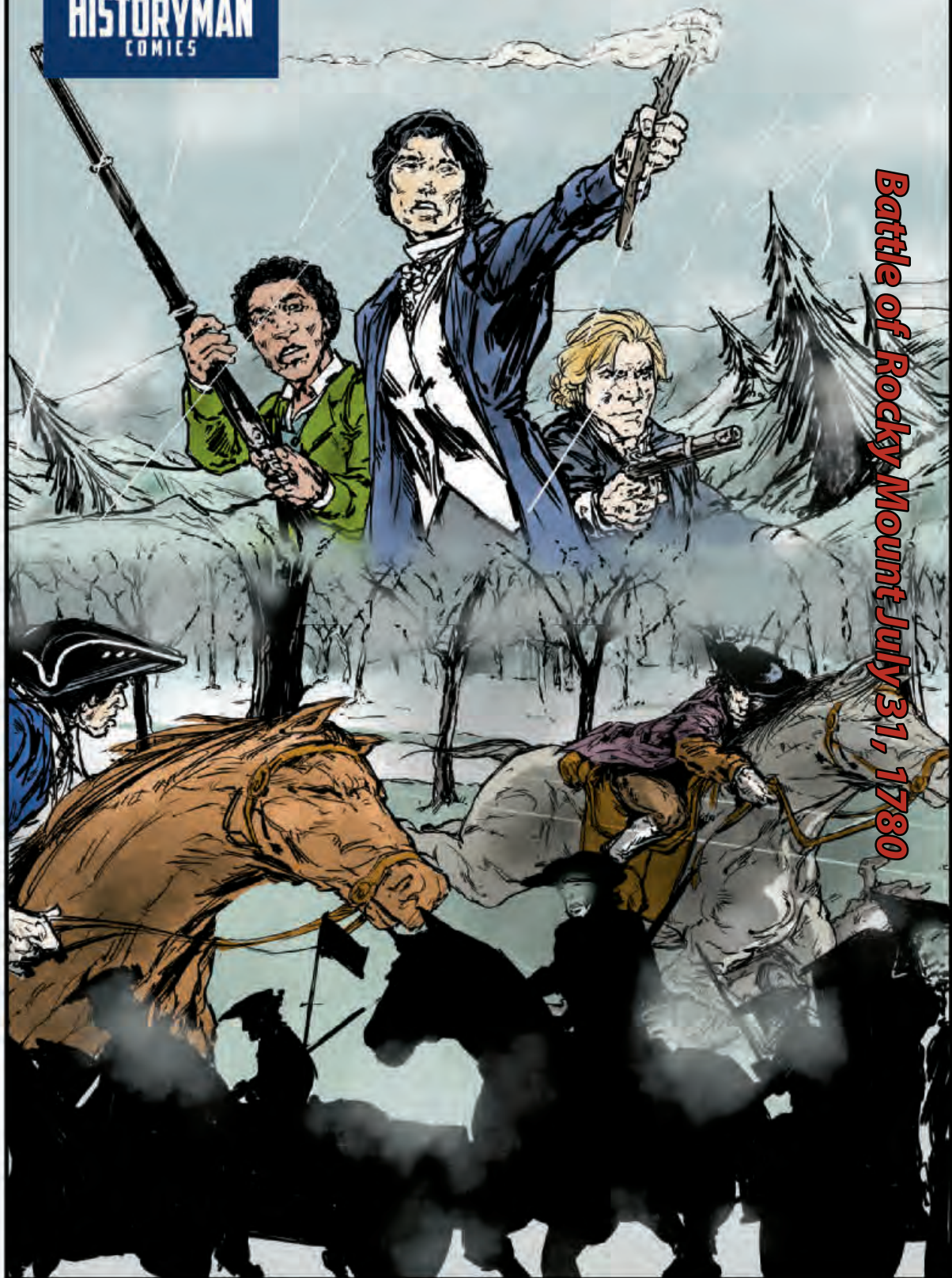




# A Rocky Response



*Battle of Rocky Mount July 31, 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 Preddy'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)



# A Rocky Response

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

## A Rocky Response

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.

