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source of great surprise to multitudes, Connecticut cheerfully submitted, though it entailed the loss of a splendid domain, for which her citizens had been long contending at the cost of much suffering and great expense. Upon the events which followed in the subsequent history of Wyoming and which were of a most stirring and memorable character, time forbids us to enter.*

* Ex-governor Henry M. Hoyt has very ably presented the controversy between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, in a paper read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania November 10, 1879, entitled "Brief of a Title in the Seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne; A Syllabus of the Controversy between Connecticut and Pennsylvania."

General Andrew Pickens.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Meeting at Sharon, near Newtown, July 21, 1896.)

Among those to whom we are indebted for rescue from the oppressions of the mother country, was Gen. Andrew Pickens. He was born in Bucks county, September 13, 1739, and it is well for the Bucks County Historical Society to call from the past, receding and growing more dim, his patriotic services, which aided in imparting life to the nation when in its younger days it was in danger of being overwhelmed by the tyranny of an unnatural parent. The exact spot that gave him birth is lost in oblivion, the name of his family not being found in either the register's or recorder's office of this county. He was of Huguenot descent, his ancestors having been driven from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which deprived them of the privilege of worshiping God in their own way. They first went to Scotland and after a period, with thousands of others, to the north of Ireland. Even there religious liberty was denied them by the Ecclesiastics of England, and after the lapse of a generation or two they came across the wide Atlantic to Pennsylvania, which was opened by Penn as a refuge for the persecuted and oppressed of all nations.

In this colony they remained till about 1745 or 1750, when Andrew's father was attracted by reports of the fertility and beauty of the valley of Virginia. Gathering into an available form his limited means, he took his young family in a rude wagon or on horseback through the wilderness to the neighborhood of the Shenandoah river, and located not far from where the town of Staunton was afterwards built. But his stay there was tem-

porary. In 1752 he removed still further to the Southwest, to the vicinity of the Waxhaws in South Carolina, where land was cheap and likely to increase in value. The region was thinly settled. Large tracts were covered with the virgin forests. Game was then abundant, and Andrew, then a boy of 13 years, became expert in the use of firearms, and an accomplished horseman. He grew up to be above the medium height, and his frame was strong, well knit and capable of enduring great fatigue. Schools were few and widely scattered, and his means of education were limited. His knowledge of books was meagre, but he was endowed with a vigorous mind and possessed much shrewdness, sagacity and decision of character.

When the war between England and France occurred, in which this country was largely involved for a number of years previous to 1763, the Indians of South Carolina, Florida and Georgia were allies of the French. In 1761 the settlement of Long Cane was surprised by the Cherokees and well nigh exterminated; some escaped, but a large number of men were butchered or put to death by torture, and women and children carried away into slavery. Fort Loudon, also in the mountainous regions of North Carolina, though it was surrendered to the savages by capitulation and ought to have been honorably treated, yet met with the same dreadful fate. In consequence of these and similar atrocities Lieut. Colonel Grant was sent against them with a considerable body of soldiers and among the officers was Pickens. The villages of the red-men were captured and burned, and the warriors driven into the recesses of the Alleghenies. Francis Marion, afterwards General, was a volunteer in this expedition, and the two were here associated in a subordinate capacity, as they were during the Revolution in higher stations. In these successful struggles with the wily inhabitants of the forests Pickens formed habits of daring, watchfulness and endurance, and acquired a knowledge of the art of war which fitted him for the wider theatre of conflict with the hosts of Britain.

Among those who were fortunate enough to escape from Long Cane when it was sacked and burned by the aborigines was Ezekiel Calhoun. He made his way through the woods to the Waxhaws, Lancaster county, where Pickens resided, and the

latter soon became acquainted with the family. He had a lovely daughter, Rebecca, a noted beauty, one of the belles of that region of country. It was natural that Andrew should be interested in the fair maid. Her estimable qualities won his admiration and his heart, and in due time he led her, a willing captive, to Hymen's altar. The wedding was one of the most brilliant social events of the time in that part of the State.

