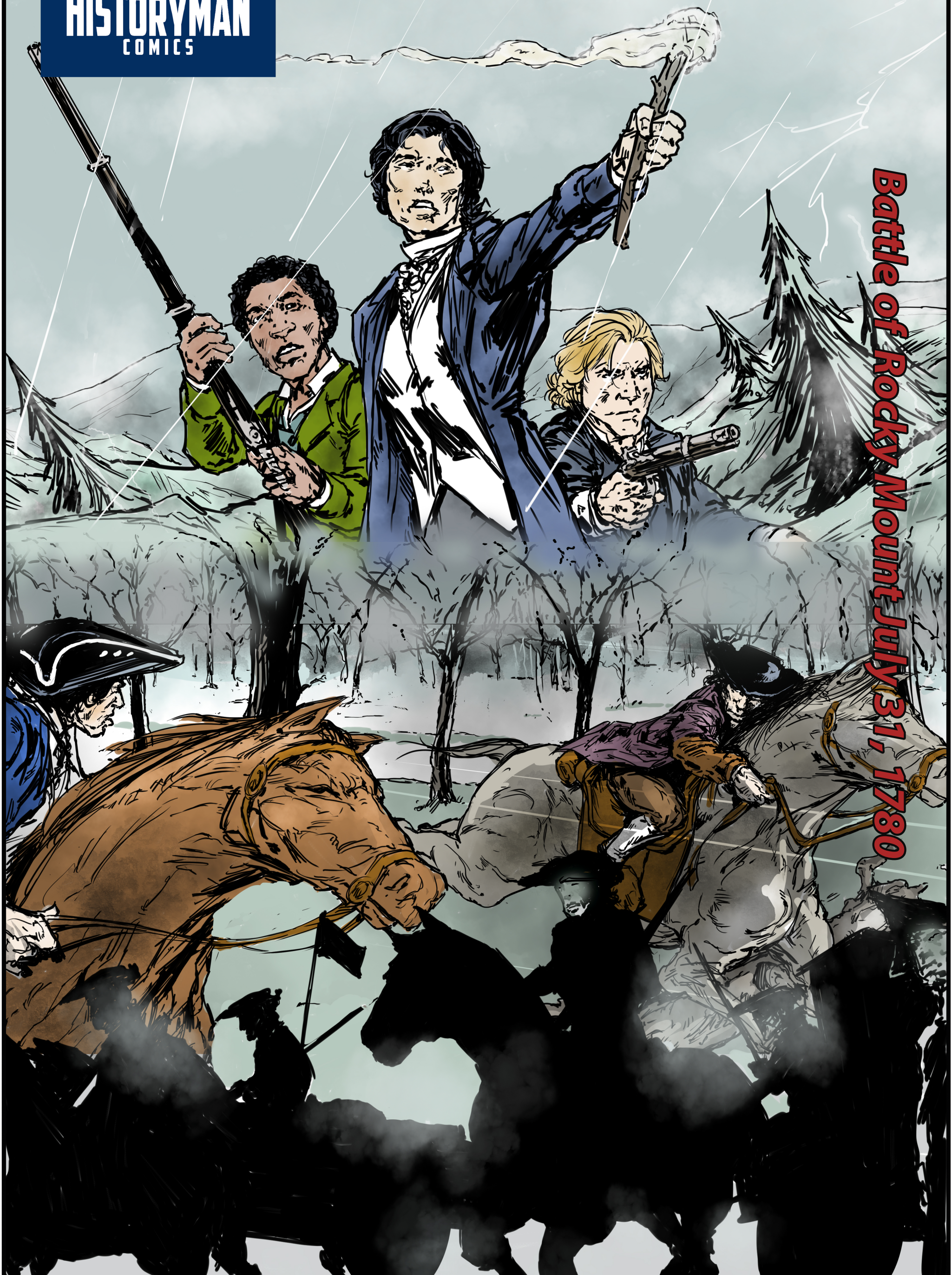
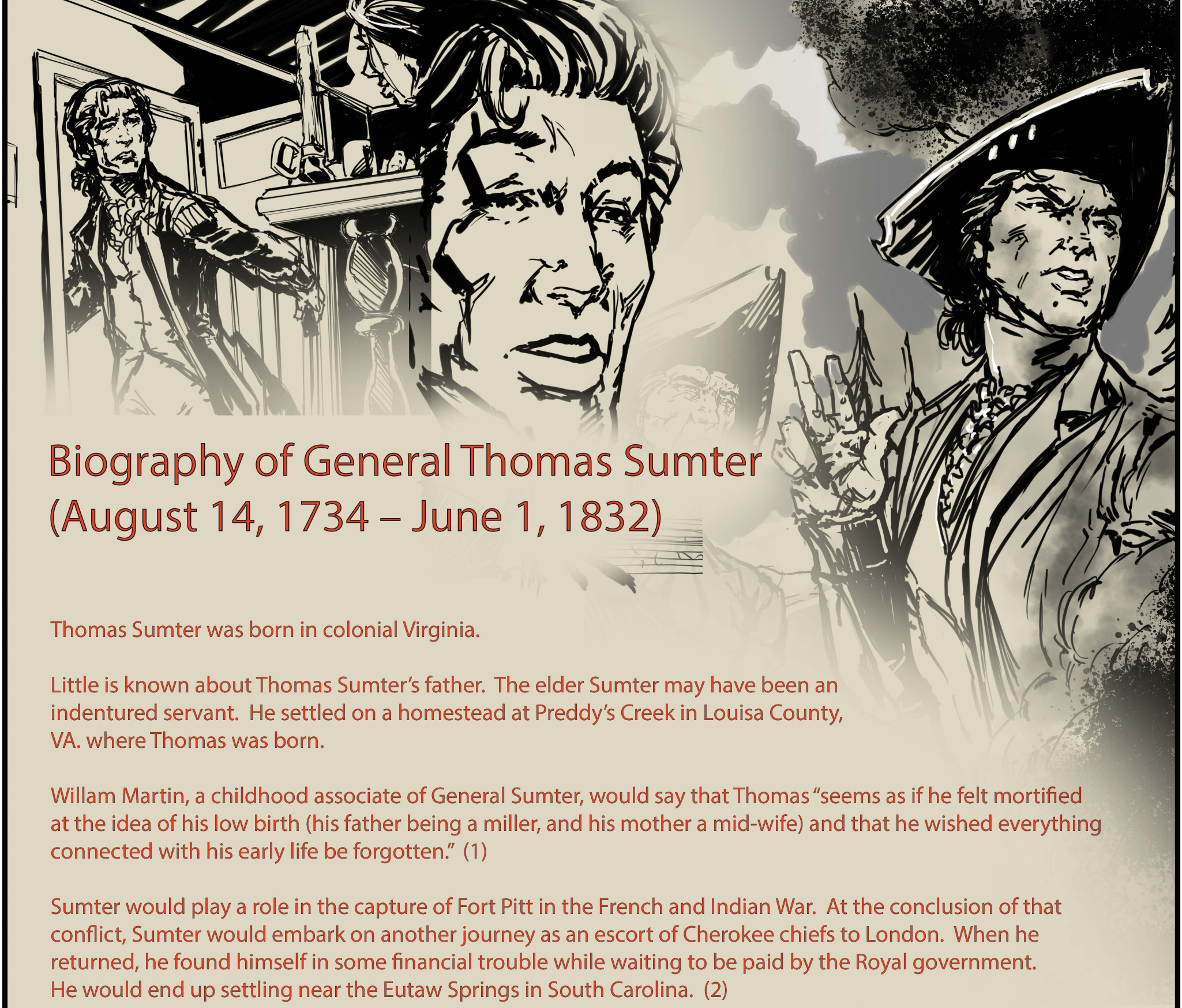