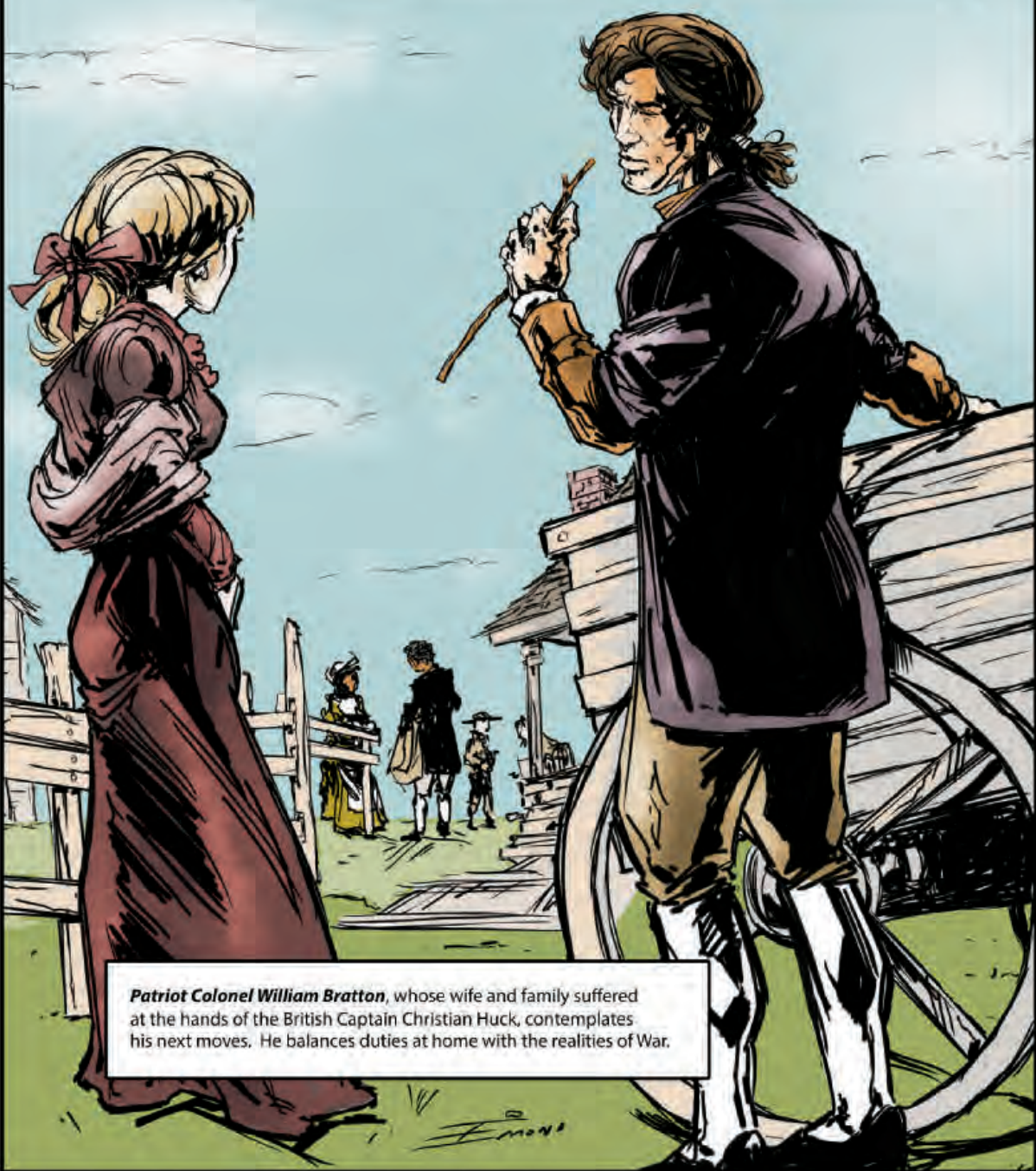


# 1780



## A Rocky Response

Summer of 1780, the British have taken Charleston and have moved into the backcountry of South Carolina. There is no standing Continental army to oppose them. **Thomas Sumter** has been elected by some surviving South Carolina Patriots to serve as their general. His rag-tag group of men defeat British Captain Christian Huck at Williamson's Plantation.



**Patriot Colonel William Bratton**, whose wife and family suffered at the hands of the British Captain Christian Huck, contemplates his next moves. He balances duties at home with the realities of War.



I am glad that Watt and Polly are here.

I must go back to help Sumter and his men.



I know.

But we must bring in these crops of corn and beans first.

Otherwise, our family will have no food.



