

# Ninety Six National Historic Site Paintings Tour

The paintings are on loan courtesy of the Ninety Six Chamber of Commerce.



## The Artist:

### **Robert Windsor Wilson**

- Born in Ohio, 1921, he now resides in Woodruff, SC.
- Air Force Veteran, World War II & Korea.
- Self taught painter with 40 years experience. He began painting because of his interest in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.
- These 7 paintings were commissioned by the Ninety Six Chamber of Commerce in the late 1970s & early 1980s.

► Start your tour by going into the Auditorium and turning to your Right. Follow the paintings around to the Left ending with Francis Marion.



## **Col. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Chief Engineer Continental Army**

### Patriot Military Engineer

Painting: 1980

Born: February 12, 1746, Poland

Died: October 15, 1817, Switzerland

Full Name: Tadeusz Andrezej

Bonawentura Kosciuszko

Pronounced: Kos-Choos-ko

### At Ninety Six:

May 22- June 19, 1781

- 35 years old
- May 22: Convinced Patriot General Greene to set siege to the Loyalist held Star Fort. Kosciuszko reasoned that when the Star Fort fell so would the Loyalist held town and Stockade Fort.
- May 22-23: Night. Directed a battery for cannon to be dug starting at 70 yards from the Star Fort, but workers were attacked by Loyalists.
- May 23-24: Night. Directed trenches to be dug starting at 300 yards from the Star Fort.
- June 4: Directed Maham Tower to be built, 30 feet high and 30 yards from the Star Fort.
- June 9-10: Night. Loyalists attacked the Patriot trenches & Kosciuszko was wounded in "his seat of honor."
- June 20: Left Ninety Six with General Greene.

Painting depicts Kosciuszko with the Maham Tower, siege trenches, map of the Star Fort, and sextant used in mapping. There are towns in Mississippi & Texas, and a county in Indiana named for Colonel Kosciuszko.

## **The Assault of Star Fort, at the Siege of Ninety Six, June 18, 1781**

Painting: 1977

### June 18, 1781

• *Noon:* A cannon shot signaled the start of the attack. 50 Patriots (Rebels) called the Forlorn Hope (because of their dangerous mission) rushed forward from the 3<sup>rd</sup> parallel toward the Loyalist (loyal to the British King) held Star Fort.

• Patriots carried axes to cut down the abatis (sharpened felled trees to the right of the American Flag) & fraise (pointed sticks around the Star). They also carried grappling hooks to tear down sandbags at the top of the Star's walls. (Notice the Patriot near the center of the painting)

• Patriots also fired from the 30 foot Maham Tower (at the very left of the painting).

• As the Forlorn Hope rushed the Star Fort, 60 Loyalists attacked surrounding the Patriots in hand-to-hand fighting.

• Assault lasted 45 minutes before General Greene called it off.

• Out of the 50 men of the Forlorn Hope, 30 were killed and never made it back to Patriot lines.

The Artist spent over 500 hours researching and working on the painting. The Artist himself is the man with a gray beard and no coat at the bottom of the painting & his son is in the blue Patriot coat defending his father against Loyalist attack.

► See real swords, rifles, musket balls & cannon balls in the Museum across the hall.

## **Major General Nathanael Greene, Commander of the Southern Department, Continental Army**

### Patriot Commander

Painting: 1978

Born: July 27, 1742, Rhode Island

Died: June 19, 1786 Savannah, GA

Buried: Savannah, GA

- October 17, 1780: Chosen by General George Washington to command the Southern Department.
- December 3, 1780: Assumed command.

### At Ninety Six:

May 22- June 19, 1781

Greene said, "Ninety Six must fall."

- 38 years old
- May 21-22: After conferring with Kosciuszko, Greene decided to set siege to the Loyalist held Star Fort. Greene commanded about 1,624 troops at Ninety Six.
- June 3: Asked Loyalist commander John Harris Cruger to surrender. Cruger refused.
- June 6: Learned that British reinforcements were headed for Ninety Six.
- June 18: Directed assault on the Star Fort. Allowed the assault because his men wanted to at least try to take the Fort.
- June 19: Prepared Patriot Army to withdraw from Ninety Six.
- June 20: Left Ninety Six to the Loyalists.

Painting is a copy of a portrait of Greene that hangs in the Capital in Washington, DC.

## Lt. Colonel John Harris Cruger, DeLancey's Brigade

### Loyalist Commander

Painting: 1978

Born: 1738, New York City

Died: *June 2, 1807* London, Eng.

Buried: London, England

### At Ninety Six:

- 43 years old
- *Early August 1780:* Became Loyalist commander at Ninety Six.
- *Fall 1780:* Fortified Town & Stockade.
- *December 1780- Early 1781:* Had Star Fort built.