A Rocky Response



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.

Willam 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

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A Rocky Response

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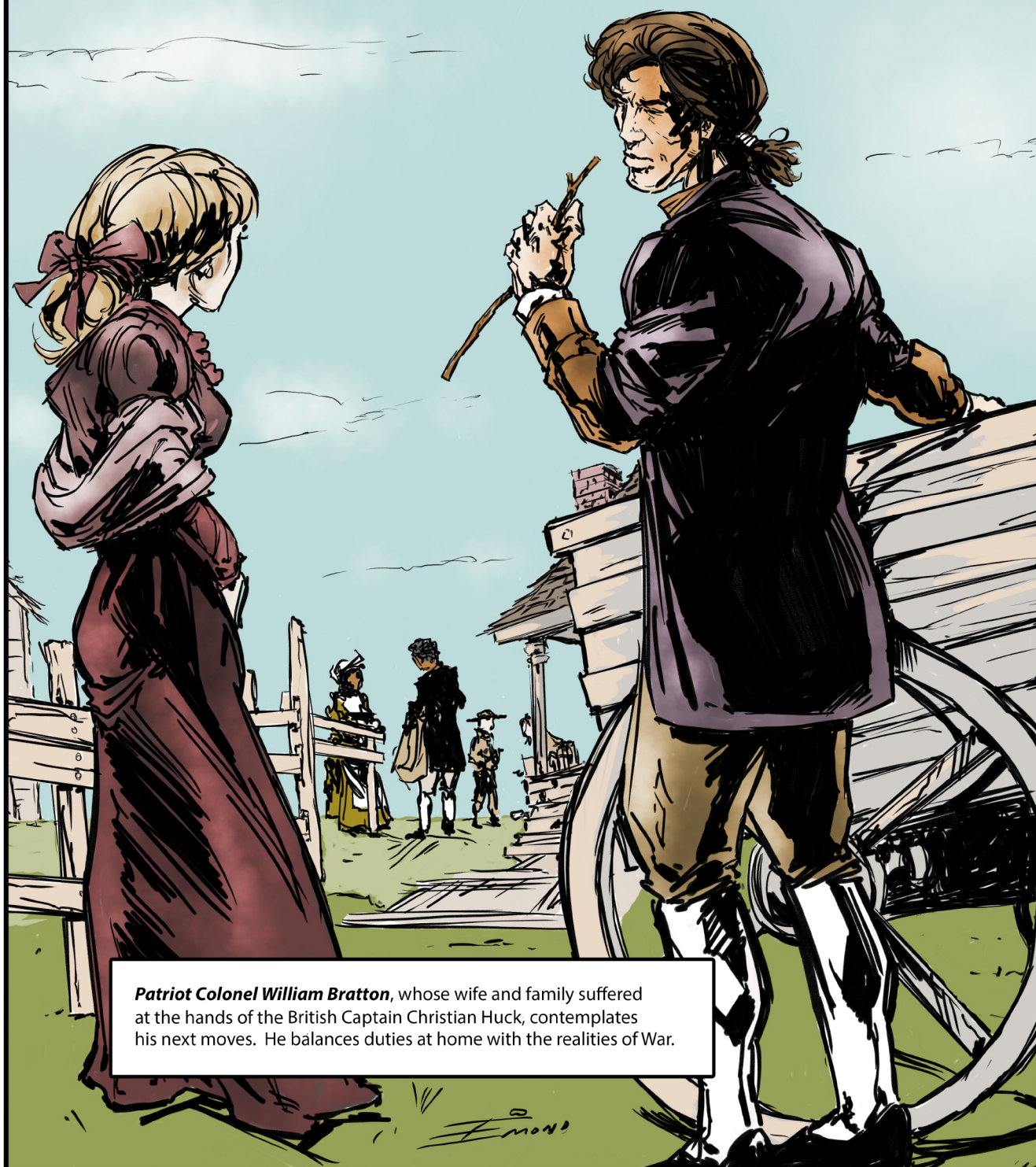