Our Patriot ladies will band together to help bring in the crops of all our friends.

We will handle the fields and the children. **You handle the fighting.**



King George may have something to say about that!

Who knows what he will do if he catches you?



I love you.

I don't know him at all. I've never seen him. **But I know you. And I trust you. Go.**



You and the Missus have a nice reunion?

Yea, something like that. She's quite a woman. The women look to be taking care of each other while we are away.



Are you aid-de-camp now?

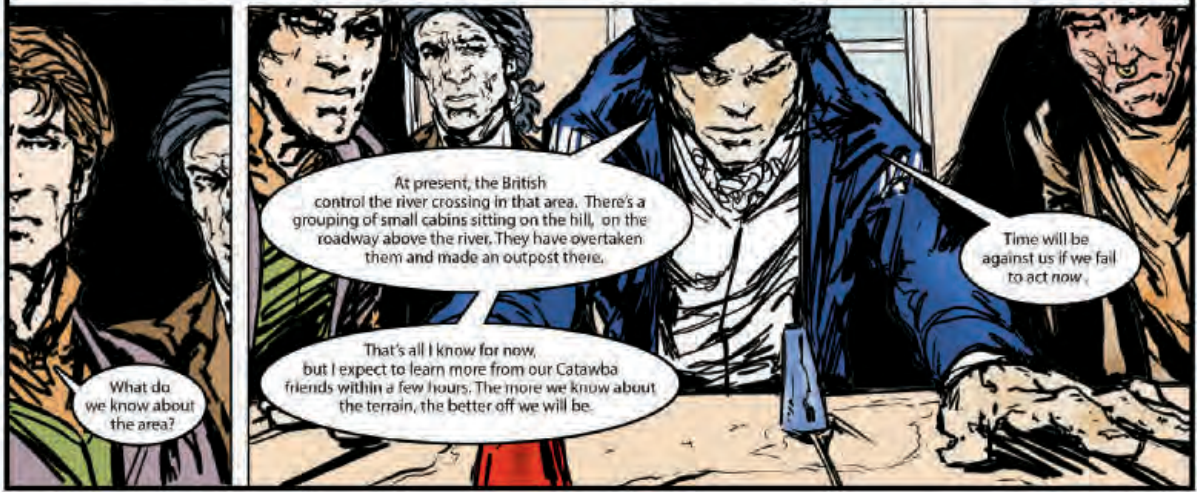


I was just going in to see General Sumter. Come with me and we'll discuss our strategy together.



Gentlemen... and those not so gentle!

I am proposing a two-pronged attack on the British encampments north of Camden: Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock. Major William Richardson Davie will keep Hanging Rock busy while we lay siege to Rocky Mount.




At present, the British control the river crossing in that area. There's a grouping of small cabins sitting on the hill, on the roadway above the river. They have overtaken them and made an outpost there.

Time will be against us if we fail to act now.


That's all I know for now, but I expect to learn more from our Catawba friends within a few hours. The more we know about the terrain, the better off we will be.

What do we know about the area?




Welcome back, men!  
We've got a great mission  
before us. We're grateful to  
see you here.

Get those guns cleaned  
and settle into camp.



Well, there's more men here  
than I expected to see! We've gone from a  
quiet little hideout to a bustling village. Where  
did all these guys come from?


Wait until you hear  
their story. I'll just gather a few to  
explain where they came from and  
what they brought with them.



Colonel Lisle  
had us pose as loyalists. So,  
we go into the Tory camp and pass  
ourselves off as good men of the King.  
We were then given these  
weapons and supplies.

Once we were turned  
out, we made our way to Colonel Neel and then  
to here. Now we will use the British weapons  
and ammunition against them.

That sounds like it  
came right out of the writings of  
Homer. Perhaps you are the Spartans  
in this tale we are writing.




Colonel Neel and his Spartans are here along with Major Davie and his band of horsemen. Edward Lacey, William Hill, James Williams, the Gastons, and Rob Irwin are in camp with their men as well. We will make use of the time we have together.

What are we doing, Mr. Bratton?




Well,...

Colonel Lisle



I think General Sumter is of the same mindset as the rest of us.

We're tired of being on the defensive. Now the hunted become the hunters.



And hunting is *what we do best*.





We are here to see Sumter.

Follow me.



Hey, my friends! What news do you have?

