

Soldier from Rockingham in the Battle of Camden



Battle of Camden

The Battle of Camden is remembered in history as a major victory for the British. The day of the battle, August 16, 1780, the British forces commanded by Lieutenant General Charles and Lord Cornwallis routed the American forces of Major General Horatio Gates about five miles North of Camden, South Carolina and in the process strengthened the British hold over the Carolinas. Some thought that the battle was ill planned by the American General Horatio Gates.

Nonetheless, it was so bad a defeat for the American forces that Gates never commanded another field battle. Peter Crawford of Rockingham County first entered the war in Mecklenburg County, Virginia during 1781 and joined the 4th Virginia regiment under the command of General Gates. They marched first to Ramseys Mill where they had a scrimmage with the Tories. They arrived in Camden on August 15, 1780, the evening before the battle. Before Crawford reached Camden he was detailed to take charge of one of the Baggage wagons for the battle.

After this battle he rallied and joined the remnant of his Regiment on the Pee Dee river and marched to Hillsborough where he was discharged after a tour of Service of more than five months. The second time that he

entered the service it was in the draft of Capt. Thomas Foulk and joined the regiment of Gloucester at an old field near Yorktown. Crawford remained in service until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.