

**THE BATTLE OF THE RICEBOATS:  
BRITISH VIEWS OF GEORGIA'S FIRST BATTLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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In no other southern colony did the American Revolution become armed rebellion as suddenly and dramatically as in Georgia. In mid-January 1776, a British fleet of warships, with various transports and carrying 390 sailors and 200 marines and light infantrymen, assembled at the mouth of the Savannah River. Under the overall command of Captain Andrew Barkley, this naval force had come to Georgia to obtain provisions for the British army in Boston. Georgia's rebels had replaced the province's colonial government with their own Provincial Congress and Council of Safety, had finally joined the other rebelling colonies in adopting the Continental Association, and would soon place the royal governor under arrest. However, until the arrival of these British ships, their rebellion had been little more than politics, propaganda, and the persecution of open British sympathizers. The real fighting had been in far off Massachusetts and Canada.

Barkley, however, did not originally intend to use force to obtain the provisions and offered to buy the supplies. When Georgia's rebels refused, he patiently waited until March 1, when the Continental Association was to expire, in hopes that the ban the Association placed on trade with the British would then be disregarded long enough to allow him to buy the some 3,000 barrels of rice he had come to obtain.

The Georgia Whigs were facing a crisis. They readily believed the speculation of their royal governor, Sir James Wright, that the British fleets had orders to punish rebellious colonists and would attack Savannah if not allowed to purchase provisions. However, if the supplies were sold to Barkley, Georgia would jeopardize the union between the province and the other revolting colonies. At the eleventh hour, the Georgia Council of Safety voted to prohibit the sale of goods to the British, with or without the Continental Association. The Council also ordered Savannah to be defended and, if necessary, burned down to prevent the town's capture.

Savannah's defenders were a mixed command. They consisted of the twenty to thirty men that had been enlisted so far in Colonel Lachlan McIntosh's newly authorized Georgia Continental Battalion; 300 to 400 Georgia militiamen, including a high percentage of "crackers" or frontiersmen; 153 South Carolina troops under Major John Bourguin; and eventually, a company of Creek Indians. How the latter came to be fighting beside men against whom they had so often been at the verge of war has been a minor mystery. A newspaper article in a contemporary British periodical, however, provides an explanation of how this odd alliance came about:

New York, July 4 [1776]

Extract of a letter from Charlestown

By a remarkable providence the Creek Indians have engaged in our favour. A party of men [Barkley's command] came to Georgia, expecting by favour of the Tories, to make that a provision colony. At that very period, a few head men of that nation [the Creeks] happened to be at Mr. Bryants [sic, Jonathan Bryan's]

to warn him of the danger of an Indian war. At this moment, he being absent his house was attacked by some of the enemy who had got up the river Savannah. The Savages finding that in the absence of their old friend, their house was assaulted, they defended it; and one of the Chiefs, the only man wounded, in the thigh. This so enraged them that they sent off a runner, who in a few days brought down 500, who have since killed several men of the fleet who had landed for water.<sup>2</sup>

On March 2, Barkley, realizing that the Georgians were not going to sell him provisions, prepared to seize a fleet of merchant ships, loaded with rice, in Savannah harbor. The "harbor" was actually the channel of the Savannah River between the town and Hutchinson Island. The ships, or riceboats, were moored on the island side of the harbor. Because the Americans had blocked the south end of the channel, Barkley ordered his smaller vessels up the river, behind the island, and into the north end of the harbor. As his vessels passed Hutchinson Island, troops landed to cross the island and seize the riceboats.

