Continental Kiosk Wand

The British might have called us rebels and rabble, however we called ourselves patriots. Unlike the regulars or Continentals, we militiamen paid our own way, furnished our own horses, armament and even clothes - such as they were. Now the Continentals, they were paid, trained and uniformed by the Continental Congress. Sometimes they didn’t get paid, and sometimes their clothing was torn and tattered. The Congress, I’ve heard, is pretty much bankrupt. States have had to step forward and help by taking on the financial responsibility for pay, food, shelter, clothing, arms, and other equipment assigned to them as part of the establishment of state militia units. However our young states differ in how they’ve lived up to these obligations. There are constant money problems and morale problems as the war continues.

Although many soldiers found it difficult to choose sides, there were those of us who had a long history of distrust of the English. We and our families had come to the young colony to start anew. We had fought Indians, cleared land, built cabins and established churches. There was turmoil everywhere because things were changing and growing. The Mother Country tried to clear us out of the Indian Territory, and then set the Indians against us.

By the time the revolution was in full swing, some of us had served many months in the army as militia or sometimes we were regulars, serving at will. That is, no one forced us to this duty. The well-to-do citizens might have paid someone to fight for them. Some of us bore scars from sabers and bayonets received in other battles. We had fought admirably at Musgrove Mill and Kings Mountain, and a few short months later, here we are in the backcountry of South Carolina getting ready to fight the much feared Tarleton and his British redcoats. The militia is under the direct command of Col. Andrew Pickens of South Carolina, and those Continental boys are under Col. Howard of Maryland. The cavalry are hidden behind a swale headed by that cousin of George’s – a Virginia boy - Billy Washington.