

**CHEROKEE HISTORICAL &  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.**

# **Revolutionary War Assets Site Survey**

**Cherokee County, S.C.  
2025**

**Richard C. Meehan, Jr.**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Financial and in-kind contributions made by the following:



Richard C. Meehan, Jr. is an award-winning historical writer who regularly serves as a living historian and reenactor at Revolutionary War events throughout South Carolina. His work has appeared in magazines, webzines, newspaper columns, and novels. He co-wrote the Revolutionary War feature film *Huck's Defeat*, the battle that turned the tide against the British invasion of South Carolina. Recently, he was named the new editor of *The Journal of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution*. He is the owner of Noggin Universe Press in Spartanburg, SC.



[ccmuseumsc.org](http://ccmuseumsc.org)



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[cherokee250.org](http://cherokee250.org)

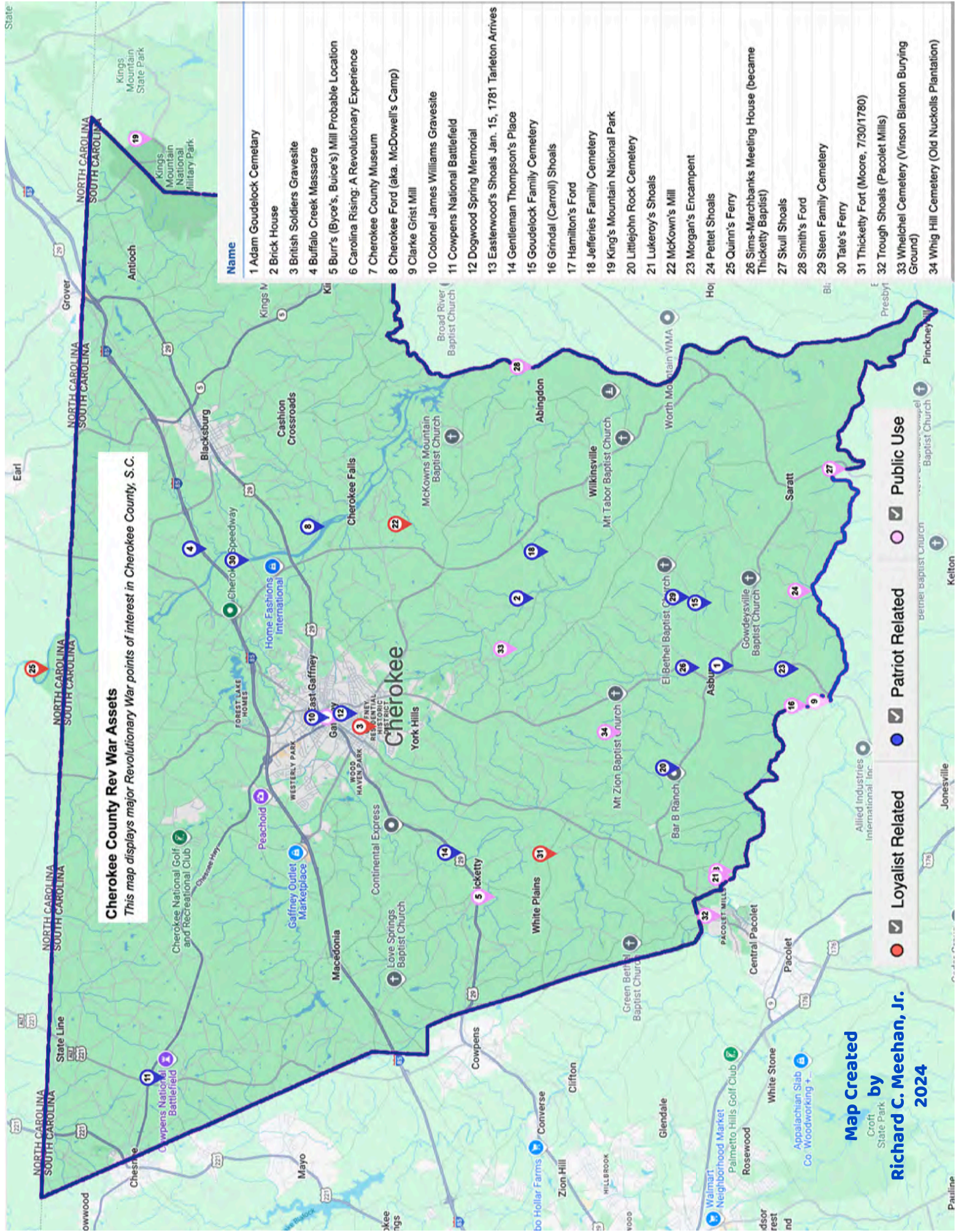
The activity that is the subject of this Historic Site Survey has been financed in part with state funds from the SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250). However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SC250.

**SC 250**  
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# FOREWORD

This survey was commissioned by the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society, Inc., in November 2024. It was completed by Richard C. Meehan, Jr., an author and historical specialist in Backcountry South Carolina Revolutionary War history, in February 2025. The purpose of this survey is to update records on Cherokee County's trove of Revolutionary War assets.

The section for each asset includes:

- Global Positioning Coordinates
- Driving directions are provided
- Public accessibility is noted
- Detailed map location (credit to Google Maps unless otherwise noted)
- Current photograph in color
- Assessment of property condition
- Brief on historical significance
- Overall map with pinpoints for each site
- Keywords are hyperlinked to related data
- Spellings of names and places change over time

The bibliography contains the reference materials used for this report. Material related to the sites is included in the appendix. The surveyor created the photographs, images, and drawings unless another source is credited.

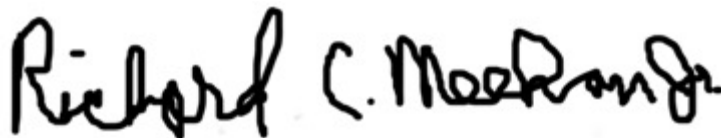
The historical site survey guidelines consulted to produce this report were obtained from:

- South Carolina Department of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office *Survey Manual*, latest version, December 2018.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Interagency Resources Division National Register Bulletin: *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*.

The current APA Standards for citing sources denote reference materials consulted.

Finally, the surveyor believes Cherokee County's Revolutionary War assets are among the richest in the State. Every effort has been made to accurately determine each site's significance. Surveyor Richard C. Meehan, Jr., is honored to present this report.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard C. Meehan, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Surveyor



# DEDICATION

To all those who gave their lives for our freedom.

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# ADAM GOUDELOCK CEMETERY

GPS COORDINATES: 34.91781, -81.62478

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**ROADSIDE VIEWING ONLY**



*Adam Goudelock Cabin and Cemetery*

## DIRECTIONS

Adam Goudelock Family Cemetery, 116 Gowdeysville Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. The cabin may only be viewed from the roadside, as this is posted private property.

## BRIEF HISTORY

British Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton abducted Adam Goudelock directly after the British Legion's defeat at the Battle of Cowpens. Tarleton wanted Adam to guide him to Hamilton's Ford on the Tyger River as quickly as possible, for he wished to meet up with Lord Cornwallis and escape from Patriot pursuers under Colonel William Washington. Tarleton burned his remaining supply wagons in Adam's front yard. Shortly thereafter, when William Washington arrived at the Goudelock Cabin, Hannah (Adam's wife) misdirected Washington to Grindal's Ford for fear that Tarleton might kill her husband if Washington caught up to him.

Two other Revolutionary War events occurred here. The wounded General Thomas Sumter was brought here after the Battle of Blackstock's Plantation. A physician gave him a sedative and dressed Sumter's shoulder. Sally Goudelock (Adam's daughter) visited General Daniel Morgan at his camp on Grindall's Ford with her father and sister, Ann, and was escorted back to their cabin by Colonel William Washington and Colonel John Eager Howard. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.) (Bailey J. , 1927)

- Find-a-Grave Cemetery ID: 2786389
- Adam Goudelock (1726-1796) received a 100-acre grant and moved his family from Ireland to Cherokee County in 1779. At least through 1989, Goudelock's descendants resided on this farm. At a ceremony hosted by the S.C. Food and Agriculture Council at Clemson College, U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina recognized the family for having worked the land for more than 200 years. Richard C. Meehan, Jr. faithfully tells the entire Adam and Hannah Goudelock story in the historical fiction novel *Ford the Pacholet*. (<https://fordthepacholet.com>)
- Hannah *Stockton* Goudelock (1770-1803) was a daughter of Davis Stockton (c.1685-1761). Davis is shown on a land record from 1737 in Goochland (now Albemarle) County, Virginia. Hannah married Adam Goudelock. They moved from Albemarle County, Virginia, to Cherokee County, South Carolina.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This is private property marked “No Trespassing.” The Adam Goudelock Cabin is becoming dilapidated and needs restoration and preservation. The surveyor suggests contacting the owner regarding the conservancy of this revered structure. The modern grave marker is not in evidence.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

Adam Goudylock (ca. 1726-1796), Planter, of Albemarle County, Virginia, and Union County, South Carolina, *The American Genealogist* 88 (2016), 49–56, 107–117.



# BRICK HOUSE

**GPS COORDINATES: 34.99399, - 81.59298**

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY    ROADSIDE VIEWING ONLY**



## **DIRECTIONS**

Brick House Farms is at 1099 Brickhouse Road, Gaffney, South Carolina, 29340. The house may only be viewed from the roadside. This is a private farm.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

John Randolph Jefferies (1760-1851) was a soldier of the American Revolution. He served as a Private under his father, Captain Nathaniel Jefferies, of the Second Spartan Regiment, South Carolina Troops. He fought at King's Mountain. The 1850 Census states that he was worth \$30,000 and had over 100 enslaved people. John bought the land from his father, Nathaniel, and built the "Brick House." He lived there until his death at 91. He was known as "Brick House John." There is a lot written about the Brick House. Some say that the bricks were bought in London and shipped to Charleston. Records obtained from Jane G. Holland from C.B. Jefferies state that the enslaved people made the bricks. John's epitaph reads: "A man sedate, of sober mind, to wife and children ever kind, although great merit may have, death will bring all men to the grave." (Jefferies Family Cemetery in South Carolina - Find a Grave Cemetery, 2023)

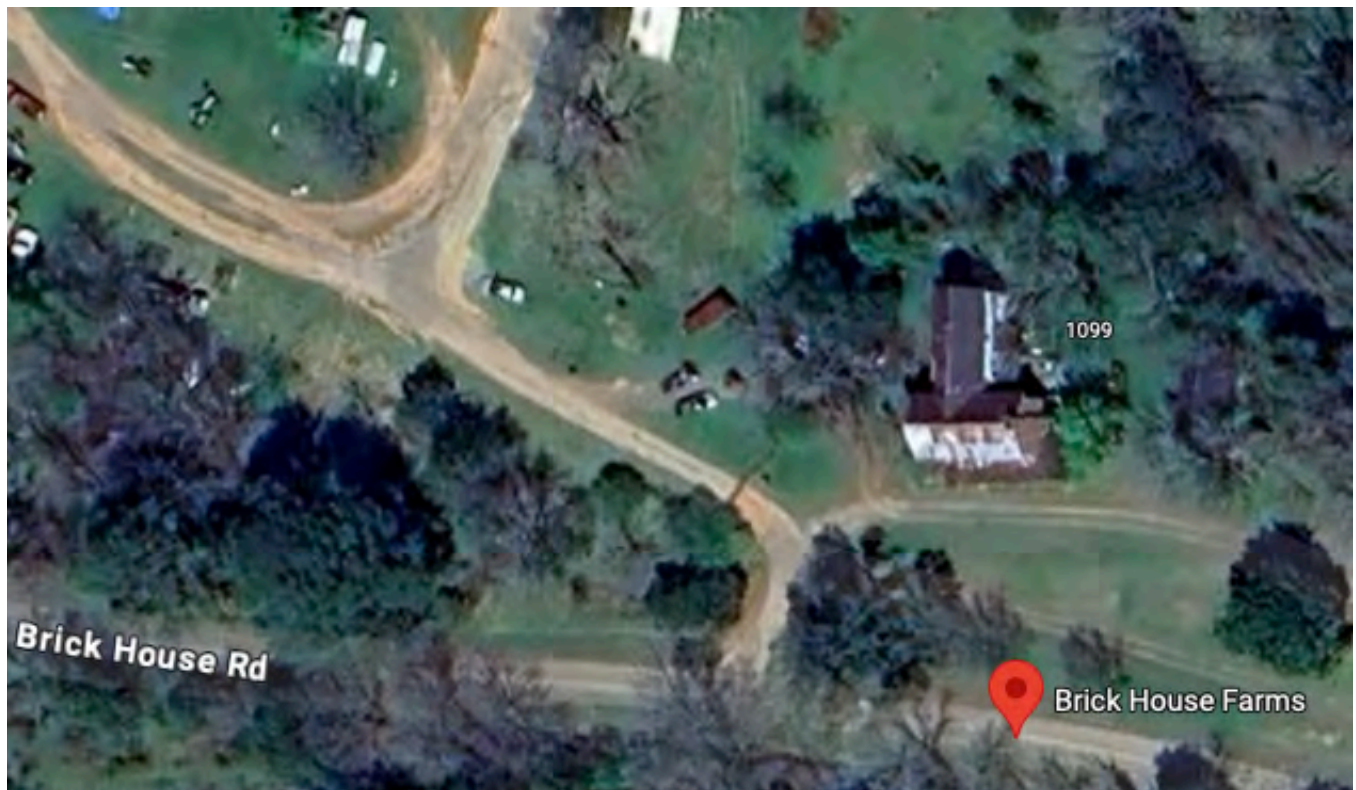


A blog article talks about the enslaved people listed in John Jefferies' estate appraisal at his death. In December 2024, it was located here: <https://rootsrevealed.blogspot.com/2014/02/no-longer-forgotten-enslaved-laborers.html>. This surveyor recommends that these documents be retrieved and archived so they may be preserved.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

As of December 30, 2024, the Brick House appears to be vacant. The bricks used in its construction were handmade, matching the methods used in the late 1700s. This surveyor recommends approaching the landowner about acquiring the house, perhaps as a donation, before restoration becomes unviable. The approximate square footage, including the addition on the back of the house, is more than 3000 square feet.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

Captain Nathaniel Jefferies' Will is listed on this website, 2024:  
<https://www.geni.com/people/Captain-Nathaniel-Jefferies-Sr/6000000002217983161>.  
DAR Ancestor #A061969.

# BRITISH SOLDIERS GRAVESITE (AT LIMESTONE SPRINGS MEMORIAL)

GPS COORDINATES: 35.054855, -81.652844

PUBLIC ACCESS



*Marker Honoring Three Unknown British Soldiers*

## DIRECTIONS

Go to Limestone Springs Memorial, 711 Griffith Street, Gaffney, SC, across from the Timken Center on the Limestone College Campus. Enter the publicly accessible site on the brick pathway that leads to Limestone Springs Memorial. There is a historical marker on the roadside called "Limestone Springs."

## BRIEF HISTORY

After being force-marched for days by their commander, Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, into the South Carolina backcountry in pursuit of a force of Continental Army and Patriot militia led by Brigadier General Daniel



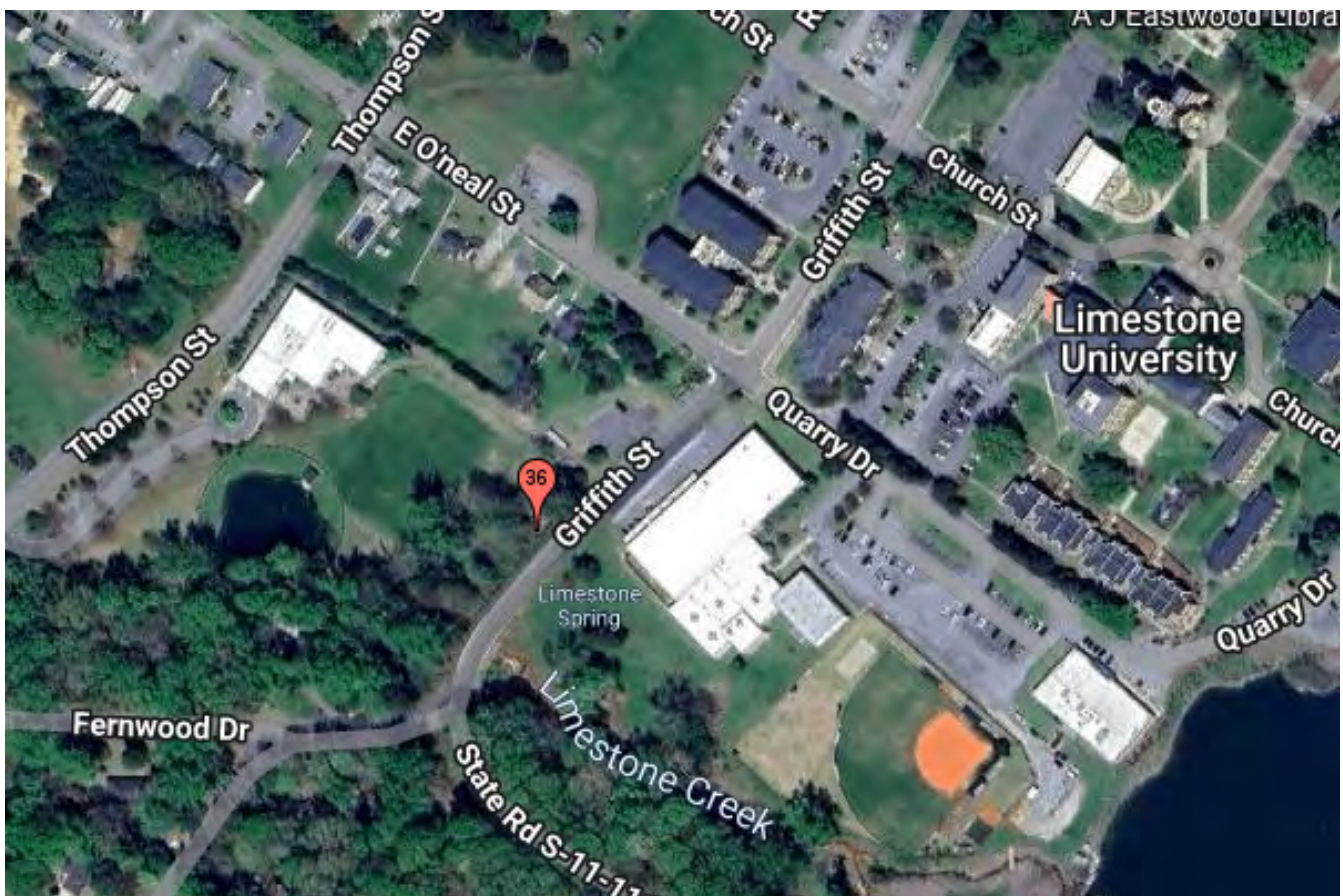
Morgan, these men were wounded in the battle that took place early on a cold and frosty morning. After the struggle, these soldiers were among those brought to the cattle drivers' rest stop called the Cow Pens near Limestone Springs just off the old Cherokee Ford Road, where they bled to death and died far from home and their families in a strange and largely hostile country. Their names are forgotten in history and known but to God.

On this site lie the bodies of three unknown British soldiers who perished at the Battle of Cowpens, which was fought around 14 miles away from here on January 17, 1781. These three men were brought to this location, now Limestone Springs, for medical attention. Unfortunately, the three men succumbed to their wounds and are buried here, the only known location of British burials after the battle. Not buried by other British soldiers, they were interred by the order of Patriot Captain Vardry McBee, Sr., and his wife, Hannah Echols (Hannah's Cow Pens named for her, not where the battle was fought), who owned this land. (Roden, Monument To British Revolutionary War Dead in Gaffney, South Carolina, n.d.)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

The memorial measures 4.5 feet long x 2 feet high x 10 inches wide at the base, tapering to 3 inches wide at the top. As of December 2024, it was in excellent condition but needed to be washed, as the stone is very grimy. The bushes to either side need minor shaping and trimming.

## DETAILED MAP





# BUFFALO CREEK MASSACRE

GPS COORDINATES: 35.120293, -81.569224

THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY



## DIRECTIONS

Take I-85 north towards Blacksburg and exit Blacksburg Highway to the right. The original Frontage Road immediately on the right is now owned by Milliken Co. and is gated and posted against trespassers. However, the hill overlooking I-85 and the Broad River may be viewed from the I-85 emergency lane when approaching the exit. The hill described in the following account is forested today.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Colonel James Williams of Ninety Six District led a 100-man detachment to meet up with other militia from the Overmountain settlements, gathering to engage Cornwallis' western force led by British Major Patrick Ferguson. He joined other units at Cowpens on October 6, 1780. The next day, these forces won a significant victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain, where the out-numbered Americans overwhelmed a 1,100-man Loyalist force while suffering only twenty-eight fatalities. Colonel Williams was one of them.

