

Henry Crawford Tucker, Sr. (1752-1832)

Colonel, Virginia, Continental Line

In September of 1777, at the age of 25, Henry Crawford Tucker, Sr. left his life as a landowner and planter and joined the Continental Army to fight the British. He enlisted as a Lieutenant in the Third Virginia Line, later moving to the Fourth Virginia Line where he served most of the Revolutionary War.

He served first under Captain Ridley, an officer from his home of Southampton, Va. He later served under Captain William Rogers, Major Duval and Colonel Dick during his tenure.

In the Continental Army, he found himself engaged in the following battles;

- Brandywine 1777, where Gen Howe met Gen Washington as Howe moved on Philadelphia. It was a British victory as they continued to move, but the British took heavy losses and were unable to break Washington's army.
- The encampment at Valley Forge 1777-78, where the troops endured extreme hardships over the winter, but through constant and persistent training, the Continental Army became a force to be reckoned with.
- Monmouth Courthouse 1778, where Gens Lee and Washington attacked the British as they evacuated Philadelphia. After a day long battle, the British withdrew under cover of darkness, leaving 500 casualties behind, compared to 300 of the Americans.
- Petersburg 1781, where Gen von Steuben fought the British to a standstill until severely outnumbered, at which point he executed two orderly retreats and continued to occupy the attention of the British. With this action, Richmond was allowed to re entrench and hold off a second sacking by the British army. This was the final battle before Yorktown.
- Yorktown 1781, where in October, Gens Washington and LaFayette began bombarding the British until they raised the white flag of surrender, effectively ending the war.

At the end of hostilities in 1783, being discharged from the Continental Army, he returned home to Southampton. He collected a pension for his service to the Continental Army beginning in 1823. He and his family are detailed in "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia" Judge Folks Huxford 1951.

Together with his brothers, they sold their father's plantation to one John Wilkerson. Henry Crawford Tucker, Sr. then left Virginia to move through North Carolina and into Georgia. He purchased land in the Georgia Land Lotteries making he and son Henry Crawford Tucker, Jr. pioneers of Colquitt County, (Moultrie) Georgia. Henry Jr and family remained there but Henry Sr. continued moving south; later settling in Magnolia, Florida. Upon his death, Henry Crawford Tucker, Sr. was buried in Colquitt County.

Henry Crawford Tucker Jr. founded the Sardis Primitive Baptist Church in Colquitt County, which he led as minister for 47 years. He fought as a company Captain in the Creek Indian uprising from 1836-1838. He was known to have married three times and fathered 32 children and with over 160 grandchildren resulting. In an ironic twist, Henry Crawford Tucker Jr. was a Georgia delegate to the Secession Convention of 1861 where Georgia joined the Confederate States of America.

Submitted by Dale Pat Boling
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