1780



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.**



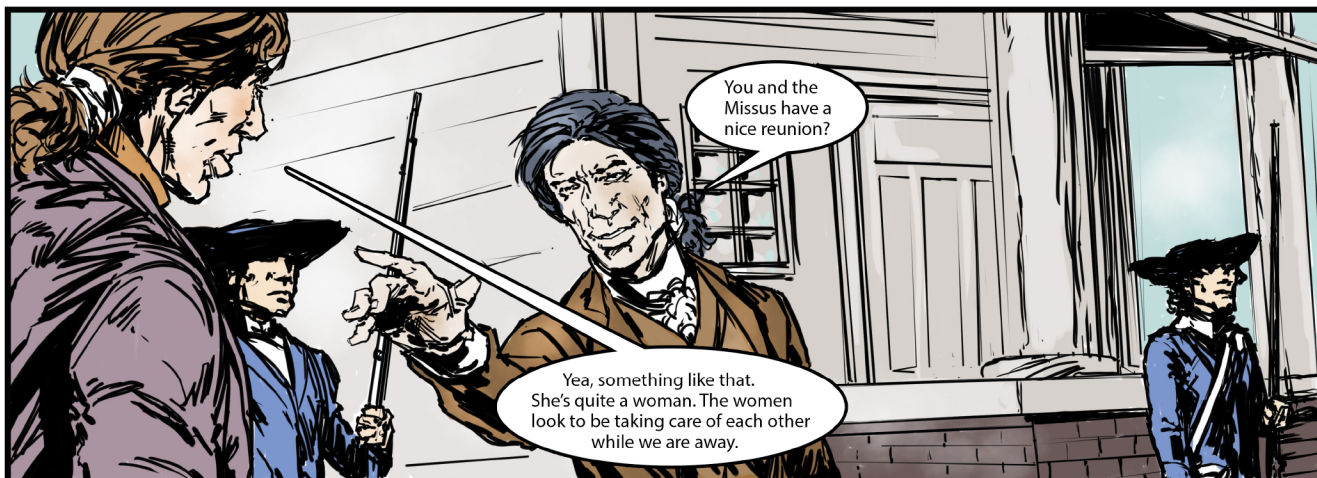
King George may have something to say about that!

Who knows what he will do if he catches you?



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

I love you.







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?

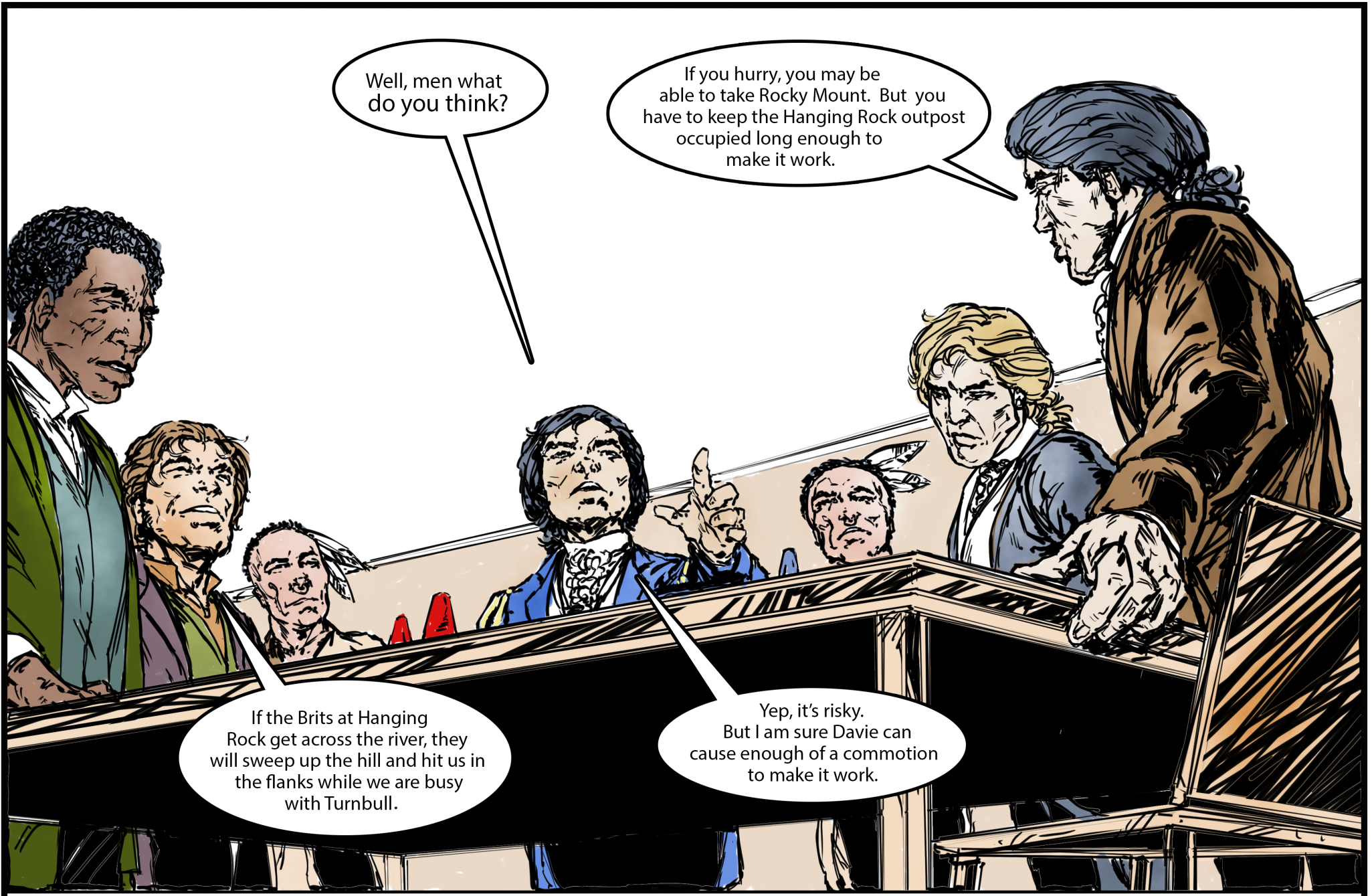
Colonel Turnbull has three buildings fortified at Rocky Mount with about 150 men. Two are houses and one is a keyholed building.



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.

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

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.