The American forces in Savannah were busy defending the town--in fact, they were defending the town too well. McIntosh, who had assumed command of the defenders, had stationed his men to protect Savannah from the expected British attack and took no action to defend or render immovable the riceboats until after Barkley's men on Hutchinson Island had already seized most of the vessels. A heated skirmish ensued between the Americans in Savannah and the British in the river and on the island. McIntosh's command eventually succeeded in setting afire some of the riceboats and in driving the British from Hutchinson Island, although Barkley's fleet withdrew with at least ten of the merchant vessels, carrying some 1,600 barrels of rice. The British ships remained near the mouth of the Savannah River, with their marines skirmishing on the shore with the militiamen and Indians until March 31, when most of the fleet set out for Boston.<sup>3</sup>

The Battle of the Riceboats, as this conflict has come to be known, was important for the American cause in Georgia. When facing what they believed were the alternatives of abandoning their alliance with the other colonies or risking the destruction of Savannah, Georgia's rebels stood their ground. Not only had they refused under any circumstances to sell goods to the British warships, but with force of arms had limited the amount of rice Barkley seized to little more than half of what he had intended to take. When the fighting was over, Georgia Whigs claimed that they had successfully defended Savannah against British attack. Although this claim was a gross exaggeration, anything except a total defeat by Barkley's forces was of use to the colony's rebels as propaganda. The men who came to Savannah's defense in 1776 gave promise for Georgia's future military affairs. South Carolina had contributed the first of the thousands of soldiers that would be sent to Georgia's aid from other colonies. The Georgia frontiersmen, whose support of the American cause had been questioned, served well in Savannah in 1776. Although the Creeks would never again fight beside the rebels, their service in the Battle of the Riceboats gave hope, at that time, for future good relations with the Indians.

Research into this episode of Georgia history has been limited by a lack of source material. Most of what is known of the actual fighting,



Map of The Savannah  
Area at the time of ~  
The Battle of The  
Riceboats Campaign  
1775 - 1776

Scale of Statute Miles  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Map based upon Archibald Campbell's,  
Sketch of the Northern Frontiers  
of Georgia (1780)

Map by GEORGE L. McLAUGHLIN-1983

for example, is found in the account or accounts<sup>4</sup> of William Ewen, president of the Council of Safety, and Lachlan McIntosh.<sup>5</sup> British narratives of this campaign have been particularly scarce.

However, some British accounts of the Battle of the Riceboats, both pro-British and pro-American, have been discovered in the contemporary newspapers of Newcastle-on-Tyne. How the press of that English city was able to obtain information on the events in far off Georgia was a quirk of fate. Immediately prior to the conflict at Savannah, Georgia's most famous colonial vessel, the Georgia Packet, moored with the other merchant vessels at Hutchinson Island. The ship's passengers were sea captain William Manson<sup>6</sup> and about a hundred indentured servants from England and Scotland. He and his servants had come to Georgia to build a plantation in the Ceded Lands, on the province's northwest frontier. Manson's financial backers lived in Newcastle and they were kept informed of the events in Georgia by Manson and others aboard the Georgia Packet. These letters were sometimes published in the pro-American Newcastle Journal and General Advertiser<sup>7</sup> and the apparently anti-American Newcastle Courant, especially if the letters supported each paper's respective view of the rebellion in America.

The articles on the Battle of the Riceboats that appeared in the surviving Newcastle newspapers of the Newcastle Central Library are reproduced here with the permission of the Library. In these accounts, British bystanders recorded their differing perceptions of the "strange revolution" in Georgia.

Newcastle Journal and General Advertiser, 17  
February 1776, (p.1):  
London, February 7-8

The Polly Raynes, which arrived in the Downs from Georgia came over in ballast, & has brought the greatest quantity of letters of any ship at one time, together with some newspapers of the 18th December. She is the last ship that is to come from that place, the port being quite shut up.

Ibid. (p.2):

Extract of a letter from Georgia, October 7, 1775

"The flame of war is now burst forth, and wraps the western world in a blaze. Everything wears the face of most determined resolution; the cry of young and old is liberty or death; the peal of war is sounded forth; our levies are beginning to embody, & will soon be completed to the amount of 8000 efficient men all mustered to war, & as well disciplined troops as any in Europe. This is the quota imposed on us by the continental congress." Extract of a letter from Capt. Manson of the Georgia Packet who sailed from hence on September last.