Williams' original hastily dug grave was on John B. Mintz's property, on top of a hill at Buffalo Creek and the Broad River intersection, near Blacksburg, South Carolina. His body was dug up in May 1898 and kept secret for several years before being re-interred on the lawn in front of the Administration building on Limestone Street in Gaffney, South Carolina, and marked by a large memorial. The following newspaper article relates the story of his body being dug up. "Several days ago, a party of men consisting of A. G. Mintz, Rev. Mr. Bailey, J. E. Mintz, J. H. Mintz, Lee Broom, F. L. White, and several others opened the grave of Colonel Williams, who was



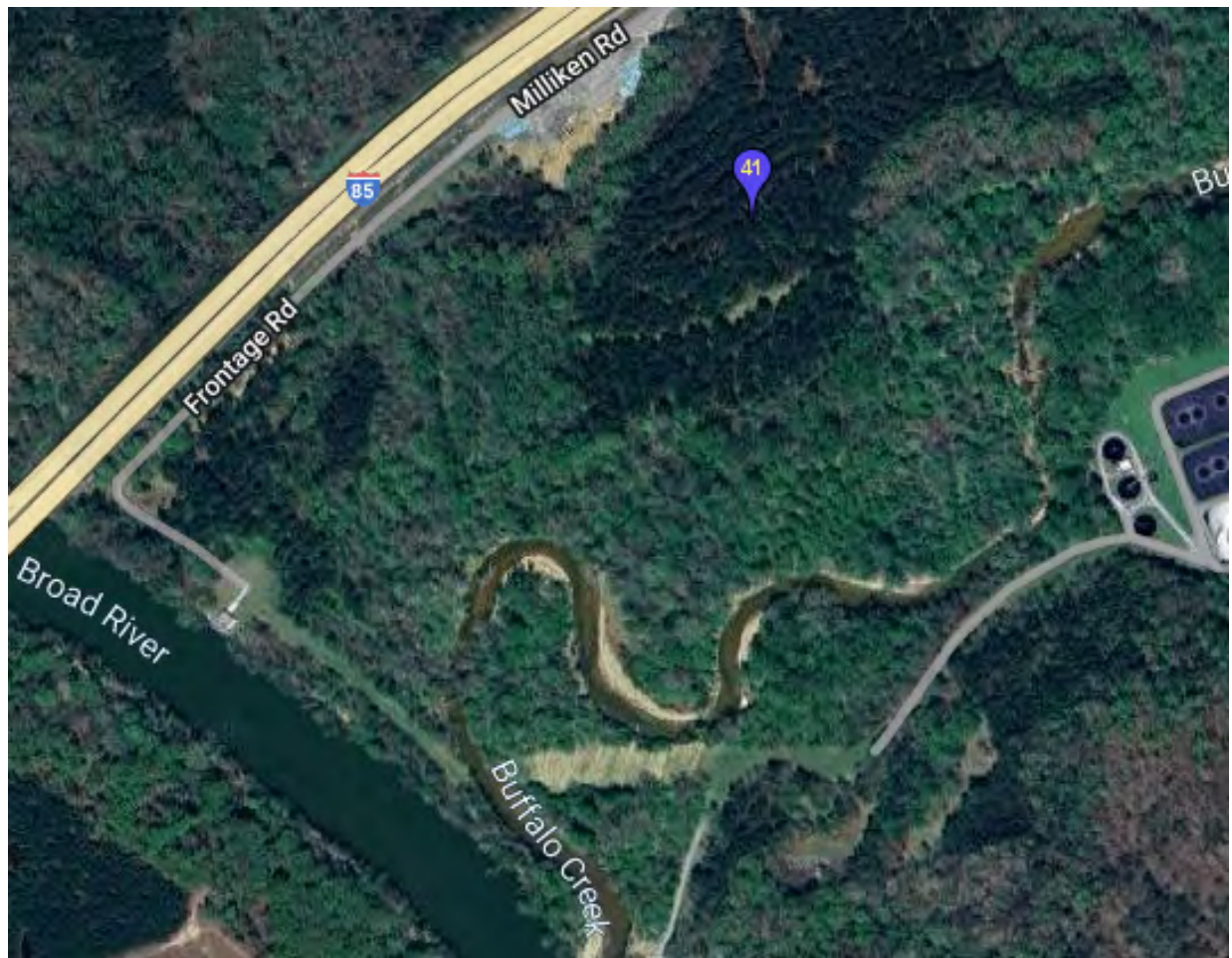
seriously wounded at the battle of King's Mountain and was carried by the Americans on their retreat eastward, back across Broad River. That night, he died and was buried on a hill near the intersection of Buffalo Creek and Broad River. His bones were found in a good state of preservation and were all removed except the skull, which is hidden away for a future funeral. Mr. A. G. Mintz was exhibiting the skull on the streets of Blacksburg. It is proposed that his remains be buried in Berkley Park at Blacksburg and a monument be erected over them. - Yorkville Yeoman. The story was published in The Laurens Advertiser (Laurens, SC) on Tuesday, 17 May 1898, page 3.

The South Carolina Provincial Congress promoted Colonel James Williams to brigadier general, but the commission could not be delivered. In 2005, the South Carolina General Assembly confirmed the rank bestowed upon him 225 years earlier. In the same act, General Williams was further honored by renaming the Little River Bridge the James Williams Memorial Bridge, marking the northeast corner of his plantation. (Wikipedia Contributors, 2024)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property belongs to Milliken & Company in 2025. There is a locked gate preventing access.

## DETAILED MAP

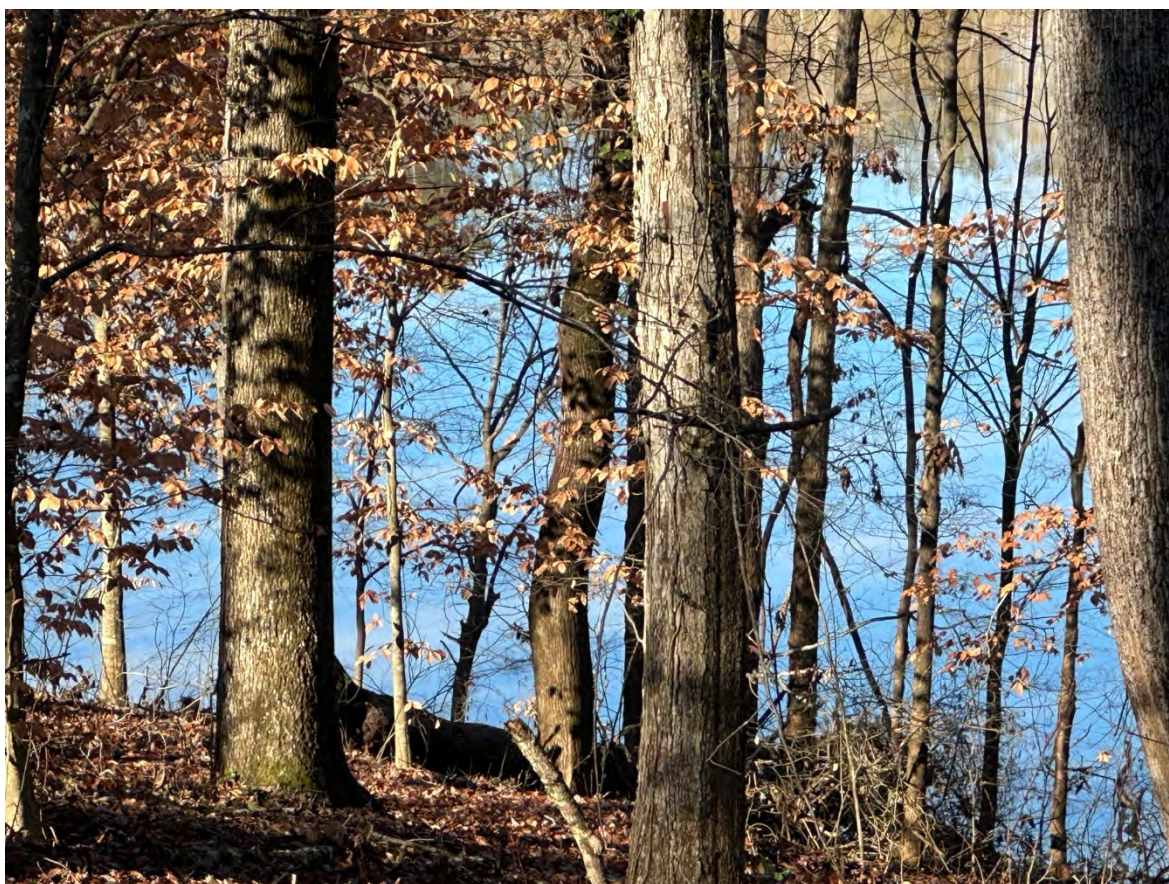




# BURR'S MILL

GPS COORDINATES: 35.009263, -18.733011

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



## DIRECTIONS

The closest address to this location is 220 Lake Tree Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. It is on private property bordering the Thicketty Creek Watershed.

## BRIEF HISTORY

On January 15, 1781, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan wrote a letter to Major General Nathanael Greene that he had camped at Burr's Mill on Thicketty Creek, indicating that he had recent intelligence of the whereabouts of Lt. General Charles, Lord Cornwallis, and Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton and that they were pursuing Morgan diligently.

Brigadier General Morgan had no desire to be overtaken by Lt. Col. Tarleton, so he broke camp very early on January 16th and headed towards Hannah's Cowpens (now understood to be Saunders' Cow Pens), a much better location to meet the notorious British colonel. Brigadier General Morgan had decamped so suddenly that most of his men had left their breakfasts only half-cooked. Very low on rations, Lt. Col. Tarleton's men were delighted to find a meal waiting for them, so Lt. Col. Tarleton decided to make camp there for the night of January 16th. (Anon, The American Revolution in South Carolina - Road to Burr's Mill, n.d.)





# CAROLINA RISING

GPS COORDINATES: 35.073530, -81.648728

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Carnegie Free Library, 200 North Limestone Street, Gaffney, SC 29340. This property is soon to be open to the public.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Carolina Rising will immerse guests in the lives and conflicts of America's earliest patriots. Through state-of-the-art 3D video technology, guests will interact with the characters and environment of the Southern Campaign. Motion-activated controllers will allow participants to control the 3D viewing area within the video environment. As guests see through the eyes of Cherokee County's patriots and loyalists, they will discover previously untold stories of the Revolutionary War. (Anon, Carolina Rising: A Revolutionary Experience, 2024)



Whether they are meeting an Overmountain Militiaman, watching the battle of Kings Mountain unfold around them, or exploring woodlands haunted by memories of siblings at war, Carolina Rising’s guests will embark on a revolutionary adventure unique to Cherokee County. (Carolina Rising, 2024)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property is currently under renovation (December 2024). Upon completion, the site will be a state-of-the-art museum, and the Carnegie Free Library will meet all modern building codes. Further, the remodeling is being done with complete consideration of the integrity of the building’s historic value.

## DETAILED MAP



# CHEROKEE COUNTY MUSEUM

GPS COORDINATES: 35.06784417268807, -81.64849711828765

## PUBLIC ACCESS



*Picture from <https://ccmuseumsc.org>*

## DIRECTIONS

Cherokee County Museum is located at 301 College Drive, Gaffney, SC 29340. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

## BRIEF HISTORY

The [Cherokee County Museum](#), sponsored by the Cherokee Historical & Preservation Society (CHAPS), offers many opportunities to learn about local history and culture. Explore rotating exhibits containing thousands of artifacts. Discover the Kids Zone, which offers science and technology; the Arts Experience, which offers music, visual, and performing arts; and the Sports Zone, which offers activities that teach about local sports heroes and teams. Do not forget to see the Teleporter and immerse yourself in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, culture, and history.

The museum's *Land of Revolutions* gallery contains artifacts and data concerning the history of the Revolutionary War in Cherokee County. Once called the Backcountry, this area was home to Cherokee Native Americans and buffalo. In the 1700s, European settlers moved into the area and carved out a civilization on the edge of the wilderness. By 1780, these same settler families fought for our freedom in the American Revolution. The exhibits tell the stories of heroism and sacrifice by our local ancestors in the name of Liberty. (Cherokee County Museum, 2025)

The ninety-foot Revolutionary War Mural helps to tell the story of the people, places, and events related to the War for Indep is located atndence, including Native Americans, African, Americans, women, and children. The museum is an official gateway to the [South Carolina Liberty Trail](#).





*Ninety-foot Revolutionary War Mural at the Cherokee County Museum*

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property is in excellent condition.

## DETAILED MAP





# CHEROKEE FORD

GPS COORDINATES: 35.074877, -81.558740

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Cherokee Ford Trailhead, 199 Wolf Den Lane, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. This property is open to the public.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Colonel Charles McDowell of North Carolina and his Overmountain Men met with Colonel Elijah Clarke of Georgia and two local Spartan Regiment of Militia companies at Cherokee Ford. They intended to prevent British Major Patrick Ferguson and his 1,000 Loyalists from crossing into North Carolina. Hearing of nearby Fort Thicketty, a Loyalist stronghold, McDowell detached Colonel Elijah Clarke with some Overmountain Men and the Spartan Regiment to capture the fort. The raid was successful.

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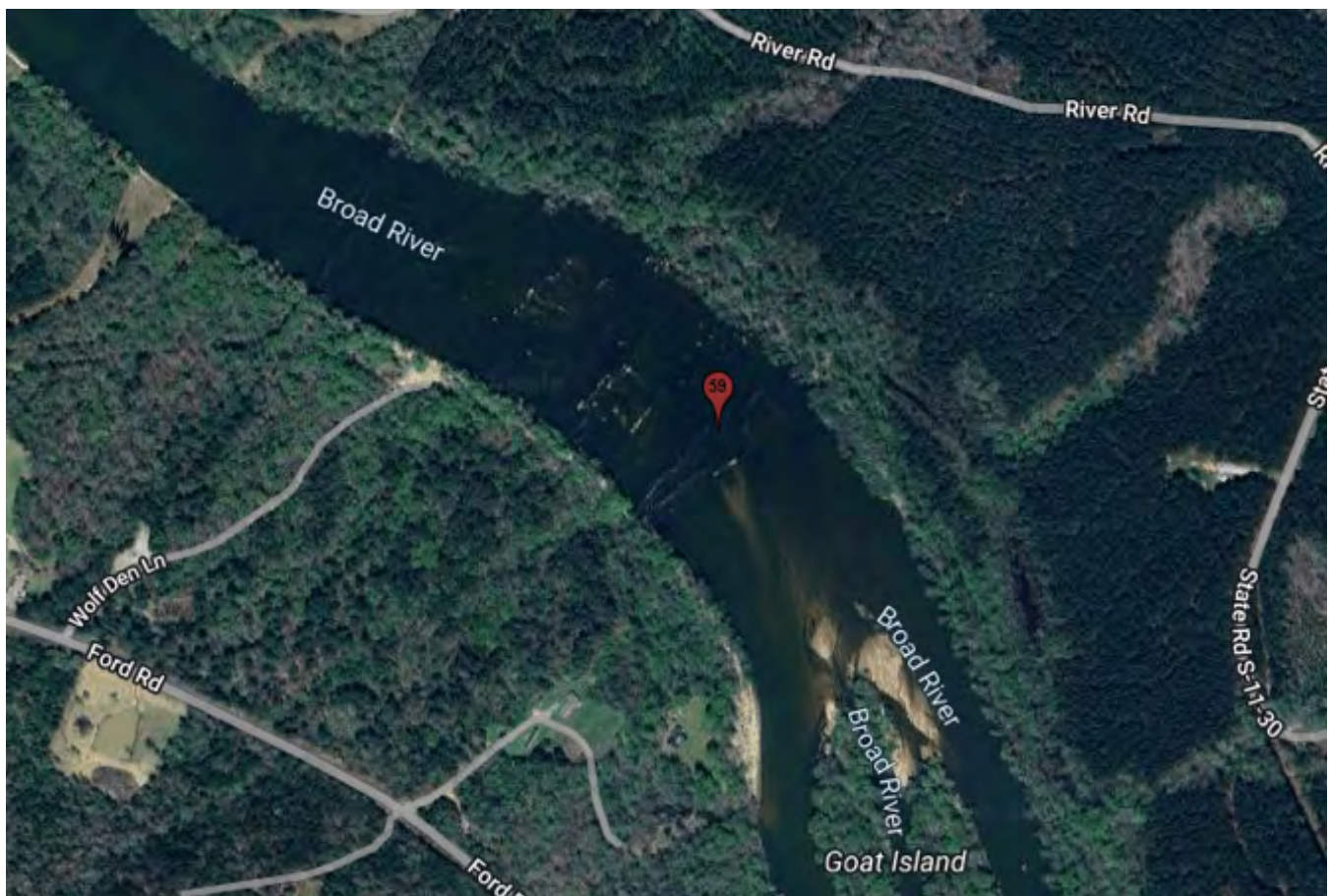


It became known that Tory Captain Patrick Moore was holed up with his men at Fort Thicketty to the west. Colonel McDowell detached Colonel Isaac Shelby, Elijah Clarke, and other Patriot leaders to attack Thicketty Fort. After successfully taking over the fort, Shelby and his men returned to Cherokee Ford with prisoners.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property requires some maintenance. The gravel access road (Wolf Den Road) has several deep ruts that need backfilling. Fresh gravel on the parking area and access road would significantly improve the site. The only sign about Cherokee Ford at the river is a small wooden placard nailed to a large oak tree. The walking trails are in good condition, although leaves, sticks, and limbs could be removed. This site would benefit from improvement as a public recreation area with improved access and nature trail signage. New housing developments nearby suggest that these improvements would make the site more popular. [See Overmountain Victory Trail for more details.]

## DETAILED MAP





# CLARKE GRIST MILL

GPS COORDINATES: 34.879871, -81.641020PAC

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY VIEW ONLY FROM PACOLET RIVER**



*Artwork by Richard C. Meehan, Jr.*

## DIRECTIONS

The Clarke Mill was on Clarke's Mill Creek, a tiny tributary of the Pacolet River, today called Mill Creek, about 1000 feet upstream from the Highway 18 bridge on the left (southwestern side of the Pacolet). Jerusalem Road crosses Mill Creek at GPS 34.876905, -81.643402. From there, one can walk Mill Creek to where it joins the Pacolet River. Another way to access Mill Creek is by kayak or canoe. Warning: to visit this site by land means crossing private property. Permission must be obtained.

## BRIEF HISTORY

John Clark built a Grist Mill on his 600-acre land grant near Grindal Shoals on the Pacolet River. He moved to this grant in 1755 after marrying his third wife, Martha Pickens, the widow of John Pickens. He died here in 1764.

John willed the land to his son, Patriot Colonel Elijah Clarke. Elijah and his family lived on the Clarke grant until the early 1770s. Elijah, feeling unhappy with the quality of land for farming at Grindal Shoals, and a few other early settlers formed a wagon train. They moved their families to Georgia, seeking better grounds to farm. Henry Fernandis purchased the Clarke land and grist mill. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

It is important to note that Elijah Clarke trained a militia of Georgians and brought them up to join forces with Colonel McDowell and his Overmountain men at Cherokee Ford in the summer of 1780. Clarke was involved with taking nearby Thicketty Fort, which was only five miles from his property near Grindal Shoals. Having lived in the area for some years, he undoubtedly made a sound scout for Patriot forces under Colonel Isaac Shelby, who surrounded and took the fort from another Grindal neighbor, Loyalist Colonel Patrick Moore.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This location is overgrown, swampy, and on private property in 2024.

## DETAILED MAP



*Google. (2024). Google Maps. <https://www.google.com/maps>*

*Map overlaid with Pacolet River Land Grants Map 18<sup>th</sup> Century by Amos Collection 2018*



# COLONEL JAMES WILLIAMS GRAVESITE

GPS COORDINATES: 35.073420, -81.648628

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Carnegie Free Library, 210 N Limestone Street, Gaffney, SC 29340. This site is publicly accessible.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Colonel James Williams led a detachment of Patriots in the Battle of Kings Mountain. He was the highest-ranking Patriot officer killed in that battle. Initially in a shallow grave near the battlefield, Williams' remains were later interred in the City of Gaffney, on property adjacent to the Overmountain Victory Trail. A historical marker at the site pays tribute to his valor and contribution to the fight for independence. (Anon, National Parks - Get Into Gaffney, SC, n.d.)

October 8, 1780, Patriot Colonel James Williams was mortally wounded in the final moments of the Battle at King's Mountain. His men carefully tended his wounds and carried him along when they withdrew on October 8, but he soon succumbed to his injuries. Having originally planned to bury his remains in his home district of Ninety Six, his comrades settled on interring him along Buffalo Creek (see Buffalo Creek Massacre). His gravesite was located sometime later, and his remains were reinterred in Gaffney, SC, on the lawn of the Cherokee County public administration building. Colonel Williams was the highest-ranked officer to be killed at the battle.

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The D.A.R. placed a small monument and memorial plaque at his grave. Next to the administration building is also the home of Gaffney's founder, Michael Gaffney.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

In December 2024, the memorial for Colonel James Williams needed to be pressure washed, the cannons re-blackened, and the brass plate on the footstone polished. Otherwise, it was in good condition.

## DETAILED MAP



# COWPENS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

**GPS COORDINATES: 35.136664, -81.8179804**

**PUBLIC ACCESS**



## **DIRECTIONS**

Cowpens National Battlefield is located at 4001 Chesney Highway in Gaffney, South Carolina. It is open to the public from 9 AM to 5 PM every day.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

On January 17, 1781, Continental forces totaling 600 men, seasoned Virginia riflemen, Georgia sharpshooters, and a variety of local militias, including the Spartan Regiment and their best Spartan Rifles, under the command of Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, met a near-equal number (over 1000) British Legionnaires under brash, young, British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Morgan placed his soldiers on a gentle but commanding hill, deploying them in three lines at Hiram Saunders' Cowpens. The most reliable soldiers among the Continental troops and Virginia militia were placed just before the crest. Below were two lines of militia, the furthest forward being the best sharpshooters. Brigadier General Morgan did not expect that they would be able to stand against a line of British regulars, so he gave them explicit orders that they were to fire three rounds and then run to the place where the horses were being held. Brigadier General Morgan placed 130 mounted men in reserve under Lt. Col. William Washington.

Many militiamen had fought at King's Mountain and were no longer afraid of the British bayonets. The Continentals, with Brigadier General Morgan, had been survivors of Charlestown, the Waxhaws, and Camden, and they had a score to settle with Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton.

At 4:00 a.m., Lt. Col. Tarleton's forces broke camp, and Brigadier General Morgan was duly notified. At 8:00 a.m., Lt. Col. Tarleton reached the Patriot lines. The morning was cold, possibly below freezing, with high humidity. Brigadier General Morgan went up and down the line, repeating the famous words: "Do not fire until you see the whites of their eyes!" A fierce cry went out from the British forces: Brigadier General Morgan responded loudly, "They give us the British Hallo, boys. Give them the Indian Hallo, by God!" A wild cry, the infamous "rebel yell," rose from the Patriots. The sharpshooters aimed and fired. They did their job, firing two or three times and then running back to the second line as previously directed.



