

Grave Dedication – Captain Richard Vernon, NC Militia (1776-1781)

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Recording Secretary – Tennessee SAR
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The gravesite of Captain Richard C. Vernon – located in Williamson County, Nolensville, Tennessee.

On Sunday, May 1, 2016, the Lt. Andrew Crockett Chapter, Tennessee SAR, marked the grave of Captain Richard Vernon. Captain Vernon was an officer in the Guilford County, North Carolina Militia, serving multiple tours from 1776-1781. His last command was Vernon's Company of Light Horse Militia.

Notably, while serving as a Lieutenant in Captain Bethel's Company, he and his men left Guilford County, North Carolina on or about March 15, 1780, for the purpose of providing "relief and defense" to Charleston, South Carolina.¹ His unit was attached to Colonel Joseph Brannon's

Regiment and was part of General Richard Caswell's Brigade of North Carolina Militia.

General Caswell and his men, including then Lieutenant Vernon, entered South Carolina on April 1, 1780, and rendezvoused with elements of the Virginia Continental under the command of Captain Buford. Two weeks later on April 14, 1780, the combined militia forces, including those of Captain Vernon were engaged in battle against the forces of Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton at Monck's Corner. Monks Corner, which is situated northwest of Charleston, was a vital area from which relief could be provided to the garrison in in Charleston under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln.

The British attacked Monks Corner at 3:00 a.m. on the morning of the 14th, pushing the Patriot militia forces back toward the Santee River. The retreating militia forces crossed the Santee below Dupree's ferry along with General Caswell's Brigade, General Isaac Hugger's men and Captain Buford's Virginia Continentals.

Once Monk's Corner and later, Lenud's Ferry, were seized by the British, General Benjamin Lincoln's Patriot garrison in Charleston was effectively denied any avenue of retreat. Neither, the North Carolina militia nor additional Continental troops were able to provide aid to the besieged city. Thereafter, on May 12, 1780, General Lincoln surrendered his command of 5,000 men to British General Sir Henry Clinton.

¹ See Captain Richard Vernon's pension application (No. S 1883) at <http://revwarapps.org/s1883.pdf>.



From L to R – TN SAR President, David L. Eagan and Lt. Andrew Crockett Chapter President and TN SAR Recording Secretary, H. Edward Phillips, Esq.

The grave marking of this hero of the Revolution was well attended with over 150 persons, including distinguished guests, members of the Old Glory and Brigadier General Richard Winn Chapters of the Tennessee DAR, a large contingent of the Tennessee SAR Color Guard, special participants as well as family members and friends.

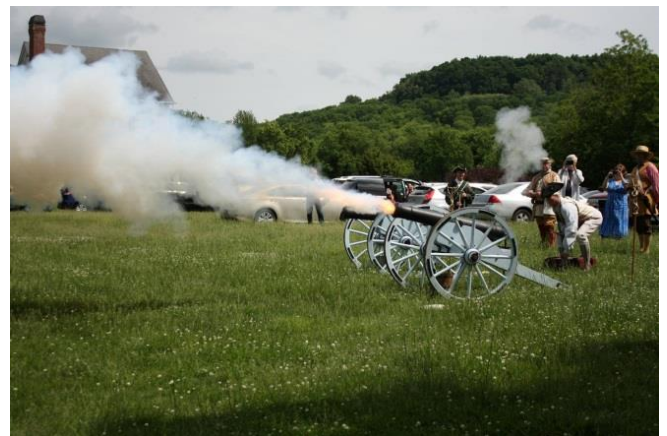
The distinguished guests included Representative Glen Casada, Tennessee General Assembly; Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson; Mrs. Ginger Hoogesteger, Old Glory Chapter DAR Regent; Mrs. Vicki James, Brigadier General Richard Winn Chapter DAR Regent; and Jacob Johnson of Boy Scout Troop No. 135, whose tireless work along with his fellow troop members, was responsible for the restoration of the Vernon Family Cemetery. Jacob was honored by Mayor Anderson as he proclaimed May 1, 2016, as the day set aside by William County to honor Jacob's dedication and effort.



TN SAR Color Guard honoring Captain Richard Vernon.



TN SAR Color Guard firing another volley.



TN SAR Color Guard's field pieces fired for the occasion!



TN SAR Color Guard with Captain Vernon's descendants, including one of s third great-grandsons and Mrs. Mary Jo Wear, a member of the Oregon DAR.



From L to R – State Color Guard Commander David Vaughn and his friend Sharon.



From L to R – Roger A. Tenney, Sanford Payton, Larry Pool, Bob Hughes, John A Clines Jr, Bill Wendt, John Clines, Dennis Harris, Jim McKinney, Allen Poteet, John D. Clark, Jim Johnson, Johnny Head, Bill Massey and Steve Gaines.



From L to R – Tanasi River Brigade Color Guard Commander and Acting State Color Guard Commander John Clines, and TN SAR President, David L. Eagan. President Eagan is presenting Commander Clines with the SAR Grave Marking Medal prior to the ceremony.