Savannah December 16, 1775

"We arrived safe here on the 12th inst. after a long passage of 82 days from the Orkneys. In the

fore part of the voyage the small pox broke out amongst us, and carried off four children, but as all appearance of the infection ceased seven weeks before we had arrived, we were excused from performing quarantine. Three children likely to live were born in the passage. On affirming we had no goods on board but for plantation use we were permitted to land our stores and will be allowed to pass peaceably to our plantation in the back settlements 200 miles up the country. The 'Marlboro' belonging to Mr. Brown of Whitby from the Orkneys with emigrants arrived here 5 weeks before us and having brought some coals for sale, was obliged by the committee of safety to throw them overboard before she could enter. The congress have shut the ports of Georgia against all exportation from this day to the first of March next, but with permission for such ships as have entered and cleared outwards before to complete their loading. We accordingly cleared outwards yesterday for London and took in 6 barrels of rice by way of beginning at 3 per ton, which is very high freight, owing to so few ships being here."<sup>10</sup>

Ibid. 11 May 1776 (p.2):

A vessel is arrived at Bristol from Savannah in Georgia, which she left about the middle of March last & brings advices, of which the following is the substance:

"That the transports with marines on board, which General Howe<sup>11</sup> sent there for rice & other provisions, arrived; that the people would not permit them to be furnished with a single article; in consequence the marines attempted to land in their boats, with a design to carry off some vessels that were lying in the harbour loaded; but meeting a very severe attack, were compelled to make a precipitate retreat to their transports upon which the loaded ships (which belonged to suspicious persons)<sup>12</sup> were instantly destroyed<sup>13</sup> by fire. One was called the Inverness<sup>13</sup> & valued at L 60,000 sterling. The vessel which brought this intelligence to Bristol, has brought away 20 barrels of rice. She unexpectedly got out of the harbour in the night."

Ibid., 18 May 1776(p.1):

Letters from Georgia, by Georgia Packet. Capt. [blank] who arrived on tuesday at Dover, from Georgia, brings a confirmation of the strange revolution in that colony since they have heard of the hiring of foreign troops to assist in bringing the Americans to submit to the

arbitrary mandates of the British ministry; that that circumstance has more exasperated them than all their proceedings before; and they have as thoughts none but of throwing off the dependence on the mother country.

Ibid. (p.2):

Governor Wright, of Georgia, has taken refuge on board the Scarborough man of war.<sup>14</sup> There were 7 ships burnt at Savannah not 5, as mentioned in some of the papers. General Howe sent Major Grant<sup>15</sup> & Capt. Maitland, with 4 transports and 200 marines to get provisions. The Carolinians hearing of it, sent 500 men to assist the Georgians.<sup>16</sup> A battery was erected which fired smartly upon the transports as soon as they arrived in Savannah harbour.<sup>17</sup> Finding they could not land, they came round our island in the night to get provisions from them; but the Georgia militia who were assembled, & the Carolinians, kept a continuous fire upon them & at length burned the ships, so they were entirely disappointed.<sup>18</sup>

Ibid. (p.2):

Newcastle

Extract of a letter from the second mate of the Georgia packet, dated<sup>19</sup>, Dover, May 6, 1776, to a gentleman at Shields.

"We yesterday arrived here in ballast from Savannah in Georgia. The day before we sailed some of His Majesty's ships & transports with troops entered the harbour, where the rebels, guessing we were about to depart, demanded our sails & running rigging to be immediately sent on shore, fortunately for us, some of the King's troops came on board, & when the rebels finding us not inclined to comply with their demands, came to take them by force a skirmish ensued, wherein [a] few of them were taken prisoners, & seven killed & wounded;<sup>20</sup> on this they retreated, but we had two engagements more with them before we got out of the harbour, without any loss on our side, except our boat; which they made capture of - before this happened we were chartered for rice & had part of our cargo on board which the men of war took, put on board the transports for Boston."

"Mr. William Manson and his people were all in good health, and in the interior parts of the country in February last, since then no intelligence but we expect the commotions of the province would not extend to them. All the inhabitants of Savannah who wished the prosperity

of old England, retired into the country and left the rebels in possession of the town."

