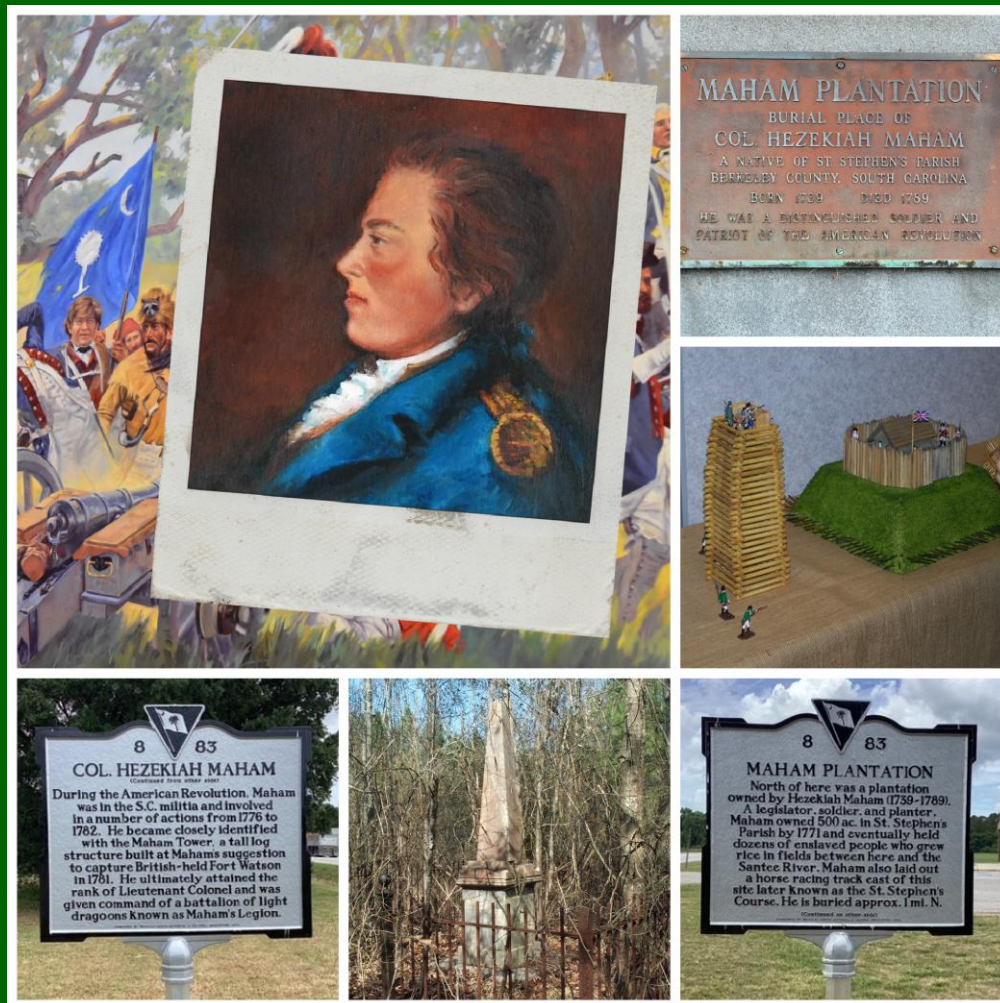


# A Selected History of ~ Hezekiah Maham ~

Berkeley County, SC  
Revolutionary War  
Maham's Towers



by Keith Gourdin  
2025



# ~ Table of Contents ~

## Hezekiah Maham

Introduction to Hezekiah and his family, lands, and life .....	1
Maham's Tower .....	3
Wantoot and its Fine Horses .....	6
The Luxury of a Feather Bed .....	8
Maham's Capture .....	9
The Serving of a Subpoena on the Colonel .....	9
Dr. Lynah and His Medical Bills .....	9
Horse Stealing .....	10
Maham's War Timeline and Actions .....	11
Maham Ancestry & Descendants .....	17
Just Bits & Pieces .....	18
Maham's Death and Gravesite .....	21
Maham's Historical Marker .....	23

## ~ Colonel Hezekiah Maham, of Maham's Towers ~

By Keith Gourdin

"The most eminent military character the Revolution produced in this parish" were the words of one of Berkeley County's most revered and respected historians, Frederick A. Porcher, about Colonel Hezekiah Maham of St. Stephen's Parish.

You've been told, several times over the past several months, about a few of our more illustrious heroes, when it relates to the American Revolution and our action sites here in Berkeley County. General Francis Marion, of course topping the list. Colonel Maham, also born here in Berkeley County, lived, worked, fought, died, and is buried here in St. Stephen's Parish (more especially, here in Pineville). When comparing him to the General, there were differences in almost every aspect of their lives. (All things considered; we'd have to say that most folks don't compare well to others; we all have our "peculiarities.")

Many of our American Revolutionary action sites' history in Berkeley County include as a key participant, Hezekiah Maham, in many of the stories. A few that immediately come to mind are Battle of Moncks Corner, Biggins and Wadboo Bridges, and Fair Lawn Plantation. Each of these stories (action sites) have defining moments as to the part played by the Colonel, relating to the instructions he was ordered to follow, and how he carried out those orders.

As I think about these local skirmishes, raids, and/or actions, I am reminded of all the people involved in those particular battles. Some were *Loyalists*, those colonists in the Thirteen Colonies who remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolutionary War, often referred to as Tories or King's Men at the time. On the other side, were the *Patriots*, who in the 18th century, American writers, including Benjamin Franklin, embraced the word *Patriot* to define the colonists, who took action against British control.

Certainly, a most disturbing situation for many families were those split between that of being a *Loyalist*, or that of an American. Such was certainly the case with many families in Berkeley County.

I have a rather lengthy story to tell you about Hezekiah Maham, that I'm sure you will find interesting, especially pertaining to the military character Hezekiah exhibited during his "war" days. The story also has information about his family, his involvement with blooded horses, Carolina Gold rice, his temper and trials, etc. Interested?

Hezekiah Maham was always curious to me when I was growing up in Pineville. Knowing every inch of Maham Plantation property like I did, Maham's monument was in the middle of one of my cousin's fields we farmed. All of this property had belonged to my grandfather and his brother for too many years to count, farmers they were, as was my father. The cemetery we plowed around had a very old, but neat little wrought iron fence around it, and from appearances, there may have been at least a half-dozen gravesites inside. I'm just so sorry I didn't

have any “historical value” importance settled in my head at that time, otherwise, I’d be able to tell you lots more today.

During the year 1776, Maham was elected captain in the First Rifle Regiment under Colonel Isaac Huger, where he served during the siege of Savannah and other battles. Later he was made a Commander of the Horse in General Francis Marion’s Brigade, and in the attack on Fort Watson in April 1781, he created a crude tower, tall enough to overlook the stockade, giving the Americans a win over the British. The “Maham Towers” were likewise used for command platforms over British forts in South Carolina and Georgia. Hezekiah Maham would later become Lt. Colonel of an independent Corp of Cavalry, performing many daring exploits in the Lowcountry of the Carolinas, where thirty or more actions were on Berkeley County soil.

Hezekiah Maham was born in St. Stephen’s Parish, South Carolina on June 26, 1739, and died there in 1789. In early manhood, he was an overseer for the Sinkler family of St. John’s Parish, Berkeley; later a Planter at his own plantation “Maham” in St. Stephen’s Parish. He was a Tax Collector in 1767. He was elected a member of the First and Second Provincial Congresses, St. Stephen’s, 1775-76; S.C. House of Representative, St. Stephen’s, 1781-82, 1783-84 (declined election in 1784), 1785-86; and the S.C. Senate, St. Stephen’s, 1786-89, when he died. He was a delegate to the State Convention to ratify the Federal Constitution in 1788; a Justice of the Peace; and a member of the Santee Jockey Club.

