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CEREMONY ON THE PRESENTATION
AND
UNVEILING OF THE PAINTING

"The Battle Of Cowpens"

by William Ranney (1813-57)

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4:00 P.M., July 2, 1974

The State House Lobby

Columbia, South Carolina

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STATE DOCUMENTS

COMMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE SAM P. MANNING
ON THE PRESENTATION AND UNVEILING
OF THE PAINTING
"THE BATTLE OF COWPENS"
BY WILLIAM RANNEY (1813-57)
IN THE LOBBY OF THE STATE HOUSE
AT 4:00 P. M., JULY 2, 1974

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the General Assembly, and distinguished guests, for each of you is distinguished.

As Vice Chairman of the South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission may I first express my appreciation to each of you for being present. To the membership of the Senate and House may I express my appreciation for your interest and support. This afternoon both the Senate and the House are debating topics of grave importance. Thank you for recessing a few minutes for this historic occasion. Due to the element of time my comments this afternoon will be summarized but they will appear in full in the Legislative Journal of the House.

We are gathered here in the Lobby of the State House for the unveiling and presentation of one of the great paintings of the American Revolution to the people of South Carolina. This painting, "The Battle of Cowpens" by William Ranney, is a painting that portrays part of our heritage of which each of us is justly proud.

To my right stands the membership of the Senate and the House with the President and the Speaker in their robes of office. Standing in front of them are the Sergeants-at-Arms holding the ancient Mace and the Sword of State which are symbols of the authority of these elected bodies.

To my left stands the Honor Guard of the Washington Light Infantry holding aloft the Crimson Banner, "The Cowpens and Eutaw Springs Flag" that was carried by William Washington's Cavalry troop in many of the great battles of the American Revolution, including Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, Ninety-Six, Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs. It was given by Colonel William Washington's widow to the Washington Light Infantry in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1827. It has been their honored possession since that time. It inspired the gallant heroes of the Revolution and it inspires us today.

A little over a year ago a member of the Donhauser family of New York State offered William Ranney's famous painting, "The Battle of Cowpens," to the people of South Carolina for

\$60,000.00. It had been the proud possession of his family for over a century. It portrays a famous scene from a great battle. During the American Revolution the Continental Congress awarded medals in honor of only six battles. Never did it award more than three medals for a single battle and only twice was this done, the two battles being: Stony Point in New York State where General Anthony Wayne gained lasting fame and at Cowpens. For the victory at the Battle of Cowpens General Daniel Morgan, the American Commander, was awarded a gold medal, Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard who commanded the Maryland Line which included Kirkwood's Delawares was awarded a silver medal and Lieutenant Colonel William Washington who commanded the Continental Cavalry was awarded a silver medal. General Andrew Pickens who commanded the State Militia from Georgia, North and South Carolina and Virginia was awarded a sword. The scene in this famous painting which will be unveiled today portrays a cavalry clash between Colonel William Washington and the British Commander, Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Colonel Washington was one of the heroes of the battle, another hero was Washington's black bugler, Ball, who is shown firing his pistol wounding a British officer and helping to save Colonel Washington's life. The incident is mentioned by Chief Justice John Marshall in his "Life of President George Washington" and in many other early histories.

At the request of the Honorable David E. Finley the late Dr. Lester Cook, curator of the National Gallery of Art, looked at the painting, declared it to be a very fine one and endorsed the acquisition. The South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission adopted, as one of its projects, the raising of the funds for the acquisition of the painting and the South Carolina Arts Commission endorsed it.

The Daughters of The American Revolution and The Colonial Dames have been active in their support and have given generously as have many civic clubs, firms and individuals. It had been our hope to have the school children to actively participate as their interest would mean as much as their contributions. Unfortunately the reproduction of the painting, a little larger than postcard size with a certificate of appreciation signed by Governor John C. West on the other side, to help in this part of the drive faced unforeseen delays in production. The support of the Governor and the interest of the school children are not forgotten. It is hoped many of these cards will be distributed this fall.

Many have given generously and some in particular have played a major part in making the campaign to acquire the painting "The Battle of Cowpens" by William Ranney a success. To the members of the Patrons and the Donors Committee we are particularly grateful.

The Donors Committee consists of those who gave \$3,000.00 for the purchase of the painting. They are Charles E. Fraser, Hugh C. Lane, Walter S. Montgomery, E. Smythe Gambrell, Dr. Colgate Darden, III, John S. Rainey, Philip A. Buchheit, Bankers Trust and The State Record Foundation. The Patrons Committee consists of those who gave \$1,000.00 for the purchase of the painting. They are Francis Hipp, Mrs. Vera D. Parsons, Charles Coker, the Edwards and Graves Family, Representative Giles P. Cleveland, Roger Milliken, John Hamrick, Theodore B. Guerard, Mrs. H. W. Close, Richard W. Lloyd, Wilbur Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Camp, Reeves Brothers, First National Bank, Duke Power Company, South Carolina Gas and Electric Company and the South Carolina National Bank.

