

South Carolina in the American Revolution

ROBERT C. JONES

South
Carolina
and
Georgia in
the
American
Revolution



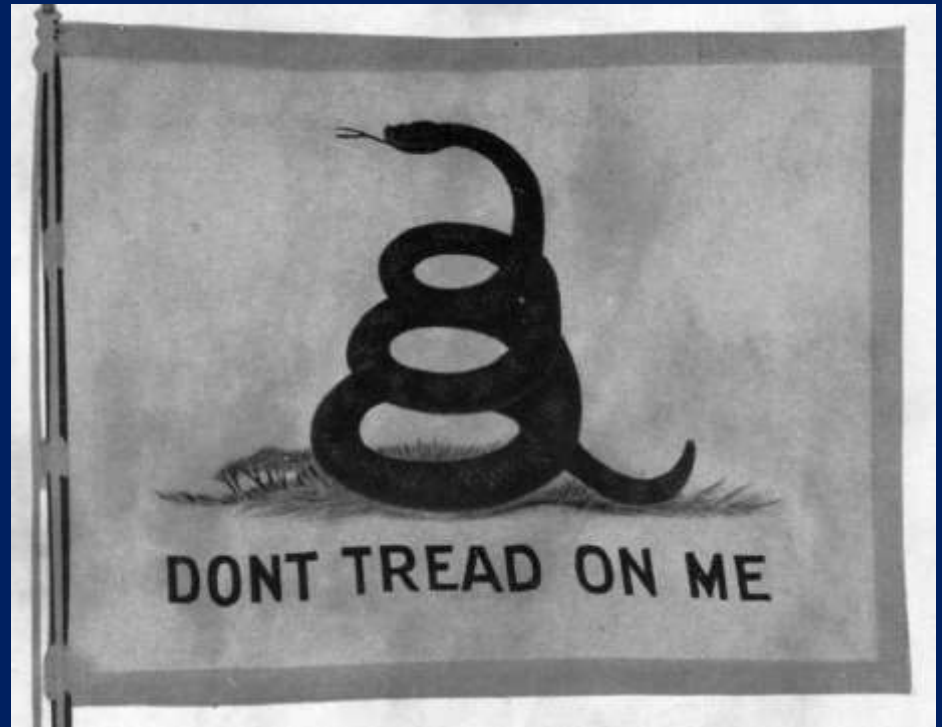
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1774/1775

- ▶ 1774: First Continental Congress. Five South Carolinians attend, including Thomas Lynch, John Rutledge, Christopher Gadsden and Henry Middleton
- ▶ June 1775: SC Provincial Government begins forming the “General Assembly of South Carolina”
- ▶ September 1775: Royal Governor Lord William Campbell leaves Charles Town (Charleston) for the British warship *Tamar*
- ▶ November 19, 1775: Patriot militia fights Loyalists in the First Battle of Ninety Six, resulting in the first Colonial death in South Carolina in the war

1774/1775

- ▶ December 3, 1775:
“Don’t Tread On Me”
flag, designed by
Christopher Gadsden of
the Continental
Congress, is flown on the
Alfred



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1776

- ▶ June 28, 1776: Colonialists under Colonel William Moultrie defeat the British under General Henry Clinton at the *Battle of Sullivan's Island* in Charleston harbor
- ▶ July 4, 1776: Declaration of Independence adopted, with Thomas Heyward, Jr., Arthur Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Edward Rutledge signing it from SC



Colonel William Moultrie
Artist: Charles Willson Peale, 1782
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Fort Moultrie 18-pounders



These 18-pound replicas (1976) mark the spot of Moultrie's palmetto log fort on Sullivan's Island
(Photo by Robert C. Jones)

Moultrie's grave



Moultrie's grave on Sullivan's Island (Photo by Robert C. Jones)

1776/1779

- ▶ July 1776: Cherokee attacks in South Carolina against Colonials, instigated by the British
- ▶ August 12, 1776: The "Ring Fight" (near Tamasse, South Carolina) - Forces under Andrew Pickens are surrounded by 185 Cherokee Indians. Pickens forms a double ring and fires outward.
- ▶ February 5, 1778: South Carolina ratifies the Articles of Confederation (the first state to do so)
- ▶ February 3, 1779: Major General Moultrie defeats British at Port Royal Island, SC
- ▶ June 20, 1779: British victory at the Battle of Stono Ferry, SC (west of Charleston)