Newcastle Courant, 8 June 1776 (p.4):

A gentleman lately arrived from Savannah, in Georgia brings the following intelligence: - That on the day the merchantmen in the river, with a few marines on board, as mentioned in a former paper, had had a skirmish with the provincials about delivering up their sails, the latter observing the ships were preparing to go up the river, erected a battery of 5 guns upon a bluff a little above where the ships lay, to play upon them in their passage up,<sup>21</sup> while another party set fire to two vessels that lay nearest the town that they might drive up with the flood, and come upon the other ships before they floated to set them on fire;<sup>22</sup> but this design proved abortive for those they fired drew more water than the rest & on being set adrift struck before they came near the others.<sup>23</sup> They then got all underway, a ship from Whitby of four guns, four pounders, leading the van; the rest had no guns or small arms on board. When they came opposite the bluff, where about 500 crackers (men who lived principally on what they shoot in the woods) who compose the flower of the provincial army, were assembled,<sup>24</sup> they began to fire upon them with muskets & from the battery, but without any effect: meantime the fire was returned by the first ship, & the second shot razing the top of the bluff, made a line through the crackers, and did great execution, which immediately put them to flight,<sup>25</sup> except six or seven that stayed by the guns. The vessels they sent round a small island, contrary to the expectation of the provincials, and got safe to the men of war in Cockspur road. When they were there a party of marines went on shore to cut wood and one of them straggling from the rest was surprised by some crackers who laid one of his legs across a block and chopt it off with an axe:<sup>26</sup> a proof that their mercy & clemency is not, in every instance exaggerated by their good friends on this side of the water! However, to do them justice, it must be acknowledged that several parties of them had opportunities of destroying the people on board the unarmed ships as they passed down by the shore in different places, but did not fire upon them--several provincial officers left their respective corps and entered on board the men of war soon as they had opportunity, which plainly shows they were not so unanimous as they appeared to be, and that many for their present

safety espouse their cause only till they can with propriety avow their real sentiments.

Ibid. 22 June 1776 (p.3):

The Mississippi Packet, Capt. Chambers, brings an account that Commodore Berkeley<sup>27</sup> in the Scarborough, with three other ships of war, surprised Georgia in the night, & seized 20 vessels, 12 of which laden with rice were immediately sent to General Howe & a few were burned. There are seven more men of war arrived there from England.

Ibid., 6 July 1776 (p.3):

Several families are come in the Unity, Capt. Wardell, from Georgia, to settle in England till peace be restored to that colony. The following gentleman came passengers in here: John Graham, Esq. & family, Sir P. Houston, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Murray & the chief justice.<sup>28</sup>

Ibid., 20 July 1776 (p. 3):

London. July 12

Letters from the Live Oak, Woodhouse, arrived in the river from Pensacola gives an account that the inhabitants of Georgia are heartily tired of the oppressions of the Congress, and many of them wish for nothing more than the arrival of the King's troops to relieve them from their arbitrary proceedings. She brought a number of families.

Ibid., 3 August 1776 (p. 3):

One of the passengers in the Unity, Wardell, from Georgia, mentions, that a person lately appointed one of the Treasurers by the new constitution of that province being found deficient in his accounts L3,000 declared on his examination before their provincial congress, that a party of men, with guns and bayonets (provincial soldiers) in the night entered his house<sup>29</sup> by force and took the said L3,000 from him.

Ibid., 17 August 1776 (p.3):

Saturday, August 17, 1776. Mr. J. Morrison of Birtley White House has favoured us with the following letter which he had received from his friend in America.<sup>30</sup>

Friendsborough.<sup>31</sup> March 22, 1776

Dear Sir,

Since my last letter<sup>32</sup> which I wrote to you from Wrightsboro,<sup>33</sup> the country has been under almost perpetual alarms; several ships of war have been occasionally at Savannah wanting provisions but which the congress refused to supply them with for money; they accordingly took what came in their way upon the islands, near the mouth of the river but have not yet attempted any violence upon the town. About a month ago the governor (who had been made prisoner in his own house by order of the congress, some time before) withdrew on board one of the king's ships where he still continues.