Hezekiah Maham, with his love for ‘blooded’ horses, was responsible for design and lay-out of one of South Carolina’s more prestigious racecourses, the Pineville Race Course, later named the St. Stephen’s Race Course. He was also an active member and vestryman of the St. Stephen Episcopal Church.

Hezekiah Maham, as I stated, was a very important character in Berkeley County. I consider him a hero . . . from several angles. Maham’s assistance to General Francis Marion over the years became extremely valuable, especially in Marion’s gathering of intelligence. He had learned to become increasingly careful to verify the information which he sent to his superior, to ensure its correctness. Maham was distinguished not only for his gallantry, but also for a certain skill he possessed in the art of reducing ‘fortified places’, a perfect example was his instituting “Maham Towers” at Fort Watson).

Another reason for pointing out Col. Hezekiah Maham’s service to his country is (I’m hoping!) to get you interested enough that you will send me names and stories of ancestors, friends, and/or neighbors who are “important people” in Berkeley County’s history. I know you have the names of those who lived and/or had property and voting rights in Berkeley County parishes that you can send me. What about historic places or events that occurred? And you definitely have stories you can tell, that need to be written, so they won’t be forgotten when you’re gone. Please, let me hear from you. We must preserve our Berkeley County history so it won’t be forgotten, so our kids and grandkids will know where they came from and how they got here. Call me at 843-509-3408, or email me at [keithg@homesc.com](mailto:keithg@homesc.com). There is so much to tell!

*Portrait by Gingi Martin, in collections  
of Keith Gourdin*



Hezekiah Maham

### **Hezekiah Maham and Maham Plantation**

Hezekiah Maham (1739-1789) was the son of Nicholas Maham. He had two sisters, Elizabeth and Ann Stall. Elizabeth married John Cooke. Ann Stall Maham married John Cahusac (1720-27 to Mar 1761) in Craven County, SC. They had the following children: Susannah, b.1744, Elizabeth, b.1746, Robert, b.1748, Daniel, b.1749, Sarah, b. Jan 1752 in St. James Santee, Ann, b.20 Apr 1756, Mary, b.1758, and Thomas, b.1760.

Hezekiah married (1<sup>st</sup>) Anne Guerin, then (2<sup>nd</sup>) Mary Palmer (born abt.1745, died 16 Jan 1784) in 1766 and they had two daughters (Mary and Ann). Mary's parents were Thomas Palmer (1712-1765) and Catherine Farwell. Mary had 3 brothers; David Palmer (died young -1773), Col. Joseph O. Palmer (1732-1809) who married Elizabeth Pearce, and Henry Palmer (1740-1771) who married Ann Benoist. Mary had 2 sisters; Jane, who married George King, and Rebecca (1749-1803) who married Abraham Pearce in 1780.

Hezekiah Maham was born in St. Stephen's Parish, South Carolina on June 26, 1739, and died there in 1789. In early manhood, he was an overseer for the Sinkler family of St. John's Parish, Berkeley; later a Planter at his own plantation "Maham" in St. Stephen's Parish. He was a Tax Collector in 1767. He was elected a member of the First and Second Provincial Congresses, St. Stephen's, 1775-76; S.C. House of Representative, St. Stephen's, 1781-82, 1783-84 (declined election in 1784), 1785-86; and the S.C. Senate, St. Stephen's, 1786-89, when he died. He was a delegate to the State Convention to ratify Federal Constitution in 1788; a Justice of the Peace; and a member of the Santee Jockey Club. Hezekiah Maham was responsible for design and laying out the Pineville Race Track (later named the St. Stephen's Race Course). He was a member and vestryman of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Throughout the American Revolution, Maham demonstrated his military ability. He began service as a captain in the Firth Regiment (March 1776) and was present at the fall of Savannah (December 1778). Early in 1779 he was promoted to major of a Regiment of Light Dragoons and participated in the Battle of Stono Ferry (Jun3 1779). After the surrender of Charleston (May 1780), Maham enlisted in Francis Marion's Brigade. Introducing the use of "Maham's Towers," he was instrumental in the capture of Fort Watson (April 1781). Under his direction, a high platform was constructed from which the patriots could fire directly into the fort, forcing its submission. Additionally, he was involved in the action at Quinby Bridge (July 1781) and Fair Lawn (November 1781).

On 22 Jun 1781, Hezekiah Maham and Peter Horry each received a commission as lieutenant colonel from General Nathaniel Greene. Both received instructions to raise two temporary regiments of dragoons which would act as regular troops. At this point, a

dispute – nurtured by Maham’s inflated ego and quick temper – developed between the two men and imperiled the existence of Marion’s Brigade. Maham, whose current rank was neither state nor Continental, refused to take orders from anyone but Greene, even though Greene had placed the two new corps under Marion. When Marion left his brigade to attend the Jacksonborough Assembly (1782), he placed Horry in command, much to Maham’s indignation. Refusing to follow Horry’s orders, Maham also departed for the legislature. Meanwhile, it was decided in March 1782 to merge the two corps, both of which had been plagued by desertions. Again, a choice of commander had to be made. A better cavalry officer, Maham was given command of the new corps. However, he soon was taken ill and withdrew to his plantation where he was captured by Tories. Paroled, he remained at his home until the war ended.

On 21 February 1789, a Petition was presented to the House from the Officers of the Cavalry of Horry & Maham’s late Regiments, which was received and read as follows: “praying that an Enquiry may be made whether they are to be considered as to have been appointed by the Continental Congress or this State; The Humble Petition of Peter Horry and Hezekiah Maham in behalf of themselves & Officers, Sheweth That your Petitioners were raised & appointed by Commissions Issued from & under the Authority of Major General Greene in Consiquence of Powers vested in him by the Continental Congress. Notwithstanding which your Petitioners find, that they have been Considered as Officers of this State only, by which means the State has been burdened wh. the Expence, & your Petitioners deprived of the Advantages which Officers in the Continental Service have Obtained; They therefore for themselves & in behalf of the Officers of their Respective Regiments Request on you Honourable House, That you will Examine into the Merits of their Claim & Afford Such Assistance to your Petitioners, as aforesaid, as Shall be Judged necessary in Order to Obtain Relief from the General Government, & your Petitioners as in duty bound Shall ever pray.” (This is the Senate copy.) Ordered that it be referred to a Committee, the following Gentlemen were accordingly appointed Vizt. General Pinckney, Colonel Grimke, Doctor Fayssoux.

Monday, 9 March 1789 – Doctor Fayssoux reported from the Committee to whom the petition of Colonels Maham and Peter Horry in behalf of themselves and Officers was referred, which he read in his place and afterwards delivered it at the Clerks table where it was again read for information.

“Ordered that it be taken into immediate consideration, which being read through was agreed to and is as follows Vizt.”

“Report That it appears from the Commissions granted to those Officers by the powers vested in General Green from the Continental Congress that they are entitled to be considered as Continental Officers, and therefore recommend that our Delegates to the Senate and the House of Representatives in the general Government be instructed to support the Application of Colonels Maham and Peter Horry in order to obtain Compensation for themselves and Officers, [from} the General Government.”

“Resolved, that this House do agree with the report. Ordered, that the Report and Resolution be sent to the Senate for their concurrence and that Doctor Fayssoux & Mr. Scott do carry the same.” Note: the Senate received the report, but did not consider it.

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In 1776, Hezekiah Maham was elected captain in the First Rifle Regiment, under Colonel Isaac Huger, and served during the siege of Savannah and in the battle of Stone.