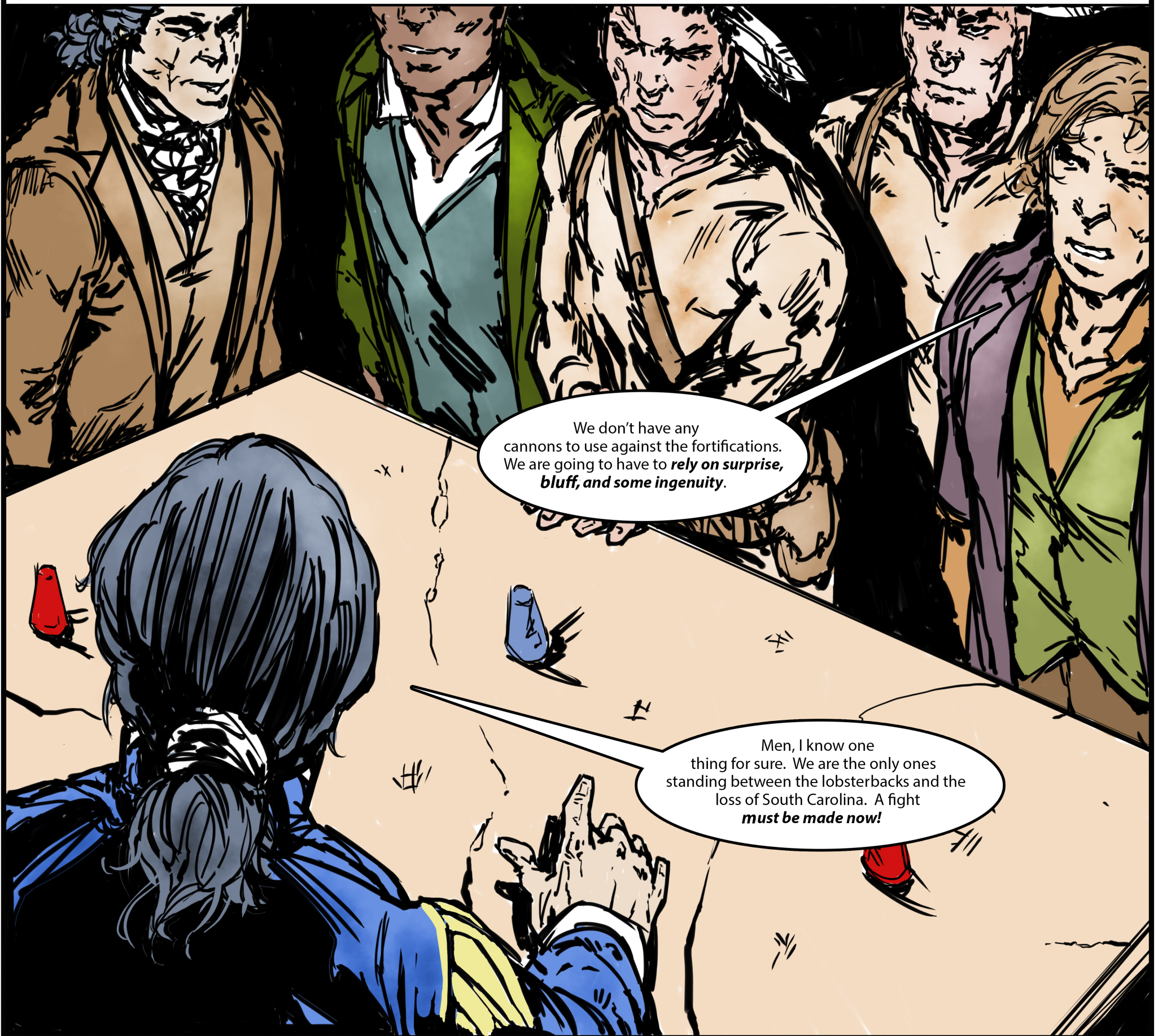


Well, men what do you think?

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.

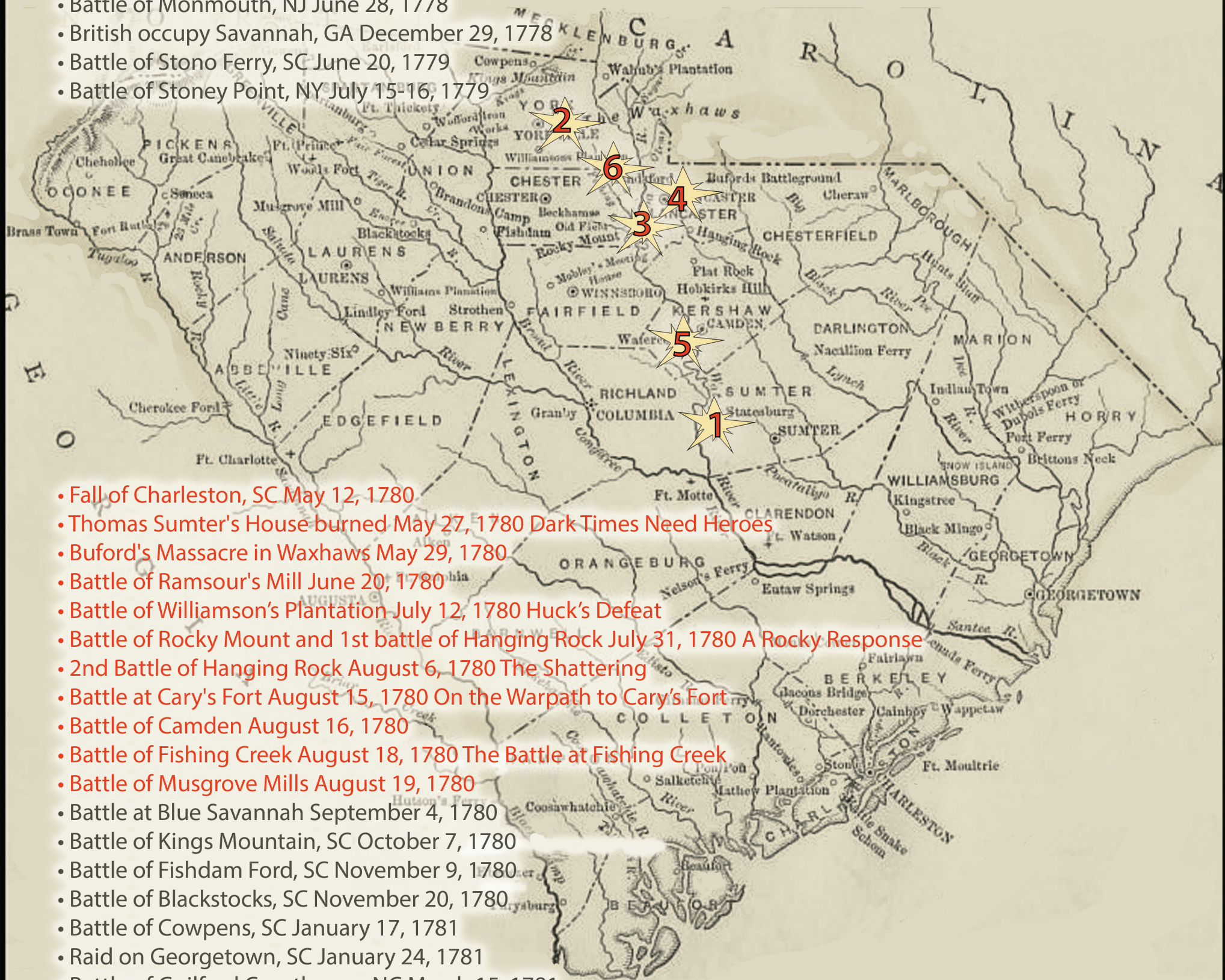


We don't have any cannons to use against the fortifications. We are going to have to **rely on surprise, bluff, and some ingenuity.**

