

Biography of Captain Thomas Jenkins, ACN 59828

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Thomas Jenkins was commissioned a Captain in the South Carolina Militia on January 9, 1776, and he served until the war's end in 1781. He was born about 1745 in Fairfax County, Virginia, and died about 1822 in Lauderdale, Alabama. He was married to Jemima Williams.

Receiving intelligence in July 1780 that about 150 Loyalists and 30 British Dragoons had gathered near the home of patriot Colonel William Bratton, Colonel Bratton and Captain Jenkins led about 100 men on an overnight journey to find and attack the joint Loyalist-British force after summoning about 400 more men from other patriot militias in the area. During the fight at Williamson's Plantation, British Captain Christian Huck was killed and the enemy survivors were routed. Several months later Captain Jenkins, his nephew, and three other patriots returned to their home area on a recruiting trip. At sunrise the next morning they were captured by Loyalists and imprisoned in the British-Loyalist garrison at Ninety Six, South Carolina. In late spring 1781 General Greene led an unsuccessful siege of the fort at Ninety Six. How long Captain Jenkins served as a prisoner of war is uncertain, although it can be surmised that unless he was liberated by October 1780 or January 1781, he was unable to participate in the patriot victories at Kings Mountain or Cowpens. At the longest, Captain Jenkins would have been freed after the October 1781 surrender at Yorktown. Captain Jenkins was rewarded for his service by substantial land grants along the Reedy River south of Greenville.