For much valuable information in regard to the private life of Gen. Pickens I am indebted to John F. Calhoun, Esq., of Clemson College, S. C., from whom I received the following:

"In an old book of William Calhoun, Esq., an uncle of Mrs. Pickens, beginning in 1762, in his own writing, are records of several marriages, which ceremonies tradition says he performed, being justice of the peace, and ministers in those days were not always available. Among these marriages are two Pickens. 'Andrew Pickens and Rebecca Calhoun were married ye 19th day of March, A. D. 1765. William Bole and Margaret Pickens were married ye 7th day of January, in ye year of our Lord, 1766.'"

One of Rebecca's brothers was Hon. John Ewing Calhoun, who was a member of the U. S. Senate from South Carolina, and died in 1801 soon after the commencement of his term in that high office. Hon. John C. Calhoun, the eminent statesman and advocate of the rights of the several states of a later period, was the son of Patrick Calhoun, a brother of Mrs. Pickens. He was her nephew, and was doubly related to her, as he married her niece, the daughter of Senator John Ewing Calhoun, his first cousin.

When peace was declared between England and France, in 1763, Mr. Calhoun, father-in-law of Andrew Pickens returned to his home at Long Cane, which was in the southwestern part of South Carolina, near where Abbeville now stands, the Indians having retreated to their former haunts in Georgia. The next year, 1764, Andrew followed his wife's relatives and located permanently in the district, which was noted as the birthplace, 18 years later, of his nephew, the great nullifier. Here the young planter and soldier engaged in agriculture and saw a large number of "olive plants grow up round his table," while the course of the British Parliament toward the American Colonies was gradually exhausting the patience of the people,

and preparing them to demand their freedom, though they should be compelled to enforce their claim in the stern tones of war.

Captain Pickens was opposed to the harsh and unjust measures of the government across the Atlantic. Taxation levied against their will upon those who had no voice in the legislation that imposed it, was in his view tyrannical and ought to be resisted. His opinions on the subject were not entertained by all his neighbors. Indeed many of them were warmly attached to the crown, and shrank with aversion from resistance to its behests. Men on both sides of the question formed themselves into military companies. The matter was not only discussed with acrimony and bitter party strife, but warfare raged between troops composed of those who lived in the same districts and were intimately acquainted. In no other part of the original thirteen states did this peculiarity exist to the same extent. In most other sections of the confederation the great majority of the people were united in their desire for independence. But in the Southeast many clung to the authority their ancestors had obeyed and took pride in defending it by the sacrifice of their time, their substance and their blood.

The principal citizens of Charleston favored Congress, as they often differed on fiscal measures with the Governor appointed by Parliament. A considerable proportion of the planters in the interior, however, were either lukewarm or adhered to the King, and it was in the highest degree important that they should be induced to cast their lot with the advocates of freedom.

In 1775 the Council of Safety selected Hon. William Henry Drayton and Rev. William Tennent, a grandson of Rev. William Tennent, founder of Log College, to repair to the western districts of the colony, explain the causes of the dispute between America and England, and persuade the undecided to join the patriots. Before the delegation reached the scene of their efforts, some of the most fervent loyalists went through the region and stirred up their friends and sympathizers to new zeal and activity for the monarchy, and it was for a time doubtful whether the commissioners would not be compelled to retire unheard and unhonored. At this juncture Captain Pickens took a bold stand for his native land. He was widely known and greatly re-

spected throughout the Southeast, and possessed the confidence of all classes. As soon as his voice was lifted against royal usurpations, the delegates were more cordially received, their addresses were listened to, and multitudes were won from apathy or hostility to the flag of the free.

About this time he erected a block house near his own residence not merely for the protection of his own family, but as a place of refuge for the inhabitants when attacked by hostile bands, and many gathered there in seasons of alarm. It proved to be a centre, to which patriots resorted for consultation on plans for the common welfare, and from which they went forth armed to resist invasion.

