

## WILLIAM BRANNON [BRANHAM] - REVOLUTIONARY WAR NOTES

**BRANNON, WILLIAM**, American Revolution -- He served a total of 496 days both as foot soldier for MD Militia from 25 March 1779 to 15th Sep 1779 under Capt. Hambleton and Col. John Thomas; and as a horseman from 7th of June 1780 to the 7th of April 1781 with Capt. Major Parson and Capt. James Bridges Company under Col. Roebuck and Col. Andrew Pickens. Therefore, Wm. Brannon would have been amongst the mounted state troops, militia and volunteers that joined with Col. Wm. Washington's 3rd Dragoons in the Battle of Cowpens and had a significant role in helping to defeat Tarleton's Army. This was a major turning point in the war and led to a victory for the Patriot's by Gen. George Washington.

It is also believed that he served in Washington's 3rd Light Dragoons commanded by Col. George Baylor. "The History of the Third Continental Light Dragoons" by C. F. William Maurer is an excellent source which includes details on "Baylor's Massacre" wherein

Sep. 28, 1778, the group was ambushed in the middle of the night, while asleep. Approximately 11 were killed, 17 wounded, 33 taken prisoner, and 43 escaped. [\[See Dragoon Revolutionary War Notes\]](#)  
The group was generally detached for a length of time thereafter wherein they would do service in

another regiments. A Muster Roll of the 2nd Troop in the 3rd Regiment of the Light Dragoons commanded by Lt. Col. Wm. Washington for May-October 1779 listed 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, 2 Trump/Farrier, and 21 privates that included William Branham. This would appear to overlap William's other service in 1779. However, there was a lack of horses, equipment and men until the end of 1779 and it wasn't until December 2, 1779 that General Washington ordered the newly reinforced group be sent to South Carolina. See [Brannon Revolutionary War Accounts](#)

After the war, William Brannon resided in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Revolutionary War Records on [ancestry.com](#) show that he was born in VA.

### BRANDON VS. BRANNON NAME CONFUSION:

There has been a lot of confusion between Wm. Brandon and Wm. Brannon of the Battle of Cowpens. They are not one and the same, but rather, their name mix-up has caused some level of confusion about who is who. "A Devil of A whipping –The Battle of Cowpens" by Lawrence E. Babits clarifies not only confusion between names, but also battle configurations and other details. In his book there are battle charts that use "Brandon and Brannon interchangeably". William Brannon, my ancestor, according to his war records data and timeline, would not have been serving under Col. Wm. Brandon nor Col. Thomas. Brandon. Rather, he would have been with the 3rd Dragoons under William Washington. Lt. Col. Wm. Washington/3rd Continental Lt. Dragoons was augmented by state troops, militia & volunteers before the battle. They had a key role in the battle victory because they drove off attacks against both flanks from a hidden vantage point causing surprise to Tarleton.

The 3rd Dragoons were comprised of these commanders: Capt. Wm. Parsons, Capt. Churchill Jones, Capt. Wm. Barrett, and Maj. James Call.

[Ancestry.com](#) Revolutionary War Roster clarifies that Col. Major Parson is a different person from Capt. William Parsons. My Wm. Brannon was a horseman in the Battle of Cowpens as his service audited claim states that he served from 7th of June 1780 to the 1 July 1781 under Capt. Parson and Capt. James Bridge's Company of Col. Roebuck's [Regiment. Ancestry.com](#) informs us of the following:

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Parson, Major: . . . . . served alternately as a captain of horse under Col. Roebuck from 7 Jun 1780 to 1783. Bridges, James: He served. . . . . and as a captain of horse from 7 June 1780 to 7 April 1781 in Roebuck's regiment. Roebuck, Benjamin: . . . . . he distinguished himself at Cowpens. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and colonel.