Colone!Turnbull has three buildings fortified at Rocky Mount with about 150 men. Two are houses and one is a keyholed building.



They appear to be the same old cabins that have been there for years. Turnbull used cut trees to surround the buildings with abatis and one redoubt.

There are open fields for grazing on either side of the community. It was smart for them to build an outpost there because it watches the road to the river crossing.

Great work! Have your men ready. We will leave soon.



Well, men what do you think?

If you hurry, you may be able to take Rocky Mount. But you have to keep the Hanging Rock outpost occupied long enough to make it work.

If the Brits at Hanging Rock get across the river, they will sweep up the hill and hit us in the flanks while we are busy with Turnbull.

Yep, it's risky. But I am sure Davie can cause enough of a commotion to make it work.

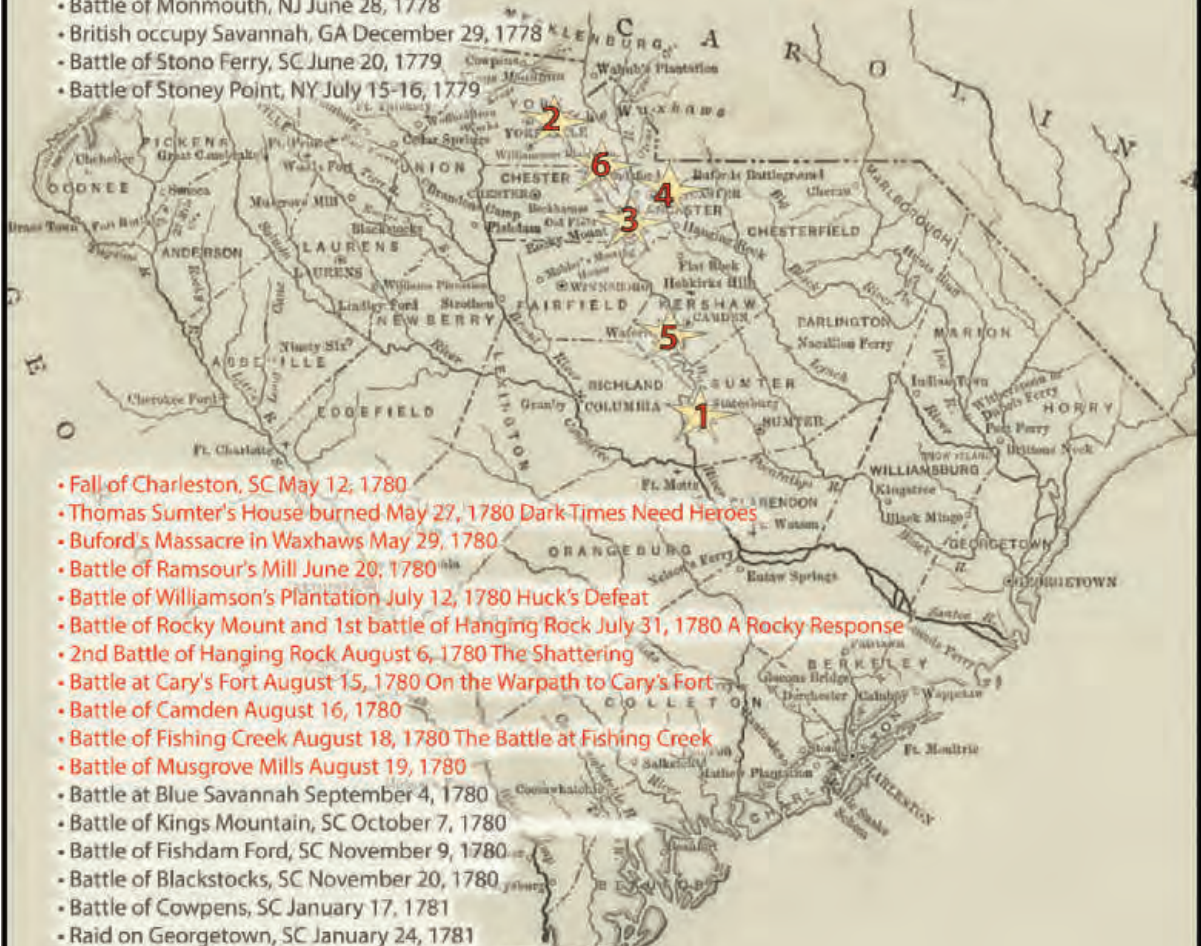


We don't have any cannons to use against the fortifications. We are going to have to **rely on surprise, bluff, and some ingenuity.**

