



Otho Holland Williams in The American Revolution

John Beakes

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Otho Holland Williams in the American Revolution is the third military biography in our series on General Washington's best officers. Williams' exceptional military career began at the very outset of the Revolutionary War when, at 26, he joined a Maryland company of rifleman as a junior officer. He participated in the siege of Boston in 1776 and the defense of Fort Washington, where he was wounded and captured by the British during the fierce battle.

The Maryland legislature promoted Williams to Colonel of the Sixth Maryland Regiment while he was a prisoner of war, and, after he was exchanged, he commanded a regiment during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. He was sent south in the spring of 1780, and participated in the heroic stand of the Maryland Line at the Battle of Camden. He commanded Nathanael Greene's screening force with skill and daring during the Race to the Dan River early in 1781. Then led his regiments in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina; and at Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. He was awarded a sword by congress for gallantry in those actions. This talented infantry commander was promoted to Brigadier General after the Battle of Eutaw Springs, which Nathanael Greene called *by far the most obstinate and bloody I ever saw*. Otho Holland Williams returned to Baltimore soon after victory in the South was assured.



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