During four years after the Declaration of Independence Capt. Pickens was often engaged in fighting with Indians and loyalists, who co-operated with British forces, and was unshaken in his attachment to the Union amid the most aggravating and desperate warfare. Even before that event he had unsheathed his sword, for he was in the first battle of Ninety-six, November, 1775, a conflict seldom referred to. Col. Andrew Williamson, commander of the Whigs, had five hundred men in a block-fort, and was besieged by Col. Joseph Robinson, who was at the head of 2,000 British. The numerical advantage was so largely on the side of the latter, that the fort was obliged to capitulate after a brave defense of three days. The Americans lost one killed and eleven wounded, and the British thirty killed and fifteen wounded. Captain Pickens was one of those who were selected to arrange the terms of surrender, and they were faithfully observed by the Americans, but with their usual Punic treachery were violated by the British.

In 1777 Captain Pickens was appointed colonel and assigned to the command of a regiment. In 1779 the Council of Safety in South Carolina raised two regiments for the defense of the State. Candidates for colonel were Robert Cunningham, James Mayson and Moses Kirkland. Mayson was the favored applicant, when the others, stung with disappointment and jealousy, went over to the Tories. United with many sympathizers they assembled 700 men, lifted the royal colors, and gave the command to Colonel Boyd. Colonel Pickens, prompt to seize every favorable opportunity, soon attacked him and forced him to

retreat. Colonel Dooly with 100 patriots from Georgia now joined Pickens and yielded to him the direction of the whole body, amounting to 400. Thus strengthened they pursued Boyd rapidly and overtook him on the banks of Kettle creek in Georgia. The enemy had just shot down some beeves and were about to enjoy themselves with better fare than usual. Col. Pickens divided his forces into three parts, for Col. Dooly, Col. Clarke and himself, and moved to the onset without delay. The Tories were taken somewhat by surprise. Their leader, Boyd, was shot early in the action. His troops gave way before the impetuous onslaught of the ardent friends of liberty, fell back through masses of cane, and plunged through the creek to the opposite bank. Here they rallied on rising ground and fought desperately. But Pickens urged his soldiers on with irresistible resolution and gained a complete victory. Not more than 300 of the 700 arrayed against him reached Augusta. This engagement at Kettle creek, though the number of forces was not large, had a most important effect upon the state of feeling in the country. It was a staggering blow to the Tories and subsequently their sun ceased to be in the ascendant. Before it they had been elated with the idea, that their cause was sure to triumph. After it they began to suspect that the red coats were not invincible and to hesitate about joining their ranks.

Col. Pickens was with Gen. Lincoln at the battle of Stone Ferry, ten miles from Charleston, in 1779, and had his horse killed under him. With Marion and Sumpter he repeatedly opposed Col. Tarleton's brigade and other bodies of British and Royalists, often with success, though the enemy had been heavily reinforced from England. After the American army retreated from Camden towards the North their jubilant adversaries claimed that the rebellious Carolinas were subdued. But the spirit of most of the people was unconquered, and the cruelties and bad faith of Cornwallis and his officers exasperated the patriots to the highest degree. The English assumed that the South was vanquished, because they held Charleston and some other towns, and regarded all that approved the Federal government as rebels, guilty of treason and deserving death, who were to be shot wherever found, and their houses rifled and consumed. They ravaged and destroyed plantations, carried

off the inhabitants prisoners and made no account of violating their most sacred promises.

Major William Cunningham collected some Loyalists and went far to the westward of American forces where he could not be readily interfered with and laid waste everything within his reach. Not content with the fiendish work by day, he visited houses at night and subjected their inmates to treatment worthy only of savages. Capt. Turner, a Union man, held possession of a house with twenty armed followers and bravely defended it till their ammunition was exhausted, when they surrendered, on assurance that they should be used honorably as prisoners of war. No sooner was this done than they were butchered in cold blood. Soon after the same gang attacked a small body of Federal militia in the district of Ninety-six. The house in which they made their headquarters was set on fire, and they were under the necessity of yielding to superior numbers, when Col. Hayes and Capt. Daniel Williams were hung to the pole of a haystack. This broke and let them fall to the ground. Cunningham, in a fit of rage, hacked them and others to pieces with his sword until he was tired, and then told his men to kill every one they wished. Fourteen were slaughtered in this way, while but two fell in action.