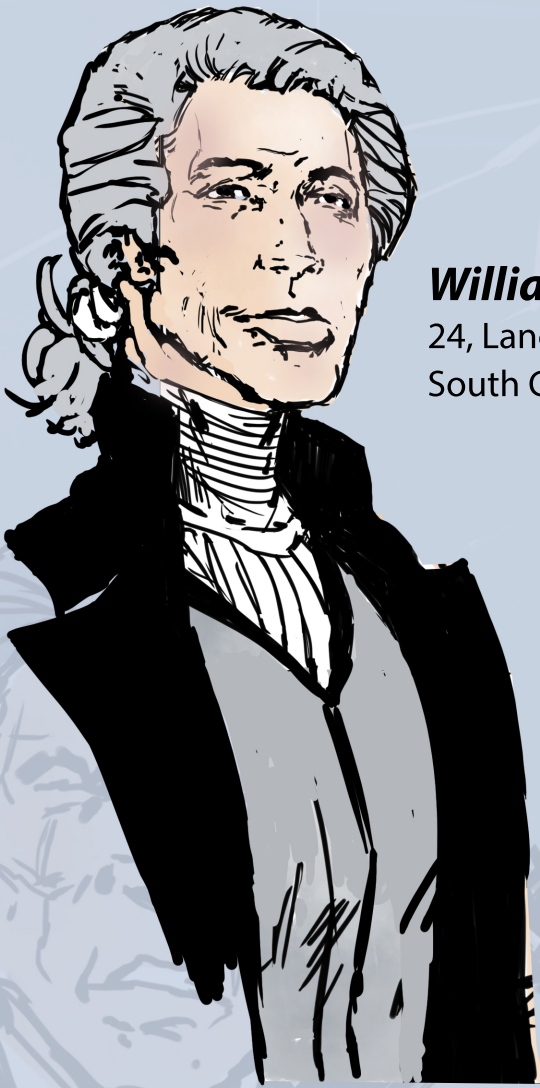
Men, I know one thing for sure. We are the only ones standing between the lobsterbacks and the loss of South Carolina. A fight **must be made now!**

- 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



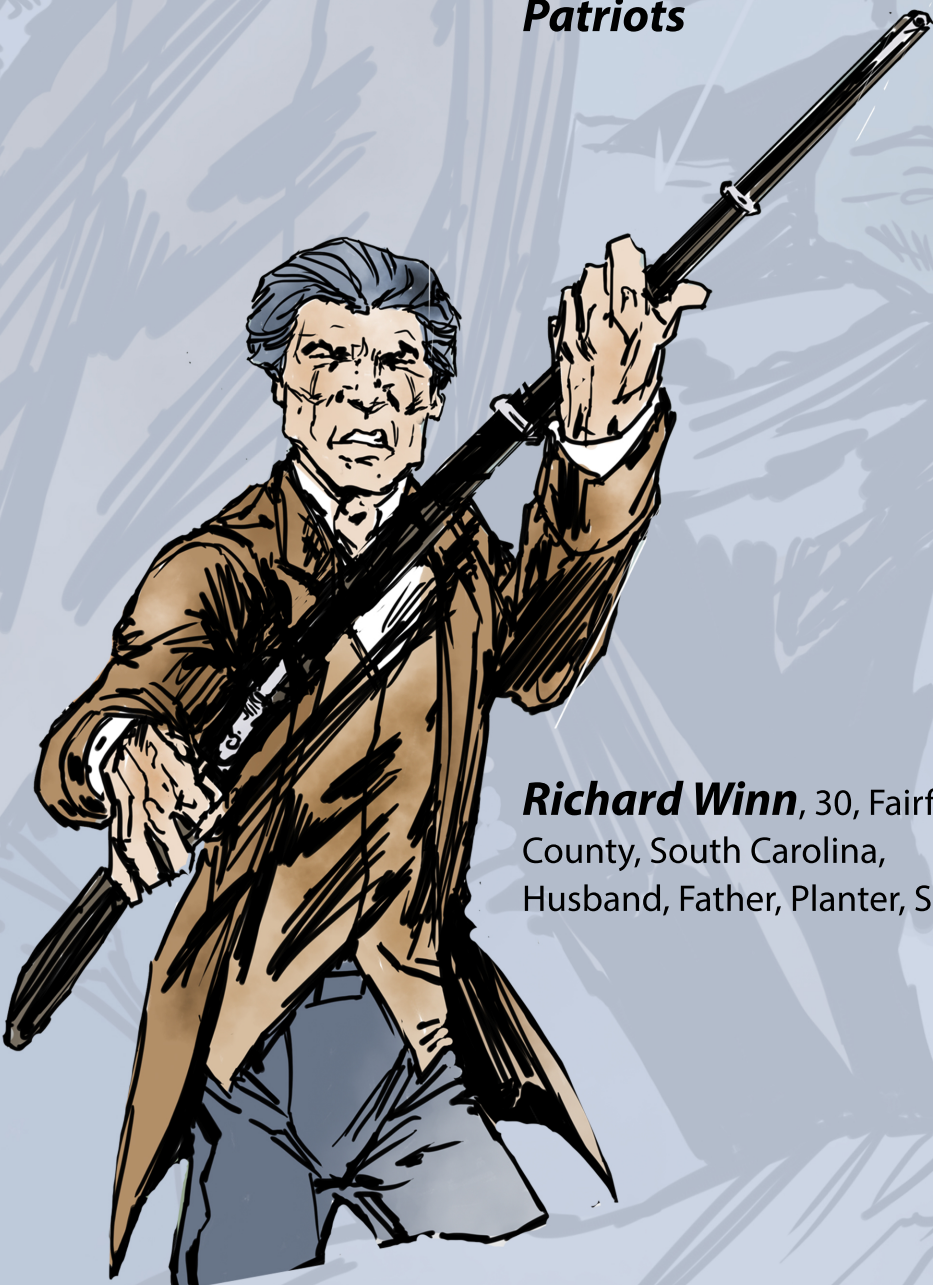
William Richardson Davie,
24, Lancaster County,
South Carolina, Lawyer, Soldier