The spirit, courage and inspirational zeal of William Washington's cavalry troop in the American Revolution is perhaps best exemplified in a poem dedicated to the Washington Light Infantry by Sergeant Theodore L. Smith, W.L.I. It was presented to the public at the dedication of the Cowpens Centennial Monument in Spartanburg which was erected on Morgan Square in 1881 by the original thirteen states and Tennessee. This was the first monument erected by the states of the North and South after the War Between the States to commemorate their common heritage. The stanzas are in part:

"In the struggle for our freedom,
When the boldest stood in dread,
Our Washington stood foremost,
With this banner o'er his head;
And where the fight was fiercest,
And the carnage raged the most,
As a beacon light this banner
Marked the Hero at his post.

Unfurl the glorious standard
Which at Eutaw shone so bright,
And as a dazzling meteor swept,
Thro' the Cowpens deadly fight.
Sound, sound our lively bugles,
Let them pour their loudest blast,
Whilst we pledge both life and honor,
To stand by it to the last."

In grateful appreciation to all whose interest and support have made this possible it is my happy privilege in behalf of our American Revolution Bicentennial Commission to present this painting, "The Battle of Cowpens," to the people of South Carolina. To give meaning and reality to the presentation at this time I would like to call on Henry Walker, a son of former Representative Ellison Walker of Columbia and a descendant of Colonel William Washington, to unveil the painting.

..... Painting was unveiled amid applause

At this time I would also like to remind you that everyone present is invited to the reception given by the South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the South Carolina Arts Commission in honor of the General Assembly and the Donors and Patrons Committee. The silver is from the Governor's Mansion. It is part of the silver service presented to the Battleship South Carolina in 1902. You will find it not only of beauty but of interest. It also has scenes of our inspiring heritage of which we are justly proud as South Carolinians and Americans.

I thank you.

INFORMATIONAL NOTES

1. At the presentation of the painting Senator Marion Gressette, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, served as President of the Senate and Representative Rex Carter served in his capacity as Speaker.

2. William Ranney (1813-57) was a distinguished American Painter of the nineteenth century. A native of New England, he came South to fight for Texas Independence. He lived for a number of years in Fayetteville, N. C. and then moved to New York. In 1962 the Corcoran Art Gallery of Washington, D. C. published a book on his life and works, written by Dr. Francis S. Grubar

3. The Sword of State was presented to the State of South Carolina by the British Ambassador, Lord Halifax, in 1951. It was given to replace the original sword that was purchased in London, England, for the House of Assembly in 1704 and disappeared from the Senate rostrum in 1941. The ancient Mace was made in London in 1756. It is made of silver and burnished in gold. It is a work of great beauty. Upon it are engraved the royal arms of Great Britain and the arms of the Province of South Carolina. It is believed to be the only mace used by any of the states that predates the American Revolution.

4. The "Cowpens and Eutaw Flag" was made by Miss Jane Elliott of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1780. She gave it to her future husband, Col. William Washington, who proudly carried it in battle. After the American Revolution Col. Washington, a Virginian, settled in Charleston, South Carolina and served in the State Senate.

5. In 1972 legislation providing for the Cowpens National Battlefield was enacted into law. The original legislation was introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Thomas S. Gettys and in the United States Senate by Senator Ernest F. Hollings. The legislation had the support of South Carolina's Congressional Delegation, the Governors of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware and a number of other distinguished Americans. The Department of Interior is in the process of acquiring acreage for the park. It is a project of national significance.

6. The South Carolina Arts Commission contributed \$2,000 towards the acquisition of the painting. The South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission contributed \$10,000.00 from funds that it had received from the sale of commemorative medals dealing with the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The State House Committee of which Senator Rembert Dennis is Chairman has been most generous and helpful.

7. Former Representative Edwin W. Johnson of Spartanburg, South Carolina found an original program of the dedication ceremonies of the Cowpens Centennial Monument in 1881 at Spartanburg, S. C. in a family Bible. A Copy of the program has been given to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

8. Mr. Jesse Franklin Cleveland of Spartanburg, S. C. loaned to the author an original of the program on the silver service presented at the turn of the century by the people of South Carolina. Copies have been prepared for the Governor's Mansion and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The silver punch bowl portrays in base relief Sgt. William Jasper, Governor John Rutledge, John C. Calhoun and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. The silver center bowl portrays Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens and William Washington, all heroes of the Revolution. Other pieces honor William Moultrie, Rebecca Motte, the heroes at King's Mountain and other great South Carolinians. A member of the Committee

to acquire the Silver Service was The Honorable J. B. Cleveland and a grandfather of Representative Giles P. Cleveland, a member of the Patrons Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Representative Sam P. Manning,
Vice Chairman,
South Carolina American
Revolution
Bicentennial Commission

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In 1862 the Silver Service was The Honorable J. M. Cleveland
and a grandfather of Representative John P. Cleveland, a mem-
ber of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
By Representative John P. Manning,
Vice Chairman,
South Carolina American
Revolution
Historical Commission

