

SALUTE TO OUR PROPOSITI

LT. COL. HARDY MURFREE

First Regiment North Carolina Continental Line Original Member

The Murfree family is well known in North Carolina since the early 1700s when William Murfree established a plantation at Murfree's Landing, and Murfreesboro was founded. His son, Hardy Murfree, was born in 1752. He was an ensign in the Hertford County militia, high Sheriff of Hertford County in 1763, 1765-1770, and a delegate in the Provincial Congress in 1776.

Murfree joined the 2nd North Carolina Continental Line as a captain 1775. He was at the battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, Germantown, and Stony Point, and encamped at Valley Forge. The Battle of Stony Point, NY made his reputation as a Revolutionary War hero. The Continental Line needed to take back the fort at Stony Point to deny the British complete access to West Point. During the battle on July 16, 1779, two North Carolina companies (part of the 2nd North Carolina Battalion), 178 men, commanded by Maj. Hardy Murfree of the First Regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line, were instructed to lay down a "gauling [galling] fire" with their weapons as a diversionary tactic for about thirty minutes. This was strategic for the Continental Line's victory. Murfree received a special commendation from his commander, General Anthony Wayne, in the reports about the battle that were sent to General Washington.

Murfree joined the defense of Charleston in 1780, where the entire North Carolina Continental Line eventually surrendered on May 12, 1780. He was a prisoner of war, but evidently released as reportedly he was at King's Mountain in 1781. He was discharged at the end of the war as a lieutenant colonel.

(Continued on page 21)

SALUTE TO OUR PROPOSITI

LT. COL. HARDY MURFREE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Murfree married Sally Brickell in 1780 and had seven children. He served in several important positions; President Washington appointed him Inspector of Revenue in 1790 and 1794. After his wife's death in 1802, he moved to Williamson County, Tennessee where he had land warrants for 77,000 acres. He died in 1809 and was buried with full Masonic rites. In 1811 the new Rutherford County seat was named Murfreesboro after him.

Hardy Murfree was an original member and first treasurer of the North Carolina Society of Cincinnati.

Stanley Frazer Rose

Great, great, great, great grandson of Lt. Col. Hardy Murfree.
First Regiment North Carolina Continental Line.
Original Member.

Sources: Hardy Murfree Papers, Tennessee State Library and Archives.
Hugh F. Rankin, *The North Carolina Continental Line in the American Revolution* (1976) and *North Carolina Continentals* (1971).



Lt. Col. Hardy Murfree
Private collection, Murfree Family.