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



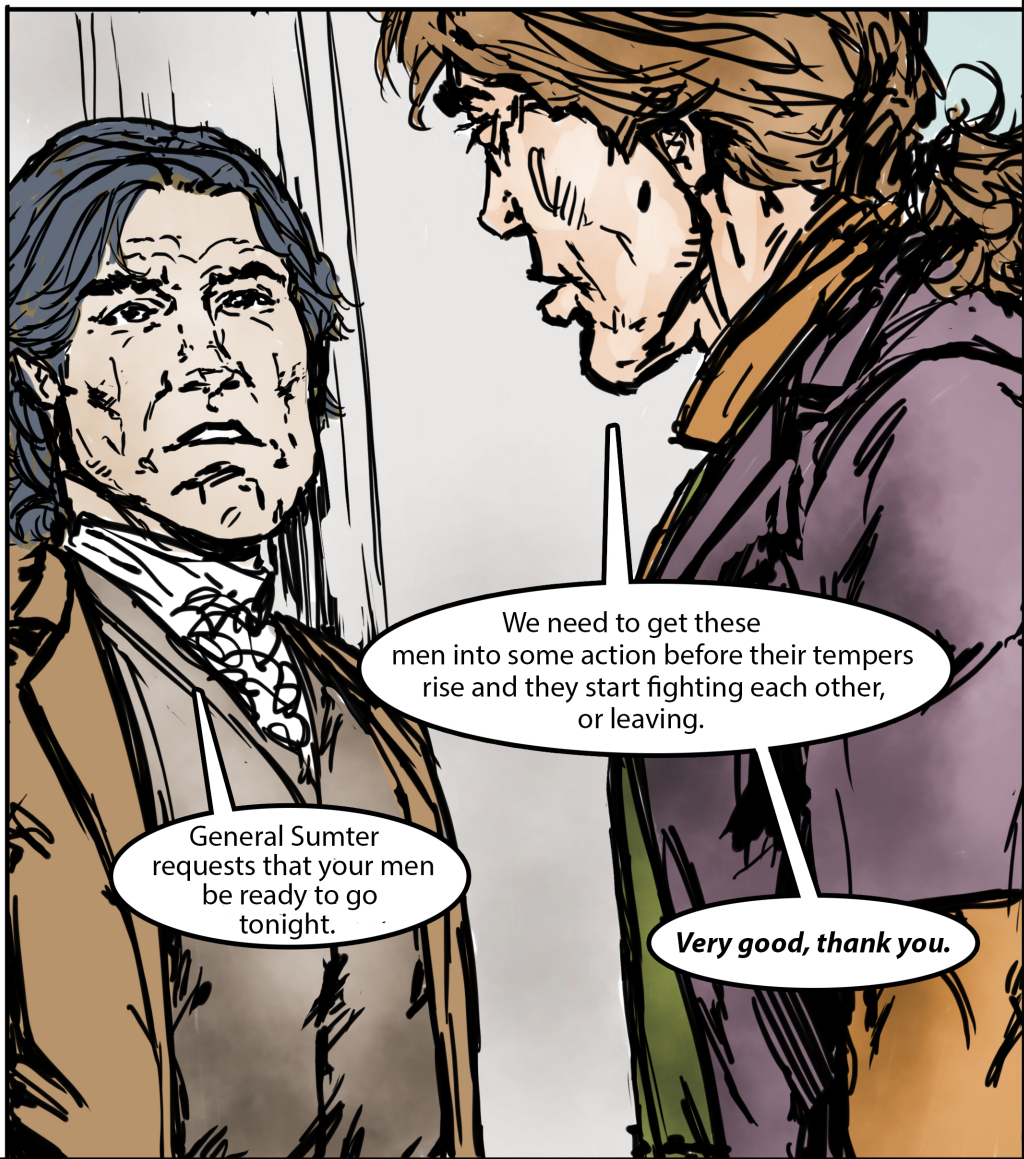
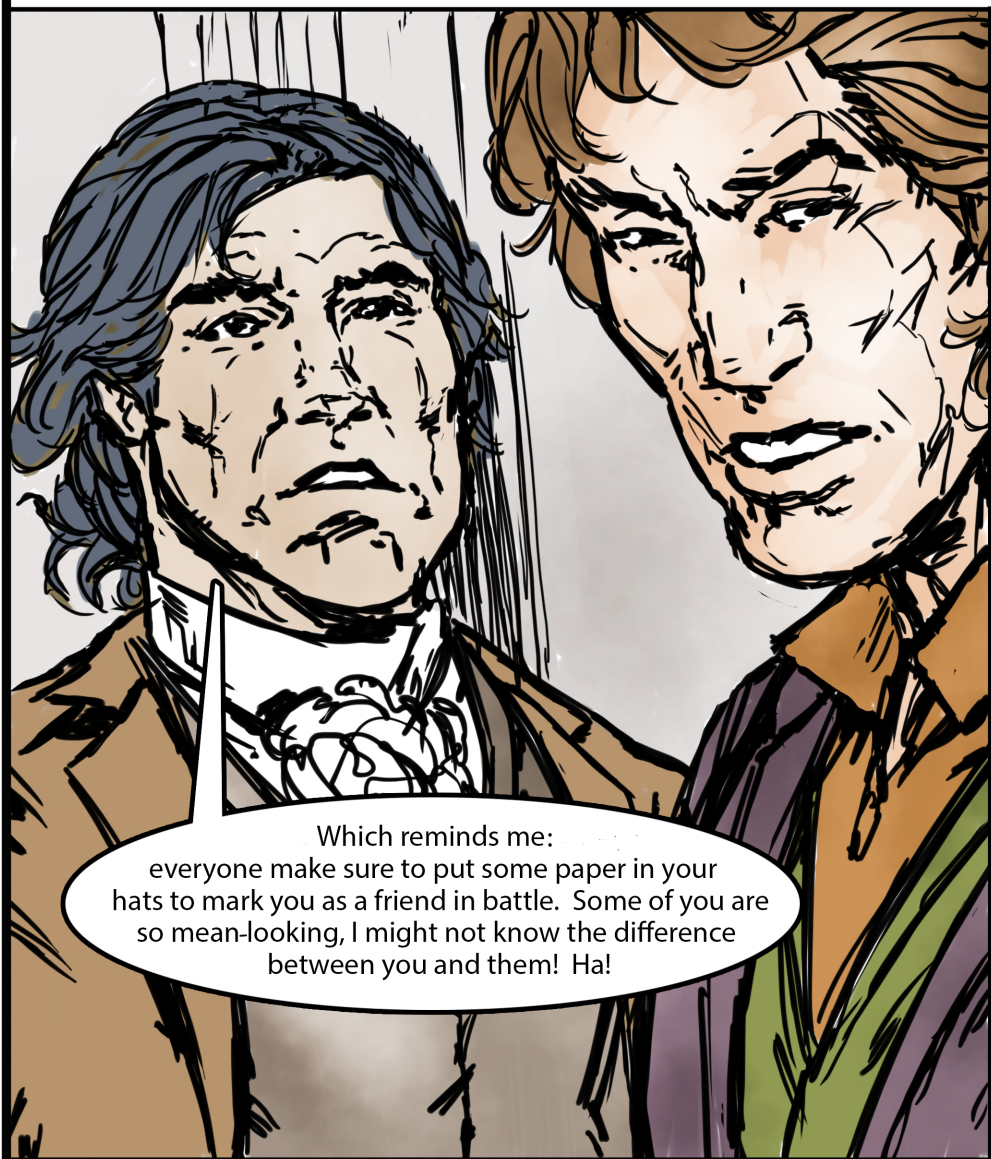


