

## Augustine Clayton (1755 – 1834)

Augustine (Austin) Clayton, served in the South Carolina Militia as a Private in a Light Horse Company and as a scout on and off from 1775 to 1782. He was engaged in many battles against the Tories including the Second Siege of Augusta (GA). He also participated in the Cherokee Wars in 1776.

Austin was born 4 March 1755 in South Carolina. He married Catherine Smith in 1782. Together they had 12 children, all of whom lived to adulthood. The family resided in Spartanburg, South Carolina until about 1805. It was then that they migrated to Warren County, in Western Kentucky. Here he resided until his death in 1834.

His occupation was that of a farmer and preacher. He is recorded as the first pastor of the Glasgow Baptist Church in Warren County, Kentucky.

According to his statement during his pension hearing, Austin participated in many battle throughout the entire war, mostly in South Carolina where the battles were numerous and very fierce. He served under many officers during this time. While serving under Col. John Thomas and Capt. John Gowan he was in campaigns against the Tories (led by Col. Thomas Fletchall), the Snow Campaign and the Cherokee Indian Wars.

In early 1780, while serving under Col. John Thomas and Capt. W. Smith, his company was pursuing some Tories but halted the pursuit when it was discovered that they were outmanned.

He states that he pursued or engaged with Capt. Gray's Company of Tories as well as Capt. Holley's Company of Tories. He was also present at the Second Siege of Augusta in 1781.

He was honorably discharged on New Year's Day in 1783. Austin stated that his home was burned down shortly thereafter (allegedly by some outlying Tories) and all of his discharge papers were lost.

He also claimed to have been taken prisoner of the war four times. He was paroled after three months on one occasion, but does not state what happened on the other three.

*Jeffrey M. Hartman*