

Hezekiah Maham, a Berkeley County Distinguished Soldier and Patriot of the American Revolution ~

Hezekiah Maham (1739-1789), who had been an overseer before acquiring a plantation on his own on the Santee River in 1771, was a member of the 2nd Provincial Congress and the 1st General Assembly in 1776. Maham served as a captain in the 1st SC Regiment during 1776. He was present at the fall of Savannah in December 1778. Promoted to major of a regiment of Light Dragoons in early 1779, he fought at Stono Ferry in June of that year. After the fall of Charlestown in 1780, Maham joined Marion's Brigade.

In 1781, he was named commander of a troop of dragoons in the brigade. The so-called Maham Tower, which he designed and built during the siege of Ft. Watson in April 1781, brought him to the attention of Greene and other Continental officers. The structure was a tower high enough that Marion's sharpshooters could shoot down on the unshielded troops within the fort, resulting in a quick surrender of the fort.

Edmund M. Hume and Henry Lee both recommended Maham for a Continental command, which Greene offered him in June 1781. Maham had also submitted a plan of his own for raising a corps of horse, which Lee had forwarded to Greene. Greene's appointment of Peter Horry to raise a similar regiment eventually led to a sharp dispute between Maham and Horry over rank. Maham refused to recognize Horry's seniority, nor would he accept Marion's orders without approval from General Greene.

Maham and Marion were attending the Jacksonborough Assembly in February 1782 when Marion received word of Loyalist activity near the Santee River. During the ensuing action, Maham's dragoons became confused, enabling the British to overwhelm and disperse them. In March 1782, Maham's and Horry's cavalry regiments were combined under Maham's command, although Horry was the senior officer. Horry was made commandant of Georgetown. Shortly after, Maham was given command of the only state cavalry regiment.

"He [Maham] soon was taken ill and withdrew to his plantation." While there, on May 16, 1782, he was captured by Loyalists. Maham was paroled but was unable to serve again due to irregularities in his parole.

In 1784, Maham, who was known for a "quick temper," was arrested for forcing a deputy sheriff to "eat and swallow" a summons that the latter was trying to

serve on him. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to three months imprisonment and fined £100.

After petitioning the South Carolina General Assembly and Senate, however, he was pardoned by Governor Guerard in 1786. After the war, Maham served in the SC House from 1784-87. He was elected to the Senate in 1787, and served until his death in 1789, before which he voted to ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1788.

References & Sources: *The Francis Marion Papers*, Biographical Vignettes. Moss, *SC Patriots*, 649; Edgar, *Biographical Directory of the SC House*, 2:1035-37; Bailey and Cooper, *Biographical Directory of the SC House*, 3:466-68; Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences, Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South* (Charleston: Walker and James, 1851), 291; PNG, 8:433; Stevens, Michael, "Wealth, Influence or Powerful Connections: Aedenus Burke and the Case of Hezekiah Maham," *SCHGM*, 81 (1980), 163.



Historical Marker located in Pineville, SC

For detailed information, see *A Selected History of Hezekiah Maham*, by Keith Gourdin 2025.