Andrew Pickens
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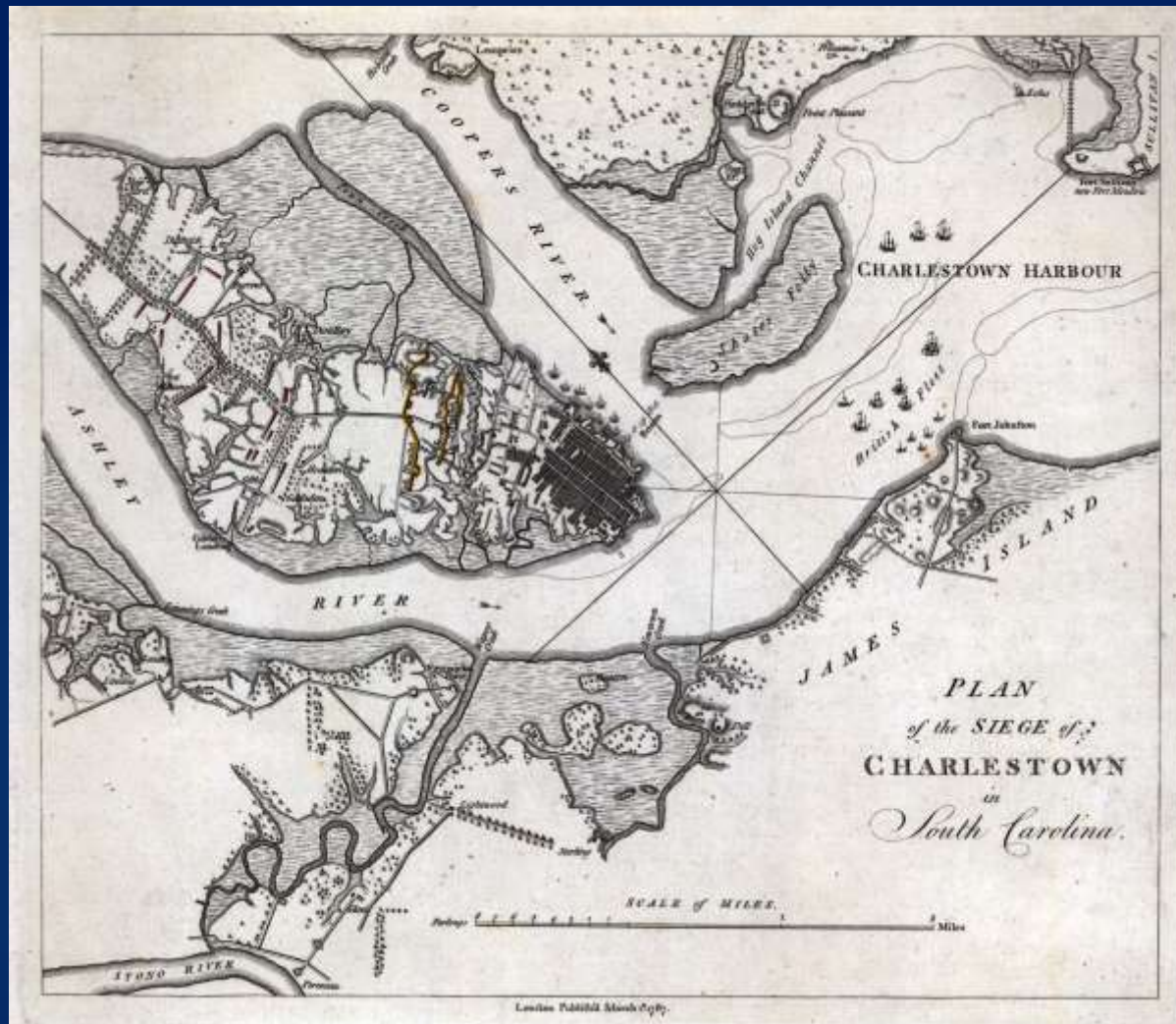
1780

- ▶ May 12, 1780: British defeat General Benjamin Lincoln at Charleston (5,266 captured)
- ▶ May 29, 1780: British victory at Waxhaw Creek. British Colonel Banastre Tarleton may have ordered the killing of Colonial prisoners.



