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John Rhodes.

John Rhodes was quite a prominent whig, and before the declaration of independence, had taken sides with the colonies. Among the officers elected by the General Assembly at its meeting on the 26th of March, 1770, he was made sheriff of Beaufort District, by the appointment of John Rutledge, President, to fill a vacancy caused by the declination of Tuenes Tebout.

(See Drayton's Memoirs, Vol. 2, page 241.)

During the war he was a commissioned officer. The British while in possession of Port Royal Island, kept a strong detachment of troops at Roupell's Ferry. A small militia guard, commanded by Lieutenant John Rhodes, of Prince Williams Company, was stationed at Page's Point, on the opposite shore. Sensible that it would be easy for an enterprising enemy, from the number of navigable creeks that led to his rear, to cut off his party, he made a representation of his perilous situation to the commanding Continental officer at Sheldon Church. Brigade Major Paul Hamilton, of the first regiment, was immediately sent to judge of the accuracy of his statement, who finding it strictly true,

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wrote for and obtained a sergeant's guard of Continentals to strengthen the command. "While so near the enemy", said Hamilton, "I would pay them a closer visit, could I find a proper guide."

"I am acquainted," replied Lieutenant Rhodes, "with every foot of the ground they occupy, and will willingly accompany you across the river." Hastily conceived, and promptly entered into, the expedition was immediately carried into effect. A boat was prepared and the river passed with muffled oars. The sergeant's guard was approached, and surrounded, and with the exception of one man who escaped, and the sergeant, who resisting was severely wounded by Lieutenant Rhodes, brought off. This partisan stroke was accomplished by eleven men and officers, including four men who never quitted the boat.

(See Gardin's Anecdotes of the American Revolution, Vol. 2, page 36.)

John Rhodes was an active communicant of the Episcopal Church, and for a number of years was a vestryman of St. Helena Parish, Beaufort, and represented it in the diocesan conventions of the church in the years 1805-12-13-14-17, all of which were held in Charleston. (See Dalcho's Church History.)

He was a member of the House of Representatives from St. Helena's Parish 1800-1804.