He was later made a Commander of Horse in General Francis Marion's Brigade, and in the attack on Fort Watson, in April 1781, he suggested the erection of a crude tower, sufficiently tall, to overlook the stockade. This later was to become known as "Maham's Tower." Similar towers had been used in the siege of medieval castles and cities, but Major Hezekiah Maham reinvented them for siege operations in South Carolina. This was accomplished by night, and on the following morning, the garrison was awakened by a shower of balls from a company of marksmen on the tower, in consequence of which it soon surrendered. Later he participated in the engagement of Quinby Bridge Creek, and became Lieutenant Colonel of an independent corps of cavalry, performing many daring exploits in the low country of the Carolinas. Illness compelled the colonel's retirement at the close of the campaign of 1781. While on sick leave at home, he was taken prisoner by Tories and later paroled.

In various campaigns Hezekiah constructed "Maham Towers" that were used for command platforms over British forts in South Carolina and Georgia; said to have been made first at the siege of Granby (just out of Columbia); also at Fort Watson. From Robert Bass's book, *the Swamp Fox*, ". . . Marion began to despair of reducing Fort Watson. He knew that he could not take the bastion by storm. His militiamen were getting restless. As he was considering abandoning the siege, Major Hezekiah Maham, an ingenious Continental officer from St. Stephen's, who had recently joined the Brigade, suggested a way to overawe the fort without cannon. After considering the Major's suggestion, the Swamp Fox sent some of his horsemen to scour the neighboring plantations for axes. He then set the woodsmen felling pine saplings. He had others carry the slender poles and dump them in a pile just out of range of the British muskets. During the evening, Maham and a squad of volunteers began chopping, lifting, and settling the logs into an oblong tower. At a point higher than the enemy's rampart, the Major laid a floor. He then reinforced the front with a shield of timber. Before cockcrow, Marion tolled off his men, and the sharpshooters with McCottry's rifles climbed into the crow's nest of the prototype of the famed Maham Towers."



During the course of the campaign, such towers were made larger and stronger until they could support the weight of field pieces as well as that of several sharpshooters. During the Siege of Ninety-Six, General Greene ordered the construction of a Maham Tower about thirty yards from the ditch and near the line of the third parallel. On June 3rd, American snipers, mounted on the log tower, silenced the British sharpshooters and forced them to keep below the parapet. Green later reported that "not a man could show his head but he was immediately shot down."

The Maham Tower did cause Lt. Col. Cruger some concern, and he reacted to this danger by raising the Star Fort bunkers an additional three feet with sandbags. The heavy

fire from the tower still posed a danger to his men and Cruger attempted to destroy the log platform tower. His men fired heated cannon balls into the tower, but since its logs were green and the fusiliers lacked proper furnaces for heating their missiles, the tower did not ignite.

Maham's assistance to General Francis Marion over the years had become extremely valuable, especially in Marion's gathering of intelligence. He had learned to become increasingly careful to verify information which he sent to his superior to ensure it correct. It was necessary to send scouts or patrols to check on intelligence gained from the sometime unreliable informants. For example, when Lord Rawdon's army encamped at Orangeburg after its return from Ninety-Six, Marion sent Major Maham to keep watch upon it. Maham learned everything he could about the British from local inhabitants and British stragglers, and he closely observed the enemy's camp. From two stragglers his men captured, he learned that the British "are so fatigued that they cannot possibly move." Maham's information was very important because it indicated that Rawdon was unable to take the offensive.

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A story recorded in Irving's book on the *Turf in S.C.* involves Daniel Ravenel, Jr.'s famous mare "Lucy," and Hezekiah Maham, enlightening us on a bit of the cantankerous character of Col. Maham. Wantoot Plantation was the seat of Ravenel, where many of his fine horses were bred and stabled, beginning as early as 1761 through to the year 1785. Wantoot was also the place where the British Army encamped and remained for six weeks after the battle of Eutaw Springs.

During the war many gentlemen possessing fine horses willingly let friends use them, as being mounted on a good horse as the country could supply was of utmost importance for the officers and men. It seems that Ravenel's Lucy got into the hands of Col. Maham, who never rode her himself, but mounted his servant on this, the finest horse in his command. Due to unavoidable circumstances, Ravenel was detained at home when his favorite mare went out of his stable. Soon afterward, mounted on a common plantation horse, properly armed and equipped for service, Ravenel presented himself at the headquarters of Col. Maham.

"Sir," said he, "I have come to serve my country, but as it is indispensable I should be well mounted, I desire you to let me have the use of one of my own horses." And he named Lucy.

To his great surprise and mortification, Col. Maham declined, alleging, as an excuse, that he had already appropriated and could not spare her. "Then," said Mr. Ravenel, "I do no duty until you alter your determination."

Soon after this conversation, Ravenel was invited to breakfast with General Marion. On entering his tent, he found Col. Maham present. In the course of the meal, General Marion brought up the subject of his refusal to do duty. The circumstances being explained, Gen. Marion, drawing a slip of paper from his portfolio, promptly wrote an order, addressed to Col. Maham himself, for the immediate and unconditional surrender of the mare. He handed the order to Ravenel, remarking that as no man had bred finer horses in the country, no one deserved to be better mounted. "Besides, sir," the General added (referring to Col. Maham), "who has the best right to the mare, your servant, or Mr. Ravenel, who owns her?"

Dr. Johnson, author of *Johnson's Traditions in the Revolution*, tells us that "a gentleman" who was detained at home by the illness of his father had sent the mare appropriated by Col Maham into the camp of Gen'l Marion, as a voluntary loan, until he should need her. The "gentleman" was Daniel Ravenel, Jr., no doubt.

It bears noting, not only from this story, that Marion considered "among the most efficient of his (Marion's) men his neighbors and friends of the Huguenot descent (Maham being a close neighbor and Huguenot), the Horry's, Ravenel's, Corde's, etc." It also bears noting, as stated in *Ravenel Records*, "We must not forget that, whatever Col. Maham's faults, he was an ardent patriot and a brave officer."

Toward the close of the Southern Campaign, Maham found himself "attacked by an intermittent fever," and Dr. Johnson tells us more about this period in Maham's life. He obtained a furlough and retired to his plantation in (what became Pineville) order to obtain medical advice. While there, in the presence of his physician, and at supper with his family, he was taken prisoner by a tory named Robins – a partisan officer under William Cunningham.

This young man, led by a runaway negro through the woods of South Carolina, came suddenly on Colonel Maham and demanded his surrender. Maham was totally unprepared, and incapable of resisting the threat of instant death. He surrendered and gave Robins a written parole . . . but it was left on the table by Robins, either from carelessness or some other reason.

When Maham recovered his health, and being impatient to rejoin his command, he applied to General Marion for permission to do so, as the enemy had nothing to show for his surrender. Marion could not approve of Maham's proposal but referred it to General Greene. Greene promptly decided against Maham, saying "that he not only signed the paper, but gave his word to keep the peace until exchanged. That he had never been released from his pledge, which had been given to his captor in good faith, and that he was still bound by it as much as ever."

During preceding campaigns, Maham had been among the most active and daring in the service, particularly in the sieges and capture of several British forts in South Carolina and Georgia. We have already read about his construction of "Maham's towers," and their use several times.

While Maham was suspended from active duty in the field, he suffered other "mortifications," Dr. Johnson tells us. His regiment fell under the command of militia colonels, and there was much angry bickering and discussions as to the privileges of Maham's regiment and rank of the various parties. The following copy of Maham's hand-written letter, in 1782, supposedly addressed to, or intended for, Governor Rutledge, provided by William DuBose gives us specific details:

"Sir: I take the liberty to enclose a letter I received from Mr. Walter, with a few extracts from General Greene, in order that you may be satisfied on what establishment the regiment, I had the honor to command, was raised, and what induced me to believe ourselves to be on the continental establishment, as well as an independent corps.