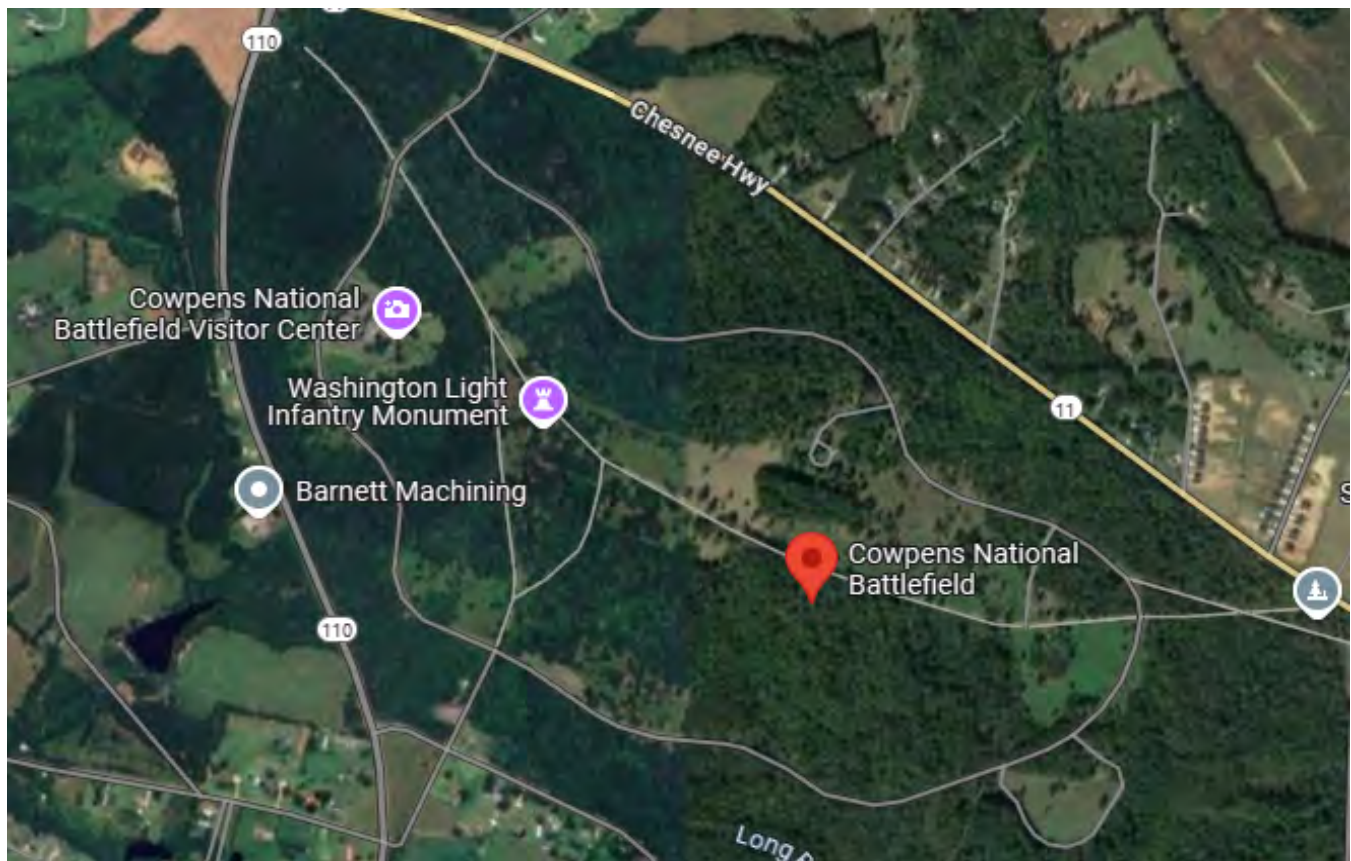
The British continued to advance, and as the second line began to fire, the enemy started to run up the hill with bayonets ready. The second line fled. British dragoons then tried to cut down the fleeing Patriots. Just then, Lt. Col. Washington's cavalry appeared and chased away the British cavalry. Brigadier General Morgan was awaiting the militiamen where the horses were, and he turned them back toward the battle. Meanwhile, the final line of Continentals was holding off the British. The tactical situation forced Tarleton's men to retreat slightly.

Lt. Col. Tarleton thought the battle had been won and ordered a general charge. As the Legionnaires charged, Brigadier General Morgan ordered the retiring force of Continentals to turn and fire. At the same time, the militiamen were coming up on the left. Once the British were halted, the Patriots began charging with bayonets. The Militia attacked from the left, and Lt. Col. Washington's cavalry attacked from the right. In what would become a classic military victory, one of the most famous of the war, almost the entire British force was captured. (Anon, The American Revolution in South Carolina - The Battle of Cowpens, 2024) (National Park Service, 2022) (Meehan, 2023)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

In December 2024, the National Park facilities, signage, memorials, battlefield, and other representations of this historical battleground were maintained immaculately. Further, the park's administration allowed foliage (such as trees) to grow back on the battleground to represent how it was in 1781 more fully.

## DETAILED MAP





# DOGWOOD SPRING MEMORIAL

GPS COORDINATES: 35.062224, -81.646730

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

The memorial is located on the property of Oakland Cemetery, 1115 College Drive, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340, at the corner of College Drive and Union Street, open to the public.

## BRIEF HISTORY

The Daniel Morgan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected this memorial in 1925 to commemorate Dog Wood Spring and the east-west route, once called the “trail to Dog Wood Spring,” used by Patriot forces in 1780. This was a vital escape route for American troops retreating from the British Legion. The historical marker commemorates this trail’s strategic importance during the war.

In the book Horse Shoe Robinson, by J.P. Kennedy, the historical fiction author mentions that Mary Musgrove (Musgrove Mill, Clinton, S.C.) warned Horse Shoe Robinson (in real life “Robertson”) and his companion, Major Butler, not to go by way of the Dogwood Spring because Tories were prevalent in the area. The Tories were trying to capture Patriot Major Butler, her beau. This means that in the past, Dog Wood Spring,



now called Limestone Spring, was a known watering hole for the colonial residents of Greater Grindal Shoals, Cherokee County.

Additionally, Patriot Captain Vardry McBee, Sr., of the Spartan Regiment, owned the Dog Wood Spring in 1780. McBee was a pioneer in Cherokee County, owning much land, cow pens, mills, forges, and other enterprises. During the Civil War, Dog Wood Spring became known as Limestone Spring.

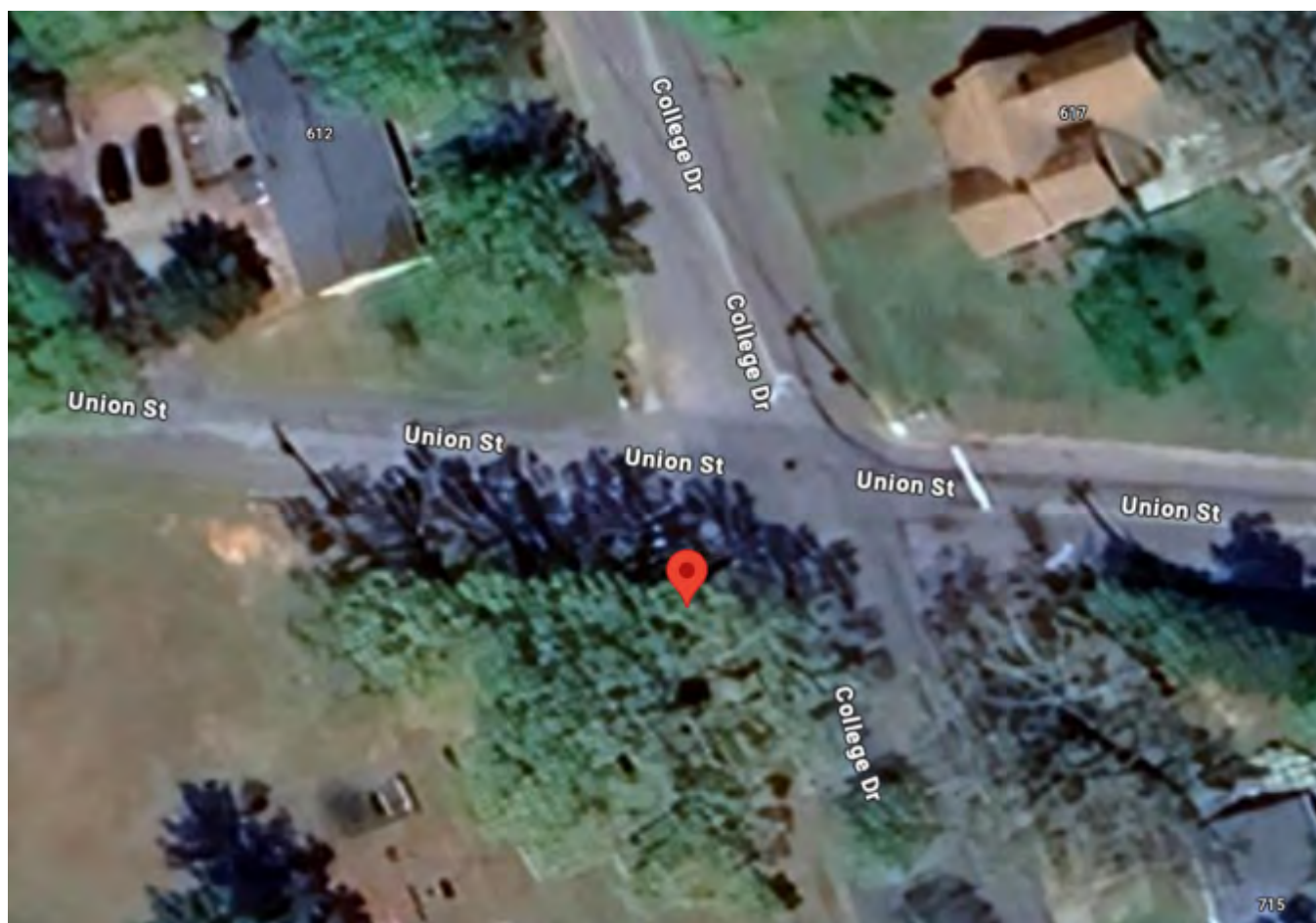
Before the Colonial settlers, the Cherokee Native Americans knew about the Dog Wood Spring and noted its medicinal qualities. Limestone gives water a flavor like the tartness of an unripe persimmon tree fruit. (Ivey R. , A History of Limestone Springs, South Carolina, n.d.)

On a side note, Vardry McBee's namesake son, Vardry Echols McBee, was born June 19, 1775, at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He was an entrepreneur like his father and became known as the Father of Greenville, South Carolina. He grew up in the Thicketty community of Cherokee County.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This memorial is well-maintained on cemetery property. The stones could be cleaned, probably with a pressure washer and bleach to kill mildew. The perimeter is surrounded by a concrete retainer measuring 9' wide by 12' long. The base measures 4.5' wide by 5.5' long by 5'10" tall.

## DETAILED MAP





# GAFFNEY VISITOR'S CENTER

GPS COORDINATES: 35.07666478562822, -81.64816660189834

PUBLIC ACCESS



*Image retrieved from <https://getintogaffney.com> on 4/7/2025*

## DIRECTIONS

Gaffney Visitor's Center and Art Gallery, 210 West Frederick Street, Gaffney, SC 29341. This site is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM, Saturday from 8:30 AM to 1 PM, and closed on Sunday.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Rich in history and arts, the Gaffney Visitors Center and Art Gallery is an attraction of its own. Preserving its history, the City of Gaffney acquired a grant to purchase the historic "old post office" in 2009. During its "renovation" project, City officials, staff, and contractors quickly changed its plans to be that of a "restoration" project, unveiling numerous architectural and ornate features of the original construction of 1913. Opening in September 2010, the Gaffney Visitors Center and Art Gallery is also home to the Cherokee Alliance of Visual Artists (CAVA), a non-profit organization comprised of Cherokee County artists. The gallery in this facility features rotating exhibits of works by local artists and often displays the works of visiting artists. A jewel to your visit would be arriving while artists work in the studio so you can observe "art in the making." Explore the "It Took Us All" Revolutionary War exhibit, which tells the inspiring stories of those who shaped America's fight

for freedom. Free admission to the art gallery makes the Center a must-see for visitors and citizens who want to get into Gaffney Arts.

(Excerpt from <https://www.getintogaffney.com/marketing-tourism/>)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property is in prime condition inside and out. The Revolutionary War exhibit is held in a separate, well-appointed room, which has a floor tile map of pioneer Gaffney historic sites.

## DETAILED MAP





# GENTLEMAN THOMPSON'S PLACE

GPS COORDINATES: 35.02119, -81.71080

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY    ROADSIDE VIEWING ONLY**



## **DIRECTIONS**

From Gaffney, take Highway 29 (Old Georgia Highway) to Old Detour Lane. Follow this road for about .25 miles, then turn left on Thompson Lane and go to the end. This is a housing development, and all properties alongside are private. Note: Old Georgia Highway was once a Cherokee Native American trade route.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

A man referred to as “gentleman” was not of royal birth but of a good, well-educated, and well-mannered family. He was of the lowest rank of landed gentry based on English custom. Records show that Thompson owned land adjacent to the street named for him in Gaffney, S.C. As a gentleman, he would not have worked the land himself but most likely received rent from those who did. During the Revolutionary War, William (Gentleman) Thompson fought as a horseman under Patriot Captain John Mapp and Colonel Benjamin Roebuck (Roebuck’s Battalion) of the Spartan Regiment. He may have fought in the Battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens. (Moss

B. , Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, 1983) (Moss B. , The Patriots at Kings Mountain, 1990)

“Col. (William) Washington was at Wofford’s Iron Works, on Lawson’s Fork, having his horses shod. Receiving the message delivered by Major (Joseph) McJunkin, Gen. (Daniel) Morgan called out to a little Frenchman, who had just come in from the Iron Works but was then asleep: ‘Barron, get up and go back to the iron works and tell Billy, that Benny is approaching, and tell him to meet me tomorrow evening at Gentleman Thomson’s on the east side of Thicketty Creek.’ William (Gentleman) Thomson lived where Thicketty station on the Southern Railway now is (was) and is buried in an unmarked grave on the old homestead.” (Bailey J. , 1927)

In William (Gentleman) Thomson’s obituary, published in the Yorkville Pioneer, Yorkville, S. C., September 27, 1823, the following account of his life is given: “Died on the 14th inst. at his residence on the Beauty Spot in this District, Mr. William Thompson is in his 73rd year of age. He was among the first to resist the arbitrary measures of Great Britain. Under the celebrated Patrick Henry, he assisted in expelling Lord Dunmore from Virginia, and from then to the close of the struggle, he continued to present his breast to the shafts of battle.” The oldest street in Gaffney, S. C., is named for William (Gentleman) Thomson (Thompson Street). He and William Lipscomb owned a tract of land that faced the street later called “Thompson Street.” It had “lime on it,” he stated. In his will, he wrote: “He (William Lipscomb), now deceased, willed it (his share) to me.” The street was called “Thompson Street” after he died in 1823. (Holcomb)

In his will, William Lipscomb Sr. wrote: “I have three tracts in partnership with William (Gentleman) Thomson known by the (name) Lime Kiln tracts; one conveyed by William Bratton, Sheriff (twenty acres); one by Capt. James Martin, the other we have said Martin’s bond for a right to. William Thomson is to have half that is recovered if all or any to pay half the profits and have half the profits, which land will be sold at the discretion of my Executors.” (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

In his will, William (Gentleman) Thomson wrote: “The land in partnership with William Lipscomb, deceased, that he willed to me with lime on it, both tracts in Spartanburg District and one tract of land in the State of Virginia, in Amherst County, and the money arising from the sale to be equally divided between all of my grandchildren at the death of my son, Richard Thomson.” William (Gentleman) Thomson had a road cut through the Lime Kiln tracts, which became known as Thomson Street and is now the oldest street in Gaffney, S. C. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

Limited information is given on Captain Patrick Moore’s brother, Captain Hugh Moore, also a Loyalist. On August 13, 1791, Patrick Moore, son of Hugh, his wife, Betsy, and his mother, Sarah, sold 300 acres in two tracts of land that had been granted to his father on both sides of Bullock’s Creek of Thicketty Creek to William (Gentleman) Thomson. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

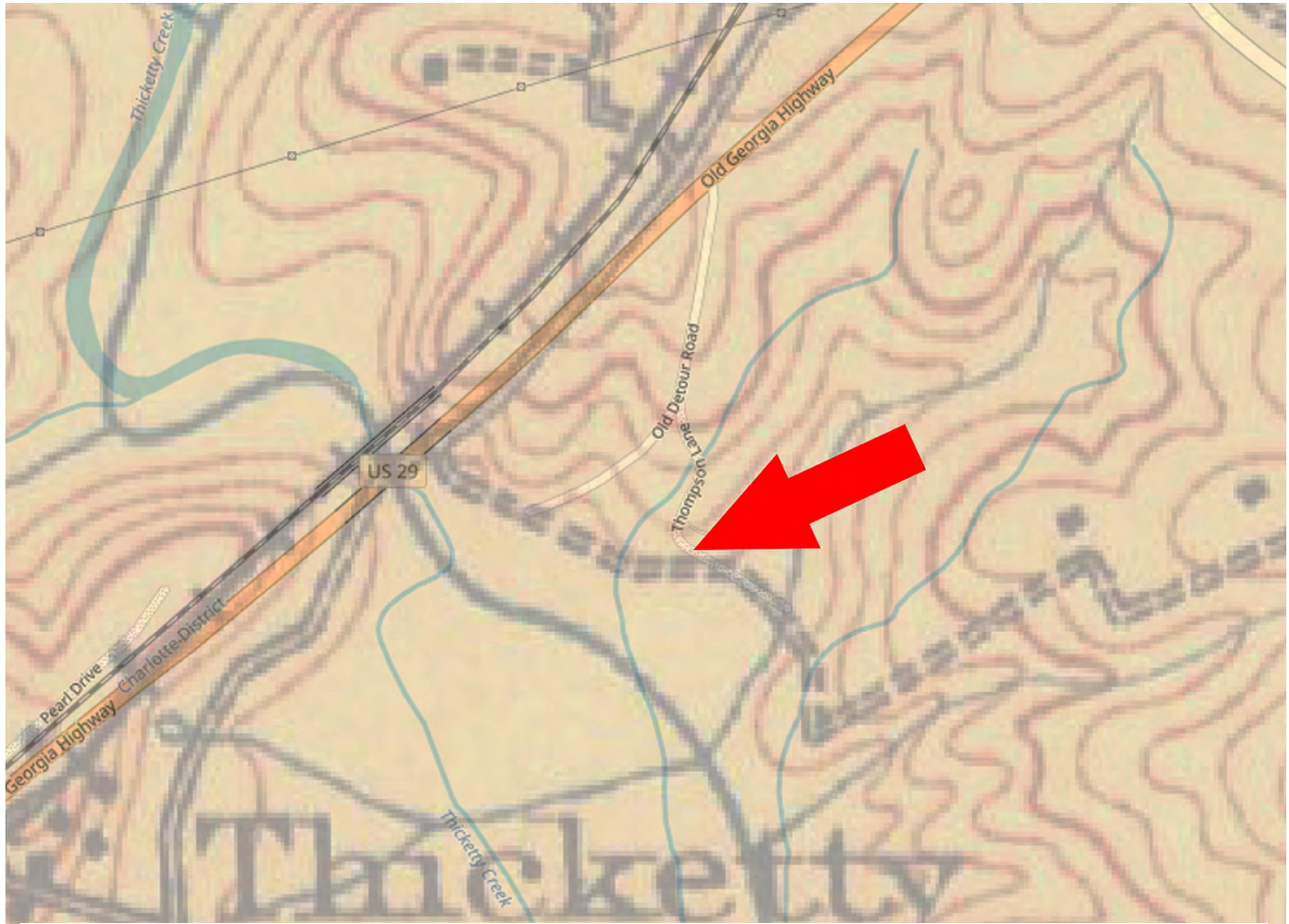
Morgan broke up the encampment on January 15th, 1781, and marched his men up the Green River Road toward the Saunders cow-pens, stopping first at Burr’s Mill (Byers Mill). He met with Col. William Washington’s cavalry at Gentleman William Thompson’s on the 16<sup>th</sup>. (This location was later called Thicketty or Thicketty Station.) McBee’s house was where the Cherokee Ford Road crossed the Green River Road, and he passed his cabin en route to the cow pens. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This location is today a neighborhood. According to one of the residents near the GPS coordinates, the Thompson family owned the property on both sides of Thompson Lane, including the various houses, for time immemorial—until recently. They all aged out or moved away. This surveyor believes it is worth discovering if these contemporary Thompsons are related to Gentleman Thompson.



## DETAILED MAP



*Google. (2024). Google Maps. <https://www.google.com/maps>*

*1909 U.S. Geological Survey Map of Gaffney, S.C. overlaid on Google Maps.*

## FURTHER READING

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185795952/william-thomson>

# GOUDELOCK HOMESTEAD

GPS COORDINATES: 34.917314, -81.624012

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY    ROADSIDE VIEWING ONLY**



## DIRECTIONS

Adam Goudelock Homestead, 116 Gowdeysville Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. The homestead may be viewed from the public roadside only. It rests on gated and posted private property.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Adam and Hannah Goudelock built this cabin around 1771. The name is recorded with various spellings, one of which is Gowdeylock. The township of Gowdeysville was named for them.

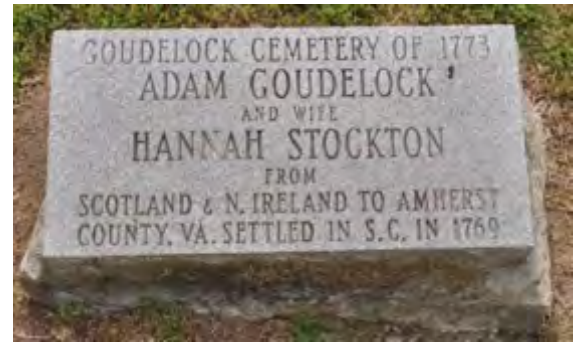
11/20/80 - General Sumter was nursed in this cabin after his wounds at Blackstock's. Farm. This is also the cabin Tarleton approached, requiring a hostage/guide to find his way back over the Broad River after his defeat at Cowpens.

11/30/80 - Patriot Lt. Col. John Nixon escorted prisoners to BG Thomas Sumter's camp on Lawson's Fork of the Pacolet River at Wofford's Iron Works. From there, he went to Adam Goudelock's house to rendezvous with Patriot Cols. Edward Lacey, John Lyles Sr., Joseph Hayes, William Bratton, and Major Farr, with about 100 men.

1/17/81 - About half an hour after Tarleton and his troopers departed to the southeast, Washington, Pickens, and their dragoons and militia troopers rode into Goudelock's yard. They had stopped to extinguish the fires the British started in the baggage wagons and collect some of the slaves the enemy had abandoned. The Americans asked Mrs. Goudelock if she had seen the British fugitives. Yes, she said. What road did they take? She pointed down the Green River Road, which led to Grindal Shoals on the Pacolet. Like many people in every war, he was more interested in personal survival than national victory. If the Americans caught up to Tarleton, there was sure to be a bloody struggle in which her husband might be killed. Mrs. Goudelock preferred a live husband to a dead or captured British commander.



Daughter Sallie Goudelock said, “She had known many notable characters of the times, both Whig, British and Tory, for her father was a lame man, a non-combatant; so it followed, all parties frequented his house. She had visited Morgan (General Daniel) at his camp at Grindal Ford, in company with her father and sister, and was escorted home by Col. William Washington and Col. Howard (John Eager).” The girls were not married, nor were the officers, so one can imagine that the officers and girls had a good time at the old Goudelock cabin.” (Bailey J. , 1927) (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)



## PROPERTY CONDITION

The Goudelock Homestead is on private property, fenced, and posted “no trespassing.” The new owners are not relatives of the Goudelock family.

According to <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2786389/adam-goudelock-family-cemetery>, Adam, Hannah, and of their daughters are buried “behind the homeplace.” However, today there is no evidence of the memorial stone shown here.

