



Colonel James Williams

Mortally wounded 07Oct1780 at Kings Mountain
commanding a dispersed Carolina militia corps

Born 10Nov1740 Hanover County Virginia

Died 08Oct1780 near current Blacksburg SC

Buried across Buffalo Creek in view of Broad River

Re-interred in Gaffney South Carolina, 1917

James Williams was born in Hanover County VA 10Nov1740. He moved with his father to Granville County NC where his father died in 1759. His father left him an 800 acre farm in Halifax County Virginia. Williams married Mary Wallace in 1762 and moved his family to the area of South Carolina now the boundary line between Laurens and Newberry Counties. There he acquired a 3,600 acre tract which he called "Mount Pleasant." Elected to the early South Carolina legislative assemblies, he was appointed to the committee to regulate the newly formed militia in support of the Whig government. James Williams served as a Captain of a local militia company in the first battle fought in the South Carolina backcountry at Ninety Six and in the "Snow Campaign" shortly thereafter. Being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the militia he assumed command of the Little River Regiment of Whig militia in the summer of 1776 and was in the Cherokee campaign launched in the late summer and early fall of that year.

As a full Colonel commanding the Little River Regiment, Williams and his men participated in most of the notable engagements in Georgia and the South Carolina backcountry against the British, Tories and Indians. Upon the fall of Charleston in May 1780 and the occupation of all of SC by the British Army, Williams, like many other backcountry SC militia unwilling to take protection from the British, took refuge in North Carolina. There he raised troops he commanded at the Battle of Musgrove Mill (19Aug1780) and at the battle of Kings Mountain (07Oct1780), where he was mortally wounded. He died the next day and was buried on a Tory plantation as the Whigs retreated from Kings Mountain back towards Cowpens.

Not only did Williams make the ultimate sacrifice for the liberty of his Country but his two eldest sons also died in the American Revolution, being murdered after surrendering to Tory

forces at Hayes Station in November 1781. James Williams' remains were later exhumed and are now buried in Gaffney South Carolina at a memorial dedicated to his honor in 1917 by the DAR.



Historical Marker Inscription

*Col. James Williams
Hero of the Battle of Kings Mountain 1780*

Erected by Daniel Morgan Chapter D.A.R. 1917

The pension applications of the men who served under Williams and who lived long enough to file for pension from the federal government may be found at <http://revwarapps.org/>.