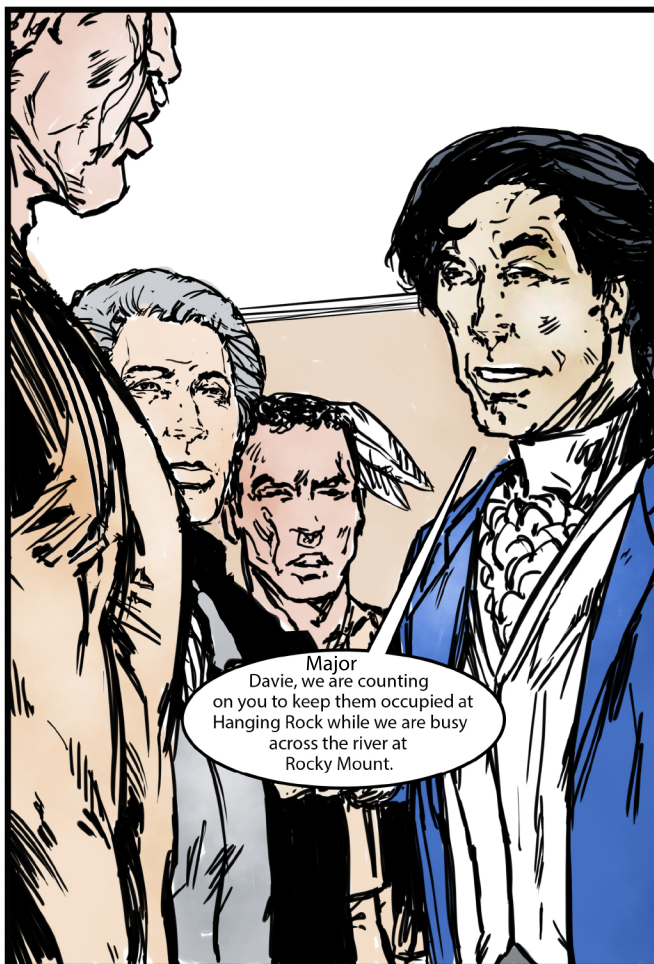
General Cornwallis, 41, Suffolk County, England, Widower, Father, Soldier

British



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









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!

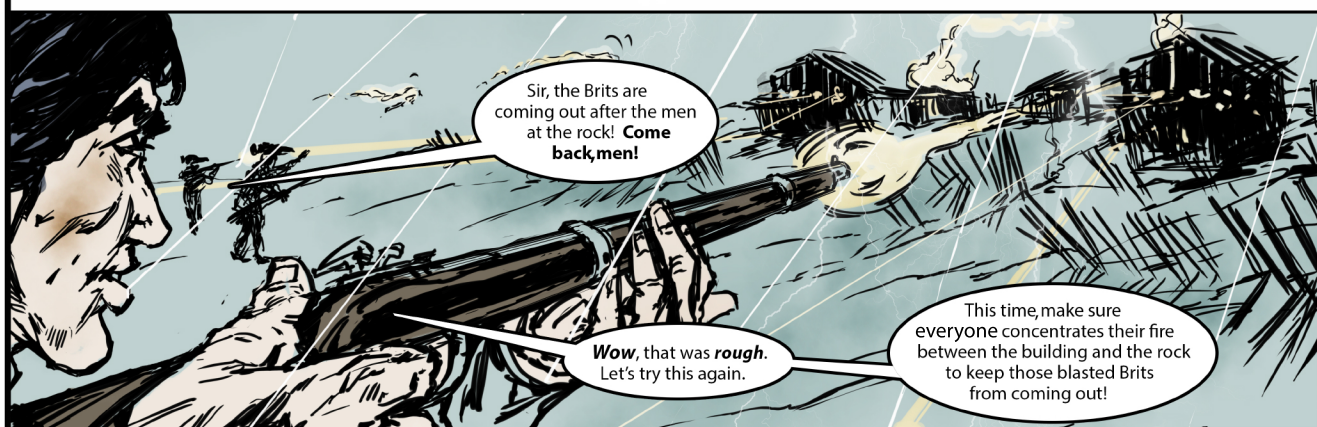





We need to use fire to persuade them to surrender.

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.