This surveyor recommends contacting the owners to ask if they would consider donating the structure for preservation. Otherwise, it will continue to degrade until recovery is no longer possible. Also, an inquiry into what happened to this modern memorial stone might be in order.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

[https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Adam\\_Goudelock\\_\(1\)](https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Adam_Goudelock_(1))

# GOUDELOCK FAMILY CEMETERY

GPS COORDINATES: 34.92574, -81.59475

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



*<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2401621/goudelock-family-cemetery>*

## **DIRECTIONS**

From Gaffney, take SC-18 S for 11.3 miles, turn left onto SC-211 S for .8 miles, and turn left onto Splawn Road for .9 miles to the end. Walk a hundred feet through the woods to the cemetery. This is a private property surrounded by barbed-wire fencing with a farm gate. Permission must be obtained to enter.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

Davis Goudelock, son of Hannah (Stockton) and Adam Goudelock, was probably born on December 25, 1764, in Albemarle County, Virginia. His mother, Hannah (nee Stockton) Goudelock, was the daughter of Davis Stockton, one of the first settlers of what would later become Albemarle County.

Davis Goudelock married Mildred "Millie" Wilkins on December 8, 1791. She was born in about 1773 and died on December 4, 1855. Mildred "Millie" and Davis Goudelock are buried at Goudelock Family Cemetery in Gaffney, Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Gaffney was in "Old" Spartanburg County, South Carolina, until 1897 when it became part of Cherokee County.



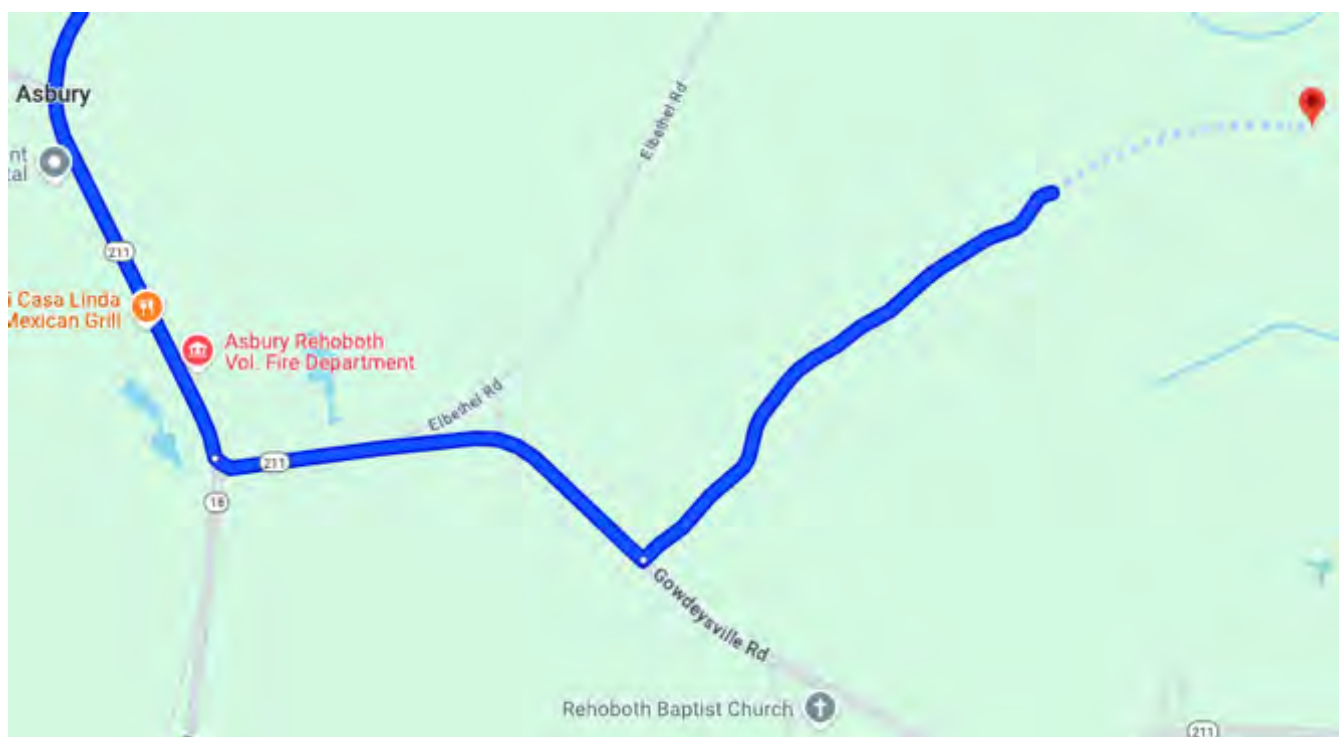
Davis Goudelock served in the Revolutionary War. He was a private under Col. Thomas Brandon. Davis enlisted on February 20, 1781, when just 16 years old.

All those interred here are descendants of Davis Goudelock, eldest son of Adam Goudelock, and their spouses. (Anon, Goudelock Family Cemetery in Gaffney, South Carolina, 2024)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This cemetery is on private property. In addition to the headstones recorded, seven graves are marked only by rough fieldstones at the head and foot, with no identifying marks. One grave is shorter than the others and is probably a child. A portion of the cemetery is encircled by an iron fence named Jefferies on the gate. The graves inside this fence have the last names of [Jefferies](#), Reynolds, and Camp.

## DETAILED MAP



# GRINDAL SHOALS

**GPS COORDINATES: 34.8884644, -81.643439**

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY VIEW FROM PACOLET RIVER ONLY**



## **DIRECTIONS**

Grindal Shoals can be accessed by canoe or kayak on the Pacolet River. Although the Grindal Shoals Sportsman's Club, located east of the river, contains the colonel road leading to the ford, the road is mainly washed out and overgrown. Permission to enter this property must be obtained from the club owners. Grindal Shoals is situated precisely at 34.8884644, - 81.6431539, on the Pacolet River, along the Cherokee/Union County line, approximately 0.6 miles NNW of the SC-18 bridge. (John Robertson, Global Gazetteer of the American Revolution.)

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

At the time of the American Revolution, Grindal Shoals was significant as a trade and transportation route, but it also played an essential role in Revolutionary War history. Its primary importance is that it served as the camp of General Daniel Morgan from 25 December 1780 until 15 January 1781, immediately preceding the momentous Battle of Cowpens. In November 1780, it is where the critically wounded Thomas Sumter was taken



immediately after the Battle of Blackstock's Plantation. Morgan's camp was located on the land of the Loyalist Captain Alexander Chesney and that of his father.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

The easiest access to Grindal Shoals is by kayak or canoe on the Pacolet River. The properties on both sides of the location are overgrown — current conditions are to be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

*Ford the Pacholet*, by Richard C. Meehan, Jr., provides a complete, faithful, and historically accurate description of Grindal Shoals. Reverend J.D. Bailey's *Grindal Shoals and Early Adjacent Families* also tells family histories and legends about the early settlement.

# HAMILTON'S FORD

GPS COORDINATES: 34.536239, -81.548091

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Follow College Drive and Union Street to SC-18 S/E Frederick Street from the Cherokee County Museum. Turn right onto SC-18 S/E Frederick Street and continue on SC-18 S. Then, take US-176 E to SC-121 N/SC-72 E and proceed to the bridge over the Tyger River.

## BRIEF HISTORY

“Strange, that. Mighty strange! Bill Washington and another colonel—Andy Pickens—flew through here several hours back with a sizable cavalry unit. They was chasing after that rat of a British commander, Tarleton—*Bloody Ban*—they called him. Paaaaah!” She [Hannah Goudelock] spat on the road and milled it with her buckled shoe. “That evil popinjay done took my husband!” When Lem and Amadahy didn’t rise to the revelation, she doggedly continued, “Anyhow, Adam’s been forced to guide them British demons to safety! Left the girls and me home, thanks be to God, but I’m afeared for my poor Adam. He’s leading them fugitives down to Hamilton’s Ford at the Broad. Overheard ‘em say they were trying to meet up with that Earl Cornwallis at Turkey Creek. Oh, my poor, poor Adam! When Colonel Bill asked me where they went, I pointed down toward Grindall’s. Oh, Lem, I shouldn’t have done it, ‘cepting I didn’t want my poor husband kilt in the crossfire iff’n the dirty British was caught!” She buried her face in her hands, sobbing.



Lem was torn between stepping down or remaining in his seat. Amadahy, meanwhile, rounded the wagon to give the distraught matron a warm embrace. Taking solace from the young maiden quelled her tears. With a shuddering breath, Hannah launched into her story again.

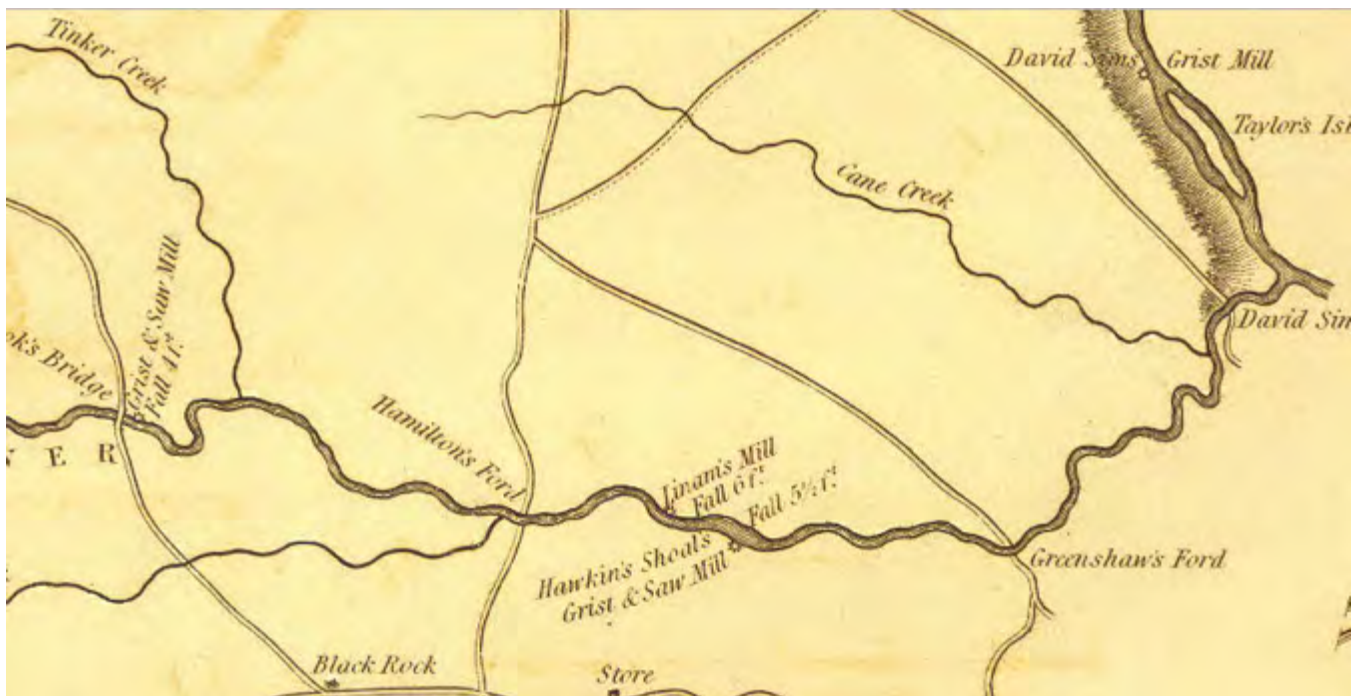
“Tarleton’s raiders set fire to the last of their supply wagons right here in my yard and took off with Adam. They dropped a horde of negro waggoners on my doorstep—slaves purloined from plantations hereabouts to carry freight. Left naught for ‘em to eat! Thankfully, the colonels took pity on the girls and me. Bill ordered the fires put out. Then, he saw to the care of the abandoned slaves. They were herded to the old encampment yonder for feeding and bedding.” She flung her arm out to point the way, nearly swiping Amadahy in the chin. “Lemuel, iff’n you come uponst Colonel Bill’s fine Patriots on the road, I beg you, send ‘em to Hamilton’s Ford.”

“Aye, Mistress Hannah, that I will.” Lem was getting anxious, for twilight was upon them, and these were ill tidings. “Best we away.” (Meehan, 2023)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This location is on the Tyger River just off the Highway 121 bridge. It is wilderness on both sides of the river. Although Hamilton’s Ford lies inside Union County, this information is essential to the story of Cherokee County and the Battle of Cowpens. Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee Counties were once part of District Ninety Six. So much of the Revolutionary War history occurred here that interrelationships must be made to maintain the integrity of the facts.

## DETAILED MAP



*Mill's Atlas of South Carolina*

# JEFFRIES FAMILY CEMETERY

GPS COORDINATES: 34.97315, -81.57891

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



*Photo by Wilson Golden*

## **DIRECTIONS**

Take Brickhouse Road to 100-166 Kentwood Rd, Gaffney, SC 29340, at GPS Coordinates 34.59123 and 81.34252, and turn left. Access may also be obtained from the current owner, Mr. Johnny Roberts, by visiting the farm at 1670 Brick House Road. Either way, permission must be obtained to cross private property.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

This cemetery has memorials from the original settlers of the Greater Grindal Shoals community, which existed in the 1700s in an area of Cherokee County once known as the Nuckolls—Jefferies Settlement.

Copyright © 2025 Richard C. Meehan, Jr.

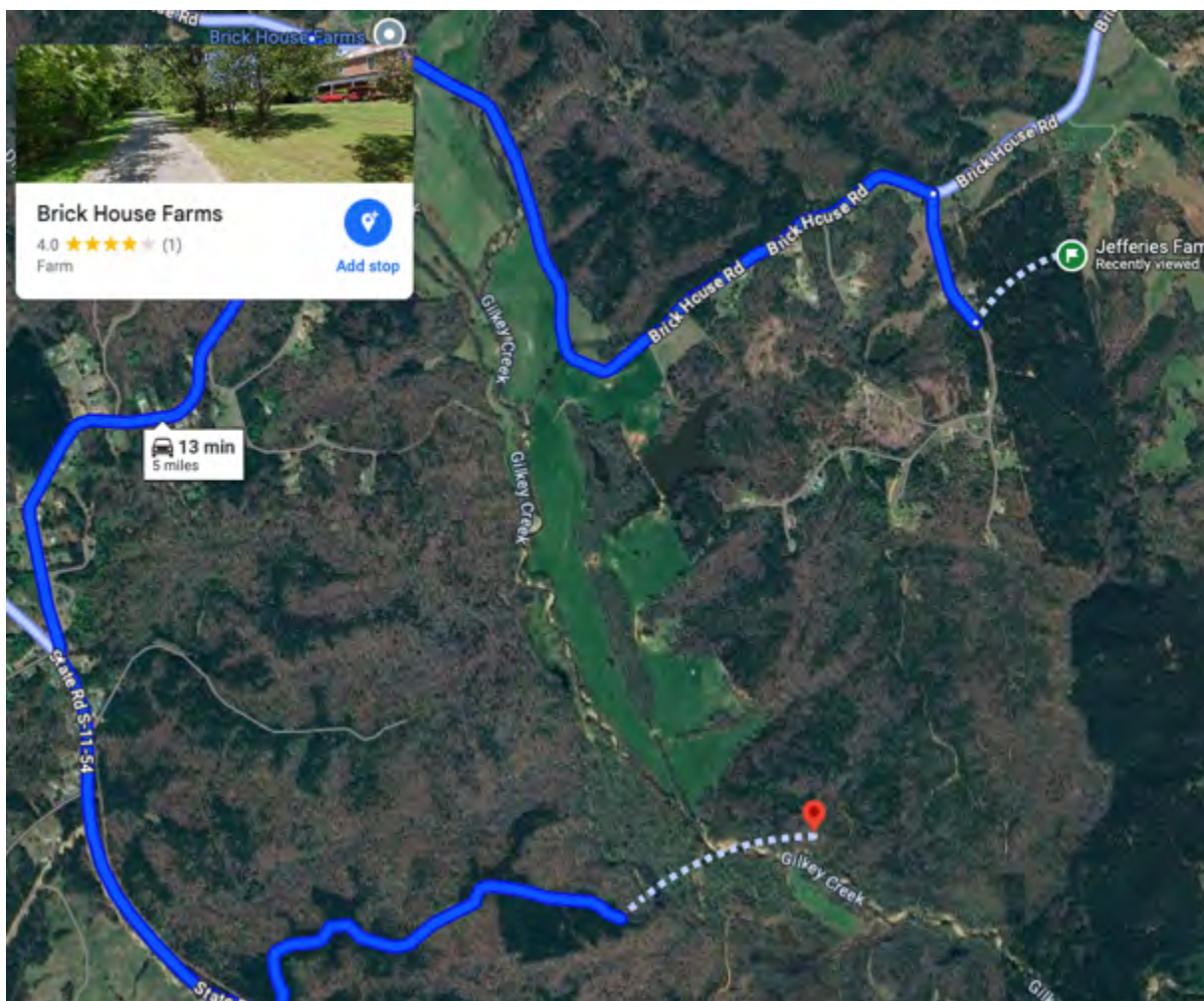


- Find-a-Grave Cemetery ID: 2451805
- John Randolph Jefferies (1760-1851) was a soldier of the American Revolution. He served as a Private under his father, Captain Nathaniel Jefferies, of the Second Spartan Regiment, South Carolina Troops. He fought at King's Mountain. The 1850 Census states that he was worth \$30,000 and had over 100 slaves. John bought the land from his father, Nathaniel, and built the “Brick House.” He lived there until his death at 91. He was, and still is, known as "Brick House John." There is a lot written about the Brick House. Some say that the bricks were bought in London and shipped to Charleston. Records obtained from Jane G. Holland from C.B. Jefferies state that the slaves made the bricks. John's epitaph reads: “A man sedate, of sober mind, to wife and children ever kind, although great merit may have, death will bring all men to the grave.” (Jefferies Family Cemetery in South Carolina - Find a Grave Cemetery, 2023)
- Other notable Revolutionary War-era names in this cemetery include Frances *Goudelock* Jefferies, Sarah Rachel *Barnett* Jeffries, Margaret Steen, and John Steen.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

After multiple trips, this surveyor has been unable to find this cemetery—condition to be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



# KING'S MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

GPS COORDINATES: 35.141300, -81.377164

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Kings Mountain National Military Park, 2625 Park Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina.

## BRIEF HISTORY

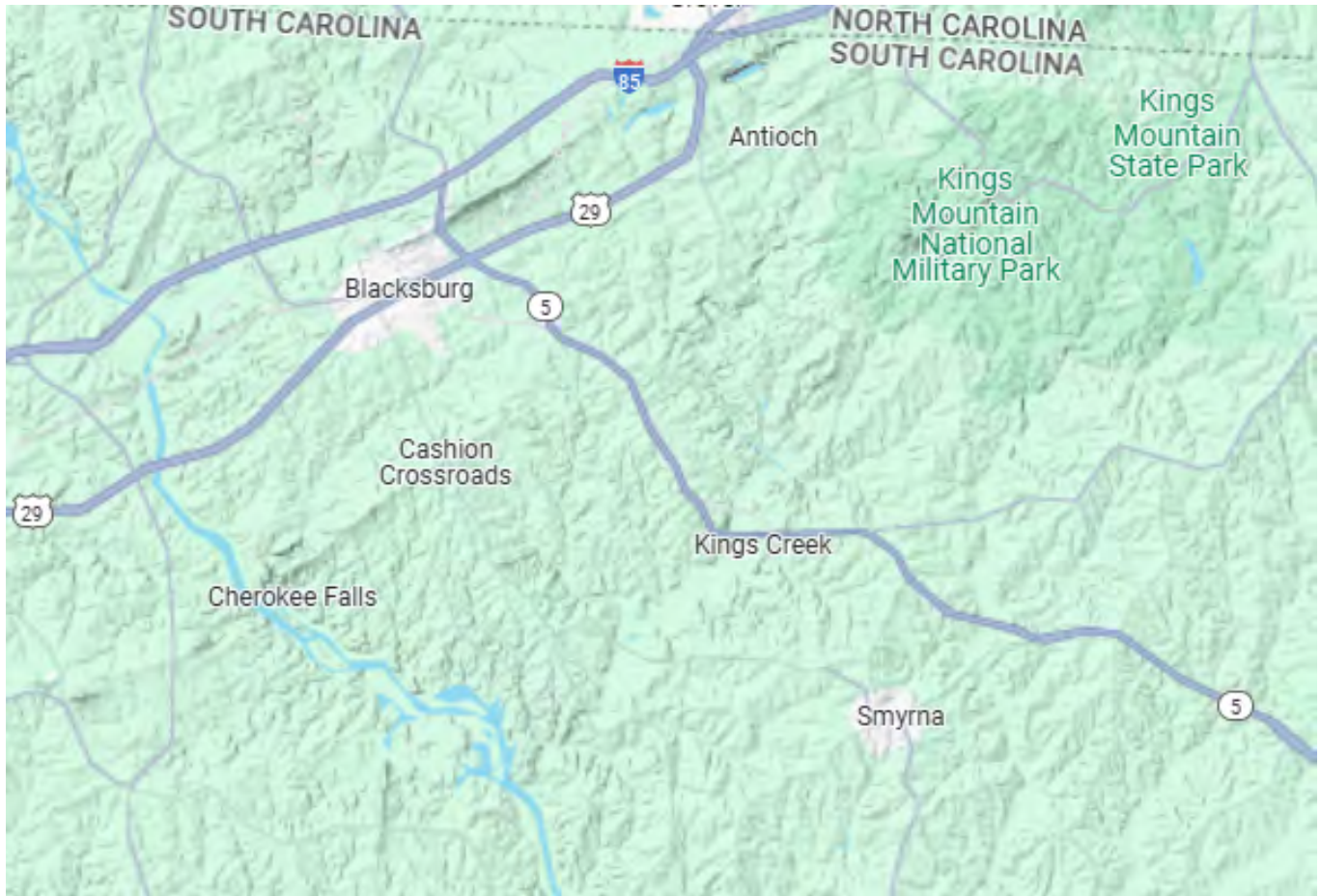
Established on March 31, 1931, by an Act of Congress, the park commemorates the Patriot Army consisting of Overmountain Men and local militias who fought Loyalist forces under British Major Patrick Ferguson. On October 7, 1781, the two armies clashed on the ridge of King's Mountain. Surrounded by Patriot forces, Ferguson was shot from his horse and, with his foot caught in his stirrup, was dragged into a group of Patriots. In a final act of defiance, Ferguson drew his pistol. When his body was discovered after the battle, it had been stripped naked and was perforated by eight bullet holes. Ferguson's body is buried under a large pile of field stones onsite. Between the Patriot successes of this battle and the Battle of Cowpens, the tide of the war was turned in favor of American forces.



## PROPERTY CONDITION

This national park is immaculately kept. Some parts have seen tree damage from Hurricane Helene, but ongoing efforts are clearing debris in December 2024.