"At the time I undertook to raise the regiment, the enemy were in full possession of all the south side of Santee. I found horses very difficult to be obtained. I made a point to send and got all those that were near the enemy, belonging to the people then with the enemy, whom we looked upon as enemies. The horses taken in this way were

most of them put to the use of the dragoons. Those that were not fit for that purpose, were exchanged for others.

“Finding I could not get a sufficient number in this way, I issued a reclamation to this effect: ‘To the friendly inhabitants; - General Greene has thought it proper to establish a regiment of cavalry, and has honored me with the command; and, as it cannot be accomplished without horses fit to mount dragoons, will be obliged to every gentleman that will send me a horse or horses, for that purpose, as I will pledge my word and honor, that they shall be returned at the expiration of one year, or as soon as the enemy leaves the State. The greatest attention shall be paid to them.’ Several gentlemen who sent me horses, on these conditions, are now obliged to borrow when their tour of duty comes on.

“The horses I got on the above terms, I made it a point never to part with, on any consideration whatever. The gentleman who wrote to me has had both of his horses swapped away, since Connors took the charge of the regiment. I say, sir, if these horses are to be detained from the owners, after the expiration of the time for which they were borrowed, how ridiculous must it make me, and every officer concerned, appear! I shall be glad to know with what credit or faith I shall be looked upon by those gentlemen, besides being subject to daily insults. Judging the matter has been represented to you otherwise, and certain you would never give orders to have those horses detained and swapped away for others, when, at the present time, they must have nearly double the quantity of horses to that of men. If I have not justice done me in this matter, pray, sir, I would be glad to know, what confidence I can, for the future, put in any of my superior officers or the credit of the State!

“At the time I was recruiting men for my regiment, I was fully persuaded that, by a spirited exertion of our countrymen, I should be able to pay them off, agreeably to contract; but am sorry to see that there is no provision made for them, and not likely to be any. These men have served a very hard campaign; done their duty, in every respect, as well as could possibly be expected, say for very little more than one-half their bounty. They were certainly raised as continental cavalry, served as such, at least, under me. To see State troop officers put over men, after serving fourteen months, that had not the trouble of raising or providing any one necessary for the regiment; to have a corps of deserters consolidated, merely to gratify the ambition and the partiality for one man; I say, sir, it is really hard on the whole regiment. It has been exceedingly ill-used, and with whatever good intention it may have been done, I am afraid it will prove injurious to the service.”

William DuBose observes that the letter is without date or address; but circumstances indicate first in 1782. At that time, Maham was not in command of the regiment, but a prisoner, on parole, having been taken in his own home.

Dr. Johnson’s *Traditions and Reminiscences of the American Revolution* go on to say, “General Greene admitted that Maham’s corps were continentals, like Lee’s Legion, and like them, were liable to serve under Marion, Pickens, and other officers of higher rank.

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Another adventure told by Dr. Johnson that may aid in delineating Maham’s propensities goes like this: “During an interval from his duties in the field, he (Maham) was passing a night at the house of a gentleman who was living in the enjoyment of every

comfort. He had partaken of a good hot supper, a thing so unusual in camp, as to be called 'an accident.' Before this could be digested, he went to bed, taking his arms with him, and placing his trusty sword within reach of his bed. He then hung his clothes on the bedstead post, with his cap over the clothes, so that everything might be ready in case of alarm. Whether his rest was disturbed by the luxury of a feather bed; whether his breathing had become oppressed, by want of ventilation, usually abundant under his old tent; or from indigestion, we never heard explicitly or distinctly. But Maham certainly started from his sleep, dreaming that an attack was made upon him. The moon had, by that time, passed around, so as to shine through his window on to his cap and clothes. These being distinctly seen, as he leaped out of bed, had the appearance of a soldier, of whose attack he had been dreaming; and seizing his sword, he began cutting furiously at his supposed enemy. The commotion alarmed the friendly family, who ran in with lights into the colonel's chamber, and showed him what havoc he had been making with his own regimentals."

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Another of the more romanticized events historians have mulled over was the serving of a subpoena on Colonel Hezekiah Maham by Deputy Sheriff Peter Horn of Charleston District on September 3, 1784. What should have been a routine task turned into a rather frightening affair for the deputy. Rather than accepting the papers, Maham forced the deputy to eat the parchment. Despite the incident's fame, much pertinent information preceding the day's event has failed to surface, though one source, Dr. Joseph Johnson, of whom we have quoted above, tells it this way. "Colonel Daniel Stevens, the sheriff, was my informant. He was sorry for Maham, but was obliged to sustain his deputy, and went himself to execute the duties of his office. He proceeded cautiously, with a case against Maham, watched his opportunity, and secured his prisoner. Maham then sent for General Marion, told him of his distress, and acknowledged what he had done. "Go," said Marion, "submit yourself to the laws of your country, and then I will be your friend to the best of my ability." Colonel Maham continued to be embarrassed, and his temper to be more and more irritable, in proportion with his difficulties."

After Maham was exchanged, the dispute between him and Horry raged highest. Georgetown was soon after that recovered by the Americans, and a garrison required to protect it from depredators and other enemies. Colonel Horry was selected for that command, to keep him apart from Maham, and thus promote peace between them and their respective friends and followers.

The controversy began in the summer of 1784 when Dr. James Lynah of St. Stephen's Parish, sued Maham. The Colonel had neglected to pay his medical bills, and also, as executor of the estate of John Cooke, had refused to pay Cooke's bills.

During the Revolution, Dr. Lynah served the Patriot cause as a military surgeon. However, he was one of many individuals caught up in the tides of war when Charleston fell in 1780. According to his own account, Lynah had intended to flee to Philadelphia, but he learned that his son was a British prisoner of war. Staying on under British occupation, he received a magistrate's commission (which he later claimed was accepted under duress and not filled in). When the legislature convened in 1782, Dr. Lynah was placed on the confiscation list with others who had accepted British commissions, and as

a result, when he petitioned the legislature for relief, in March of 1784, his estate was restored to him.

Hezekiah Maham had a very different experience in the Revolution, holding both military and political positions throughout the war. He served both valiantly and controversially as a colonel under Francis Marion and Nathanael Greene. Near the end of the war, he was a member of the legislature that had confiscated Lynah's estate.

When Dr. Lynah initiated his suit, debtors throughout the state felt the press of a variety of postwar problems, creating enormous pressures on these debtors. Thus, Maham was not alone in his outrage at creditors. It is unclear whether or not Maham was able to pay his debts, but there is no doubt about his unmitigated hatred for Dr. Lynah. As a result of the deputy who tried to serve the writs, Maham set an example of resistance for other harassed debtors to follow.

Because of Maham's prominence, his abuse of the deputy became an important criminal matter. Maham temporarily eluded arrest but later posted bail and then refused to appear at his trial. In June 1785, the Court of General Sessions sentenced Maham to three months in jail, fined him one hundred pounds, and put him on seven years' probation with a very large bond. Maham was outraged, and appealed to Governor Benjamin Guerard. The governor commuted the jail term and referred him to the General Assembly for further relief. At a special session in September 1785, the legislature heard a lengthy and articulate defense petition presented by Francis Marion on Maham's behalf.

Aedanus Burke, one of the judges who had sentenced Maham, was not the sort of man who would let Maham's accusations stand unchallenged. Noted for his quick temper, Burke combined this trait with a sense of fairness and a lifelong contempt for privilege. Judge Burke had opposed the confiscatory retribution enacted by the Jacksonboro Assembly, so on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, he submitted to the Senate the memorial in which he requested permission to defend himself. After quite an ordeal between the judge and both House and Senate (which may be read in entirety in the *S.C. Historical Magazine*), the House had concurred with the Senate, and Maham had his fine refunded and his bond returned. Maham's actions had been found "very reprehensible," as he had been carried away by a "gust of passion," and after all said and done, he had apologized for his behavior.

