

Patriot Wand at Tree

Private Andrew Ferguson was one of a number of free blacks who fought in the Revolutionary War. Born in Virginia of free black parents, Ferguson was drafted at age fifteen in 1780 and fought in the battles of Brandywine, Kings Mountain and Cowpens. At Guilford Courthouse he was severely wounded but later fought at Ninety Six and Eutaw Springs.

“I’m a colored man. Two weeks before being drafted, I was in company with my father and was taken prisoner by the British. We ran away from them because they whipped us with a cat o’ nine tails. We fell in with the American soldiers under Gen. Greene, and he told us that if the British ever got us again, they would kill us and so he had better draft us and let us fight the British. I was then under command of Capt. William Harris and Col. William McCormick and stayed under the command of this company most of the time. I was in the battle at the cow pens where we made a stand and whipped the British.”

Capt. Dennis Tramell was a North Carolina volunteer who saw service at Augusta. After moving to South Carolina, he joined Col. John Thomas and fought at Kings Mountain. Tramell tells how Morgan chose the place to stand and fight Tarleton.

“I was under the command of Col. Roebuck, and in the meantime Pickens had raised his troops and come under the command of Gen. Morgan who was camped along the Pacolet near Grindal Shoals just before Christmas 1780. Morgan and us came to a place called the cow pens between the branch of Horse Creek and Suck Creek. That place being in two and half miles of my home and me being well acquainted the situation of the ground called upon me to assist in selecting the battle ground; so I went with Gen. Morgan and his life-guard and Aide de Camp and selected the ground on which the battle was fought. After the ground was chosen, I remember Gen. Morgan saying, “Captain, here is Morgan’s grave or victory.”