## DETAILED MAP





# LITTLEJOHN ROCK CEMETERY

GPS COORDINATES: 34.93807, -81.67222

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

From Gaffney, follow Highway 18 South, turn right at Asbury on Highway 211 North, go 2.6 miles, and the cemetery will be on the left: Littlejohn Rock Cemetery, 944 SC-211, Pacolet, SC 29372. There is dirt access off Asbury Road, and you can see the gravestones through the trees. This site is open to the public.

## BRIEF HISTORY

The cemetery, located off Highway 211 in the Asbury Community, is surrounded by a rock wall, hence its name. It is also known as the Littlejohn and Jefferies Cemetery, but the Jefferies are descendants of Littlejohn. It is the family cemetery for Samuel and Sarah Cofer Littlejohn and their descendants. The Littlejohns were added to the roles at Thicketty Baptist Church in 1774. This church started at the Sims-Marchbanks Meetinghouse and eventually became Goucher Baptist Church. Revolutionary War notables in the graveyard:

- Find-a-Grave Cemetery ID: 2435505



- Lieutenant Samuel Littlejohn (1733-1813) moved to Thicketty Creek in 1774. He was a Patriot who served in 1779 and 1781, most likely with the Spartan Regiment with his son Thomas, and in 1782 with Captain Lewis Pope at the forks of the Edisto River.
  - Sarah Cofer Littlejohn (1738-1818), his wife.
  - Thomas Littlejohn (1766-1842) served under Colonel Thomas Brandon after the Fall of Charleston.
  - Charles Littlejohn (1769-1829)
  - Sarah Littlejohn Wilkins (1776-1829)
  - Nancy Littlejohn Austell
- Susannah Nuckolls Littlejohn (1767-1858)

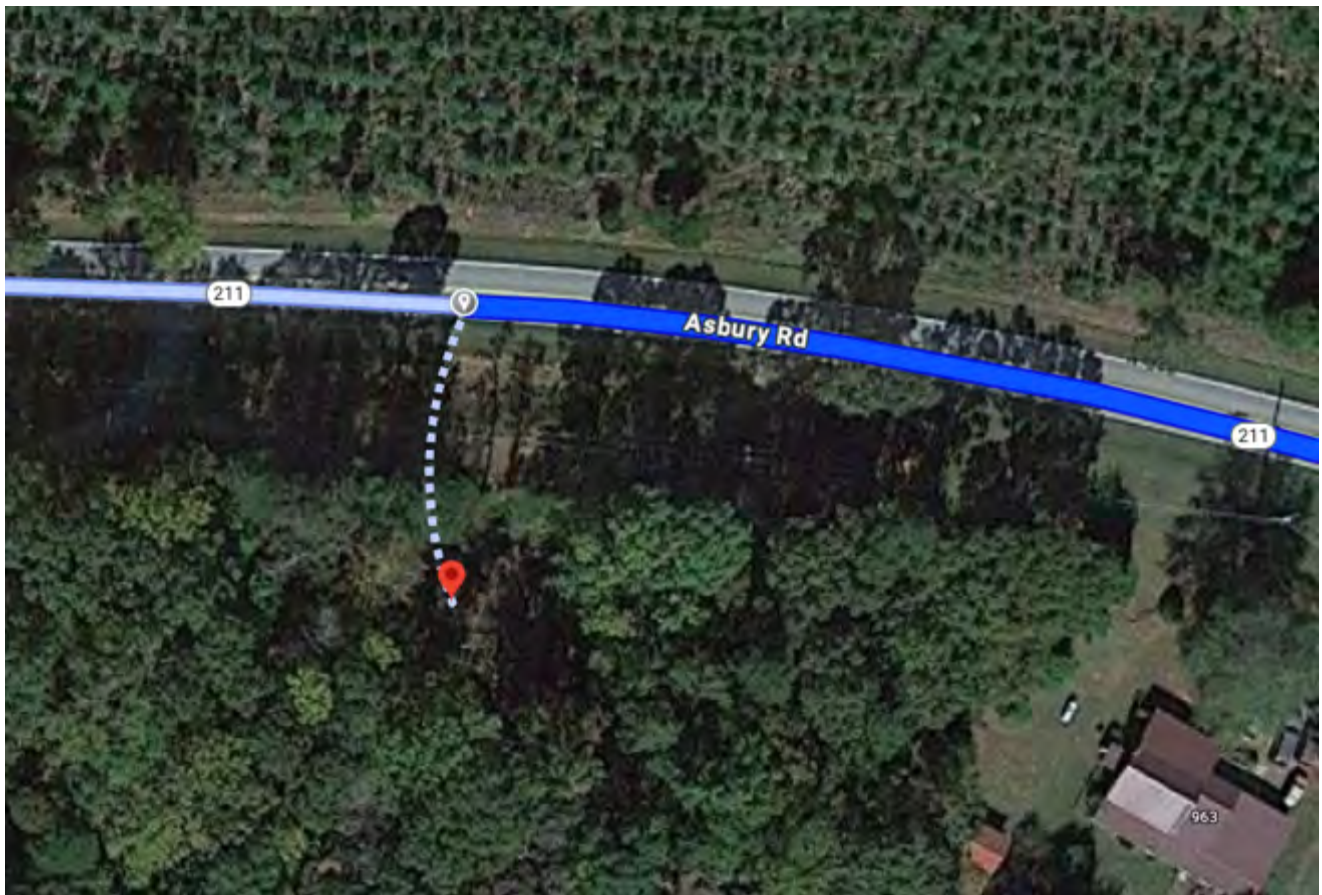
(Moss B. , Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, 1983) (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.) (Anon, Littlejohn Rock Cemetery in Asbury, South Carolina, 2024)



## PROPERTY CONDITION

This cemetery could benefit from leaf, stick, and limb removal; otherwise, it is in good condition.

## DETAILED MAP



# MCKOWN'S MILL

GPS COORDINATES: 35.04111, -81.55775

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



## **DIRECTIONS**

McKown's Mill, 498 Darby Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. Go east from Gaffney on US Hwy 29 (Cherokee Ave.) for about 4 miles, turn right onto SC Hwy 29, and go about 2.5 miles to Whites Farm Road (S-11-132), then turn left. Go about .25 miles and turn right onto Old Barn Road to its end. Alternatively, continue SC Hwy 29 further and bear left onto Darby Road to its end. These roads may be private. (Parker, 2014)

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

Early in December 1780, John Nuckolls thus visited his home at Whig Hill. Finding the meal tub empty he, in company with his little son John, went to McKown's mill on Broad river at, or near the Ninety-nine Islands. It is said that in those days, millers provided a room, either in the mill or their own house, to accommodate customers when they were detained overnight. McKown was a Tory, and being acquainted with Nuckolls, saw his opportunity. Pretending that he could not grind for him until the next day, with apparent kindness, he gave him the room for a lodging place. Night coming on McKown went out and gathered a band of his ilk, and they came to the room where Nuckolls was quietly sleeping. Arousing him they said, "We've come for you." He knew what that meant. He asked permission to awake his son, so he could give some messages for his people at home. They refused and said that if he awoke him, they would kill him also. They took Nuckolls a short distance from the mill and prepared to shoot him. He asked that they would give him five minutes in which to pray. This was granted, and he prayed aloud. After he had uttered a few petitions, a villain by the name of Davis said: "If he continues



praying that way much longer we will not be able to kill him,” and fired a ball through his head. The body was thrown into a hole where a tree had blown up and some brush was placed over it.

Some months afterwards an old woman in the neighborhood found his bones. They were gathered up by his family and taken to Whig Hill and buried. The grave is encased in hewn granite slabs three feet high, and is entirely covered with a marble slab, three feet by six. This slab contains the following inscription:

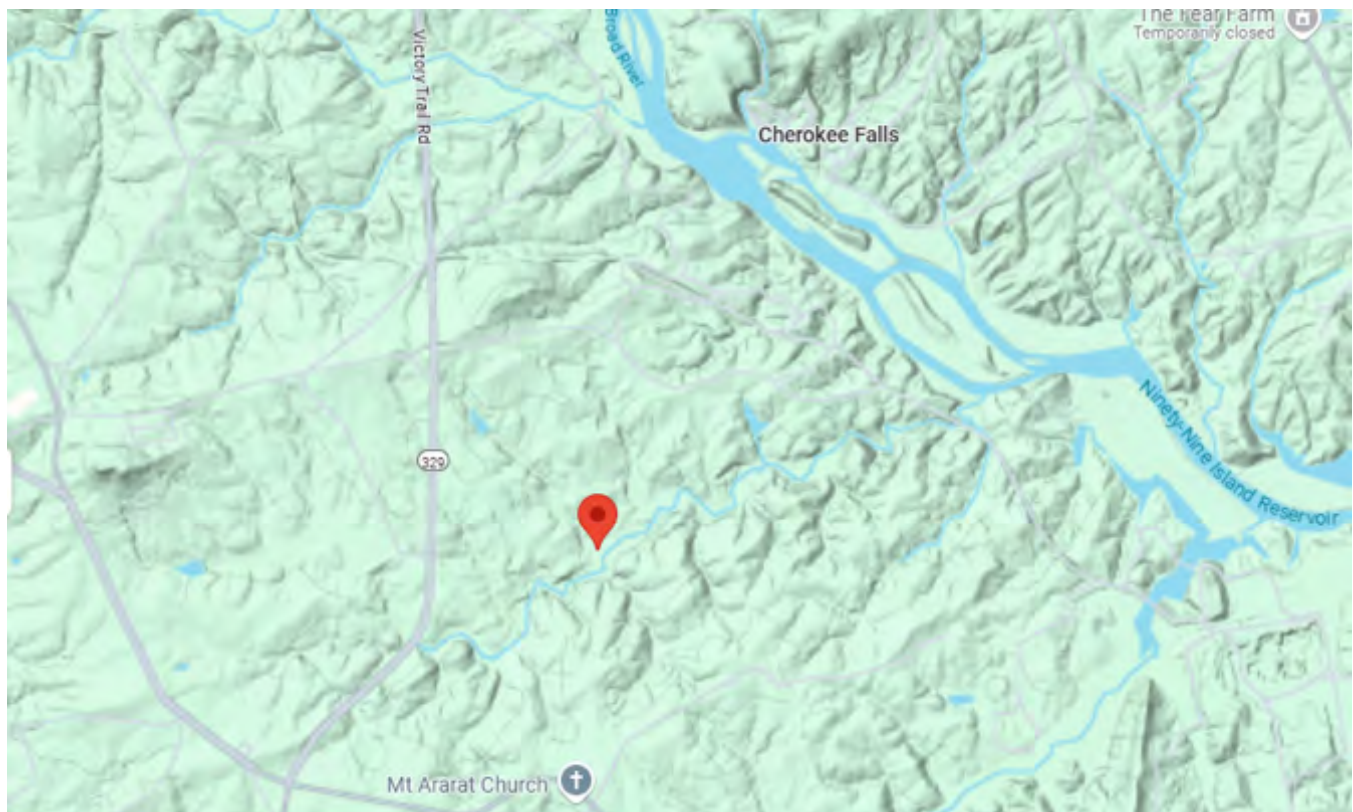
In memory of John Nuckolls, Sr., who was murdered by the Tories for his devotion to liberty, the 11th day of December 1780, in the 49th year of his age. (Bailey J. , 1927)

Rest noble patriot,  
Rest in peace  
The prize you sought  
Your country won. (Bailey J. , 1927)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This is private property. The condition of the site is to be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



*Google. (2024). Google Maps. <https://www.google.com/maps>*



# MORGAN'S ENCAMPMENT

GPS COORDINATES: 34.896567, -81.632930

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



## **DIRECTIONS**

From Gaffney, take Highway 18 towards Jonesville, South Carolina, bear right on Grindall Ford Road, and continue straight onto Meehan Road at the fork. Meehan Road is the original roadbed going down to Grindal Shoals. This land belongs to the Grindal Shoals Sportsman's Club. It is not open to the public. Permission from the club owners must be obtained to enter.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

From December 25, 1780, until January 16, 1781, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan and his "Flying Army" of 320 Maryland and Delaware Continentals, 200 Virginia Riflemen, and another 300 local militiamen from South Carolina prepared to take a stand against the British Legion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. They camped on land belonging to the prominent local Tory Alexander Chesney, which had been secured the day before by the Little River militia, now under the command of Joseph Hayes, who assumed



command of the Little River Regiment after James Williams was killed in the fighting at King's Mountain in October 1780.

At Grindal Shoals, Morgan plundered Chesney's grain and supplies. Though such plunder may have been necessary to feed his hungry troops, it also served to intimidate the local Tory populace, the practice of terror and intimidation not limited to militia regiments.

On the frigid night of January 16, after hearing from several scouts and local people that the British had discovered his camp, Morgan instructed his men to advance toward Saunders' Cow Pens. They left their breakfasts cooking on the early morning fires.

Morgan knew that Tarleton had, as usual, pushed his men hard, forcing them to travel over 24 miles in rough terrain to catch Morgan at the Pacolet River encampment. The Loyalists and British traveling in Tarleton's forces welcomed the food. They gratefully stopped to eat rather than "pushing Morgan to the utmost," as ordered by Lord Cornwallis. This delay of several hours allowed Morgan to reach the Cow Pens, lay plans, set traps, rally his troops, and deploy a winning strategy against the brash, young Tarleton and his crack troops.

In less than forty-five minutes, the Patriots killed around 110, wounded around 200, and captured over 700 British and Loyalist troops. Tarleton attempted to flee with his two grasshopper cannons and his remaining dragoons, but Colonel William Washington pursued him back to Adam Goudelock's Cabin on Grindall's Ford. (Bailey J. , 1927) (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.) (Meehan, 2023)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

The property is a private hunting club, Grindal Shoals Sportsman's Club. It is maintained for that purpose, and permission to enter must be obtained from the partnership.

## DETAILED MAP



# OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL

## Cherokee Ford Trail Loop

GPS COORDINATES: 35.074877, -81.558740

PUBLIC ACCESS



### DIRECTIONS

Cherokee Ford Trailhead, 199 Wolf Den Lane, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. Open to the public.

### BRIEF HISTORY

The 1.3-mile Cherokee Ford Road Trail showcases the beauty of the Broad River and is a highlighted part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. The designated trail site traces the historical route used by the Patriot militia during the Kings Mountain campaign of 1780. In addition to hiking, the Cherokee Recreation District hopes to allow visitors the future capabilities of camping, picnicking, fishing, tubing, and educational tours.

(Excerpt from: (<https://www.sctrails.net/trails/trail/cherokee-ford-road-trail>.)

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail traces the route used by the Patriot militia during the Kings Mountain campaign of 1780. The entirety of the trail stretches 330 miles through four states (Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina) and includes a Commemorative Motor Route and 87 miles of walkable pathways. Within Cherokee County, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail connects Cowpens National Battlefield with Kings Mountain National Military Park, where Patriot forces and Overmountain Militiamen chased down and defeated Patrick Ferguson and his Loyalist forces in a key turning point of the Revolutionary War.

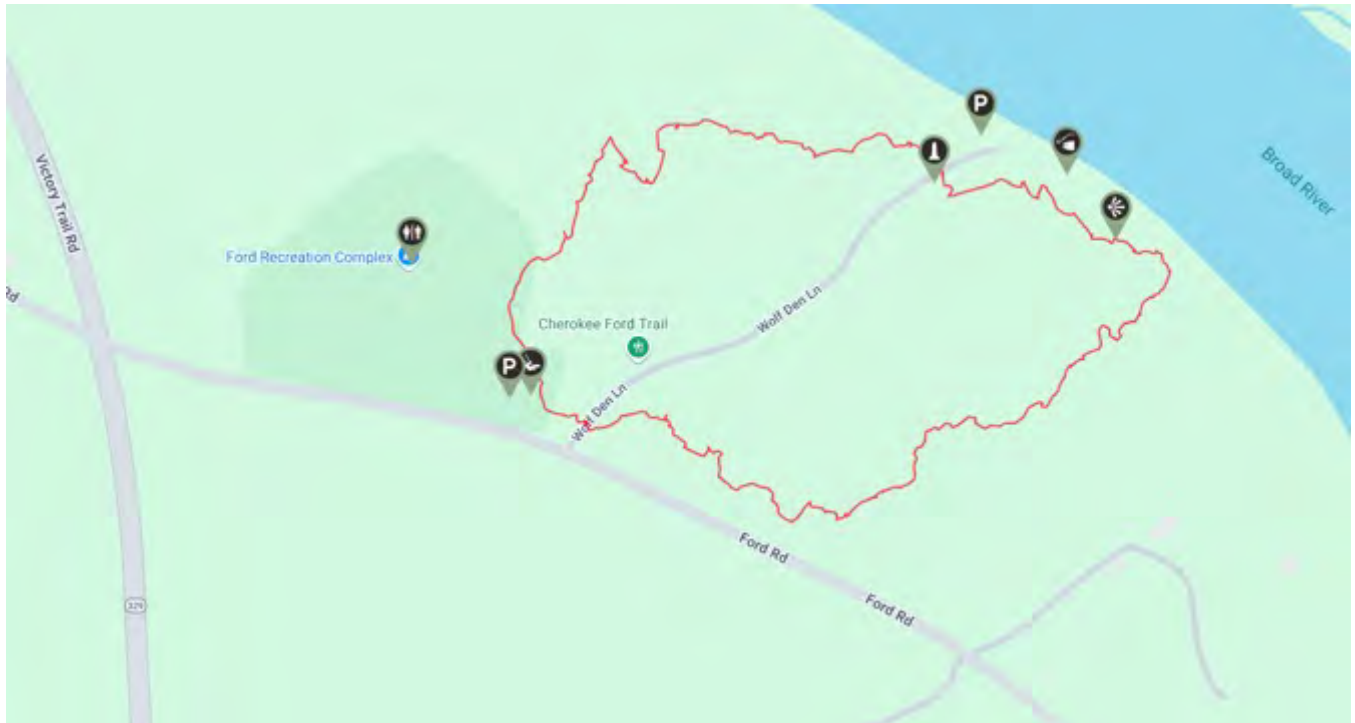


(Excerpt from: <https://www.getintogaffney.com/overmountain-victory-nht-passport-stamp/>.)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

See the Cherokee Ford section for details.

## DETAILED MAP



# QUINN'S FERRY

GPS COORDINATES: 35.181033, -81.625725

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY VIEW FROM BROAD RIVER ONLY**



## DIRECTIONS

From Gaffney, follow North Limestone Street and Pleasant School Road to Ross Hill Road. Continue Ross Hill Road until it reaches Old Ferry Road in Cleveland County. Turn right on Old Ferry Road and drive to the end. The old roadbed then becomes private property. Note: The Ellis Cemetery is on the right, about 500 feet before reaching the end of Old Ferry Road.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Quinn's Ferry (later Ellis's Ferry) was located on the Post Road from Lincolnton, NC, to Spartanburg, SC, as the road crossed Broad River south of Shelby and served as a point of reference for the division of Rutherford and Lincoln Counties when Cleveland was formed in 1841. This was near the NC/SC line, which was not settled then, and also near Buffalo Baptist Church. In the early 1800s, a settlement grew up near the river, initially named Burrtown. After the disgrace of Aaron Burr in 1804, it was changed to Irwinsville (Erwinsville). Note that in 1780, the borders between North and South Carolina were in dispute. While Quinn's Ferry now falls in North Carolina, it remained in the upper reaches of the Ninety Six District in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War.

Hugh Quinn (1723-1798) was from Ireland and settled in York, South Carolina. He married Margaret Fondren. He immigrated with his family to York County around 1760. His children were Peter, Cyrus, Mary, Daniel, and Hugh Quinn Jr.

Reverend Hugh Quinn (1785-1864) preached at Buffalo Baptist Church. The reverend's farm was near Quinn's Ferry, to the east, since he was a Lincoln County, NC resident. He was the son of Peter Quinn, a DAR Ancestor #: A093266, a Loyalist who served Major Ferguson at the Battle of King's Mountain.

Born in Ireland to Hugh Quinn (1732-98) and Margaret Fondren Quinn (1730-?). Peter immigrated with his father to the Carolinas in the 1760s. He married Judith Robinson on Aug. 11, 1776.



Peter and Judith settled on the border of North and South Carolina before 1780. For 30 years, he was a large landowner in the Carolinas, owning several plantations in Lincoln County, NC, and York County, SC, totaling over 1000 acres. However, in 1811-1812, at 61, Peter Quin migrated to Marion County, Mississippi Territory, settling on the Bogue Chitto River in present-day Pike County, Pike, at that time, was part of Marion County. Peter Quin was joined by six of his seven children.

Seven children: • Mary Quin McAfee (1777-before 1844 in Cleveland County, NC) • Daniel Quin (1779-1859 in MS) • Richard Quin (1780-1843 in Fernwood, Pike County, MS; grave is lost to vandals) • Nancy Quin Bridges (1782-1867 in MS) • Henry Quin (1783-1830 in MS) • Hugh Quin (1785-1864 in MS; grave is lost) • Peter Quin, Jr. (1787-1835 in MS)

Peter Quin is the patriarch of the illustrious Quin family, which served in numerous state and local public offices in Mississippi and Pike, Lawrence, Scott, and Rankin counties in the 1800s.

The Pike County chapter of the D.A.R. is named the Judith Robinson chapter in honor of his wife, Judith Robinson Quin, and for Peter's service in the Revolutionary War. When this chapter was established in 1913, it was thought Peter served in the 8th Virginia Regiment. However, that is the service of another Peter Quin who lived about the same time. There is evidence that Peter Quin was a British loyalist who pledged allegiance to the USA in 1783 at the close of the war. See the listing for Peter Quin from the DAR website at the bottom of this memorial.

"Families like the Quins, who were Protestant Irish, were attached to the British by loyalties brought over from Ireland where the British army stood by the Protestants against the Roman Catholics" -- quote from "The Family History of Peter Quin" by Madge Fugler, p. I-8

Nonetheless, all descendants of Peter Quin are eligible for DAR membership since Peter effectively rejected Britain in taking the oath of allegiance to the United States.

The name is spelled Quin in most records. A few relatives seem to have used the Quinn spelling. Now, it is spelled Quin. (Quinn, n.d.)