Soon after he withdrew an armed tender was sent up the north channel of the river (which forms an island about 4 miles long opposite the town) to reconnoitre; upon her making a feint of landing a skirmish ensued in which a gentleman's house was battered down and two or three men wounded.<sup>34</sup> All the women, children and valuable effects are removed from Savannah which is filled with armed men, who live there in the true Liberty Stile, breaking into stores and knocking in the heads of the rum punches etc. During the skirmish with the tender the provincials set fire to four ships which were lying at the town warf, & the fire communicated to two or three more, who were all totally consumed. The cargo of one of these, the Inverness, was worth L20,000. Mr. McLean of Augusta<sup>35</sup> and 53 hogsheads of skins shipped on board worth L6,000.

The people up here are much afraid lest government should set the Indians upon the frontiers; but I hope not as most of the people hereabouts are well affected in their hearts to government<sup>36</sup> & are heartily sick of anarchy.

They are all greatly distressed by the blocking up of the port, which they did indeed themselves before the King's ships came.<sup>37</sup> I believe almost all the people in the southern colonies wish for a reconciliation but the New Englanders are staunch for independence. I will write you again soon and in the meantime and always I am dear Sir etc.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Harvey H. Jackson, "The Battle of the Riceboats: Georgia Joins the Revolution," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 58 (Summer 1974): 230-1, 235-6; James Michael Johnson, "'Not a Single Soldier in the Province': The Military Establishment of Georgia and the Coming of the American

Revolution," (Ph.D. diss., Duke University, 1980), pp. 187-91, 194-5, 197-8, 206. I would like to acknowledge the kind help of Mr. W. Toyn of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a professional researcher, for transcribing the articles from the Newcastle newspapers and Ms. Ann Dowdy and Dr. Hardy Jackson for reviewing this article.

<sup>2</sup>The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events for the Year 1776, 3 (1777): 333-4. Also see Martha Condray Searcy, "The Introduction of African Slavery into the Creek Indian Nation," Georgia Historical Quarterly 66 (Spring 1982): 26-7.

<sup>3</sup>"Riceboats," pp. 237-40; Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," pp. 209-28. Also see the letters from British newspapers in Margaret Wheeler Williard, ed., Letters on the American Revolution, 1774-1776 (1925; rep. ed. Port Washington, NY, 1968).

<sup>4</sup>Dr. Jackson has pointed out that similarities in the accounts by Ewen and McIntosh suggest at least some collaboration. Jackson, "Riceboats," p. 242, fn. 25.

<sup>5</sup>Lachlan McIntosh to George Washington, 8 March 1776, in Lilla M. Hawes, ed., "The Papers of Lachlan McIntosh, 1774-1779," Collections of the Georgia Historical Society (Savannah: The Society, 1957)12: 1-4; William Ewen to South Carolina Council of Safety, 4 March 1776, in George White, comp., Historical Collections of Georgia (New York: Putney and Russell, 1854), pp. 88-9.

<sup>6</sup>For background on Manson and his settlement see David Hamilton Steele, "William Manson: British Loyalist in the Georgia Back Country," Richmond County History 11 (1979): 30-40.

<sup>7</sup>Loyalist Dr. Thomas Taylor wrote from Georgia of the Newcastle Journal:  
The news-papers here even improve upon your's in England,  
in retailing the vilest lies about the King and Ministry.--  
Since my coming to this place, I have seen some red-hot  
patriotic paragraphs, taken from the Newcastle Journal,  
inserted neat as imported in the American papers.

Undated newspaper clipping, probably from the Newcastle Courant, in Thomas Taylor to Dr. Thomas Percy, 13 January 1776, Miscellaneous Papers, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

<sup>8</sup>Apparently the 8,000 men referred to here were from South Carolina or possibly South Carolina and Georgia combined. Estimates of the total number of armed men in Revolutionary War Georgia never exceed 3,000. Also see Baikie Harvey to Thomas Baikie, 30 December 1775, D3/385, Orkney County Library, Scotland.