*May 22- June 19, 1781:*

- Commander of about 550 Loyalists from New York, New Jersey, & South Carolina.
- *June 3:* Refused to surrender to Greene.
- *June 13:* Learned that British reinforcements were coming.
- *June 21- Early July 1781:* Burned town of Ninety Six, destroyed supplies, and then left Ninety Six to the backcountry Patriots.

There are no recognized paintings of Cruger. This painting was done from paintings and pictures of Cruger's known relatives.

Cruger's red coat signifies his allegiance to the British/ Loyalist side of the Revolutionary War.

## Lt Colonel Henry Lee with Lee's Legion "Light Horse Harry"

### Cavalry Leader

Painting: 1980

Born: *January 29, 1756*, VA

Died: *March 25, 1818* Cumberland

Island, GA on way back to VA

Buried: Buried 1<sup>st</sup> at Cumberland

Island, GA--1913 was moved to

Washington & Lee University, VA

Nickname: Thus named in 1779 for his speed, horsemanship, and daring rides against the British.

### At Ninety Six:

*May 22- June 19, 1781*

- 25 years old
- *June 8:* Arrived from a battle at Augusta, GA. Advised Greene to attack Stockade & not the Star. He was adamantly against Kosciuszko's plans. Greene allowed Lee to try to attack the Stockade Fort
- *June 8-10:* Helped Pickens in directing men to dig zigzag trench 250 yards West of Stockade Fort.
- *June 12:* Sent 10 men to set fire to abatis around Stockade. Attack failed & 6 men were killed.
- *June 18:* During attack on the Star Fort, Lee sent men to attack the Stockade. After taking it, Lee wanted to move to attack the town, but Greene stopped him. Later Lee said, "His [Kosciuszko's] blunder lost us Ninety Six."
- Lee's Legion: Created 1779. Reported to Greene in SC, *January 13, 1781* with 100 horsemen & 180 infantry soldiers. Uniforms are similar to British Cavalrymen under Banastre Tarleton.

Father of Robert E. Lee

## Brigadier General Andrew Pickens with SC Militia

### Militia Leader

Painting: 1977

Born: *September 13, 1739* Paxtang

Twp (now in Dauphin County) PA

Died: *August 11 or 17, 1817* SC

Buried: Pendleton, SC at the Old Stone Church

Nicknames: "The Fighting Elder" because of deep Presbyterian faith

- "The Border Wizard Owl" (SkyAgunsta) Cherokee Indians called him.

### At Ninety Six:

*1<sup>st</sup> Battle- (November 19-22, 1775):*

- 36 years old
- Militia Captain
- Fought & attended Peace meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle (May 22- June 19, 1781):*
- 41 years old
- *Before Battle:* Pickens' men captured British courier in route to Cruger at Ninety Six. Letters told Cruger to abandon Ninety Six and retreat to the coast. Instead Cruger thought he was supposed to hold at all costs.
- *June 8:* Arrived from a battle at Augusta, GA.
- *June 8-10:* Directed soldiers to dig a zigzag trench 250 yards West of the Stockade. Raised an earthen battery & mounted a cannon.
- *June 11:* Greene sent him to aid Thomas Sumter against the British relief column.

Brother, Joseph Pickens, was killed during the 1781 siege.

Pickens' blue coat identifies him as a Patriot during the Revolution.

## "The Swamp Fox" Brigadier General Francis Marion with SC Militia

### Partisan & Militia Leader

Painting: 1980

Born: 1732 Berkley Co., SC

Died: *Feb. 27, 1795* Pond Bluff, SC

Buried: Belle Isle, SC

Nickname: British cavalryman

Banastre Tarleton chased Marion for 26 miles & 7 hours & could not catch him.

He supposedly said, "Come, my boys!

Let us go back and we will find the

Gamecock. As for this d\_\_d old fox,

the devil himself could not catch him!"

Thus the nickname "Swamp Fox"

because Marion hid in the swamps in

the Low Country of South Carolina to

avoid British capture.

### Ninety Six Related:

- 49 years old in 1781
- Not at Ninety Six during either battle.
- *1781:* Fought British troops around Charleston, SC with Thomas Sumter ("The Gamecock"). This delayed the British from coming to Cruger's aid at Ninety Six.

Partisan (or guerilla): an unofficial armed group of Patriot rebels who harassed the enemy.

Notice the crescent moon on Marion's cap engraved with the word "LIBERTY."

It's a symbol of the SC militia.

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The Staff of **Ninety Six National Historic Site** hopes you enjoyed your tour of these historic paintings.