

According to a legend, a British officer visited Marion's camp to negotiate a prisoner exchange. After sharing a breakfast of roasted sweet potatoes around a campfire, the British officer was so impressed by the charismatic, rugged, resourceful Swamp Fox that he turned coat! The British officer joined the American fight for independence. He actually had an easy decision to make, considering the advantages of joining Marion's forces. Right?

Marion's forces:

- Received no pay
- Had no uniforms
- Provided their own weapons
- Foraged for their food
- Provided their own horses
- Slept under a blanket
- Did not have a roof overhead
- Lived in constant danger
- Battled animals and insects in the swamps
- Were always outnumbered by the Loyalists and well-equipped, highly trained British soldiers

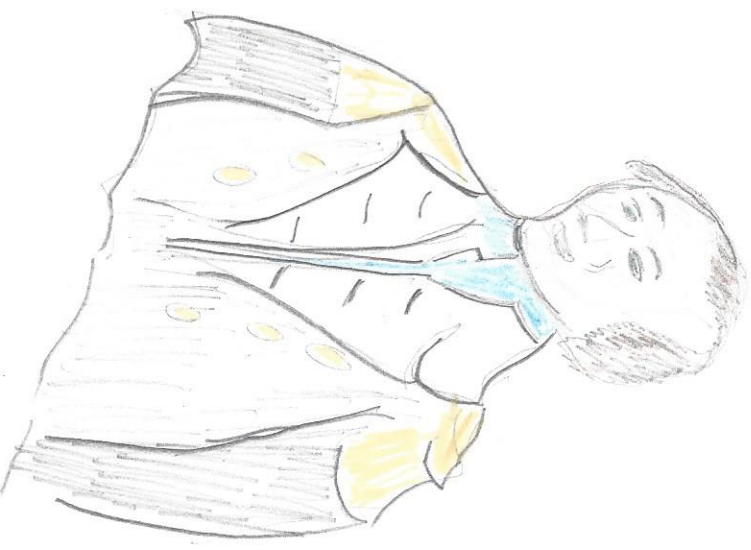


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**A Hero of the War for
Independence**

and

**A Concern Beyond Compare for
the British**

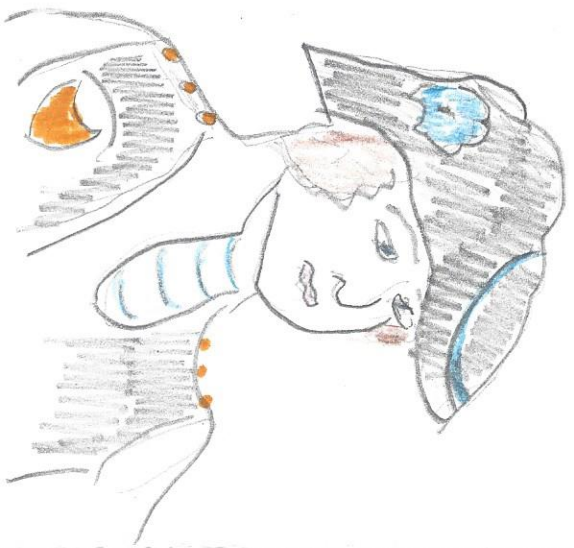


FRANCIS MARION

"The Swamp Fox"

Brigadier General,

South Carolina State Troops



"Even the Devil can't catch him,"
Colonel Tarleton once said.
But Colonel'd sell his own soul
For The Swamp Fox to be dead.
By the author of this brochure

Brigadier General Francis Marion was a resourceful, tenacious military genius whose contributions to our country greatly aided the cause of Independence. The following is a fictionalized interview between a member of the C.A.R. and a British reporter, based on historical fact.

British reporter: Well, sir, I must admit that you are much younger than I anticipated. You know, The Swamp Fox is not highly regarded in Britain.

C.A.R. member: Yes, I am aware of your misunderstanding. He was the product of his times and culture. I should remind you that the British did not have any problems with his warfare

tactics when he was fighting as your ally in the French and Indian War. No one can say burning the crops of the Cherokees to force them into starvation and surrender was honorable, but those were different times. That same culture prepared him for admirable service in the War for Independence.

Reporter: You make a good point.

Member: Yes, Marion adopted the Cherokee strategies about how to hide in the South Carolina backwoods, utilizing terrain and devastating ambushes to fight the British.

Reporter: And your Rangers still talk of him.

Member: Yes, he is one of fathers of guerrilla warfare. Are aware of fate in General Marion's life? He might have been a sailor, but after a shipwreck, he had to survive for a week in a lifeboat. He decided he would stay on dry land.

Reporter: I quite agree with his decision.

Member: Then at a dinner party in Charleston in 1780, the toasts were going on too long for Marion who did not drink. To escape the party, he jumped from a window and broke his ankle.

Reporter: I can't see how that is good luck.

Member: Oh, it is. While he was recuperating in the countryside, Charleston fell to you, the British, in May! He escaped capture! And then you beat us badly at Camden, but don't celebrate yet! The Swamp Fox organized a band of maybe 70 soldiers and eventually freed a lot of troops that the Brits had captured.

Reporter: But he was not a good person, and your country is glorifying him.

Member: I'm sure if a soldier on your side had been as successful as Marion was, you would be honoring him, too. He disrupted your communication lines, captured scouting and foraging parties, and intimidated Loyalists. That was the way of war in those days.

Reporter: The British hated and feared him. See?

Member: Yes, I think I do. I read that your General Cornwallis ordered Colonel Tarleton to bring Marion to him, "Dead or alive!" Seven hours and 26 miles later, Tarleton declared that "The Devil himself could not catch him!"

Reporter: You have made some strong points in favor of The Swamp Fox, but I know he let his men plunder and cruelly punish his captives.

Member: You may be right. I have heard those charges myself. But look at this documentation surrounding the end of the war. Marion refused to follow the order of his commander to ambush a British and Loyalist foraging party at the end of the war. He said that additional killing were unnecessary and would damage peace. Then as a member of the South Carolina Senate, he voted NOT to strip Loyalists of their land and property after the war. Yes, war is cruel, but General Marion was a product of his time.