<sup>9</sup>Thomas Alexander Browne (or Thomas Brown) of East Riding, Yorkshire, England, had brought 149 indentured servants from England and from the Orkney Islands of Scotland for a settlement in the Ceded Lands. For his support of the King's cause, he was nearly tortured to death by an Augusta mob in August 1776. Escaping to South Carolina and later to British East Florida, Brown organized a battalion of Loyalist provincials later known as the King's Carolina Rangers, probably the most well-known Loyalist unit in the South during the Revolution. See Edward J. Cashin, Jr., and Heard

Robertson, Augusta and the American Revolution, Events in the Georgia Backcountry, 1773-1783 (Darien: Ashantilly Press, 1975), pp. 9, 12-5.

<sup>10</sup>For a very similar account of the voyage of Manson and his servants to Georgia, see Taylor to Percy, 13 January 1776, Misc. Papers, Clements Library, University of Michigan.

<sup>11</sup>Major General Sir William Howe, commander of the British forces in North America, had sent Barkley's fleet to Georgia. Johnson "Not a Single Soldier," pp. 188-9.

<sup>12</sup>Apparently the ships selected for fireboats belonged to or were carrying the cargos of men believed to be in sympathy with the British cause. Jackson, "Riceboats," p. 243, fn. 30.

<sup>13</sup>The Americans ignited the Inverness and set the ship adrift, hoping the vessel would be carried by the tide to the other merchant vessels and set them on fire before the British could get them out of the harbor. However, the Inverness was too heavily laden and went aground before it could accomplish its mission. A second attempt to burn the riceboats, using a schooner as a fireboat, was more successful and set afire two merchant ships and two schooners. Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," p. 207.

<sup>14</sup>Royal Governor Sir James Wright and his council had been placed under arrest on January 18. He and three of his children escaped Savannah on the night of February 11 and reached Barkley's flagship, the Scarborough, the following day. Cashin and Robertson, Augusta and the Revolution, pp. 11-2; Jackson, "Riceboats," pp. 231-2, 234; Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," p. 207.

<sup>15</sup>Major James Grant of the Fortieth Regiment of Foot commanded the 175 to 200 marines and light infantrymen aboard Barkley's fleet. Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," p. 189.

<sup>16</sup>South Carolina eventually sent Georgia 442 men for the defense of Savannah but only 153 of these soldiers arrived in time to participate in the major fighting. Ibid., p. 206.

<sup>17</sup>The Americans erected two batteries with which to defend Savannah: eight to ten artillery pieces, including some eighteen pounders, near the south end of the harbor; and two guns at the foot of Savannah's bluff to defend the town against a direct assault from the harbor. Ibid., p. 193.

<sup>18</sup>Barkley's fleet did escape with ten to thirteen riceboats, however. Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," p. 222.

<sup>19</sup>South Shields is a town east of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

<sup>20</sup>The Americans taken prisoner by the British in this incident were men sent to take the rigging off the riceboats, unaware of the enemy troops on board the ships, and Captain Raymond Demere and Lieutenant Daniel Roberts, emissaries sent to the British by McIntosh. In the subsequent skirmish between the militiamen, under Captain John Baker, and the British soldiers aboard the Georgia Packet, American sources claimed that their soldiers

had no men wounded or killed but that Barkley's troops suffered casualties. (Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," pp. 217-9.) Perhaps each side exaggerated the other's losses.

<sup>21</sup>See note 17 above.

<sup>22</sup>This passage means that the American cut loose a burning ship float up the harbor with the tide and ignite the riceboats.

<sup>23</sup>Only the Inverness went aground. A subsequent attempt to ignite some of the captured riceboats was successful. See note 13 above.

<sup>24</sup>"Crackers," from the Scottish work for braggarts, was often used to describe southern frontiersmen in general and young, propertyless Georgia backcountrymen, who lived on deer and stolen cattle, specifically. Delma E. Presley, "The Crackers of Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 60 (Summer 1976): 102-5; Bernard Elliott, "Bernard Elliott's Recruiting Journal 1775," ed. Joseph W. Barnwell, *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 17 (1916): 98.

