

## “Standing Peach Tree” In the Revolutionary War

There were three Patriot expeditions to “Standing Peach Tree” during the Revolutionary War. All were for the purpose of chasing invading Creek and Cherokee Indians from the Pendleton District of South Carolina and north-eastern Georgia. The Creek village of Pakanahuili (a Creek Indian word for Standing Peach Tree) was a trading center located at the end of the Creek Peachtree Trail at the confluence of Peachtree Creek and the Chattahoochee River near the present Atlanta Waterworks. The trail was from Toccoa Georgia to the Chattahoochee River.

The British induced Indian allies to attack the South Carolina Frontier to create a diversion in favor of British operations on the sea-coast. A letter from Public Records Office London mentions Mr. McDonald, John Ramsey, Taitt and others, incidents at Cherokee Ford, Lone Cane Creek etc and Standing Peach Tree as a meeting place for the Indians and Loyalists (Davis, reel 2811115). On July 1st Loyalist Alexander Cameron led 900 Tory and Indian forces to the Ninety-Six District SC (“Jews Land”). One of the first to be affected was Francis Salvador (he owned 7,000 acres) who rode 28 miles to Major Andrew Williamson’s Whitehall plantation (somewhere near present day Ninety-Six) to warn of the attack. Patriot Major Andrew Williamson and Captain Andrew Pickens with 330 men militia answered the alarm and they were led into an ambush at the Keowee River. Mr. Salvador was wounded and then scalped before he died. He had served with Richard Rapley in the South Carolina Provincial Congress and was the first Jewish person to die in the Revolutionary War.

Major Williamson and some of his men then chased the Indians to Standing Peach Tree. Patriots’ pensions provide information heretofore unknown to prove these three expeditions.

### First Expedition: Summer 1776

“In 1776 he was called to Lindley’s Fort (Laurens SC) to defend the frontier..., marched to Keowee Old Town on Seneca River. Indians killed a man by the name of Sallvedore [Francis Salvador]. Gen Williamson’s Army marched near us-we joined it, and marched with his Army across Seneca River, Tugaloo River, then Oconee River on upper Georgia, then near what was called **Standing Peach Tree**, a number of men & officers refused to go further for want of food & returned a part of the army sent out on discovery were surrounded & would [have] been taken

by the Indians in a Wilderness..... reinforcements Col. Lacy died and the battle distinguished by the name Ring fight [12 August 1776]". (James Sherer W4512).

Other Patriots described the same series of battles

"On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 he commanded as Major a battle of Lindley's fort against the Indians in Ninety-Six District SC. That in same month of 1776 he was engaged in the Battle of Seneca old Towne, at Oconee Creek in Cherokee county commanded by Col. Andrew Williamson and later in the same month of 1776 he commanded as Major at the battle called Ring Fight ". (Jonathan Downs W21000).

"In July 1776 in Captain John Irwine's Company commanded by General Williamson marched against the Cherokee Indians was in the engagement in which Young Salvador [Francis Salvador] was killed----was in the Ring Battle." (John Parker S21414).

"Entered service under one Captain William West in South Carolina Militia in a campaign against the Creek Indians....driven out of the State of Georgia over the Alabama River and pursued near to the Tom Bigby to the **Standing Peach Tree**..." (Alexander Hargrove S6972).

"in July 1778(?), first marched to a place called Seneca in the Cherokee Nation and engaged with a battle with the Indians and the Tories, after the battle marched to Tugalo River.. above the Indian towns where one lieutenant was killed and then marched to the Indian boundary line." (Samuel Ridgeway S4119).

A second expedition: Fall of 1778.

"In the Fall of the same year under the same officers served a tour of three months against the Cherokees in the direction of **Standing Peach Tree**." (John Parker S21414). (Captain Irwine's Company Commanded by General Williamson).

"Served a tour of fifty days under General Andrew Williamson; marched out into Georgia nearly as far as **Standing Peach Tree**."(William Milwee W9200).

"In October 1778 under the command of Capt. William Milwee he performed a tour of two months service against the Creek Indians on the **Chattahoochee River** Under the command of General Williamson." (Thomas Entrekin (W7112).

" in 1779, he was drafted to defend the frontiers of Georgia against the Indians..... Under the command of General Andrew Williamson, were marched to the frontiers of Georgia he recollects that it was said when going out they were

going to a place called the **Standing Peach Tree**....marched back to Ninety-Six.”  
(Hezekiah Davis S32211).

A third expedition: Spring 1781

In the Spring of 1781 near Scott's Fort (at Scull Shoals on the Oconee River) two girls were abducted milking cows and took them into Indian Territory.

“General Clarke when he came to hear of the occurrence he ordered a large part of his men to pursue them and rescue the women our applicant was one of the company who went for the purpose. We overtook them at the standing peach tree in the State of Georgia where they had taken up camp and were holding consultation it was after night when we marched up on them and took them by surprise and rescued the two young women and took a great number of prisoner.  
(William C. Smith S3924).

May 27, 1782 a letter by Gov. John Martin in Augusta to General Andrew Pickens:

”Dear Genl., I have just had the pleasure of seeing our good , firm and fast friend the Tallahassee King who has come down to talk with me and has brought about forty of his head men and warriors with him. He inform me that Mr. William McIntosh with a strong party of Cowetas etc were to rendezvous at Standing Peach Tree on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month and they were afterwards to meet at the Big Shoal where to fall on the Okonnys on our frontier.”

Standing Peach Tree, now Atlanta, played an important role in the Revolutionary War.