Col. Thomas Roper, 1760-1829

1760 Born to Grace Hext and English immigrant, William Roper, in Charleston, South Carolina

1776 Served in a volunteer company, “The True Blues,” during the American Revolution

1781 Married Lydia Harvey (d. 1805), an orphan from Beaufort with whom he had thirteen children

1786-1787 Warden of Charleston’s 1st Ward

1794 Elected major in the South Carolina Militia, Eastern Regiment

1794-1795 Warden of Charleston’s 3rd Ward

1794-1825 Served on the Board of the Commissioners of the Orphan House (with gaps)

1796-1801 Representative of St. Philip’s and St. Michael’s parishes in the South Carolina General Assembly

1799-1801 Intendant of the City of Charleston

1801-1802 Trustee of the Associated Academy

1803-1829 Steward of the South Carolina Society

1808 Selected to lead the “Committee to Prepare for the Immediate Preparation for Defense” after the British attack on the USS Chesapeake

1808-1809 Warden of Charleston’s 3rd Ward and chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Health

1808-1810 Lieutenant colonel in the South Carolina Militia, Eastern Regiment

1808-1812 Served on the Board of the Commissioners of the Charleston Dispensary

1812 Served on the School Committee of the Board of Trustees of Charleston College

1812 Elected lieutenant of the Associated Company of Alarm Fencibles, a volunteer company “composed of old men, organized for purposes of local defence [sic].”

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1815-1818 Chairman of the Vestry of St. Philip’s Church

1816 President of the American Revolution Society

1829 Death and burial in St. Philip’s Church graveyard

1845 Col. Roper’s only surviving son, Robert Williams Roper, died without heirs. Per the stipulations of Col. Roper’s will, his estate reverted to ownership of the Medical Society of South Carolina. The Medical Society established the Roper fund, which built the first Roper Hospital in 1856.

References

“American Independence; Charleston Planters; Colonel Roper; Toasts.” City Gazette. Charleston, South Carolina. 7 July 1810, 3.


“Secretary’s Office, Charleston, Sept. 10, 1794.” Columbian Herald. Charleston, South Carolina. 15 September 1794, 2.

