the King. You will fix us dinner and then we will decide what we shall do to your rebel household!



Mrs. Bratton watches from a corner chair as Huck and his men finish their meal. She eyes her children on the front porch sitting silently.

Mrs. Bratton, we are taking your field hands as prisoners and confining you and your children upstairs.

Men, let's mount up. There are oat fields at the Williamson farm to graze our horses. We will come back and burn the Bratton home tomorrow.

She calls out from an attic window to Watt, a slave, who has been hiding in the field.

Watt! Mount a horse and go through the wood trail and find my husband.



The Patriots are on the move. They must feel their way in the dark. At the McClures; they find John and Hugh's mother and hear the harrowing story. The warriors ride on with determined stares.



It is not hard to follow these Redcoats. They are leaving a trail of turned-out women and children.

Yep, I'm afraid it looks like they are headed towards my home.



Huck has got to have a reckoning at this point.

There's a rider approaching!



Hold up there.

Mr. Bratton, that British cavalryman just left your house. He is headed over to the Williams's place to graze their horses. Mrs. Bratton is scared and sent me to warn you.

Thank you, Watt. I am forever grateful.



On approaching the Williamson farm, they can see the small cabin has been taken over and the British Legion have camped around it. The sun is about to break morning.

I say we split up into two groups and take them from both sides. Bratton and I will give you some time to get around them on the other side. We will launch the attack at the same time.

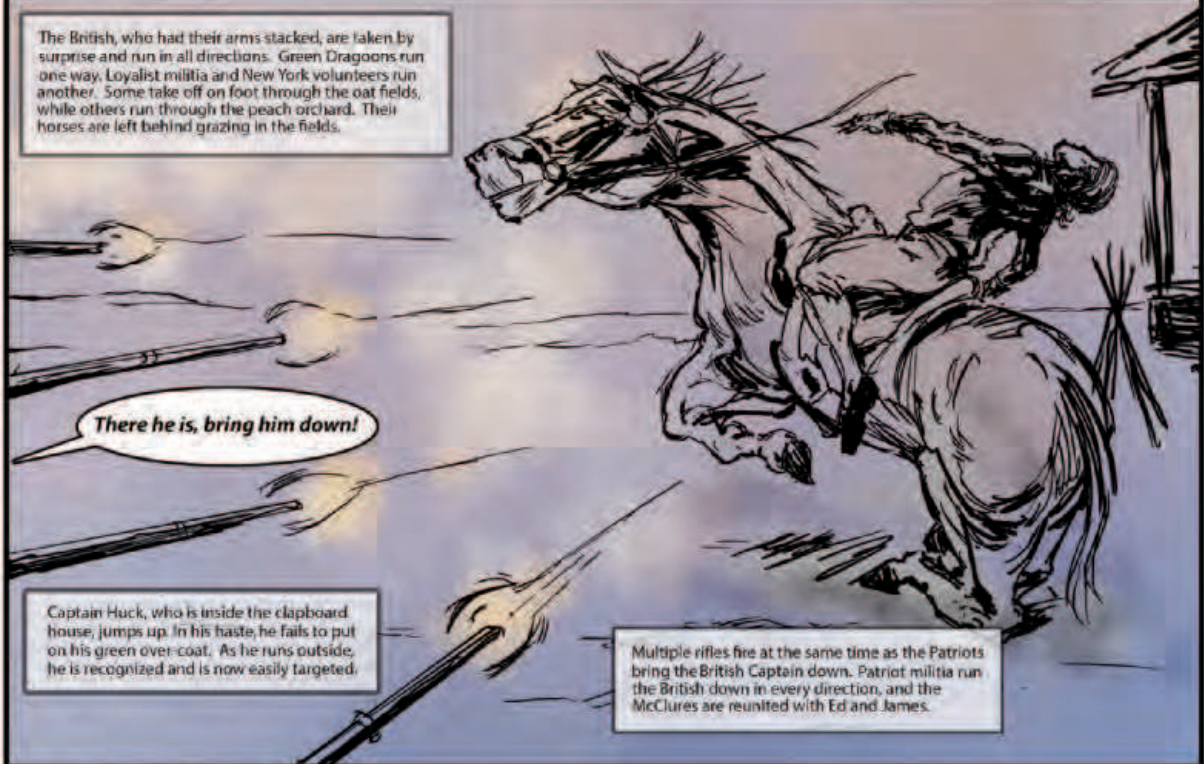


The British, who had their arms stacked, are taken by surprise and run in all directions. Green Dragoons run one way. Loyalist militia and New York volunteers run another. Some take off on foot through the oat fields, while others run through the peach orchard. Their horses are left behind grazing in the fields.