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Frederick A. Porcher, Esq., of Pineville, author and historian, writes that Col. Hezekiah Maham was "The most eminent military character which the revolution produced in this parish. Maham was a colonel of cavalry in the revolutionary war, and was distinguished not only for his gallantry, but also for a certain skill in the art of reducing fortified places" (making reference to the Maham Towers).

Consecutive evils of civil war were felt in Carolina. After the revolution, the highways were unsafe. Many who lived in that time recollected those persons rarely ventured to travel the Goose Creek Road without arms; and the public execution of a man and his wife, in Charleston, for highway robbery, as late as 1820, bear fearful testimony to the insecurity of life and property, even in the neighborhood of the metropolis.

Besides highway robbery, horse-stealing was a common crime. Many engaged in it; but two individuals, by the name of Roberts and Brown, organized it and conducted it as a matter of business. One, or both, of these men was hanged in Charleston in 1789.

They had their agents and depots arranged and organized; and from the Santee to the wilds of Florida, they and their confederates were at once the nuisance and the terror of the country.

Thomas Palmer lived on his plantation on Fair Forest Swamp. Like other planters of the times, he possessed a large and valuable collection of horses, one of which, called Fantail, was an especial favorite. Early one morning he discovered that his stables had been opened in the night, and his best horses stolen. The alarm was quickly spread, and in a few hours a party of gentlemen set off, under the lead of Col. Maham, in pursuit of the stolen property. It was difficult to track the fugitives, but as suspicion naturally rested on Roberts and his gang, they directed their course towards Orangeburg, which was one of his headquarters. After travelling a few miles, they met Mr. Rene Ravenel, who, being informed of the object of their search, informed them that, having been out early that morning, he had seen a horse, about a quarter of a mile off, crossing the road; that a momentary glance at the hinder part of the animal, which was all that he saw, convinced him that it was Mr. Palmer's horse. The circumstance would have passed from his memory but for this meeting. He conducted the party to the spot; numerous tracks were found, and the party, now confirmed in their suspicions, continued with renewed response, determined to make a certain house in Dean Swamp the first object of their visit.

A short time before nightfall, they approached the house, and determined to remain concealed until the night should be well advanced. A horse was heard to neigh; several answered, and Mr. Palmer, turning to Col. Maham, said, "Uncle Maham, I'll pledge my life that that is the voice of Fantail." A countryman happening to pass was detained as a prisoner. He acknowledged that he was bound to the house which the party intended to visit and acquainted them that a large gathering of men and women was expected there that night for a frolic. With this information they were sure of their game; and, having divided themselves into a convenient number of parties, they separated, appointing to approach the house on a certain signal, which would be given by Col. Maham. Everything succeeded. When the noise indicated that the frolic was going on fast and furious, the signal was given; the parties simultaneously entered the house, and the marauders found themselves suddenly affronted by armed guests, whose presence foretold them no good. They fled. The women, on the contrary, fought boldly! And Col. Maham declared that if they had been seconded by their gallants (ladies' men), the pursuing party would have been defeated. Aided by the courageous defense of the ladies, most of the marauders escaped; the captured were summarily disposed of; each was tied to a tree and flogged. The party then, recovering their stolen horses, returned homewards, leaving their prisoners, each at his tree, to be relieved when their friends should have sufficient courage to go to their assistance.

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Hezekiah Maham's War Timeline –

1776

March – elected Captain in 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Rifles under Colonel Isaac Huger.

1778

December 29 – took part in the unsuccessful defense of Savannah, Ga.

### 1779

June 29 – Stono Ferry.

September 24 – October 19 – Stono Ferry, Captain of grenadier company under Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

November 8 – Major in the South Carolina 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment; resigned 11/8 and made a Major under Daniel Horry (cousin of Peter Horry) in S.C. Light Dragoons.

### 1780

February 18-22 – Stono Ferry, Major with Daniel Horry SC State Dragoons.

March 6-7 – Ferguson’s Plantation, SC State Cavalry.

May 12 – Charleston’s surrender.

August – Lt. Colonel under Francis Marion.

### 1781

April 15-23 – Fort Watson; Major, SC State Cavalry under Francis Marion; erection of ‘Maham’s Tower’ at Fort Watson.

July 16 – Biggin’s Church; Lt. Colonel under Thomas Sumter, SC Continentals.

July 17 – Quinby Bridge and Shubrick’s Plantation; Lt. Colonel Maham’s Light Dragoons, led by Gen. Francis Marion’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of Militia/State Troops.

August 31 – Parker’s Ferry under Francis Marion, SC Continentals and Militia.

September 8 – Eutaw Springs; all Militia under command of Gen. Francis Marion; Maham’s Light Dragoons (SC Militia) led by Lt. Col. Maham with three companies with Captains Giles, Simons, Stevens.

November 10 – Charles Cornwallis surrender at Yorktown.

November – Colonel and Commander of SC 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of State Dragoon under Francis Marion.

November 18 – Fairlawn under Francis Marion.

### 1782

January 3 – Videau’s Bridge; Maham’s Light Dragoons, led by Major Samuel Cooper, with a new and inexperienced cavalry, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of State Dragoons with three companies under Captains Bennett, Capers, and Smith.

February 24 – Durant’s Plantation, Strawberry Ferry; Maham’s Light Dragoons under John Caraway Smith, SC State Troops.

February 25 – Tidyman’s Plantation, Maham’s Light Dragoons under John Caraway Smith.

March – Captured by British at home, paroled.

October 16 – Moncks Corner; chase down thieves who stole his relative’s prize horse.

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### Col. Hezekiah Maham’s Tour Actions ~

In March 1776, General Lee sent Capt. Debram, an engineer, to “throw up some Breast work at the advance guard on Sullivan’s Island.” Units consisting of Thomson’s 3<sup>rd</sup> South Carolina Rangers, Sumter’s 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina, and three companies led by Capt.’s Alston, Maham, and Couturier. They were to defend an area known as *The Breach*, an

inlet between Long Island and the northern tip of Sullivan's Island. The British had landed on Long Island, opposite *The Breach*, and set up camp there.

Lee ordered Moultrie to send this force to Long Island and attack the British. Two field pieces were sent there to cover the possibility of a retreat. Moultrie did not get this order until the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup> and he decided to leave the Rangers in the Advance guard until morning, when they would attempt to cross the Breach. Moultrie did order Thompson to "attack and if possible, dislodge the corps of the enemy", but when the British crossed the bar, this plan was abandoned. The three captains were to "hold themselves in readiness to march immediately . . ."

We hear of no more action from Maham until 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1781. Then:

1. Ferguson's Plantation Action: 6 Mar 1780-Jul 1780 – Sir Henry Clinton's British Army occupied the sea-islands south of Charleston. The Americans, mostly mounted militia and Continental cavalry, based at Bacon's Bridge, patrolled the mainland north of the Stono River, harassing British spies and foraging parties. Ferguson's plantation was named Spring Grove and was about 14 or so miles west from the west end of Wappoo Cut and about 4 miles north of British held territory. On 6 March 1780, two British light infantry battalions crossed the Stono River and tried to surprise some of Patriot Major Hezekiah Maham's South Carolina dragoons posted near Ferguson's plantation at night. They crossed Wappoo Cut from James Island and marched west towards Jasksonborough through the night. However, an officer's servant deserted and warned the Patriots who fled before the British arrived. The long march fatigued the infantrymen and eight were left behind, too tired to return to Johns Island.

Maham sent word to the Continental light dragoons that the British were on the mainland. The dragoons, who had spent the night partying at Ferguson's plantation, moved to overtake the retreating British. They managed to capture seven of the eight stragglers. The other straggler rejoined his unit.

