



## Rev. Francis Cummins, D.D.

1752 – 1832

### North Carolina

Born in 1752 near Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. His parents were Charles Cummins and Rebecca McNickle Cummins who were from Northern Ireland. Francis Cummins was an active and zealous Patriot in the Revolutionary War. He was for several years a preceptor at Clio Academy, a respectable German Seminary in Rowan County (now Iredell County), North Carolina. While Mr. Cummins was engaged in teaching, he studied theology under the direction of Dr. James Hall. Francis Cummins was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Orange on December 15, 1780. During the year 1781 he preached at various places and in the spring of 1782 accepted a call from Bethel Church where he was ordained at the close of that year. Rev. Cummins was one of the original members of South Carolina Presbytery when it was set off from Orange Presbytery in 1785. In the spring of 1788 while residing at Bethel and serving both as pastor and teacher of the youth, he was elected by the people of the York District as a member of the South Carolina Convention called to decide upon the Constitution of the United States (1)

Rev Francis Cummins in a letter to North Carolina Senator Nathaniel Macon November 16, 1819 concerning the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence testified: "Many men and young men (myself one) before magistrates abjured allegiance to George III, or any other foreign power. At length in the same year, 1775, I think at least positively before July 4, 1776, the males generally of that county, met on a certain day in Charlotte, and from the head of the courthouse stairs proclaimed Independence on English Government, by their herald Col. Thomas Polk. I was present, and saw and heard it, and as a young man, and then a student in Queen's Museum, was an agent in these things." (2) Captain James Jack for many years enjoyed the ministerial instructions of Rev Francis Cummins a distinguished Presbyterian clergyman who at the youthful age of eighteen, joined his command in Mecklenburg County North Carolina. (3) In a letter to Andrew Jackson from Ebenezer Harlow Cummins (Son of Rev Francis Cummins) Aug 10, 1826. - "He remembers well when you, General [William Richardson] Davie and many others of your early compeers were his pupils, in the famous region of the Carolina so devoted to the freedom of these states, and with in a few miles of the spot where the first declaration of independence was formally and devotedly proclaimed. He was among the actors at the court-house in

Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, on that memorable occasion as well as a participator in the subsequent robbery of the British army in the neighborhood by a few hundred stout hearted whigs who surprised [Charles] Cornwallis, and to use his own language "cut out" twenty two of his baggage waggons and make a great fare of their contents the next day in Charlotte." (4)

Influential figures in American History who were students of Rev Francis Cummins D.D. U.S. General and U.S. President Andrew Jackson (4): General and (Governor of North Carolina 1798-1799) William Richardson Davie (4): Rev Moses Waddel, on June 6, 1794, Rev Francis Cummins preached the ordination sermon for Moses Waddel, founder of the most famous academy in the South. His text was from Ezekiel 33:7, which speaks of the prophet as watchman, both military and spiritual. If one reads that sermon, one can clearly see what the curriculum would be in Waddel's academy (5), Moses Waddel in 1819 would become the President of (Franklin College and The University of Georgia 1819 -1829). Rev Francis Cummins D.D. died on February 22, 1832, and is buried in the Greensboro City Cemetery, Greensboro, Georgia.(1)

(1) PCA Historical Center, <http://www.thisday.pcahistory.org/tg/francis-cummins/> Web Page, February 22, 2016 by archivist

(2) The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, by William Henry Hoyt A.M. pages 253-254  
<https://archive.org/stream/mecklenburgdecla00hoytuoft#page/252/search/cummins>

(3) Sketches of Western North Carolina Historical & Biographical by C. L. Hunter 1877 Page 70 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.  
<https://archive.org/stream/sketchesofwester00hunt#page/70/search/cummins>

(4) The Papers of Andrew Jackson Volume VI 1825 -1828 Harold D. Moser & J. Clint Clift, Page 195 – 196

(5) A Social Portrait of the South at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century GEORGE C. ROGERS, JR. page 46.

<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44539420.pdf>