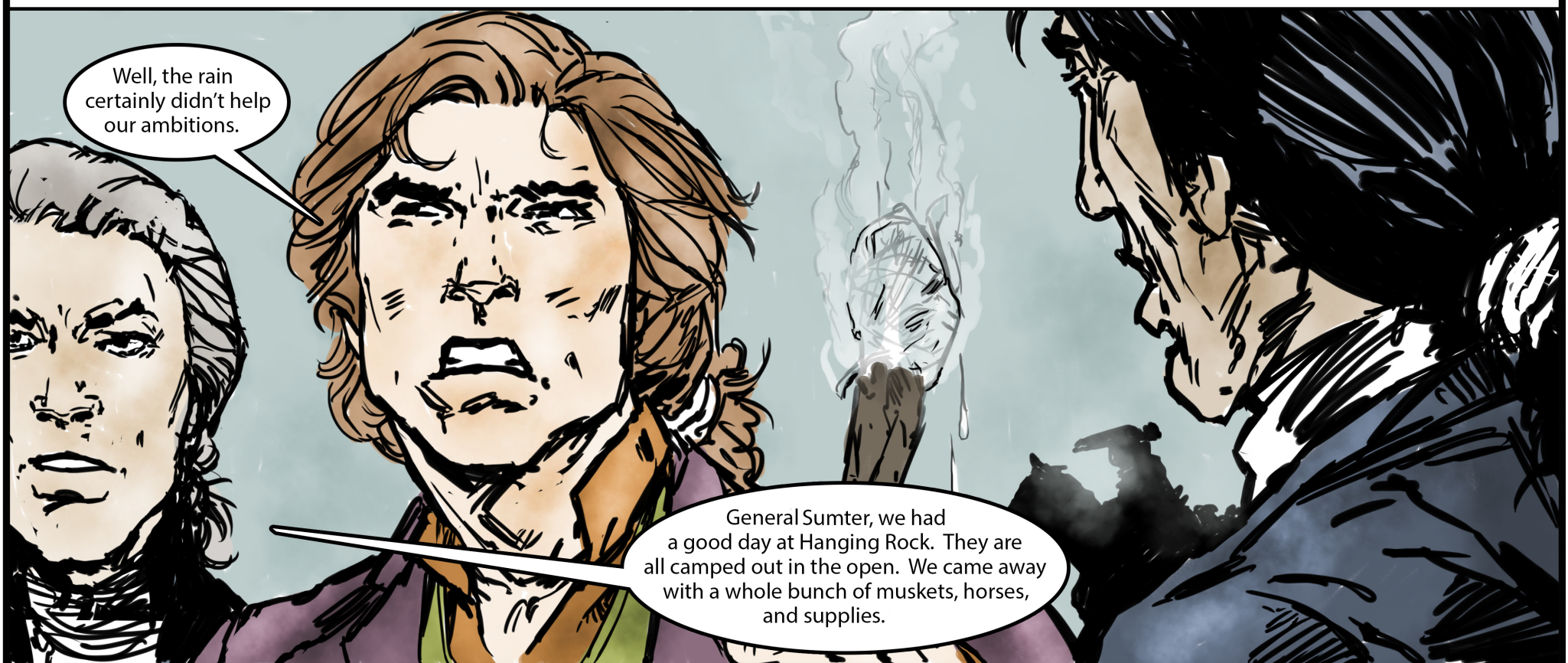
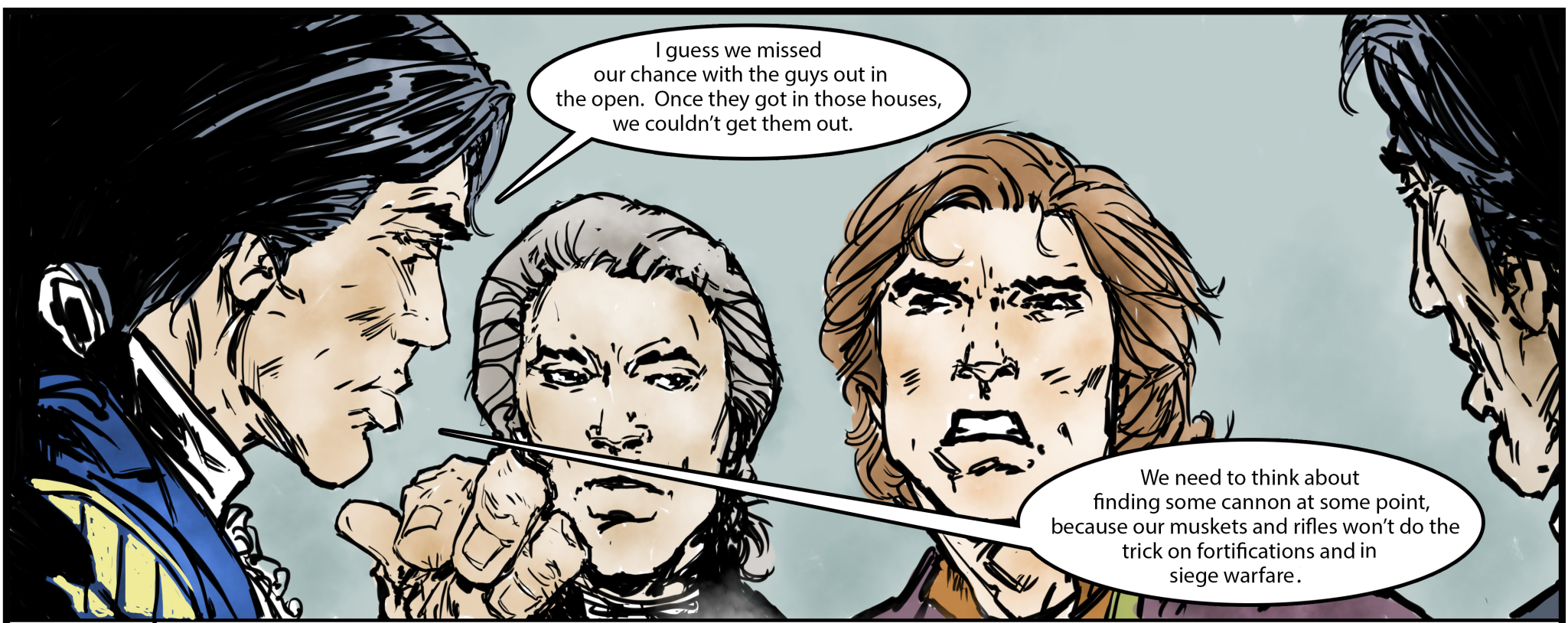


That's it, boys.
Our hopes have been dashed
by the rain. Let's regroup and maybe come
back when we find some artillery. Round
everyone up and head back
to camp.

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

Make sure
you keep your
powder dry.







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.

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