

*ministry*, was sent to a flourishing academy at the Waxsaw meeting house, superintended by Mr. Humphries. Here he was placed on the study of the dead languages, and continued until the revolutionary war extended its ravages into that section of South Carolina, where he then was, rendered it necessary that every one should betake himself to the American Standard, seek protection with the enemy, or flee his country. It was not an alternative that admitted of tedious deliberation. The natural ardor of his temper, deriving encouragement from the recommendations of his mother, whose feelings were not less alive on the occasion than his own; and *excited by those sentiments in favour of liberty*, with which, by her conversation, his mind had been early endued, quickly determined him in the course to be pursued; and at the tender age of fourteen, accompanied by his brother Robert, he hastened to the American camp, and engaged actively in the service of his country. His oldest brother, who had previously joined the army, had *lost his life at the battle of Stono*, from the excessive heat of the weather, and the fatigues of the day.

Both Andrew and Robert were, at this period, pretty well acquainted with the manual exercise, and had some idea of the different evolutions of the field, having been indulged by their mother in attending the drill and general musters of the neighbourhood.

The Americans being unequal, as well from the inferiority of their numbers, as their discipline, to engage the British army in battle, had retired before it, into the interior of North Carolina; but when they learned that Lord Cornwallis had crossed the Yadkin, they returned in small detachments to their native State. On their arrival, they found Lord Rawdon in possession of Camden, and the whole country around in a state of desolation. The British commander being advised of the return of the settlers of Waxsaw, Major Coffin was immediately despatched thither, with a corps of light dragoons, a company of infantry, and a considerable number of Tories, for their capture and destruction. Hearing of their approach, the settlers, without delay, appointed the Waxsaw meeting house as a place of rendezvous, that they might the better collect their scattered strength, and concert some system of operations. About forty of them had accordingly assembled at this point, when the enemy approached, keeping the Tories, who were dressed in the common garb of the country, in front, whereby this little band of patriots were completely