<sup>25</sup>Tarleton Brown, a South Carolina militiaman in this skirmish, wrote of the fighting in his *Memoirs*:

After three days' passage down the river we arrived at Savannah, in good health and in fine spirits, all eager to engage in the contest, and to assert our rights as freemen through the muzzles of our muskets and at the points of our swords. We passed some heavy and mortal shots at the enemy, which were returned with equal fierceness and more deadly effect. During the heat of the battle, the iron hail pouring in torrents upon our devoted heads, a ball struck me in the breast, but being well nigh spent, it providentially did no other damage than raise a blood blister.

Tarleton Brown, *Memoirs of Tarleton Brown. A Captain in the Revolutionary Army. Written by Himself* (Barnwell, S.C.: The People Press, 1894), p. 5.

<sup>26</sup>The Americans claimed that in attacking the marines from the ship *Symmetry*, they killed one man, whom the Creeks then scalped; wounded two others; and captured a fourth who later escaped. Johnson, "Not a Single Soldier," p. 227.

<sup>27</sup>Captain Andrew Barkley is referred to here as a commodore as an unofficial designation for a captain who temporarily commands a fleet.

<sup>28</sup>John Graham, the royal lieutenant governor of Georgia; Sir Patrick Houstoun; John Simpson; John Murray; and Chief Justice Anthony Stokes. Graham, Houstoun, Simpson, and Stokes returned to Georgia after the British captured Savannah in December 1778.

<sup>29</sup>The minutes of the Georgia Provincial Congress have not survived for use in confirming or refuting this story.

<sup>30</sup>A letter from Dr. Thomas Taylor to Rev. Thomas Percy, 13 January 1776, and an enclosed newspaper clipping reveals that Taylor was also the author of this letter. Taylor to Percy, 13 January 1776, Misc. Papers, Clements Library, University of Michigan.

<sup>31</sup> Friendsborough was the name of Manson's settlement in the Ceded Lands and his holdings in the nearby Wrightsborough township, where he lived. He was a Quaker and named his settlement accordingly.

<sup>32</sup> A copy of the newspaper that published the earlier letter could not be found in the Newcastle Central Library. However, a clipping from that issue containing the publication of that letter can be found in Taylor to Percy, 13 January 1776, Misc. Papers, Clements Library, University of Michigan.

<sup>33</sup> Wrightsborough was the name of the town and township on the northwest Georgia frontier, in present-day McDuffie County. The settlement was founded by Quakers, although the majority of the settlers were non-Quakers, in 1767. Ralph C. Scott, Jr., "The Quaker Settlement of Wrightsborough, Georgia," Georgia Historical Quarterly 56 (Summer 1972): 211.

<sup>34</sup> This incident may be the previously mentioned attack upon Jonathan Bryan's house that incited the Creeks against the British. See note 2 above and William Bacon Stevens, A History of Georgia, From Its First Discovery by Europeans to the Adoption of the Present Constitution in MDCCXCVIII (1848-1859; rep. ed., Savannah: Beehive Press, 1972)2: 133.

<sup>35</sup> Andrew McLean was probably one of the persons considered loyal to the British and, hence, the reason the Inverness was selected as a fireshop. See note 12 above and Alexander A. Lawrence, Storm Over Savannah: The Story of Count d'Estaing and the Siege of the Town in 1779 (1951; rev. ed., Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1968), pp. 35-6.

<sup>36</sup> The Quakers of Wrightsborough township, from where Taylor was apparently writing, had a reputation for being pro-British, even late in the Revolution. Scott, "Wrightsboro," p. 220.

<sup>37</sup> Taylor also wrote in an earlier letter to Morrison that was also apparently published in the Newcastle Courant:

The bulk of the people hereabouts are friends to Government, they grumbled mightily at the Merchants, who as soon as they got in large stocks of goods consented to the Non-Importation that they might get their own price for them.

Newspaper clipping in Taylor to Percy, 13 January 1776, Misc. Papers, Clements Library, University of Michigan.