

The Threatening Scythe

By: [REDACTED]

You might think a weapon such as a knife is not important, but, in fact, a type of knife called a scythe helped bring victory to William Bratton. I was there that day in July of 1780 when one of Tarleton's men, Christian Huck, came to Col. Bratton's house looking for him. Instead, he only found Mrs. Bratton, Martha, and their children and some slaves. He decided to use me to threaten Mrs. Bratton.

Christian Huck (I think sometimes he is called Hook) had burned Billy Hill's Iron Works over on Allison Creek. Col. Hill had been providing ammunition and supplies for the patriots. Boy, that made Col. Bratton and Col. Hill mad. When Huck's men reached the Bratton's plantation, they threatened to kill Martha with me if she didn't tell them where her husband and the patriots were. That little lady just stood her ground! That was a big moment of decision for her. With just one slash by me, her life would be taken away. Huck was about to swing me when he was warned by some of his men of the severe consequences of her death. That man from Winnsboro told him it would make the Patriots fight even harder if they hurt Mrs. Bratton. I remember the Bratton's little boy watching in horror as Huck threatened his mother. She refused to tell Huck where Col. Bratton was and he backed off. Later she sent Watt, a servant, to warn her husband and the others about Huck. I watched as the servant went like a cat at midnight looking for prey as he went to warn the others. Col. Hill and the others made a surprise attack on Huck and his men the next morning over at Williamson's Plantation—just next to the Bratton place. Huck and a lot of his men were killed. Now this is known as the Battle of Huck's Defeat or the Battle of Williamson's Plantation.

As a hang on this wall in Col. Bratton's house, I think back to that day. I know that every piece of history is important, even a scythe.