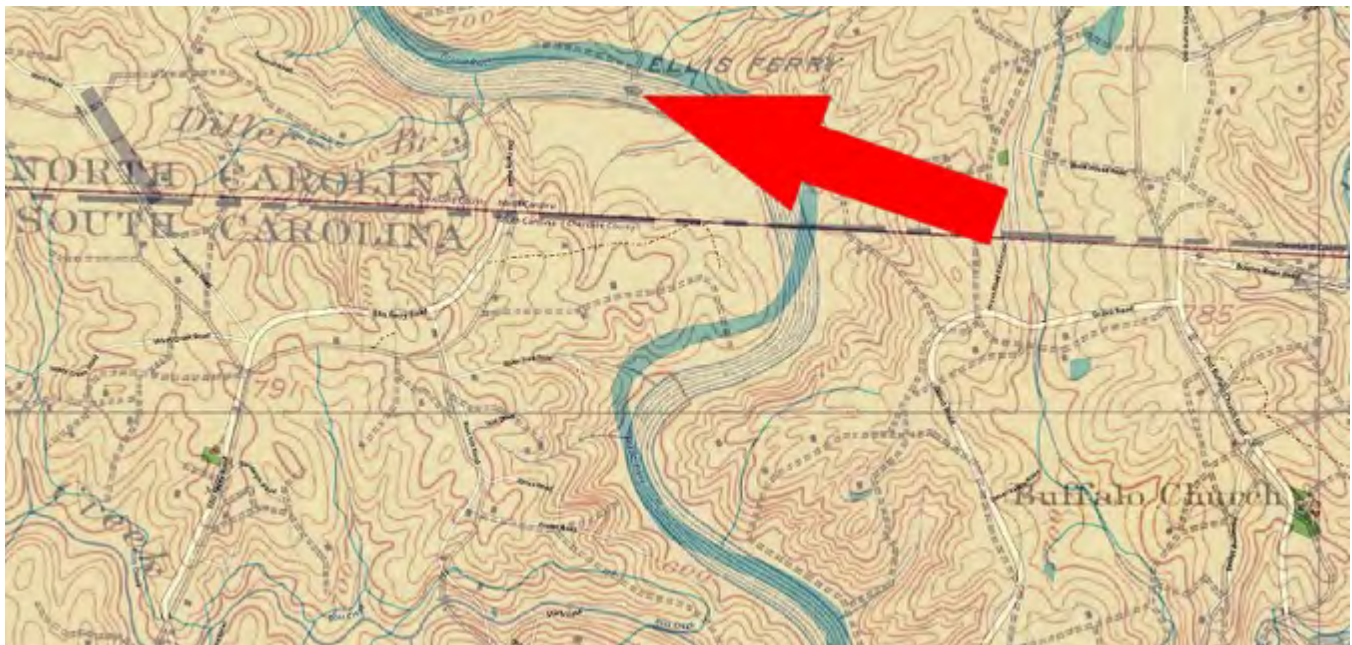
Information drawn from "The Family History of Peter Quin," published in 1922 by Madge Quin Fugler

Daniel Quinn is listed as serving in the Spartan Regiment under Colonel Brandon before the fall of Charleston, residing in Ninety Six District. (Moss B. , Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, 1983) (SRFamilyFiles, 2024)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

To be determined. Permission must be obtained to cross private property.

## DETAILED MAP



# SIMS-MARCHBANKS MEETINGHOUSE

(Arm of Fairforest Presbyterian on Fairforest Creek in Jonesville, South Carolina)

GPS COORDINATES: 34.93182, -81.62775

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



*Typical Backcountry Meetinghouse – Brattonsville, SC*

## **DIRECTIONS**

5635-5401 Union Highway (Hwy. 18), Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. This is a wooded lot on private property. It may be viewed from the roadside of Union Highway.

## **BRIEF HISTORY:**

Around 1767, William Sims and William Marchbanks constructed this log meetinghouse as a gathering place for the pioneer residents of the Grindal Shoals Community. It hosted church services, dances, and other social functions. This area of the Grindal community was called the Littlejohn and Nuckolls Settlement. Goucher Baptist Church, the Salem Presbyterian Church, and the Asbury United Methodist Church shared this facility.

By 1774, Goucher Baptist (originally called Thicketty Baptist) moved to its current location at 415 Goucher Creek Road, Gaffney, SC 29340, near Goshier Creek. Goucher is the oldest Baptist church in the Broad River



Association, and many early Patriots were members. It is important to note that this location is also a property once owned by Sims and Marchbanks, which was donated to build the church. The Reverend Joseph Alexander, Phillip Mulkey, and Richard Kelly probably supplied Thicketty Baptist. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.) (Ivey R. , The Cherokee County Story - Part 4, 2004)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This is a wooded area on private property.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

<https://baptistcourier.com/2020/12/goucher-church-celebrates-250-years>

# SKULL SHOALS

**GPS COORDINATES: 34.96060, -81.65560**

**PUBLIC ACCESS**



## **DIRECTIONS**

Skull Shoals, 539 Skull Shoals Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. This road is also called Highway 105 and Mount Taber Church Road. The Skull Shoals bridge crosses over the Pacolet River.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

Patriot William McClure's Pension Statement S21366 says he was in camp with General Morgan at Skull Shoals on the Pacolet River for two or three weeks. This is entirely possible, as Morgan was moved frequently during the three weeks of his encampment at Grindall's Ford from Christmas 1780 until January 17, 1781, and the Battle of Cowpens. The camp sprawled over five square miles, with his men seeking food throughout the Pacolet River Valley. Although Grindall's Ford was the best place for an army to cross the Pacolet River, other fords were used by the Patriots and the British on the way to the Cowpens. Skull Shoals was undoubtedly one of them. Others include Easterwood's Shoals, Lukeroy's Shoals, Pettet Shoals, Trough (or Troft) Shoals (Pacolet Mills), Swift Shoals, and Hurricane Shoals (Clifton) upriver towards the town of Pacolet. For British Colonel Tarleton to move nearly 1,100 men, wagons, horses, and equipment across the Pacolet River in the early morning



(2:00 a.m.) of January 16, 1781, swiftly, after heavy rain had swollen the river, it would have required all these firm-bottomed river crossings.

Note: The records of Skull Shoals Baptist Church mention that when the foundation was dug, Cherokee Native American skulls were discovered.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

To be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

<https://www.rootsandrecall.com/cherokee/tag/pacolet-watershed/>

<https://www.rootsandrecall.com/spartanburg/buildings/pacolet-mills-community/>

# SMITH'S FORD

GPS COORDINATES: 34.994299, -81.483706

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY VIEW FROM BROAD RIVER ONLY**



## DIRECTIONS

Smith's Ford, 1090-1098 Smith's Ford Road, Gaffney, SC 29340. Also, Smith's Ford and Farm, 13217 Smithford Road, Hickory Grove, SC 29717, on the east side of the Broad River at Smith's Farm. This site can be viewed by following Smithford Road on the York County side of the Broad River.

## BRIEF HISTORY

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Smith's Ford (named for owner William Smith) was an important crossing and trade link with the Cherokees in the Tryon Mountains to the west. Patriot Colonel Charles McDowell's Overmountain Men used this crossing in 1780, sending raiders to attack Loyalists and British at Musgrove's Mill. Also, the same year, Patriot Brigadier General Thomas Sumter, severely wounded at the Battle of Blackstock's Farm, was carried in a litter tied between two horses over this ford into the mountains to avoid capture by British Colonel Tarleton's pursuers.

From the Pension Statement of Joseph Kerr S4469, who acted as a Patriot spy:

"He [Kerr] was sent by Genl. McDowell from Rowan, North Carolina, to Tiger River [Tyger River] in South Carolina, near Blackstock's Ford, to watch the operations of the British and Tories. He found some British and Tories to the number of

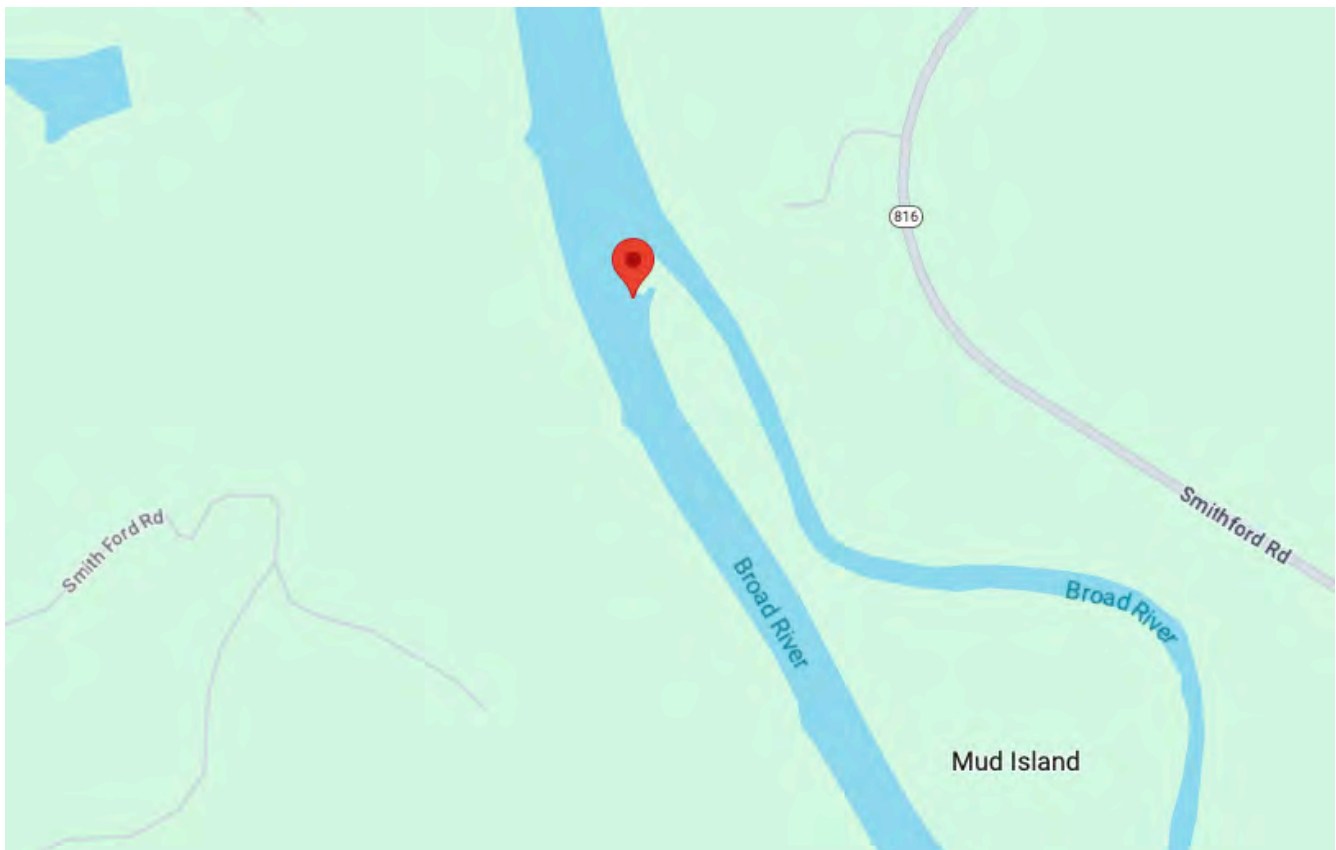


about fifteen hundred, as well as he now recollects, quartered on Tiger River, on the South side about half a mile below the above-mentioned ford. He then returned to Rowan County, N.C., and apprised Genl. McDowell and Col. Steen [James Steen] of the discoveries he had made. From Tiger River to Genl. McDowell's station in Rowan County, he believes, was about ninety miles—he was well mounted and traveled night and day until he reached Genl. McDowell—On receiving this information, Genl. McDowell, Col. Steen, and the troops marched to Smith's Ford on Broad River, South Carolina. Here Genl. McDowell remained with a part of the troops, and detached Col. Steen, with about six hundred men, as well as Declarant now recollects to go against the British and Tories at Blackstock's Ford on Tiger River, where their situation had been particularly spied out by this Declarant. Col. Steen with his troops came upon them rather by surprise, routed and defeated them." (Anon, Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters, n.d.)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

To be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

<https://www.rootsandrecall.com/york-county-sc/buildings/6722-2/>

# STEEN FAMILY CEMETERY

GPS COORDINATES: 34.93428, -81.59202

HISTORICAL MARKER ON PUBLIC ACCESS



*Photo by Brian Scott, July 11, 2011*

## DIRECTIONS

Steen Family Cemetery, 999-699 El Bethel Church Road, Gaffney, South Carolina 29340. Go to the historical marker at GPS Coordinates 34.5605, -81.35467 on El Bethel Church Road, park on the side of the road, and walk through the woods a couple of hundred feet to the memorial of Patriot Lieutenant Colonel James Steen. This is private property and permission must be obtained.

## BRIEF HISTORY

James Steen (1734-1780) was a successful planter who, at the time of the Revolution, resided in the Thicketty Creek area of what was once the northern part of Union County (formed in 1785) and is now part of Cherokee County (formed 1897), South Carolina. According to some accounts, Steen, a staunch Presbyterian, was born in County Antrim, Ulster Province, Ireland, in about the year 1734 and emigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1750s with his family; other accounts indicate he was likely born in Pennsylvania. The Steen family resided in Pennsylvania for a time before migrating to South Carolina



in the 1760s. The land records of Colonial South Carolina indicate that James Steen was in SC at least as early as 1766. On 4 February 1766, he had a tract of 300 acres of land surveyed and certified in Craven County, SC. He received a royal patent for this land on 19 August 1768.

From the book "Kings Mountain and Its Heroes," by Lyman Draper, 1881: James Steen, also of Irish descent, was probably a native of Pennsylvania and early settled in Union County, South Carolina. In August 1775, he "was fully convinced and ready to sign the Continental Association" and doubtless led a company on the Snow campaign, as he did the following year against the Cherokees, and, in 1777, commanded at Prince's Fort. In 1779, he served in Georgia, then at Stono and Savannah, and performed a tour of duty from November until February 1780 near Charleston. At this period, he ranked as Lieutenant-Colonel, distinguishing himself at Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Musgrove's Mill, King's Mountain, and probably with his superior, Colonel Brandon, at the Cowpens. In the summer of 1781, while endeavoring to arrest a Tory in Rowan County, North Carolina, he was stabbed by an associate, surviving only a week.

## NOTE

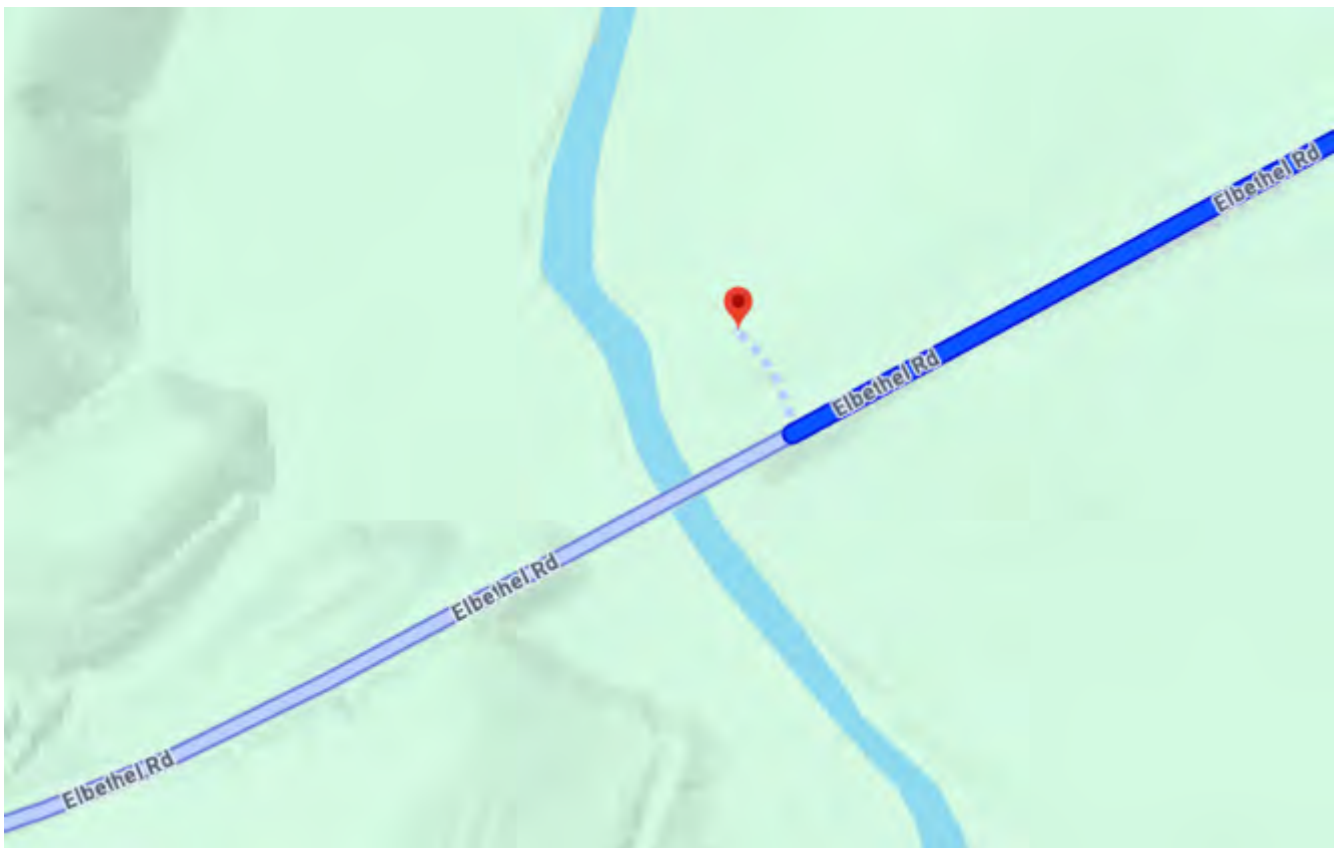
There is conflicting information regarding his death. An unsourced "family tradition" asserts that he was killed at the battle of Kings Mountain; however, interviews with survivors of the Revolution by the Rev James Saye and historian Lyman Draper (as indicated above) found that he did not die at Kings Mountain. According to Rev Saye, Steen was killed in the summer of 1780 while pursuing a Tory rather than in 1781, as indicated by Draper. This seems to be the more likely case, as James Steen disappears from the record entirely by the Fall of 1780. (Anon, LTC James Steen (1734-1780) - Find a Grave, 2019)

Also, Steen was with McDowell's Overmountain Men at Smith's Ford before the Battle of Musgrove's Mill.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

While the historical marker is on a public roadside, the exact headstone condition is yet to be determined.

## DETAILED MAP



# TATE'S FERRY

GPS COORDINATES: 35.10399515197021, -81.57464121820935

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY VIEW ONLY FROM BROAD RIVER**



*<https://www.revolutionarywarjournal.com/ferry-boats-of-colonial-america/>*

## DIRECTIONS

From Gaffney, take North Limestone Street (US-29 N/Cherokee Avenue) for about 5 miles, turn left on SC-329 N and go 1.3 miles, turn right onto Gaffney Ferry Road (State Road S-11-49), go .2 miles and take a slight right onto Pumping Station Road and go to the end. Private property must be crossed.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Silas McBee volunteered at Tate's Ferry in July 1780 under the command of Col. Thomas Brandon and in the company of Captain John Thompson and Lieutenant Josiah Tanner. This was at Colonel Joseph McDowell's Cherokee Ford encampment. He also served in the Roebuck regiment under his father (Vardry McBee), Captain John Mapp, and later with Colonel Andrew Pickens. (Graves, n.d.)

Vardry Sr. and one of his partners, William Tate, were sued for debts owed to Sarah Guess in 1787 and Col. John Lindsey in 1789. William Tate owned two ferries that crossed the Broad River and was a lieutenant and captain in the Fifth Regiment with Vardry Sr. Tate was imprisoned after the Fall of Charleston and exchanged in October of 1780. He also owned a grist mill on Cherokee Creek. Col. John Lindsey of Union County, S. C. brought a judgment against McBee to the September Court of 1789, and his iron ore tract of 2,557 acres on Dolittle Creek in York County was seized and sold by Adam Meek, Sheriff, on August 27, 1790, to William Tate. The York County Court also seized 300 acres of McBee's land on Broad River's north and Buffalo Creek's west sides and sold it to Peter Quinn on the above date. (Ivey R. , Grindal Shoals Gazette, n.d.)

The Ninety-Six District was divided into six counties, one of which was to be called "Spartan." Its boundary was Laurens County on the north, the Indian Line on the west, the North Carolina boundary to Broad River, then down the river to Tate's Ferry, then along the road to John Ford's plantation on the Enoree River. In the original survey, Spartan County included one



thousand and fifty square miles. Union County was also created in 1785 within the Ninety-Six District. (Cherokee County, South Carolina, 2020)

Another pension statement by Malcolm Henry (Pension Statement S16866) tells that British Major Ferguson “lay at Tate’s Ferry about 16 miles off (from the Cowpens). Colonel Shelby and Colonel Graham ordered this soldier to prepare his company for the march to attack Ferguson at Tate’s Ferry and to keep the engagement with them until the rest of the Army came up (McDowell’s Overmountain men, Spartan Regiment, and many others). They arrived at dawn on Cherokee Ford (Tate’s Ferry) and discovered that Major Ferguson’s troops had already headed for King’s Mountain. This was October 7, 1780. (Graves, n.d.)

On motion of James Forsyth, Ordered by the Court that a Road be viewed and opened from the Island Cherokee Ford on Broad River from Will'm Tates Ferry on y'e s'd River Leading the nearest and best way into the trading road leading towards Charles Town & that the following persons be appointed to view & lay out the same viz Geo. Blanton Esq'r, Wm Tate, Wm. McCown, Vardry McBee, Zac'r Bullock, John Nichols, Joab Mitchell, Rob't Wilkins, Rob't Lusk, Nath'l Jeffries, Adam Goudlock, Will Marchbanks, Christ'r Coleman, William Wilkins, Rob't Luney & that they meet at Jacob Randals on the last Tuesday in May to take the necessary steps to Qualify them for their Charge. (Tryon County, North Carolina Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1769-1779, April 1772)

“On the 5<sup>th</sup> he [Ferguson] crossed the Broad River at Tate’s Ferry, near where the Air-Line Railroad now crosses the Broad River and spent the night about a mile above the ferry.” (Lathan, 1880) Using this reference, the survey extrapolated the approximate location of Tate’s Ferry.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

To be determined. Although the road leads down to the Broad River, permission to cross private property must be obtained.

## DETAILED MAP



*1909 U.S. Geological Survey Map of Gaffney, S.C. overlaid on Google Maps.*



# THICKETTY FORT

GPS COORDINATES: 34.985480, -81.712754

PUBLICLY ACCESSABLE AS AN OFFICIAL DESTINATION ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTY TRAIL



## DIRECTIONS

Thicketty Fort, 184 Goucher Creek Road, Gaffney, SC 29340, Gaffney, SC 29340. This site will open to the public in July 2025. Until then, permission must be obtained from the Cherokee County Museum to visit.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Originally built as a refuge from local American Indians, this cabin in what is now rural Cherokee County became the point from which Tories would launch raids on local farms in the area during the American Revolution. These Tory raiding parties would pillage the area and then return to the well-fortified structure. Surrounded by an abatis and stockade, the men would have to crawl through a narrow opening to get in and out.