There he is, bring him down!

Captain Huck, who is inside the clapboard house, jumps up. In his haste, he fails to put on his green over-coat. As he runs outside, he is recognized and is now easily targeted.

Multiple rifles fire at the same time as the Patriots bring the British Captain down. Patriot militia run the British down in every direction, and the McClures are reunited with Ed and James.



As bullets whiz through the air, Loyalist Colonel Matthew Floyd and his body servant, Miller Sam, attempt to ride away.

Sam, grab those bags!



Amidst the yells, Floyd barely escapes the outstretched hands of the Patriot militia.



Sam stops and dismounts, but he is immediately fired on and surrounded.

Floyd is last seen spurring his horse through the woods at the edge of the field.





You might want to send someone over to check on your wife and kids. I'll send word to General Sumter.



Mr. Adair, I need your help.

Sir.

You and some of the men here: ride to my home, just down the lane.

Find my wife and children and bring them to me.



Colonel Bratton, there are rumors going around that this man threatened your wife with a sickle at your home last night.



No, it wasn't me. Please bring your wife and she will tell the truth.



We will find out soon enough!

Within minutes, John Adair and his small contingent of fellow soldiers return with Martha Bratton and the young Bratton son, William.



Colonel Bratton walks with Martha up to the fallen and injured Lt. Adamson.



Martha, do you recognize this man?

Yes, Will.



This is Lt. Adamson. He saved my life yesterday.



Please bring these wounded men to our house. They need our care.



Colonel Bratton and Colonel Winn survey the front porch and yard of the Bratton home. It is strewn with the wounded and dying.





At Lt. Colonel Turnbull's office at Rocky Mount, a British soldier comes in all frantic.

Sir, We have news from Captain Huck's expedition. He has been defeated and killed!

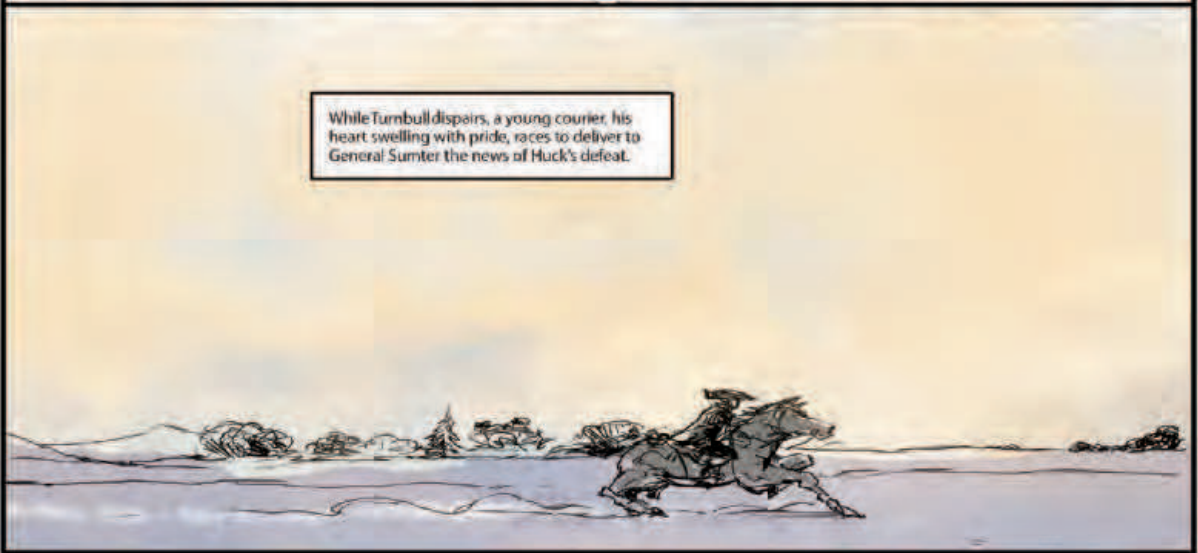


What!? That can't be!

Sumter will be coming here next. I must inform Cornwallis.



While Turnbull dispairs, a young courier, his heart swelling with pride, races to deliver to General Sumter the news of Huck's defeat.







