

In 1840 noted Philadelphia engraver John Sartain copied John Blake White's painting of *General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal*, now owned by the U.S. Senate. The mezzotint was made for the Apollo Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts in the United States, a group that showcased American painters by making their work available to a wider audience. Sartain's print was the first in a series of engravings made from American paintings and distributed to the association's members. He received numerous commissions throughout his career to create prints based on paintings by such noted artists as Thomas Sully and Benjamin West. Sartain is credited with introducing illustrations into American

periodicals and pioneering mezzotint engraving. This image depicts one of the many legendary exploits of Revolutionary War General Francis Marion. According to the tale, while camped on Snow's Island, South Carolina, around 1781, the general received a British officer who had been sent to arrange an exchange of prisoners. After completing their business, General Marion (right center with plumed shako) asked the visiting officer to stay for a meal. The officer was surprised by the modest fare and the dedication of the American soldiers. 🍷



General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal
by John Blake White, date unknown, oil on canvas.
(U.S. Senate Collection)



GEN. MARION IN HIS SWAMP ENCAMPMENT INVITING A BRITISH OFFICER TO DINNER.
PUBLISHED BY THE APOLLO ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE FINE ARTS IN THE U.S.
1840.

Gen. Marion in His Swamp Encampment Inviting a British Officer to Dinner.

John Sartain after painting by John Blake White
The Apollo Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts
in the United States, 1840
Mezzotint, black and white
18 ¼ x 20 ¾ inches (46.4 x 51.8 cm)
Cat. no. 38.00961.001