By 1780, the Fort was occupied by ninety-three Tory troops under the command of Captain Patrick Moore and one British Sergeant Major. As word of their actions against local women and children spread, six hundred



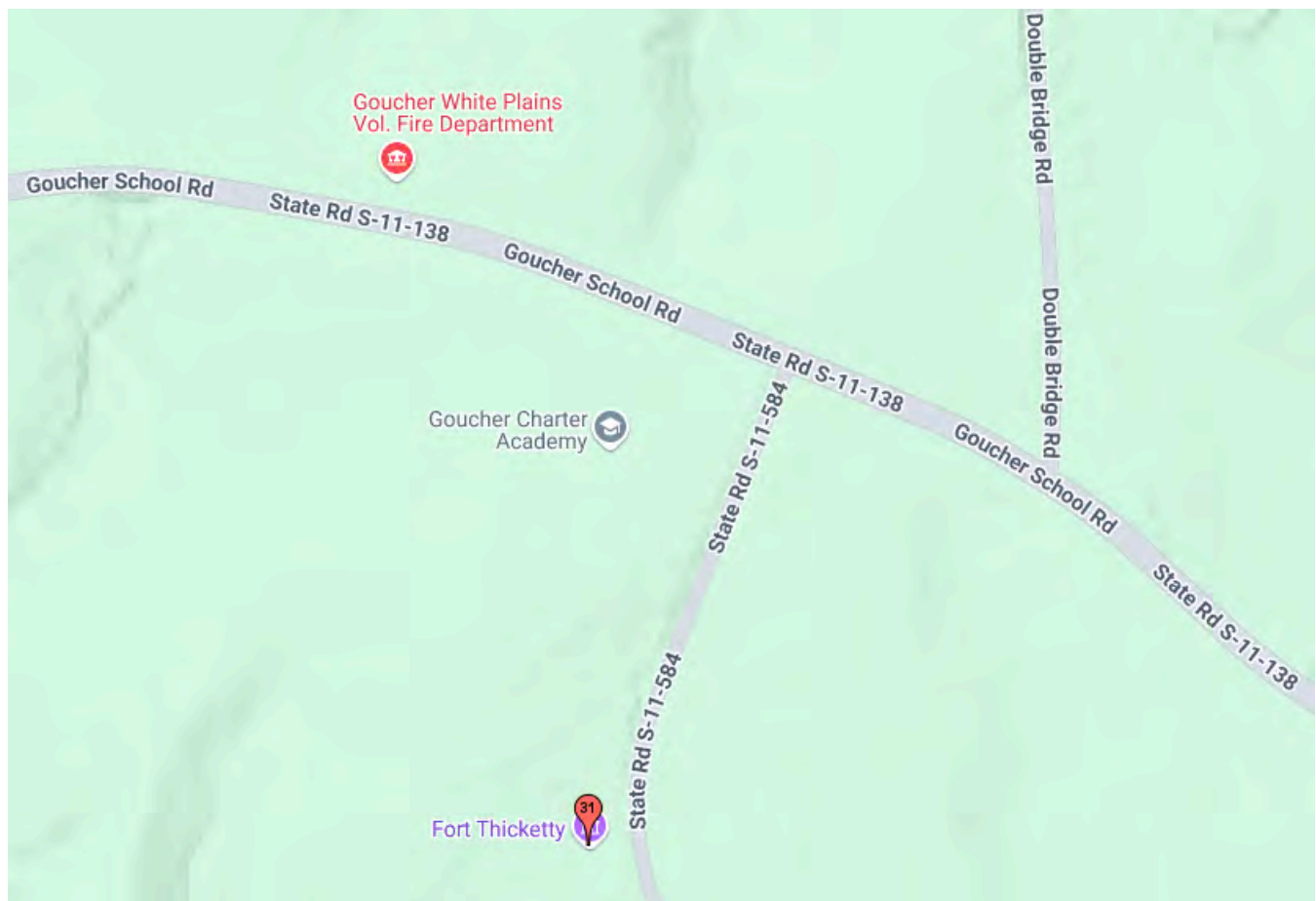
men under the command of Colonels Shelby, Clarke, and Hampton forced the surrender of ninety-three Loyalist soldiers, a British sergeant-major, and two hundred fifty weapons.

Early Scot Irish pioneers built Thicketty Fort out of heart pine logs around 1769 to protect themselves from Cherokee raiders. During the Revolutionary War, Loyalists commandeered it. In the summer of 1780, a combined force of Spartan Regiment Patriot militiamen and Overmountain Men, under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby, surrounded and took the fort from Loyalist Colonel Patrick Moore and his 96 men without firing a shot.

## PROPERTY CONDITION

This property has been improved with concrete walkways and a gravel parking lot, and interpretive signage will soon be installed. Plans are to offer live interpretation on-site.

## DETAILED MAP



## FURTHER READING

The Cherokee County Museum holds a detailed research folder on this important site.

# WHELCHEL CEMETERY

(Vinson Blanton Burying Ground, aka. Old Gethsemane Church Cemetery)

GPS COORDINATES: 35.00072, -81.61620

PUBLIC ACCESS



## DIRECTIONS

Take Highway SC-18-S, turn left on State Road S-11-54, slightly left onto Brick House Road (State Road S-11-92) for 1.4 miles, and right onto Spring Lake Road. Drive .4 miles to the end of the road and walk about 100 feet off the road into the woods. This site is open to the public.

## BRIEF HISTORY

The Whelchel Cemetery contains Revolutionary War-era graves of early pioneer settlers. Several memorials have historical significance. On the Overmountain Trail, Lake Whelchel was named after Zebulon Whelchel, who had started the Cherokee Board of Public Works in 1954. He is a direct descendant of Dr. Francis Whelchel, Sr., a Patriot and father of Patriots, buried in this cemetery.

- Cemetery ID: 1504331



- Dr. Francis “Franz” Whelchel, Sr. (1720-1796) was a German immigrant who came to America in 1739 on the ship Betsy out of Deal, England. Francis married Martha Ann Stockton (1732-1816, also buried here). As a doctor, Francis served in the Continental Line in SC, NC, TN, and KY. He served in the Battle of Cowpens and was wounded there.
  - Martha Ann Stockton was the daughter of Joseph Davis Stockton and Sarah Goudelock. Oral history says that Ann Stockton was a cousin of Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
  - Major Davis Leander Whelchel served as a private, ranger, spy, and major under Captains William McMullen, Nathaniel Jeffries, Nimrod Terrell, John Thompson, and Colonels Neel, Thomas Farr, Steen, and Brandon – Spartan Regiment. Trenton Chapter DAR #A14116 honors him. The Horseshoe Prairie Chapter, NSDAR, also honors him.
  - Francis Whelchel, Jr. served in Colonel Brandon’s Regiment at the Battle of Cowpens alongside his father and three brothers.
  - John Whelchel enlisted under Captain James Steen and Colonel John Thomas of the Spartan Regiment. He fought at Rocky Mount, Fishing Creek, King’s Mountain, Blackstock’s Plantation, and the Battle of Cowpens. Verbal history claims that he received four saber cuts to his head and was sewn up by his father, Dr. Francis. The doctor melted coins to pour into the wounds to close them up.
  - William Davis Whelchel served in the Spartan Regiment alongside his brother, John, under Colonel Brandon. (Moss B. , Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution, 1983) (Anon, Vinson Blanton Burying Grounds in Gaffney, South Carolina, 2014)

## PROPERTY CONDITION

The cemetery could use some raking and a general cleanup of debris and trash. Several stones need to be reset to plumb. Otherwise, this important site has no fencing or protection. A historical marker and signage about the Revolutionary War soldiers buried here are recommended for the main road.

## DETAILED MAP



# WHIG HILL CEMETERY

**GPS COORDINATES: 34.9606850, -81.6553762**

**THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY**



*<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39035861>*

## **DIRECTIONS**

Follow Union Highway (Hwy. SC-18 S) south until you reach Round Tree Road on the right. Continue another .5 miles and make a right at GPS Coordinates 34.9606850, -81.6553762. This is Whig Hill Road. The destination will be on the right in about 1.7 miles. The area was called Northgate. There is no public access to this site.

## **BRIEF HISTORY:**

The Nuckolls family cemetery is located on the original John Nuckolls land grant. In 1998, CHAPS placed a historical marker describing the site as being on Union Highway (State Highway 18) south of Round Tree Road, GPS: 34.58838, -81.3887 (HMdb.org, n.d.). Find-a-Grave's website has a complete grave listing with pictures of most headstones in this cemetery, Cemetery ID 71638 (Whig Hill Cemetery, n.d.). This cemetery has 38 memorials, many of which date from the original settlers of the Greater Grindal Shoals Community, Scot Irish pioneers. Revolutionary War-era notables buried here include:

- John N. Nuckolls (1732-1780)
- Agatha Bullock Nuckolls (1743-1815), married John N. at age 12.
- John Nuckolls Jr. (1769-1801)
- Agnes Agatha Nuckolls Goudelock (1771-1840)



- Patriot Captain Zachariah Bullock (1740-1791) surveyed many land grants for the area's settlement. He was brother-in-law to John N. Nuckolls. He served in the Spartan Regiment.

This plantation, 1.5 mi. S. near Thicketty Creek was settled about 1767 by John Nuckolls, Sr. (1732-1780), a native of Virginia. During the American Revolution, as the war in the backcountry became a vicious civil war, the plantation became known as "Whig Hill" for Nuckolls's support of the patriot cause. He was murdered by Tories in December 1780 and is buried on his plantation.

### THE FAMILY LEGEND:

Early in December 1780, John Nuckolls thus visited his home at Whig Hill. Finding the meal tub empty he, in company with his little son John, went to McKown's mill on Broad river at, or near the Ninety-nine Islands. It is said that in those days millers provided a room, either in the mill, or their own house, to accommodate customers when they were detained over night. McKown was a Tory, and being acquainted with Nuckolls, saw his opportunity. Pretending that he could not grind for him until the next day, with apparent kindness, he gave him the room for a lodging place. Night coming on McKown went out and gathered a band of his ilk, and they came to the room where Nuckolls was quietly sleeping. Arousing him they said, "We've come for you." He knew what that meant. He asked permission to awake his son, so he could give some messages for his people at home. They refused and said that if he awoke him, they would kill him also. They took Nuckolls a short distance from the mill and prepared to shoot him. He asked that they would give him five minutes in which to pray. This was granted, and he prayed aloud. After he had uttered a few petitions, a villain by the name of Davis said: "If he continues praying that way much longer we will not be able to kill him," and fired a ball through his head. The body was thrown into a hole where a tree had blown up and some brush was placed over it.

Some months afterwards an old woman in the neighborhood found his bones. They were gathered up by his family and, taken to Whig Hill and buried. The grave is encased in hewn granite slabs three feet high and is entirely covered with a marble slab, three feet by six. This slab contains the following inscription:

In memory of John Nuckolls, Sr., whom the Tories murdered for his devotion to liberty, the 11th day of December 1780, in the 49th year of his age. "Rest noble patriot, Rest in peace, The prize you sought, Your country won."

### PROPERTY CONDITION:

To be determined. The cemetery is on private property with a gated fence preventing access.

### DETAILED MAP



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# APPENDIX

## Backcountry Frontier

There are good reasons why the Upstate around Gaffney, East Gaffney, Blacksburg, Cherokee Falls, and Chesnee are called Cherokee County. In old terminology, it is because the Cherokee Indians were the original inhabitants. This area was once considered a paradise, "...the woodlands, carpeted with grass; and the wild pea-vine, growing as high as a horse's back, and wildflowers of every hue, were the constant admiration of the traveler and adventurous pioneer." Until European settlers began exploiting the natural resources, "the trees were generally larger, and stood so wide apart that a deer or a buffalo could be easily seen at a long distance – there being nothing to obstruct the view but the rolling surface." (Logan, 1859)

Between 1750 and 1780, significant migration occurred into this area, mainly from Scot Irish extended families. They found the land's richness beyond their imaginings, perhaps making the dangers they faced worthwhile. The Pacolet River Valley was a rich hunting ground full of wild game such as buffalo, elk, deer, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, turkey, duck, and other edible fowl. The streams contained many species of fish. There were deadly predators such as cougar (mistakenly labeled Tyger), bear, wolf, and fox. Reptiles and insects abound, including poisonous snakes, mosquitos, and black widow spiders. Irritating plants like poison oak, stinging nettle, and water hemlock thrive here, each capable of causing severe medical conditions or even death. Buffalo and elk no longer come to this side of the mountains, having been hunted out, but all the other birds and beasts listed are still here. Cherokee County was dangerous in the past, but to the unwary can be a challenge even today.



*The Gadsden Flag, symbol of the unity of the Thirteen Colonies, and a warning to those attempting to break it.*

## Political Thought of the Late 1700s

Perhaps these Cherokee County perils inspired Brigadier General Christopher Gadsden, a South Carolina delegate to the Continental Congress, to design a flag representing the beliefs of the Thirteen Colonies: a coiled rattlesnake and the words, “Don’t Tread On Me.” Interestingly, a fully grown rattlesnake usually has thirteen rattles, all layered together in unity. Eastern Rattlesnakes are deadly poisonous and will attack if provoked. This flag was a clear political message meant as a warning to anyone, especially the English monarchy, who would dare attempt to impose their will on freedom-loving Americans.

Indeed, King George the Third of Great Britain, in his ire, dubbed us vile “rebels.” Unfortunately for Good King George, his label became a proud moniker. Royal troopers’ knees would quake at the hair-raising Rebel Yell, a variant of the ululating war cry of the Cherokees. Backcountry settlers had learned through direct experience what that terrible sound meant. It represented the wrath of a wronged people bent on destroying their oppressors.

## Life of Turmoil

Backcountry life was the edge of civilization during the latter part of the 1700s. There were no hospitals, few doctors, and no formal police force. Unhappy about the intrusion of settlers into their favorite hunting grounds (hence, *Cherokee* County), the Cherokees showed no mercy in their quest to rid their lands of trespassers. In addition to the angry Native Americans, hunters, squatters, and criminals found ripe pickings among the Backcountry residents. The settlers would have to protect themselves if they wished to stay.

From 1767 to 1769, a vigilante force of landowners cooperated with the colonial government to “regulate” roving banditti and Native Americans who were committing violent crimes and theft among the frontier settlements. Finally, the 1769 Circuit Court Act created new courthouses, jails, and four judicial districts. Many of the Regulators became sheriffs and justices of the peace. John Thomas Sr. of Kelso’s Creek was one of these officers before the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. Eventually, he would give up those duties to form and lead the First Spartan Regiment of Militia as colonel. (The Historical Marker Database, n.d.)

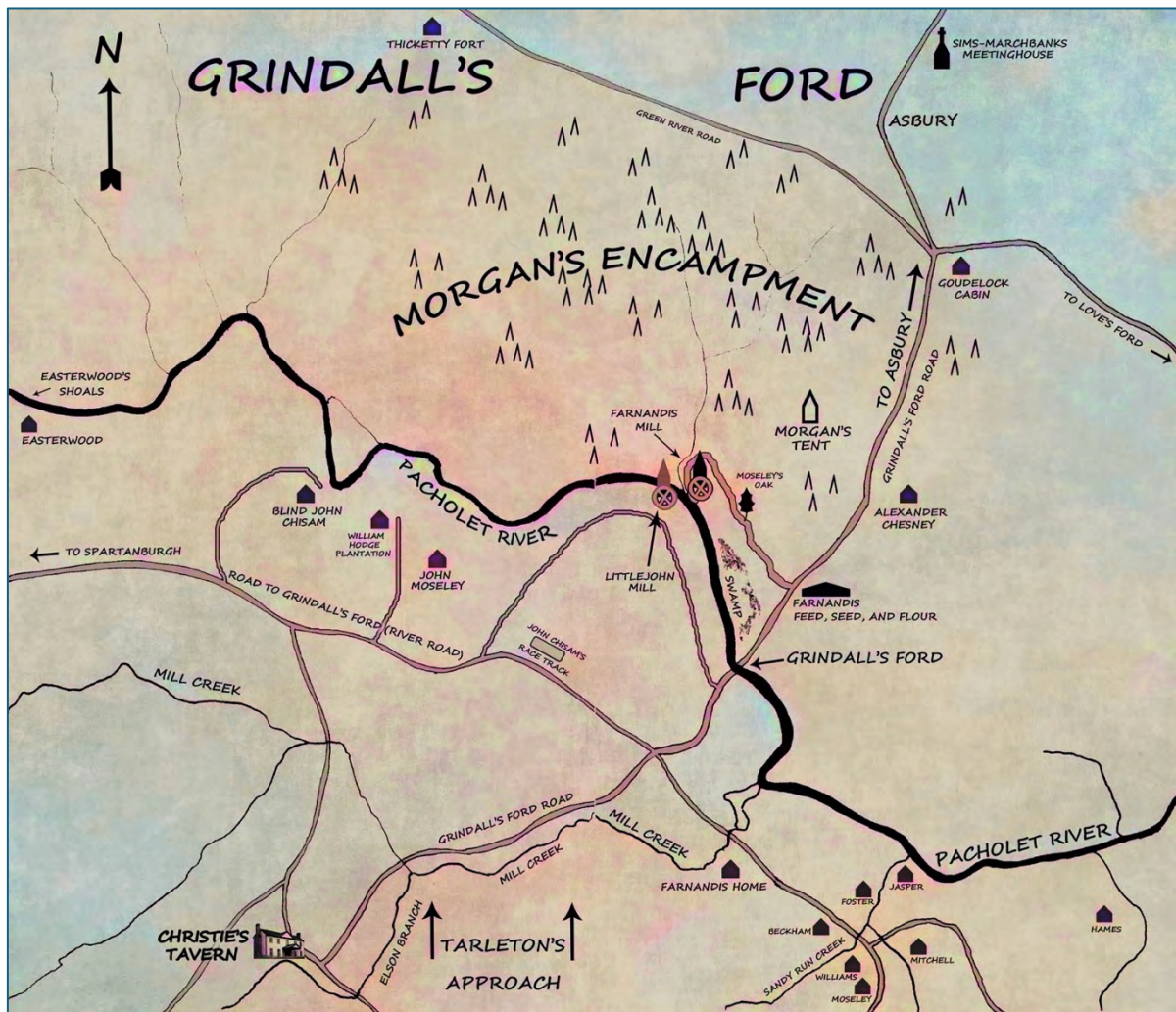
Pioneers scraped a living from the wilderness between today’s Jonesville and Gaffney. They were simple farmers who moved here hoping to create a better life for their offspring, a life free from the yoke of an oppressive government headed by a tyrant and safe from marauding Native Americans. Besides food for themselves, they grew tobacco to make a few extra coins to buy glass windows for their cabins. For most, this was still not enough income to support the purchase of people to work their farms. Glass and enslaved people were “luxuries” enjoyed mainly by the Low Country aristocracy around Charles Towne. Hands full with the work of daily survival, settlers were slow to grasp the need to form militias against the British. On the other hand, the Cherokee Threat was literally in their backyard.

The Scot Irish’s pale skin was quickly burned from working in the sun, earning them yet another title – South Carolina Rednecks. These “rednecks” discovered they had jumped from the frying pan of the French and Indian War raging in Pennsylvania and Virginia into the Cherokee fire blazing along the foothills of the South Carolina mountains.

In 1773, Royal Governor James Glen purchased from the Cherokees all the lands now encompassed by the counties of Edgefield, Laurens, Newberry, Union, Spartanburg, Cherokee, York, Chester, and Fairfield. Glen hoped this would eliminate the Cherokee as a potential British enemy and allow peaceful settlement of the Backcountry. By 1775, the Pacolet River Valley had filled up with Scot Irish families seeking a respite from conflicts with “savages.” However, they would find no peace for another eight years, until after the Revolutionary War.

The 1775 South Carolina Province census determined how many militia-age males, 16 to 60, could fight if the British sent occupational forces. There were only 7500, and many of them were farmers working 40-50 acre plots along the watercourses between the Tyger and Broad Rivers. This area includes today’s Cherokee County.





*Map of the Greater Grindal Shoals Community just after the Cherokee War of 1760 by Richard C. Meehan, Jr.*

## Greater Grindal Shoals Community

Alongside every stream and river were paths that buffalo tread long before the Aborigines arrived. These trails became a network of ancient Cherokee trading routes that developed into today's significant roadways. The Lower Cherokee Traders' Path connected the Catawba Indian Nation (they prefer to be called Indians) and the Cherokee Nation. This significant path cuts across Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties at Grindal Shoals. Another of these trails is Green River Road, which stretches from Adam Goudelock's place near Grindall's Ford on the Pacholet (Pacolet, Packolette) River up to Saunders' cow pens near Cherokee Ford on Broad River. On January 17, 1781, the Battle of Cowpens would occur here.