2. Fort Watson – Marion's Attack on Fort Watson Action: 15-23 Apr 1781 General Francis Marion and Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee began their campaign against the British Santee River posts when Lee joined Marion on 14 April. The following day the two commanders marched to Fort Watson, the British post situated on an Indian mound near Scott's Lake. The American forces laid siege to Fort Watson on the afternoon of 15 April and posted troops to cut off the British access to Scott's Lake, which deprived the British of their only water supply. British Lt. James MacKay countered this move by sinking a well within the British defensive line. American Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham erected a wooden tower to cover their ground approaches and allowed the Americans to shoot down into the British fort on top of the Indian mound; this tower was completed on the morning of 23 April. Under cover of rifle fire from the tower, American troops secured a foothold on the side of the mound and began demolishing the fort's abattis and palisade wall. Fearful that the attackers would mine his position, and they would be unable to force his mutinous troops to defend the post any longer, Mackay surrendered Fort Watson. The British lost five officers, 73 British privates, and 37 Tories, killed or captured. Marion and Lee had destroyed a vital link in a British supply line from Charleston to Camden. (Note: Fort Watson was only taken once, and not retaken as the historical marker states.)

3. Four Holes Swamp Bridge - 2<sup>nd</sup> Action: 14 Jul 1781 – As Gen. Nathaniel Greene lay siege to Ninety-Six, he ordered Gen. Thomas Sumter and Gen. Francis Marion to slow down a relief column headed north from Charleston to relieve Ninety-Six, led by Col. Francis Rawdon. American Brig. Gen. Francis Marion wrote to Gen. Greene saying he had advanced to join Sumter, having only his mounted troops with him. Marion feared that if he left the Pee Dee and lower Santee regions that he was in, the British would destroy all the provisions south of the Santee River, which was the only available supply until the new crops were harvested. He sent Col. Peter Horry to quell the Loyalists on the Pee Dee River and sent Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham to disperse some Loyalists collecting at Four Holes Swamp, where he “cut to pieces nineteen, and took six prisoners.”

4. Wadboo Bridge Action: 16 Jul 1781 – SC Patriot militia Col. Hezekiah Maham was ordered by Gen. Sumter to burn the bridge to hinder British Lt. Col. Coates’ movement to Charleston, after the battle of Biggin Church, and to prevent supplies reaching him from Charleston. Col. Maham burned the bridge and also burned two British supply vessels in Wadboo Creek.

5. Battle of Eutaw Springs: 8 Sep 1781 – Maham’s Light Dragoons, led by Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham, with three known companies (led by Capt. Thomas Giles, Capt. John Simons, and Jervais Henry Stevens) fought in the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

Major General Nathaniel Greene gave command of all Militia to Brigadier General Francis Marion and all Continentals to NC Brigadier General Jethro Sumner.

Brigadier General Francis Marion’s Militia units fired seventeen (17) rounds – near the limits of their flintlock’s endurance. Then, with ammunition exhausted, they retired in good order, leaving the fighting to Brigadier General Jethro Sumner’s Continentals. “My brigade behaved well,” Marion later wrote to Lt. Col. Peter Horry.

Both the British and the Continentals were astonished to see Marion’s Militiamen, steady, unfaltering, and advancing life veterans into the enemy’s hottest fire. “The fire redoubled; our officers behaved with the greatest bravery, and the Militia gained much honor by their firmness,” Major General Greene later reported to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. To Major General Baron von Steuben he wrote that “such conduct would have graced the veterans of the Great King of Prussia.”

6. Near Moncks Corner Action: ca. 10 Sep 1781 – Within four miles of Moncks Corner, Patriot Lt. Cols. Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee and Hezekiah Maham attacked the British rear guard of the retreating British after the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Lee wrote in his memoirs that his detachment had been in pursuit of the enemy’s “rear guard, with a portion of their wagons conveying the wounded.” The rear guard was overtaken, and Capt. Joseph Eggleston was detached to attack the enemy’s flank while Lee moved to “force the enemy in front.” Eggleston’s troops had to ride through thick blackjack oaks, which slowed their progress giving time for the British force to form and fire once before fleeing. Eggleston’s horse was killed, but he escaped with five holes in his clothes and equipment. Lee and his men fared better. When Lee examined his captured wagons, he discovered that he had captured wagons filled with “miserable wounded,” who “supplanted so fervently to be permitted to proceed” that Lee assented, not wishing “to add to their misery and to his trouble.” Marion, Lee’s commander, reported: “We have

taken 24 British & 4 Torey's prisoners," 14 of them dragoons captured by "Six men of [Cols. Henry] Lee and [Hezekiah] Maham."

7. Wappetaw Church Action: Oct 1781 – The church building had been converted into a fortified stronghold by the British. A corps of South Carolina state troops and militia commanded by Col. Hezekiah Maham attacked the British post at Wappetaw Meeting House (Wappetaw Church). This battle was also of some significance, but seems to have been lost in history. The British took a beating, as a number of Royal troops were killed or captured. The British withdrew in Jan 1782 and burned the church. There were also two or three naval actions or raids on the Wando River on British shipping. These were near the Wappetaw Meeting House and probably involved vessels supplying the British post at Wappetaw Church. Nothing to date has been found regarding the Wando River actions close to the church, except for this brief reference. All that remains of the church is the cemetery. The Wappetaw Church (Meeting House) historical marker and the cemetery is on the north side of 15 Mile Road.

8. Cainhoy – Wando River: ca. 2 Nov 1781 – Patriot Col. Hezekiah Maham's cavalry patrolled the Cainhoy area where he captured one British dragoon and burned a sloop and schooner that were collecting provisions for the British in Charlestown.

9. Fair Lawn Plantation Action: 17 Nov 1781 – SC Patriot Brig. Gen. Francis Marion dispatched about two hundred troops under Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham and Col. Isaac Shelby with his "over-the-mountain" men to get behind the main British army and strike at the Fair Lawn Barony's "Colleton Mansion," since the enemy force there had been reduced. The "Colleton Mansion" was being used as a hospital for British troops and an earthen \*redoubt about half a mile from the house guarded the nearby Cooper River landing. This redoubt was garrisoned by fifty troops of the British 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment under Capt. Murdock MacLaine. On approach to Fair Lawn, some of Lt. Col. Maham's riflemen were ordered to dismount and move as infantry. The occupants of the house were given the choice of either surrendering or having their works stormed by Shelby's tomahawk-wielding mountaineers. No resistance was made and surrender took place. In the house was found three hundred stands of arms, many stores of value, some sick and eighty wounded convalescents. MacLaine's garrison watched the entire proceedings from the redoubt, but did unto attempt to interfere because the Americans had the advantage of superior numbers. The medical practitioners were paroled, and the convalescents carried off on horseback as prisoners. The house with its remaining contents was burned. Note: the 300 muskets and other supplies were probably removed by the Patriots before burning the house. Note: there is a debate as to whether the Americans or the British set fire to the "Colleton Mansion." Each claimed the other burned it, and the issue has never been resolved. \*A redoubt is defined as an earthen fortification behind which troops can conceal their bodies and fire weapons over the earthwork. Today it would be called a berm.

Note: on 20 Feb 1782, Patriot Lt. Col. Peter Horry and Loyalist Benjamin Thompson both reported the capture of an American guard detail and a large number of livestock at Strawberry Ferry on the Cooper River. In a letter to Marion dated 20 Feb 1782, Horry reported the troops at Guerins Bridge.

10. Strawberry Ferry Action: ca. 19 Feb 1782 – While Brig. Gen. Francis Marion was attending the General Assembly in Jacksonboro, he left Lt. Col. Peter Horry in command of his South Carolina militia brigade. Lt. Col. Hezekiah Maham had a falling out with Horry and would not follow Horry's orders. On the advice of Marion, Horry moved the brigade to Wambaw Creek near the Santee River. Loyalist Colonel Benjamin Thompson (Count Rumsford), posted in Charleston, heard of the brigade's move and the breakdown in communications between Horry and Maham.

