
**Fragments of revolutionary
history. Being hitherto
unpublished writings of the men
of the American Revolution**

Hunt Gaillard

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FRAGMENTS 

OF

REVOLUTIONARY **H**ISTORY.

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REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY.

Being hitherto unpublished writings of the men of the
American Revolution, collected and edited,
under authority of the District of Columbia
Society, Sons of the Revolution.

BY
GAILLARD HUNT,
Registrar and Historian.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

A LARGE and important part of the manuscript sources of information upon the American Revolution are in the custody of private individuals. These scattered fragments are often the missing links in chains of important events, and until they are gathered together and printed they are to all intent and purpose unknown and valueless. It might be supposed that the people who would be most likely to have such papers in their possession would be the descendants of the men who wrote them, and it was a recognition of this probability that prompted the District of Columbia Society, Sons of the Revolution, to authorize the publication of such original Revolutionary writings as members of the Society might contribute. The request for contributions met with a prompt and satisfactory response. Some of the letters, it is true, have little worth from a purely historical point of view, but are nevertheless useful, serving to place vividly before us, as living and breathing human beings, characters that lived a century ago. On the other hand, others of the MSS. have a decided historical interest.

The most valuable private collection which has

been placed at the editor's disposal, is that of the late Colonel Theodorus Bailey Myers, of New York, now in the possession of his son, Theodorus Bailey Myers Mason, Lieutenant U. S. N., the founder of the Washington branch of the Sons of the Revolution. Among the letters which it has contributed to this volume are those of General Daniel Morgan, which fell into Col. Myer's hands when they were sold in New Orleans in 1879. "Some part, at least," says Mr. Winsor in his *Narrative and Critical History of America*, "of the correspondence of General Morgan is in the collection of Theodorus Bailey Myers." The whole of it, so far as it was ever collected, is there. It was used by James Graham in his *Life of Morgan*, and later by Colonel Myers himself in his account of the battle of the Cowpens, which appeared in the *Charleston News and Courier* in 1881. Taken in connection with previous publications what will be found here makes a tolerably complete history of the latter part of Morgan's military career.

Another contribution which must be said to have a decided historical value, is the narrative of Colonel John Francis Mercer. He tells how he impeded the progress of the British Army with a band of less than fifty horsemen at Green Spring, and again he engaged Tarleton's Army with great gallantry in the Gloucester skirmish. For the first affair he was thanked by Lafayette, and for the