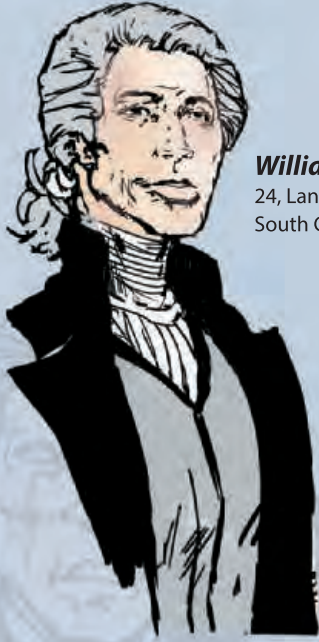
Men, I know one thing for sure. We are the only ones standing between the lobsterbacks and the loss of South Carolina. A fight **must be made now!**

- 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 Mills 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



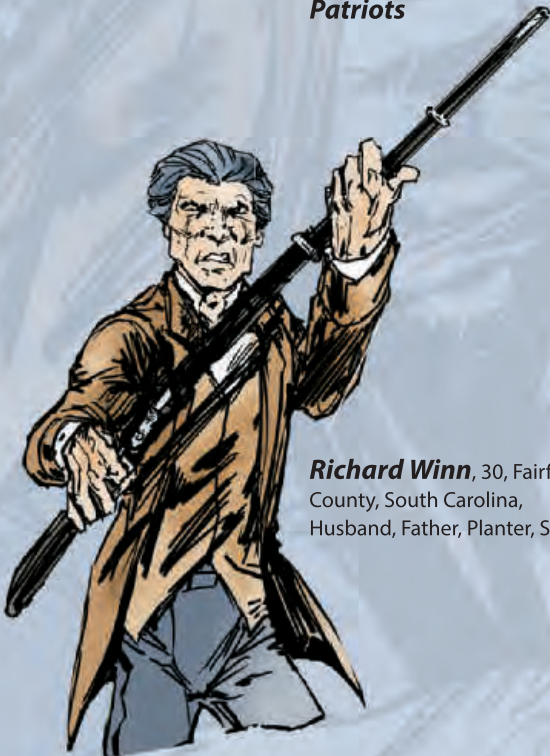
**William Richardson Davie**,  
24, Lancaster County,  
South Carolina, Lawyer, Soldier



**William Hill**, 39, York County,  
South Carolina, Husband, Father,  
Proprietor (ironworks), Soldier

## **The Battle of Rocky Mount**

### **Patriots**



**Richard Winn**, 30, Fairfield  
County, South Carolina,  
Husband, Father, Planter, Soldier

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





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

**British**



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



Get out of my way!

Whoa! Hold it! Stop!



What is going on here?

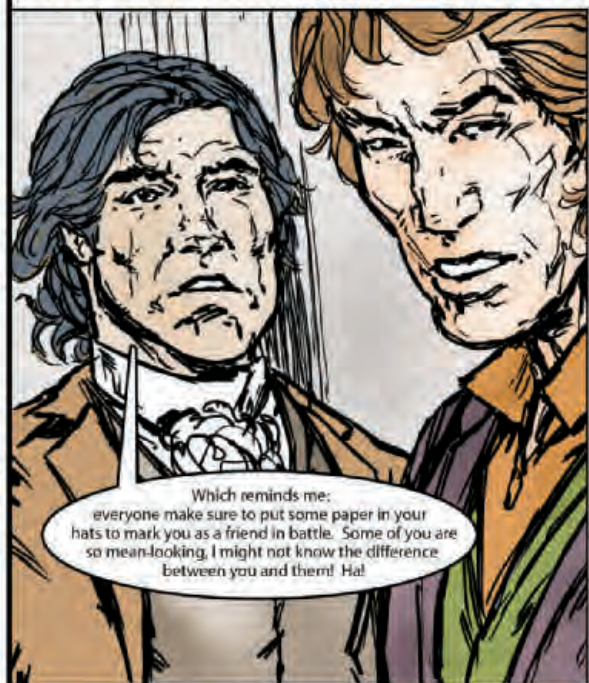


Oh, sorry sir. Just trying to get by some of these men.

You need to watch where you are going is what you need to do!