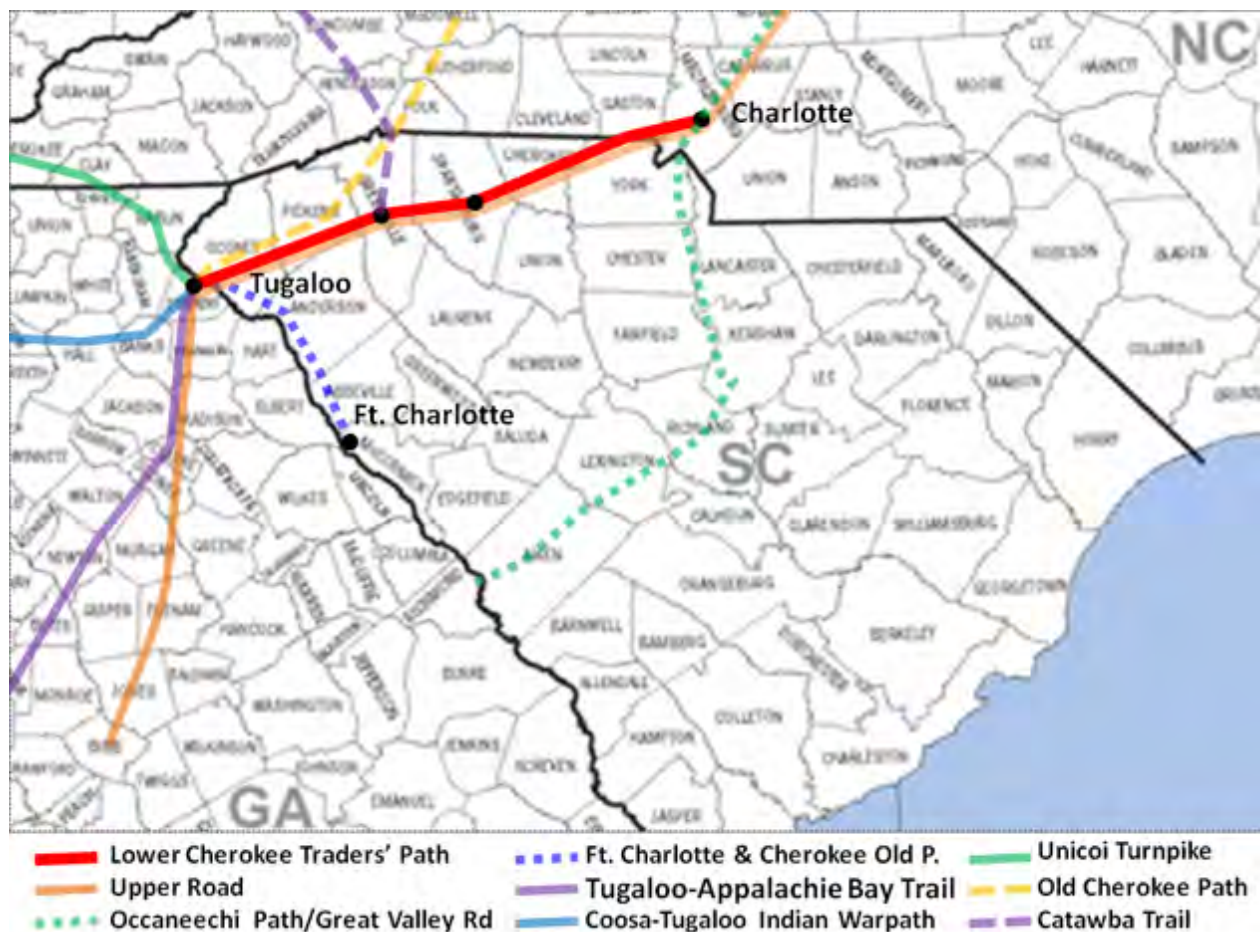
Residing in the Backcountry next to the Indian Boundary Line was perilous. The boundary followed today's Interstate 85 corridor along the Greenville and Spartanburg County lines. The Native Americans and the European settlers committed heinous acts of barbarism against each other, fighting over the land. Struggle was the expectation of life in Cherokee County, and the settlers were not about to allow "heathens" to disrupt their livelihoods for long. After all, they had sacrificed nearly everything to come here. The soil was rich, and the game was plentiful. They were here to stay. To do so, they would have to build a fortification to shelter and protect the women and children of the Greater Grindal Shoals community in the event of a Native uprising or the appearance of outlaw gangs.

Grindal Shoals, known as Grindal's Ford (Grindell, Grandale, Grindle, et al.), was the best of a handful of firm-bottomed crossings on the Pacolet River. John Grindal (Grindell, Grindle) obtained and settled his 150-acre

land grant, which included both sides of the shoals, on the Pacolet River in March 1775. His arrival preceded other pioneering families by mere months. Before the Revolutionary War, the Grindal community thrived as a prime location for commerce. The network of roads that grew up at the river crossing connected other pioneering communities and trade routes to the coast and Charles Towne.

Since there were no bridges in the Backcountry during colonial times, Grindal's Ford attracted settlers. After all, good river crossings were vital for trade routes, travelers, and militia movements. One pioneer, John Chism, built a horseracing track on his Grindal Shoals property. John "Jack" Beckham (Beckhamsville), a notorious spy for American Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, was an expert horse trainer and huntsman. His friend, Wade Hampton I, was a well-known horse breeder who loved to hunt with Jack as a guide. Christopher Coleman opened Christie's Tavern, serving Whigs and Tories alike. Such river crossings also attracted carriage houses (hostels), mercantiles, taverns, churches, and mills. Indeed, there were two known grist mills near the shoals. Communities grew up around them, and Grindal Shoals was no exception. The proximity of the ford and the success of the farmers and merchants of Greater Grindal Shoals made them a target for bandits and Native American raids.

Grindal resident Angelica Henderson Mitchell Nott was an eyewitness to those times, writing a pamphlet called *Traditions of the Revolution*. Her sister, Elizabeth "Betsy" Henderson, married John "Jack" Beckham.



### ***Lower Cherokee Traders' Path (Anon, Lower Cherokee Traders, n.d.)***

Angelica's description of life leading up to and during the war spoke of hardship, "We lived at that time generally without bread, meat or salt on roasting ears. When we killed a beef, a pint of salt with hickory ashes preserved it. We went without shoes and sewed woolen rags around our feet. I have done that many times." (Bailey R. J., reprinted 1981) The Tories that sallied from nearby Thicketty Fort during 1780, under the leadership of Captain Patrick Moore, brought the Whigs to this poverty.



## The Church Connection

Since the Scot Irish settlers were mainly Presbyterians, church meetinghouses were particularly important to them. They fled Britain because of political, social, and religious discrimination. The Church of England (Anglican) was the only official denomination, with King George as the sovereign head. People of other denominations could not hold political office; they paid higher taxes and rents. Their clergy could not marry or bury their congregants.

The Lord Proprietors of the South Carolina Colony lured immigrants with promises of religious freedom. Once the settlers invested in their new farms, the Proprietors began using the same persecution tactics as Britain. This maltreatment sparked anger in the Scot Irish. They grew weary of taxes that paid the salaries of the Anglican preachers, while their Presbyterian preachers nearly starved due to a lack of funds. Only Anglicans could serve in the state government, and they conceived laws that benefited themselves and the British Crown.

Presbyterians and other denominations launched a campaign to eliminate religious discrimination by the South Carolina Assembly, nicknamed the *Separation of Church and State*. This movement (Anon, Lower Cherokee Traders, n.d.) was not to rid the government of Church influence, as current thought promotes. Instead, the non-Anglicans wished to purge themselves of unfair laws designed to oppress anyone who was not Anglican. Some have termed the American Revolution a Presbyterian Revolt. (Brinsfield, 1983)

Backcountry meetinghouses were multipurpose facilities. They served as churches, gathering places for social functions, posts to strategize on community affairs (like how to handle bandits and religious persecution), and distribution points for the current news. One such facility was near Asbury at the crossroad of Grindal's Ford Road and Green River Road, a mile above Grindal's Ford. It was known as the Sims-Marchbanks Meetinghouse.

William Sims and William Marchbanks were land speculators who surveyed and transacted many properties along the Pacolet River Valley. They donated land for the meetinghouse that bore their names. Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists shared this facility. Thicketty Baptist (today's Goucher Baptist) started there. The membership rolls included men who served to force the Cherokees out of Grindal Shoals. Sims and Marchbanks



***Typical Backcountry Meetinghouse (Image by Richard C. Meehan Jr.)***

also owned several hundred acres that bordered the Anderson Family. Several accounts state that David Anderson was the builder of Anderson's Fort, later renamed Thicketty Fort. Other notable Sims-Marchbanks members were:

- Robert Coleman was the son of the owner of nearby Christie's Tavern.
- James "Horseshoe" Robertson served as a Patriot spy for General Daniel Morgan.
- Reverend Hugh Moore, brother of Tory Captain Patrick Moore.
- The Littlejohn Family.
- Patriot Sergeant William Jasper, hero of the Battle of Fort Sullivan (now Fort Moultrie). (Ivey R. A., n.d.)

This church began as a mission started by the congregation of Fair Forest Presbyterian Meetinghouse (in Jonesville). Colonel John Thomas Sr. of the Spartan Regiment and his wife were founding members of Fair Forest. Most Sims-Marchbanks and Fair Forest men eventually served in Thomas' regiment. These worshiping congregants formed a tight-knit Grindal Shoals frontier community.

## Evolution of Cherokee County

Cherokee County, located in the northwestern part of South Carolina, boasts a dynamic history shaped by frontier governance and evolving administrative needs. Originally included within the enormous Ninety-Six District, the region experienced several reorganizations. As population growth and economic development reshaped local realities, Cherokee County—long a part of larger judicial districts—was carved out as a distinct administrative entity in 1897 to enhance local governance and judicial responsiveness.

In 1769, South Carolina established its large judicial districts to accommodate the expansive and sparsely populated backcountry. The **Ninety-Six District**, created on July 29, 1769, covered a vast area including terrains that, centuries later, would form parts of Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union, and other counties.<sup>1</sup> As the colonial frontier advanced, administering such a massive district became increasingly challenging.

By 1791, with the influx of settlers and economic expansion accelerating the need for more localized government, the state reorganized its judicial districts. On February 19, 1791, the boundaries of the Ninety-Six District were redrawn. The area that is now Cherokee County became part of a smaller jurisdiction—officially called the **Pinckney District** but often referred to by locals as the Spartan District after the prominent regional town.<sup>2</sup> This strategic shift aimed to simplify judicial processes and bring government services closer to the burgeoning communities.

Despite the reorganization into smaller judicial districts, Cherokee residents continued to experience challenges related to distance and administrative oversight. In response, and as part of ongoing statewide reforms to better reflect local identities and accommodate population growth, **Cherokee County was officially established on February 25, 1897.**<sup>3</sup> Carved out from portions of existing districts (notably from territories long administered under Union County), the creation of Cherokee County was a practical measure to ensure that local governmental functions and services were more efficient and attuned to the needs of its evolving population.

Historical maps provide a vibrant visual account of the transformations in Cherokee County's boundaries and administrative alignments. The following resources are especially valuable:

- **OldMapsOnline** This repository offers several historical maps of Cherokee County. For example, early 20th-century maps display how boundaries shifted from colonial-era configurations to modern borders. These maps are excellent for studying the county's evolving geography.<sup>4</sup>
- **SCIWAY – Cherokee County Historical Maps** SCIWAY.net hosts a collection of historical maps that detail changes in Cherokee County over the decades. These maps highlight key adjustments in jurisdiction and show how regional geography influenced administrative decisions.<sup>5</sup>
- **Pastmaps LLC** provides high-resolution historical maps that allow users to explore Cherokee County in further detail. These maps help illustrate the transformation from an area governed as part of a larger district to its eventual recognition as an independent county.<sup>6</sup>



These visual resources underscore the transition from expansive colonial territories to focused modern administrative units, offering valuable context for understanding Cherokee County's complex evolution.

## Conclusion

The history of Cherokee County illustrates a broader pattern common to many frontier regions in early America—one in which administrative boundaries were continually redefined to meet the challenges of governance, population shifts, and economic development. Beginning as part of the vast Ninety-Six District, the area entered a more concentrated phase of administration in the Spartan (Pinckney) District, and ultimately, in 1897, emerged as the independent Cherokee County we know today. Historical maps—accessible via OldMapsOnline, SCIWAY, and Pastmaps—not only enrich this narrative but also provide tangible evidence of the county's transformative journey.

## Footnotes

1. Carolana.com, "Cherokee County, South Carolina," accessed April 24, 2025, [https://carolana.com/SC/Counties/cherokee\\_county\\_sc.html](https://carolana.com/SC/Counties/cherokee_county_sc.html).
2. SCIWAY.net, "Cherokee County, South Carolina – Historical Maps," accessed April 24, 2025, <https://www.sciway.net/hist/maps/cherokee-county-sc-historical-maps.html>.
3. FamilySearch, "South Carolina County Creation Dates and Parent Counties," accessed April 24, 2025, <https://www.familysearch.org/>.
4. OldMapsOnline, "Old maps of Cherokee County, South Carolina," accessed April 24, 2025, [https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Cherokee\\_County,\\_South\\_Carolina](https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Cherokee_County,_South_Carolina).
5. SCIWAY.net, "Cherokee County, South Carolina – Historical Maps," accessed April 24, 2025, <https://www.sciway.net/hist/maps/cherokee-county-sc-historical-maps.html>.
6. Pastmaps LLC, "Old Historical Maps of Cherokee County, SC," accessed April 24, 2025, <https://pastmaps.com/explore/us/south-carolina/cherokee-county>.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE CHARACTERS

### Captain Vardry McBee

Vardry McBee was a businessman with mining, farming, cattle, hogs, tanning, and surveying holdings. His 1771 300-acre grant was three-and-a-half miles east of the "stockade" and "blockhouse," Fort Thicketty or Anderson. Vardry owned Hannah's Cow Pens, named after his wife, which was mistaken for Saunders' Cow Pens, where the Battle of Cowpens occurred. Another of his holdings was the Limestone Tract and quarry, now on the Limestone College campus. (Geni.com, 2022) (Moss B. G., 1983, 2014)

### Lieutenant Hugh Moore (1750-1833)

Hugh Moore settled beside his brother, Patrick, next to Thicketty Creek around 1768. Their land was just over a mile southwest of Thicketty Fort on North Goucher Creek off today's Sweet Gum Road. Both brothers served under Captain John Nucholls and Lt. William Marchbanks for nine days against the Cherokees beginning February 9, 1771.

As the war caught them up, Patrick and Hugh set out with various Loyalist units to disrupt the livelihoods of their Whig neighbors. They even served under their eldest brother, Colonel John Moore, on a foray through Georgia against the Whigs. After several engagements, including the significant loss of Ramseur's Mill on June 20, 1780, Patrick and Hugh returned home to commandeer and improve Anderson's Fort, now renamed Thicketty Fort. Meanwhile, their elder brother took heat from Lord Cornwallis for not following orders, resulting in the Ramseur's loss.

Upon his narrow escape from Ramseur's Mill, Hugh must have switched sides. After returning to his home in mid-June, Hugh became a Whig. "During the spring of 1780, he was elected lieutenant under Captain Parson and served in Colonel Roebuck's Regiment. He served under Colonels Thomas, Clarke, and Shelby." (Moss B. G., 1983, 2014)

After the war, Hugh married, had three boys, and became a minister. There is no mention of the church under which he served; however, he was a member of the Sims-Marchbanks Meetinghouse before the war. It was the closest church to his property, so Hugh likely served there. Since he switched sides and served as a Whig militiaman, his land would not have been forfeited after the war.



***Silas Leroy McBee cemetery marker  
image retrieved from***

***<https://www.geni.com/people/Silas-McBee/6000000011379717694>.***

### **Private Silas Leroy McBee (1756-1845)**

Silas McBee was fifteen years old when he served as a private under his father, Captain Vardry McBee of the Spartan Regiment, Roebuck's Battalion of Dragoons, in 1780.

His pension application says he moved with his family from Virginia to Thicketty Creek (part of Tryon County, N.C.) in 1767. Silas entered the service as a volunteer in July 1780 near Tate's Ferry under the Command of Colonel Thomas Brandon and in the Company of Captain John Thompson and Lieutenant Josiah Tanner. This was at the Cherokee Ford encampment of Colonel Joseph McDowell. He also saw action at Fort Thicketty and King's Mountain.

In the summer of 1780, while his father (Captain Vardry Echols McBee) was absent serving his country in Sumter's army, Silas McBee was sent by his mother to Ferguson's camp to reclaim a fine horse that some Tories had taken from the McBee plantation; he not only failed to get his horse but was placed under guard; he managed to escape from the British camp, and after hiding out for a week to prevent being recaptured, he set out to join Sumter, but not finding him, he joined Shelby's corps and assisted in taking Captain Moore and 97 Royalists [at Thicketty Fort]; he was with Clarke at Musgrove's Mill; he was also with Sumter for a short time, then joined Colonel James Williams, under whom he fought at the battle of King's Mountain. (Ivey R. A., n.d.) (Draper, 1881) (Allaire, n.d.) (Geni.com, 2022)

### **British Major Patrick Ferguson**

Ferguson was a Scottish officer in the British Army. British General Henry Clinton placed him in command of the Backcountry Loyalists and ordered Lord Cornwallis to clear out the rebel Whigs. (Moss B. G., 1983, 2014) His primary job was recruiting Loyalists in the Carolinas and Georgia and intimidating Whig colonists. (Patrick Ferguson, 2023)

He became famous for designing the innovative breech-loading flintlock called the *Ferguson* rifle. The advantage of such a weapon was the capability of firing three rounds a minute instead of one. If it had made it into production, such a development could have swung the war back in favor of the Crown.

After taking command of the Loyalists, Ferguson quickly established control points throughout the Spartan District. One of those points was Thicketty Fort. (Cann, 2014) Others included Ninety Six Fort and Musgrove's Fort and Mill. His primary Tory training camp was on Fairforest Creek in Jonesville, S.C., also called Camp Hill.



***Major Patrick Ferguson***

*<https://southernfriedcommonsense.blogspot.com/2015/10/patrick-ferguson-british-officer-who.html>*



Interestingly, the Spartan Regiment training camp was at Cedar Springs, only ten miles upstream on the same tributary.

According to Alexander Chesney, Ferguson intended to surround the Patriot contingent sent to take Thicketty Fort and crush them. (Chesney, 1981) Ferguson ordered Captain Moore to hold the fort until the last extremity. It was to give Ferguson time to move his main force. The failure on Moore's part was a severe disappointment.

On October 7, 1780, Ferguson lost the Battle of King's Mountain. He was shot from his horse. Legend has it that he was dragged onto the Patriot side with his foot caught in the stirrup. In a last act of defiance, he fired his pistol and shot the Patriot, demanding his surrender. His body was found riddled with eight bullet holes. (Patrick Ferguson, 2023)

### Tory Captain Patrick "Pad" Moore (1750-1781)

Born in Virginia to Scot Irish parents from Antrim, Ireland, Moore was unusually tall, a shade over six-and-a-half feet, and known as fierce and intimidating. Another term applied to him was "dashing." (Hamilton, 1938) Patrick settled beside his brother, Hugh, next to Thicketty Creek around 1768. Their land was a bit over a mile southwest of Thicketty Fort. Both brothers served under Captain John Nucholls and Lt. William Marchbanks for nine days against the Cherokees beginning February 9, 1771.

As the war caught them up, Patrick and Hugh set out with various Loyalist units to disrupt the livelihoods of their Whig neighbors. They even served under their eldest brother, Colonel John Moore, on a foray through Georgia against the Whigs. After several engagements, including the significant loss of Ramseur's Mill on June 20, 1780, Patrick and Hugh returned home to commandeer and improve Anderson's Fort, now renamed Thicketty Fort. Meanwhile, their elder brother took heat from Lord Cornwallis for not following orders, resulting in the Ramseur's loss.

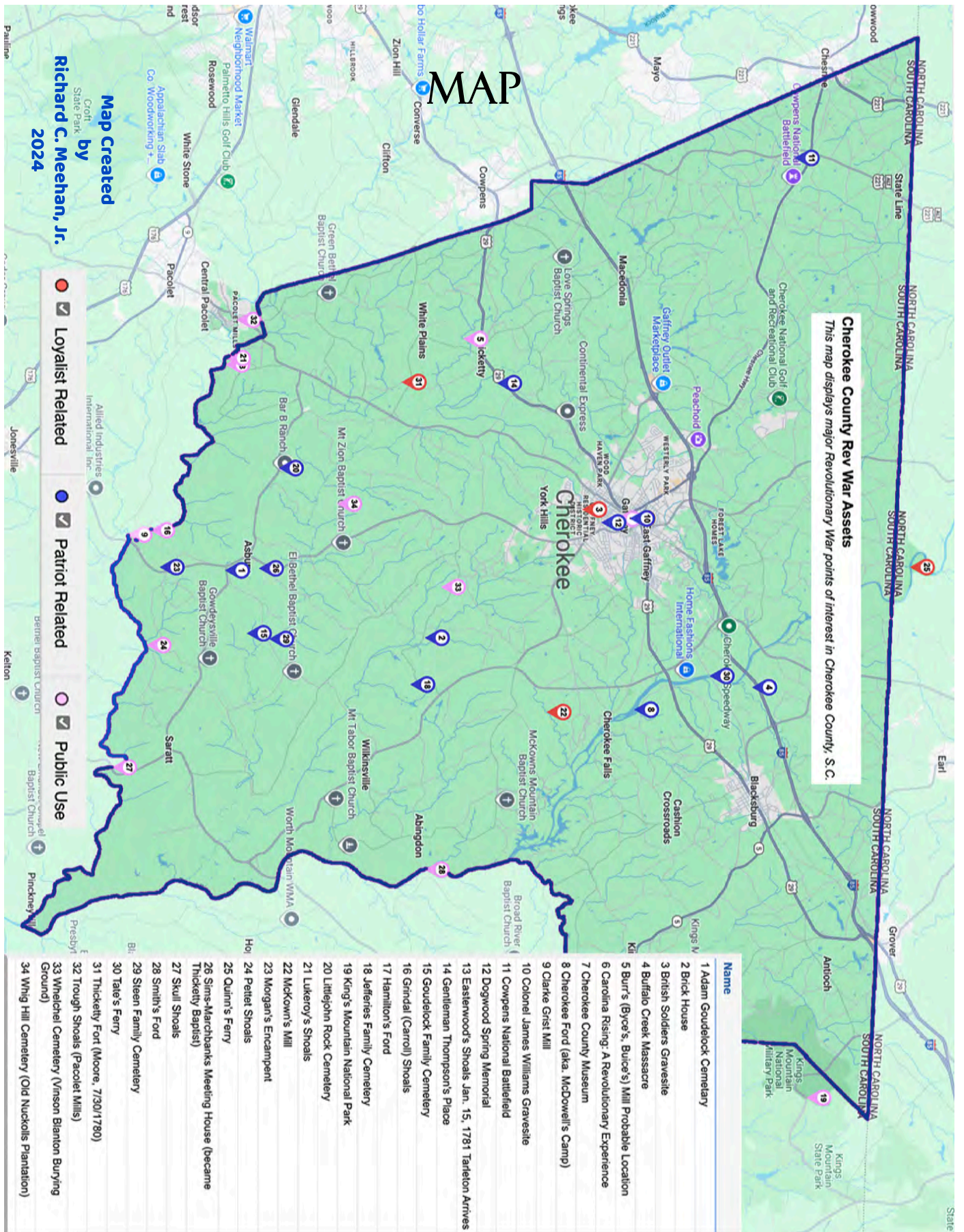
Barely a month later, on July 26, 1780, Patrick gave up the fort without firing a shot, yet another example of disobeying orders in the Moore family. Whig Colonel Isaac Shelby's threat of giving Moore and his company Tarleton's Quarter (meaning "no mercy") if they did not surrender the fort, must have weighed on Patrick's mind after the humiliating defeat of his brother's forces at Ramseur's Mill. Plus, he and Hugh had to flee a party of Whigs trying to capture them after that defeat.

Although Patrick and his company, a unit of the Spartan Regiment of Loyalist Militia, were paroled per the agreement to surrender the fort (meaning the Loyalists could no longer serve the British), Patrick likely broke his parole during the following year. He dropped from sight until July 1781. Reports came from Patriots, who were scouting for Loyalists, that an unusually tall man was captured and killed near Ninety Six. Moore's remains were identified only because of his unusual height.



*Artist Richard C. Meehan, Jr.*







**CHEROKEE HISTORICAL &  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.**

# **Revolutionary War Assets Site Survey**

## **Cherokee County, S.C.**

### **2025**



**Richard C. Meehan, Jr.**