These are only specimens of a course which was pursued by the minions of the King for several years, and instead of quenching the flame of liberty it fanned it to more intense heat. Lovers of freedom and friends of the national welfare flocked to the standard of Independence and were fortified in their determination never to abandon the contest till those who practice injustice, cruelty and tyranny were driven from their shores.

In 1779 Col. Pickens and a small band of militia were attacked at Tomasse by Cherokees, who were ten times their number. The savages fought desperately with the tomahawk and rifle four hours. But the colonel directed his men to reserve their fire till the red-skins were within twenty-five yards, to lie low in the grass, and rise to discharge their pieces two at a time, and to take accurate aim. Nearly every shot took effect; and the dark-eyed foe was stunned and set back by their constant loses in rapid succession, till they lost heart and fled. Had

not Pickens met them with shrewdness and cool courage superior to their own, his whole company would have been scalped.

In consequence of the larger numbers and splendid equipment of the British the American General Morgan in 1781 retreated to the edge of North Carolina. Near an enclosure, which was used for collecting and marketing cattle of different owners, he was overtaken by Col. Tarleton, and the battle of the Cowpens, as it was called, took place. In this engagement Col. Pickens commanded the volunteers from Georgia and the Carolinas, who constituted a majority of all the patriotic troops present. Gen. Morgan, sensible of his own numerical inferiority and of the important advantage, which artillery gave the enemy, was at first inclined to avoid fighting. Many of his officers likewise urged him to retire before almost certain disaster. But Col. Pickens said the retreat had continued long enough. Something must be done to encourage the soldiers and patriotic citizens. It was expedient in his opinion that they should fight, for its moral effect upon the nation. His view at length prevailed. With more than 400 militia he was posted in advance to meet the onset of the foe. Col. Howard with 300 Continentals formed the second line some distance back; and Lieut. Col. Washington with about 100 dragoons was in the rear out of sight, as a reserve. Pickens ordered his men not to fire till the British were within forty or fifty feet of them. Tarleton was at the head of 1,100 regular troops, who were confident of an easy victory. They rushed forward, as soon as they came near, with shouts, but were received with so heavy and well directed a fire from the volunteers, that they hesitated, but soon pressed on, and forced Pickens' men to retreat; which they did in good order and reformed on the right. Col. Howard had to fall back likewise; when Col. Washington dashed up to the rescue with his cavalry, and stayed the advance of the enemy. Howard rallied his light infantry and turned upon the British, who supposed the day was already won, with fixed bayonets. Just at this point of time, when victory seemed wavering in the balance, Col. Pickens brought to the charge his militia, who a second time poured a storm of leaden hail upon the foe; this changed their bright expectations into dismay; they broke and fled. Coming to 250 English cavalry, who had not been engaged, they com-

municated a panic to them and they disappeared in the distance. Confusion and terror seized the ranks of the discomfited infantry, and when assured that if they would surrender they should be well treated, they laid down their arms. One battalion and two light infantry companies gave up their colors to Col. Pickens and his militia. More than 300 of the British were killed and 500 taken prisoners. Two cannons and a large number of muskets, horses and baggage wagons fell into the hands of the Americans. This victory was snatched, as it were, from the jaws of defeat, largely by the coolness of Pickens and his men, who reformed their disordered columns, in the midst of an engagement, and renewed the contest, after being compelled to retreat, a thing which was unexampled with militia before in the history of the war. For his noble conduct on this occasion Congress voted to Col. Pickens a handsome sword, and he was commissioned Brigadier General by Governor Rutledge. David Ramsey, in his work on the Revolution, remarks, that the repulse of Tarleton at Cowpens "did more essential injury to the British interest than was equivalent to all the preceding advantages he had gained."