All right, settle down! We are all on the same side here.



Which reminds me: everyone make sure to put some paper in your hats to mark you as a friend in battle. Some of you are so mean-looking, I might not know the difference between you and them! Ha!



We need to get these men into some action before their tempers rise and they start fighting each other, or leaving.

General Sumter requests that your men be ready to go tonight.

Very good, thank you.



Major  
Davie, we are counting  
on you to keep them occupied at  
Hanging Rock while we are busy  
across the river at  
Rocky Mount.



There are a lot  
of factors that could  
hurt or help us, not the  
least of which is  
the weather.

If we both move  
up and use surprise to our  
advantage, we may be  
fortunate.



We'll cross the  
river here as you continue on.  
We will meet again when it's all over.  
Godspeed.







Grab him!



He's just out of reach!

Fire!



They're getting away!  
After them!



Whoa! Whoa!  
There's the camp.  
Fire!

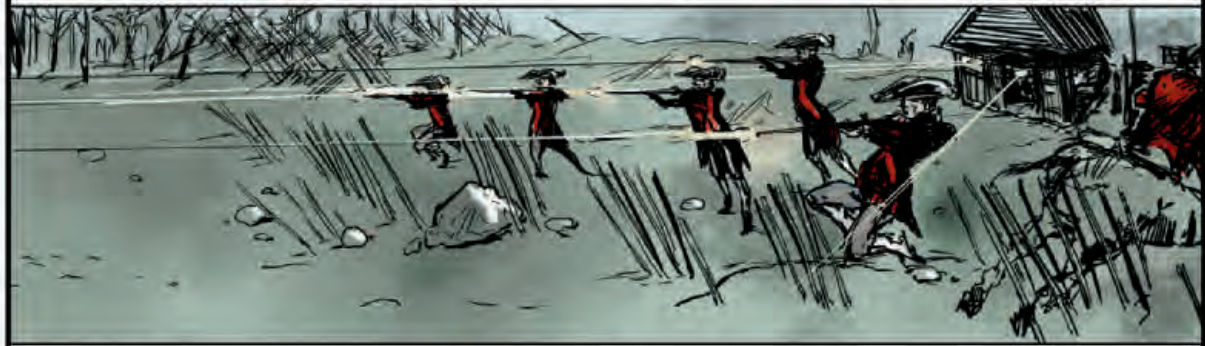


No!  
Pull back! They made  
it inside!



Well, sir, Turnbull knows we are here. So much for surprise.

Yep, we can't fight them head on from this position. Move your men around the flank, through that field and see if you can fire into those old clapboard houses.



See that big rock between us and the house? Let's plan on using that for cover for some bold volunteers.




Old Turnbull is a good officer. He won't surrender without a fight.



We've taken the small redoubt, but I think we are going to need another plan. They must have reinforced those walls. Our bullets are having no effect.

I believe you are right.



We need to use fire to persuade them to surrender.

Fashion some torches from kindling and tree sap. I think if we fire that one building, it will cause a chain reaction.

Perhaps that will change their minds when they have nothing to defend and no place to hide.



Alright boys, third times the charm! Give Colonel Hill and Mr. Johnson covering fire to get to the rock..



Run, boys, run!



Sir, the Brits are coming out after the men at the rock! Come back men!

Wow, that was rough. Let's try this again.

This time, make sure everyone concentrates their fire between the building and the rock to keep those blasted Brits from coming out!



Fire!



They made it! That fire is spreading! We've done it! Keep firing, boys. They will surrender now!



That's it, boys.  
Our hopes have been dashed  
by the rain. Let's regroup and maybe come  
back when we find some artillery. Round  
everyone up and head back  
to camp.

Colonel Winn,  
cover our rear  
and make sure they  
don't overtake us.