Thompson decided to assemble all of the cavalry in Charleston and some infantry to attack Marion's Brigade near Durant's plantation on Wambaw Creek. Thompson divided his men into three groups. The first group of British marched through Goose Creek to Moncks Corner where they crossed Biggin Creek, headwaters of the west branch of the Cooper River, then traveled south towards Childsbury crossing Wadboo Bridge on the way to the east side of Strawberry Ferry on 19 Feb 1782. There the British captured an American lieutenant and six men along with a large number of livestock.

The second group of Thompson's force crossed the Cooper River at Strawberry Ferry that night after the American guard detail was captured.

A third group of Thompson's men, consisting of about 50 Cavalry and 300 Infantry, were reported to Horry by his scouts as being at Guerins Bridge on the evening of Feb 19, moving toward Horry's position at Wambaw Creek.

11. Tidyman's Plantation Action: 25 Feb 1782 – General Francis Marion returned and proceeded to Mrs. Phillip Tidyman's plantation, between Echaw and Wambaw Creeks, stopping there for provisions. Leading up to the house was a lane with a high fence on each side, and the cavalry picketed their horses in this lane. In front of the lane was an old field, and a little to the right was a pond of water. Within half an hour, the British appeared in the old field, displaying their columns and pausing. Patriot Capt. John Carraway Smith, who commanded Col. Hezekiah Maham's cavalry, formed his men in solid column. A small body of infantry was posted, to great advantage, along the fence of the lane as Gen. Marion ordered Smith to charge. The cavalry got to the edge of the pond, where a rise to the left had to be negotiated to reach the enemy. In climbing the rise, Capt. Smith's column fell into disorder and the enemy charged with a shout. The action was now a rout (a disastrous defeat); but the British advanced no further than the edge of the woods where Gen. Marion had rallied the troops and checked the pursuit. The loss was small with Lt. Smizer and three men killed. However, Marion's Brigade, in two days, lost most of Horry's horses and suffered two defeats. These losses could have been avoided with better training and proper attention being paid to the reports of scouts that the enemy was approaching. Note: Phillip Tidyman, a silversmith in Charleston, owned Tidyman's plantation.

*References for Tour Actions above:*

*Parker's Guide to the Revolutionary War in South Carolina, by John C. Parker, Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

*J. D. Lewis, [www.carolana.com](http://www.carolana.com), Francis Marion Symposium, Manning, SC*

## Hezekiah Maham Ancestry & Descendants

Hezekiah Maham (1739-1789) was the son of Nicholas Maham (his wife's name is unknown). He had two sisters: Elizabeth and Ann Stall. Elizabeth married John Cooke. Ann Stall Maham married John Cahusac (1720-27 Mar 1761) in Craven County, SC. They had the following children: Susannah-1744, Elizabeth-1746, Robert-1748, Daniel-1749, Sarah-Jan 1752 in St. James Santee, Ann-20 Apr 1756, Mary-1758, and Thomas-1760.

Hezekiah married (1<sup>st</sup>) Anne Guerin, who died within two years of their 1758 marriage, then (2<sup>nd</sup>) Mary Palmer (abt.1745-d.16 Jan 1784) in 1766 and had two daughters, Mary and Ann. Mary's parents were Thomas Palmer (1712-1765) and Catherine Farwell. Mary had 3 brothers; David Palmer (died young -1773), Col. Joseph O. Palmer (1732-1809) who married Elizabeth Pearce, and Henry Palmer (1740-1771) who married Ann Benoist. Mary had 2 sisters: Jane, who married George King, and Rebecca (1749-1803), who married Abraham Pearce in 1780.

Mary Maham (1768-1801), daughter, married George Haig. Her mother, Mary Palmer Maham, died 1784, a few months before her daughter married George. Mary Maham, daughter of Hezekiah and Mary, is buried by her father in the family Maham cemetery.

*Note: (George Haig is [New York] Betty's 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, and Mary Maham was Betty's 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother. Colonel Hezekiah Maham and wife, Mary Palmer, were Betty's 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents.)*

Mary Palmer's paternal grandparents were Jonathan Palmer (1682-1731) and Mary Cooper (b.1692, St. Helena Island - d.1773 in St. Stephen's Parish) from around Beaufort. Her great-grandfather is listed as simply John Palmer.

(Note: Joseph Palmer [may have been spelled Pamor at that time] of the latter 1600's, fathered at least four sons, three of whom were: John, Thomas, and Jonathan. This John died by 1712, Thomas died in 1733 [so we know that this was a different Thomas than Mary's father] and no mention of Jonathan is further made. Because of the years described, and the family connections with the Jerman's, this Jonathan may be the Jonathan Palmer in question. Quite interesting is the Maham name that spreads almost prolific among this Palmer family. Where else would the Maham name come from? (More research is needed here.)

So, let's consider the following relationships:

Hezekiah Maham – brother-in-law to John Cahusac.

Hezekiah Maham – Sarah M. Palmer (Couturier)'s grandmother's (Ann Maham, before marriage to Jerman) uncle.

Hezekiah Maham – Thomas Palmer (who lived on Fair Forest Swamp), his Nephew. Thomas calls Maham his uncle.

Mary Palmer Maham – Thomas Palmer (1678-1749), father of Turpentine John, was Mary's great-uncle; first cousin with Turpentine John.

Through my Palmer ancestry, (Henry Milner [my great-grandfather], Dr. Peter Patrick Porcher, Joseph, Capt John, Turpentine John, Thomas, etc.), the Cahusac's and Jerman's also relate through marriage, as do the Gaillard's, Mazyck's, and Porcher's. I'm sure, though I still have some questions to absolutely prove it, that the Maham name comes from Hezekiah and sisters and their father. No other Maham have I found in early Carolina as of this writing. "Maham" is often used in the historic & local Palmer family.

A Few Notes of Interest . . .

June 4, 2008:

*Info on the Maham cemetery found in the SC Historical & Genealogical Magazine – (see above inscription for Col. Hezekiah Maham's monument)*

*In Memory of / Mrs. Mary Wilson / Wife of / Samuel Wilson / and daughter of / Hezekiah and Mary Mayham / who departed this life / May 27<sup>th</sup> 1801, / in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of her age. / This frail memorial is intended / by her husband as a mark of / his affection and respect. /*

*(Note: Judging from the great distance between these stones of father and daughter (the only two stones now there) this cemetery must have been large, and the cemetery without stones. These two lone stones are in an open bit of pine woods beside a cotton field. The property previously belonged to John Keith Gourdin III of Pineville, and is on the river side of the River Road. It is approached by a difficult road and is perhaps a mile from the village of Pineville.)*

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July 22, 2009 – After a phone call from Richard Porcher, I learned today that the first person in our area to have grown Carolina Gold Rice was Hezekiah Maham (1739-1789). According to research done by David S. Shields (and others), Maham planted the gold seed rice on his plantation (Maham Plantation) close to the Village of Pineville, in 1785. After researching this writing and finding the Rice Paper – CGRF's newsletter on the internet, it states in part: ". . . This rice has been introduced into the Winyaw and Waccamaw region, since the revolution. It was planted by Colonel Maham on Santee in 1785."

In 1800, Joshua John Ward was born at Brook Green Plantation to Maham's niece, Elizabeth Cook and John Ward. Thirty-seven years later, his overseer, James C. Thompson, noticed part of a rice head that was larger than any other Ward had seen. Ward saved the seed and planted it the next year.

In 1840, he and Thompson planted what seed they had, enough for half an acre, then the next year planted 21 acres at Brook Green, which they sold at 'above the market price.' In 1842, they planted 400 acres, and in the following year, they planted nothing but the larger grained rice.