In September, 1781, Gen. Pickens with Marion commanded the militia at the battle of Eutaw Springs. The field was hotly contested for four hours, and Pickens was severely wounded in the breast. His life was preserved by the bullet striking the buckle of his sword belt, and he was caught as he fell by an officer of the Maryland line.

The same year by the enterprise of Marion, Sumpter, Pickens, Morgan and others, the British, who had for a time overrun large portions of the Carolinas, were forced back toward the sea coast, and held no important post except Ninety-six and Augusta. The latter place—Augusta—was under the surveillance of Gen. Pickens and Col. Clarke with militia. On the 20th of May they were joined by Lieut. Col. Lee, when operations were commenced against the fortifications. One after another the outworks were taken, and in two weeks the garrison of 300 capitulated. They were honorably treated, though their commander, Col. Brown, had himself hanged thirteen American prisoners, and given over citizens of Georgia to the Cherokees to be tortured to death with fiendish cruelty. He was sent to

Savannah for detention, and would perhaps have been shot on the way by persons enraged at his inhumanity, if he had not been protected by an armed escort furnished by Gen. Pickens.

At the siege of Ninety-six, Joseph Pickens, a brother of the General, commanded a company, and was fatally wounded, as he was reconnoitering the fort. Another brother, taken prisoner by the Tories, was given over to the Indians, who scalped and tortured him for their amusement, as they were going through their hideous dances, many of the Tories being present.

Col. Tarleton was at one time scouring through the interior of South Carolina, when he was pursued by General Pickens and Col. Lee, who came upon a separate body of 350 of his men. The latter, not knowing that Americans were in that vicinity, mistook them for royalists, and as they were being cut to pieces by a heavy fire, cried out, "God save the King!" but soon discovered their error, and were all killed, wounded or made prisoners.

Loyalists incited the Indians of Georgia to act with the British and commit outrages on the scattered settlements of the frontier. To put an end to their depredations, General Pickens gathered 400 militia, had them mounted on horseback, and supplied with pistols and short sabres made by the blacksmiths of the country. Advancing into the forests and everglades, where the savages lived, he destroyed thirteen of their towns, slew 40 of them and took 50 prisoners. So well were his measures taken, that not one of his own men was killed, only 2 were wounded, and he did not expend three pounds of ammunition. The redmen not being thoroughly subdued, he made a similar expedition against them in 1782 with like success. It was not his preference to make forays against Indian towns. He was naturally human and justified himself in his course by the necessity of defending the lives and property of his countrymen. The fierce warriors of the wilderness must realize the valor and courage of their white neighbors, and the danger of lifting the rifle and tomahawk against them. When this lesson was thoroughly taught them, by Gen. Pickens and his followers, they became peaceable. He was one of the commissioners appointed to conclude a treaty, which was made with them at Hopewell, the

place where he resided, and through which largely by his influence, a wide tract, containing the counties of Pickens, named for him, Anderson, Greenville, and Ocones was ceded to South Carolina. Rev. Dr. Geo. Howe in his history of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, speaking of this treaty, says, that "four tribes, Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws, encamped around the old general, each having a separate encampment." They highly esteemed the hero as a brave enemy, whose hostility was to be feared, and on whose honesty, justice, wisdom and integrity they could rely when he was their friend. They called him Long Knife. During Washington's administration the President requested him to come to Philadelphia that he might consult with him upon proper measures for the civilization of the Southern Indians. In 1794 he was appointed major general of the militia of his State, which had been newly organized. He was also one of the commission instituted to determine the boundary between South Carolina and Georgia, and was employed in all the negotiations with the Southern natives till he retired from public. A member of the Legislature repeatedly, he was elected to the convention at which was framed the State Constitution. In 1794 he was chosen a member of Congress, but declined a re-election and subsequently served again several terms in the Legislature.