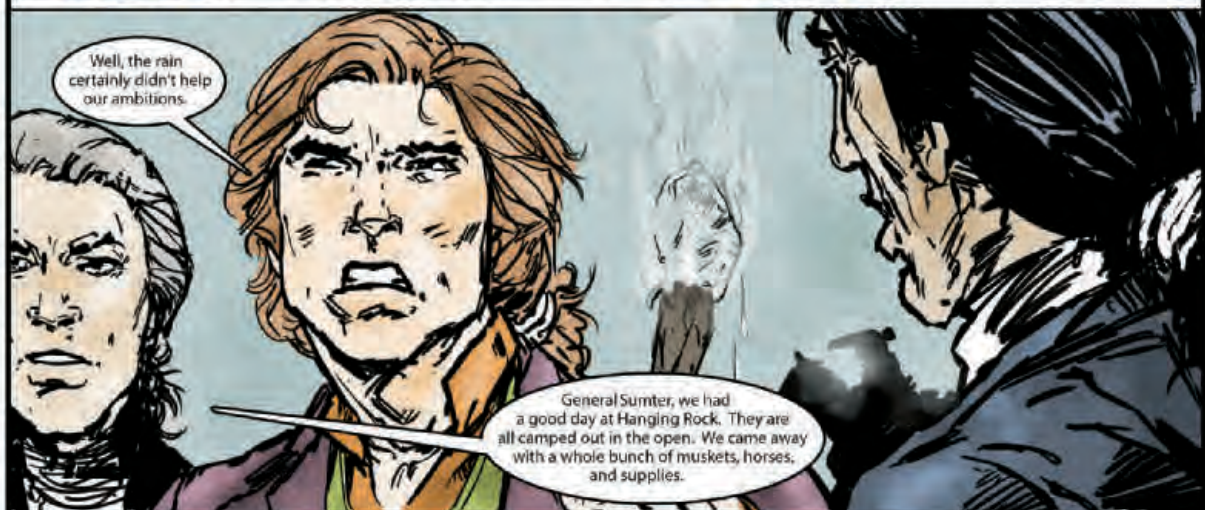
Make sure  
you keep your  
powder dry.





I guess we missed our chance with the guys out in the open. Once they got in those houses, we couldn't get them out.

We need to think about finding some cannon at some point, because our muskets and rifles won't do the trick on fortifications and in siege warfare.



Well, the rain certainly didn't help our ambitions.

General Sumter, we had a good day at Hanging Rock. They are all camped out in the open. We came away with a whole bunch of muskets, horses, and supplies.



Do you think it would be worth it to hit them again? We didn't have any luck at Rocky Mount. We lost Andrew Neel and about 6 men.



You never can tell about these things. But if we roll up one camp at Hanging Rock and push them into the others, we might just win the day.



I like it! It's bold and plays to our strengths. Let's consolidate our men and prepare. We are going back to Hanging Rock.



## Footsteps of Heroes: The Associational Documents

From 1774-1776 the citizens of the 13 colonies regularly articulated their dissatisfaction with the policies of the Royal Government in England. Citizens from the Carolinas added their thoughts to these discussions. These would be published for the public to read in the newspapers of the colonies. Here are some highlights:

On August 8, 1774 the people around Salisbury, North Carolina declared that they were united with Boston regarding an infringement upon their rights by England. These are known as the Rowan Resolves.

The Edenton Tea Party of October 25, 1774 was a letter penned by the women of Edenton, North Carolina. The bold women declared that they were in support of the protest of taxation without representation.

A Camden, South Carolina Grand Jury met on November 5, 1774. They delivered a statement that said: "we rather choose to die freemen than to live slaves bound by laws, in the formation of which we have no participation."

A Cheraw, South Carolina Grand Jury would meet shortly after the Camden court concluded. Members would echo similar sentiments when they penned: "we are fully convinced that we cannot be Constitutionally taxed but by representatives of our own election, or bound by any laws than those to which they have assented."

Comparable views of the jury members from Georgetown, South Carolina were published in the same issue of the South Carolina Gazette on December 12, 1774.

People from the District Eastward of the Wateree River in South Carolina met in the summer of 1775 and stated, among other things, that they felt united and justified: "in resisting force by force". They went on to vow to: "sacrifice our lives and fortunes to secure her safety and freedom."

The Tryon Association, penned at Mauney's Tavern near present-day Bessimer City, North Carolina on August 14, 1775, promised: "this Engagement we will continue in and hold sacred 'till a Reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain and America on Constitutional principles which we most ardently desire".

Almost two years after the first Associational Documents were published, the Declaration of Independence would be written and ratified on July 4, 1776.

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 Southern Campaign 1780

Specializing in customized, STEM-based American Revolution learning experiences for the classroom or homeschool.  
25+ century lessons

Contact Liberty Live at [SouthernCampaign1780.org](http://SouthernCampaign1780.org)



**A ROCKY RESPONSE**