## ***Footsteps of Heroes: Mary McClure and Martha Bratton***

Perhaps the story of British occupation is best taught through the perils of the frontier women on the home front. Forced to reckon with Indian raids and bands of outlaws, these were not the women of the genteel plantations in the parishes outside of Charleston. These women grew up in households that had survived and flourished in that dangerous land of the Upstate of South Carolina, far away from law and order. Their lives had been forged in the fire of threats and the cold reality of life-and-death struggles. And many would face these threats alone while the men were away. So, when the British came with more of the same, is it any wonder that these bold women answered in like manner?

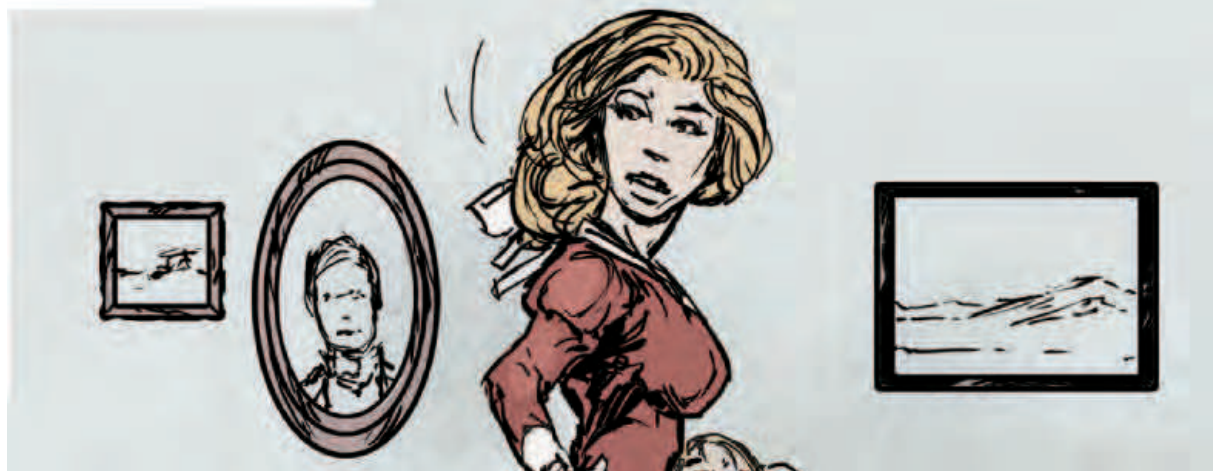
Mary Gaston McClure had three sons and one son-in-law who served in the war on the Patriot side. A widower, she and her daughters held down the family farm while the men came and went with the militia. Ever the ardent Patriot and a woman of devout Presbyterian beliefs, she possessed a strong moral code mixed with an independent will. She would hold her own in defiance of British Captain Christian Huck.

She was the sister of Justice John Gaston, who himself had many sons enrolled in the Patriot cause.

Martha Bratton stared down a reaping hook meant for her head and bravely spoke as the Redcoats demanded information about her husband. She walked a precarious thin line, dealing with the British Captain Christian Huck. Despite her perilous situation, she summoned the courage to protect her children, defend her husband, and send for help.

On another occasion, Martha Bratton blew up gunpowder stored on her property to keep it from the approaching British soldiers. It is said that she boldly proclaimed to them that she had done it in defense of her country.

## ***Freedom Reigns!***



# HISTORYMAN PODCAST & COMIC BOOK SERIES



CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST

[WWW.HISTORYMANPODCAST.COM](http://WWW.HISTORYMANPODCAST.COM)



**SC 250**  
ANNIVERSARY  
*American Revolution*  
[www.southcarolina250.com](http://www.southcarolina250.com)

THE ACTIVITY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS WORK HAS BEEN FINANCED IN PART WITH STATE FUNDS FROM THE SC AMERICAN REVOLUTION SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMISSION (SC250). HOWEVER, THE CONTENTS AND OPINIONS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OR POLICIES OF SC250, NOR DOES THE MENTION OF TRADE NAMES OR COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT OR RECOMMENDATION BY SC250.



Long Gone SC  
[LongGoneSC.com](http://LongGoneSC.com)

Proudly serving the  
US Army since 1775!

US Army Adjutant General's Corp Museum  
4392 Magruder Avenue  
Fort Jackson, SC 29207

*"DEFEND and SERVE"*

*Liberty Live*  
A Division of South Carolina 1776

Speaking in collaboration, STEM based American Revolution  
weekly opportunities for the classroom or homeschool  
21+ daily lessons

Connect Liberty & Live at [SouthCarolina1776.org](http://SouthCarolina1776.org)

**HUCK'S DEFEAT**