In a private letter, which I received yesterday from L. M. Pickens, Esq., of Elberton, Ga., a great-grandson of General Pickens, is the following in regard to the journey of his ancestor to Philadelphia when he went to Congress:

"At that time there were neither railroads nor stage coaches; all traveling was done on horseback. Picture then to yourself a man, who is approaching his three score years, of martial figure and dignified demeanor, mounted on a spirited milk white Andalusian, whip in hand and holsters filled with a brace of pistols, the silver mountings of which glittered in the sunlight. A three-cornered hat, from beneath which was silver-gray hair, put smoothly back and tied in a queue, an undress military coat, ruffled shirt and fine top boots with massive silver spurs. Following at a little distance on a stout draft horse is his African attendant, Pompey, in livery of blue with scarlet facings, carrying a ponderous portmanteau, with a consequential and dignified air, showing in every movement the pride of a body servant of his revered master. Paint this in your mind's eye and you have before you a gentleman of the 18th century with his servant on his way to Congress. Such was General Andrew Pickens as he passed through our village in 1794."

When the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain was about to commence his fellow citizens requested him to be a candidate for election as Governor, but he declined, saying that the office ought to be in younger hands than his.

General Pickens was a member and elder and one of the founders in 1797 of the Presbyterian church of Hopewell, near the residence in which he lived many years, and continued in the eldership till his death, having been a firm believer in the Christian religion from his youth.

In person he was tall, erect and powerfully built, and uniformly enjoyed good health. His features were strongly marked, but suffused with the light of an able mind and a benevolent heart. In planning military movements he was cautious, shrewd and sagacious; in camp, watchful and rigid in discipline, and in battle, cool, prompt and fearless. S. M. Pickens, Esq., says, "He was one of the few officers who never drew a cent of pay for his Revolutionary services, as the roll of the comptroller's office shows." He also states that "the General held the first county court, that sat under the new laws near Abbeville court-house, and his son, Gov. Andrew Pickens, then a boy of five years old, drew the first jury."

The general had a large family of five or six daughters and three or four sons. One of his sons, Andrew, held a commission as colonel in the U. S. Army in 1812, and in 1816 was elected Governor of South Carolina. A son of the latter, Francis K. Pickens, was a member of Congress ten years, appointed Minister to Russia by President Buchanan, and just before the late war with the South was chosen Governor of South Carolina.

In the last part of his life General Pickens moved from the vicinity of Abbeville eighteen or twenty miles northwest toward the frontier, where he had a large, commodious mansion, which he called "Tomasee," a name borrowed from the Indians. Possessed of a handsome property and a fair income he desired nothing more. His home was always the seat of abundant hospitality, and he was visited almost constantly by relatives, friends and acquaintances, and by distinguished strangers from a distance. His death occurred August 11, 1817, in the 78th year of his age, and his remains were carried to the graveyard of the stone church of Hopewell, near his former residence, and laid

beside those of his beloved, honored and devoted wife, who had passed away a few years previously. He was one of those noble soldiers and enlightened patriots, of whom Bucks county may well be proud to have it said, "That man was born here."

It is not exactly germane to the subject of this paper, but it may not be amiss to mention that John F. Calhoun, Esq., of Fort Hill, S. C., in one of the letters I have received from him, says:

"I have had a gavel made for the use of the National Democratic Convention, which will assemble to-morrow (two weeks ago). The body of the gavel is red cedar from a tree that grew in the yard near the mansion of John C. Calhoun, in which I am now residing. This cedar is very ingeniously and beautifully inlaid with eighteen different varieties of wood. These with the handle make twenty varieties of wood all grown at Fort Hill, the old home of John C. Calhoun. A silver plate is attached, on which is engraved, 'From the home of John C. Calhoun.' After the adjournment of the convention the gavel is to be presented to the Presidential nominee of the party."

Whether the gavel was used as designed I have not been informed.