

## South Carolina: Isaac Huger

Born on March 19, 1742, to a wealthy South Carolina family, Huger spent his early childhood exploring the area around his family's plantation, Limerick Plantation, in Berkeley County, SC. His family later sent him and his brothers to be education educated in Europe.<sup>159</sup> By 1761, the 18-year-old returned to South Carolina and joined the Provincial South Carolina Regiment, with whom he fought in the Anglo-Cherokee War as a lieutenant. When the war ended, Huger returned to his family's plantation and attended to his personal affairs and served as a member of the First Provincial Congress of South Carolina.<sup>160</sup>

Soon after the American Revolution began, Huger joined the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Regiment as a lieutenant colonel. Over the course of the conflict, Huger rose through the ranks of the Continental Army and became a brigadier general on January 9, 1779. With his new command, Huger was transferred to the Southern Theater of the war and participated in the battle of Stono Ferry, the sieges of Savannah and Charleston, and the battles of Guilford Courthouse and Hobkirk's Hill. When the war ended in September 1783, Huger returned home and focused on his private ventures and serving in local government, including as Sheriff of the Charleston District, until President Washington made him a U.S. marshal in September 1789.<sup>161</sup>



Isaac Huger, date unknown  
Courtesy of the U.S. Marshals Service

Huger faced numerous challenges related to overseeing the 1790 enumeration of South Carolina's population. Like a majority of his colleagues, he relied on deputies to serve as the enumerators—18 in all. Despite this, he failed to turn in his returns by the initial deadline of September 5, 1791.<sup>162 163</sup>

Huger's failure to complete his count on time is noteworthy for a couple of reasons. First, the 1790 Census Act stated that the marshals would be fined \$800, if they failed to their file their returns by the September deadline.<sup>164</sup> Because Huger made \$300 for overseeing the enumeration process, he would have had to pay the rest of the fine from his personal wealth.<sup>165</sup> In addition to risking a fine, Huger struggled to find enough people who were willing to face the

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<sup>159</sup>"History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of South Carolina: Isaac Huger," U.S. marshals Service, last estimated release October 25, 2019, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/firstmarshals/huger.htm>. (Accessed October 25, 2019).

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>161</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of South Carolina: Isaac Huger."

<sup>162</sup> "Assistant marshals for the state [South Carolina]: 1790," in *Heads of Families/1790/A Century of Population Growth South Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907), 12:9.

<sup>163</sup> *Gazette of the United-States*. [volume] (New-York [N.Y.]), 10 March 1790.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*

physical dangers and financial challenges that many of the deputies faced.<sup>166</sup> Finally, many of the citizens refused to cooperate with the enumerators because they feared the federal government would use their information for tax purposes.<sup>167</sup> These challenges came to a head in September 1791, when a federal Grand Jury indicted six citizens and one enumerator for failing to adhere to 1790 Census Act.<sup>168</sup> Additionally, the Congressional delegation from South Carolina secured an extension for Huger to complete the enumeration of South Carolina's population.<sup>169 170</sup>

Huger finally delivered his 1790 census return to the Secretary of State on February 5, 1792—the last state to do so.<sup>171</sup> He continued to serve as South Carolina's U.S. marshal, before poor health and financial difficulties forced him to resign from his position in August 1793.<sup>172</sup> He passed away on October 17, 1797 in Charleston, SC.<sup>173</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> W.S. Rossiter, "The First Census of the United States," pg. 46.

<sup>167</sup> W.S. Rossiter, "The First Census of the United States," pg. 45-46.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 46.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>170</sup> *National gazette*. [volume] (Philadelphia [Pa.]), 10 Nov. 1791. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025887/1791-11-10/ed-1/seq-1/>. (Accessed October 25, 2019).

<sup>171</sup> W.S. Rossiter, "The First Census of the United States," pg. 46.

<sup>172</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of South Carolina: Isaac Huger."

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid*.