In 1844, Ward made "Carolina Gold" available commercially. From then until the Civil War, the Brook Green rice commanded the highest price paid of any rice on the world market in Paris and London.

Ward claimed his 1838 seed descended from that planted by his great-uncle in 1785.

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September 25, 2013 - Received a CD from David Neilan (some few months ago) that contains much historical information on Hezekiah Maham, both as a patriot soldier and civilian. One very interesting bit included was Hezekiah's various letters and most notable was his signature.

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October 2013 - It just happens that recently, a photo of Hezekiah (a b/w copy of a miniature) was discovered at the Charleston Historical Society by Cecy Guerry-Davis, and she forwarded it to me.

After researching this further, I commissioned Virginia (Gingi) Martin to paint a color portrait of this (head & shoulders). This she has now done, and as we plan to make a few prints, I thought it would be of additional value to have his 'official' signature placed in the bottom left corner of these prints. This has now been done (October 16, 2013). The painting will be 'unveiled' at the Francis Marion Symposium in Manning on October 18, 2013. A few prints, with Maham's signature, signed by the artist, are available for sale.

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At some time, Maham was staying with friends, when he woke one night, thinking he was being attacked, grabbed his sword and began slashing clothes that hung by his window. (This story was told previously, up above.) His wife's wealthy relatives thought it a rather funny anecdote to talk about a man who had married into their family, but modern readers will recognize a common post-combat reaction made worst by an environment where the enemy had eyes everywhere.

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After Cornwallis surrendered in November, Maham's men were attacked in January at Videau's Bridge and in February at Durant's Plantation and Tidyman's Plantation. In each case, the British commanders knew the number of men Marion commanded. In February, they not only knew Marion and Maham were attending the General Assembly at Jacksonborough, and that Maham and Horry were feuding, but that the man Maham had left in charge had left camp.

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Four were killed and 14 wounded in January; 14 killed and 9 wounded in February. The last battle left units of both Maham and Horry so ravaged that Governor John Rutledge ordered the two merged. When Marion made Maham commander, primarily because he had been a colonel longer, Horry resigned in protest.

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When Horry returned to the plantation, he'd inherited from his father near Winyah Bay, he found his neighbor's slaves had run away, leaving sweet potatoes and cotton they had been growing for themselves. He asked to harvest the crops to support his own slaves.

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In March, Maham returned home to see a doctor about a lingering fever. A runaway slave informed the Loyalists. James Robins, a captain from Tidyman's Plantation, appears to have forced Maham to sign papers that he wouldn't fight any longer, and left him on parole. Later, Greened ordered Maham to stay at home and accept his situation.

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Frederick Porcher remembers that when Maham returned, the area “was full of disaster to the agriculturists.” The primary crop had been indigo, which was no longer supported by British subsidies, and the Santee Swamp was too prone to flood for other crops. To make matters worse, the state was refusing to pay Marion’s men, and the credit breakdown that sparked riots in Charles Town spread into the countryside.

The years between 1783, when the Revolutionary War ended, and 1787, when the U.S. Constitution was framed, were ones of fateful conflict between debtors and creditors.

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Maham’s wife, Mary, died in January 1784. By September, he was so deeply in debt, the sheriff was serving him papers. When his deputy appeared, Maham drew his sword and forced the man to eat the papers. Marion appeared to have ‘smoothed’ over the situation, but his family members say Maham continued to be “more and more irritable.”

Maham died in 1789, only 50 years old.

Maham died as he had lived, on his plantation on the south side of Santee Swamp in St. Stephen’s Parish, and he was buried there. Hezekiah’s daughter Mary is buried by her father in the Maham Cemetery, as is her mother, Mary. Their house was destroyed by fire many years since.

A descendant of Col. Maham (Joshua John Ward from Georgetown, probably the most successful rice planter in South Carolina) made tribute to his memory stating the following:

“A handsome monument has been recently erected, in St. Stephen’s Parish, to the memory of Colonel Hezekiah Maham, one of the noblest spirits and most gallant soldiers of the Revolution. We give below this epitaph, which a tasteful and discriminating pen has inscribed to the memory of the deceased warrior. His mortal remains repose in his own family burial place, but the particular grave which encloses them is unknown, and hence the initiatory words in the epitaph. The inscription is designed, too, to mark not only the place of his burial, but also the place of his residence while he lived. This is rendered necessary among us, and especially in our low country, as, in the course of things, old residences not only pass from the descendants of their former owners, but are often left desolate and unoccupied; and it is, therefore, interesting to be told, by the record, that the honored dead, moved in life even where he slumbers in death.”

In 1845, a massive marble monument placed on Maham Plantation, visible from the old River Road, was erected over Maham’s grave by his grand-nephew, South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Joshua John Ward. It reads:



33° 26.833' N – 80° 01.887' W

### EPITAPH

*ON THE FRONT OF THE MONUMENT (south face)*

Within this Cemetery,  
and in the bosom of the Homestead,  
which he cultivated and embellished,  
while on Earth,  
lie the mortal remains of  
COLONEL HEZEKIAH MAHAM.

He was born in the Parish of St. Stephens,  
and died A.D., 1789,  
aet. 50 years;  
leaving a name, unsullied  
in social and domestic life,  
and eminent for devotion to the liberties  
of his country,  
and for achievements in arms,  
in the Revolution  
which established her Independence.

*ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE MONUMENT (east side)*

Impelled by the spirit of freedom  
which animated his countrymen, he

zealously and courageously  
devoted himself to its support,  
and promoted the cause of American Independence,  
by his services  
in the State Committees,  
instituted by recommendation of the General Congress,  
in the Jacksonborough Assembly,  
and in various other civil capacities.

*ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE MONUMENT (west side)*

Successively  
a captain in the first rifle regiment,  
a commander of horse, in  
Marion's brigade,  
and lieutenant colonel  
of an independent corps of cavalry,  
raised by authority of General Greene, he  
bore an efficient and conspicuous part  
in the capture of the British posts,  
and in the series  
of skillful maneuvers and gallant actions,  
which resulted  
in the final extinction of the British dominion  
in South Carolina,  
and secured  
to her and to the Confederacy  
the blessings of  
Peace, Liberty, and Independence.

*ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE MONUMENT (north side)*

His relative,  
Joshua John Ward, of Waccamaw,  
unwilling that the last abode  
of an honest man, a faithful patriot, and a  
brave and successful soldier,  
should be forgotten and unknown,  
has erected this memorial,  
A.D., 1845.



Bronze marker located near the intersection of Colonel Maham Drive and Westfield Drive, on right when traveling west on Colonel Maham Drive toward SC Highway 45  
 33° 25.996' N – 80° 01.110' W

Sadly, Col. Hezekiah Maham's family cemetery is located on property belonging to a gentleman (and I use the term very lightly) from Chicago, who has no regard nor concern for history nor preservation of the Maham monument and family Cemetery. He refuses to allow anyone access or maintenance of the cemetery, and as a result, vines and brush continue to overtake the area. This is a terrible shame, and regardless of many requests to legally get in to clean up the cemetery, even with the South Carolina State law on our side, he has made it impossible to do so.

*References:*

- Collections of family genealogy, plantation records, and photos from Keith Gourdin*
- Historic Berkeley County 1671-1900, by Maxwell Clayton Orvin*
- Historic Ramblin's Through Berkeley, by J. Russell Cross*
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, by Jane Searles Misenhelter*
- Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, by Charles B. Baxley and C. Leon Harris*
- The South Carolina Historical Magazine, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, SC*
- Traditions and Reminiscences: Chiefly of the American Revolution in The South (1851), by Joseph Johnson, M.D. of Charleston, S.C.*
- Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*



33° 25.842' N – 80° 01.455' W



Historical marker is located in Pineville, north side of SC Highway 45, next to the Pineville Post Office