General Benjamin Lincoln
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Charleston siege



Plan of the Siege of Charleston
Library of Congress <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3701sm.gar00004>

1780

- ▶ June 3, 1780: British General Henry Clinton dictates that all Colonial POWs in SC either take up arms against their comrades, or be charged with treason
- ▶ August 6, 1780: Colonial victory at Hanging Rock, SC (Heath Springs, SC)
- ▶ August 16, 1780: British decisively defeat Horatio Gates near Camden, South Carolina (Colonials: 1,900; British: 324)

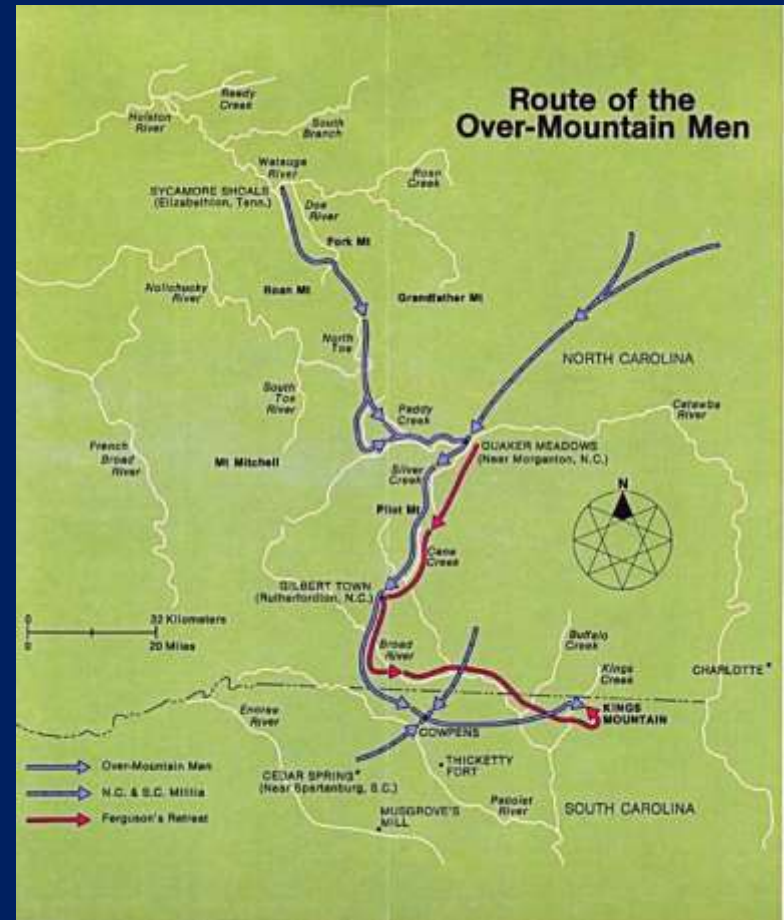
Battle of Camden



Battle of Camden; Death of de Kalb. Engraving from painting by Alonzo Chappel.
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Battle of Kings Mountain

- ▶ October 7, 1780: Troops from north and south Carolina under Colonel Isaac Shelby defeat the British at Kings Mountain, South Carolina. It is one of the turning points of the War.
- ▶ Colonials: 87; British: 1121
- ▶ 600 of the Colonial force were “overmountain men”, from west of the Appalachians



"Route of the Overmountain Men 1780 on their way to the Battle of Kings Mountain"
National Park Service, 1999
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Battle of Kings Mountain



Black and white reproduction of artist Lloyd Branson's Gathering of Overmountain Men at Sycamore Shoals, Tennessee (reproduction 1921)
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Kings Mountain



Engraving depicting the death of British Major Patrick Ferguson at the
Battle of Kings Mountain

Alonzo Chappel, 1828-1887 (artist); Charles Henry Jeens, 1827-1879
(engraver)

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Kings Mountain



U.S. Government monument
(Photo by Robert C. Jones)



Private monument (Photo by
Robert C. Jones)

Search for the Swamp Fox

- ▶ November 1780: Colonel Banastre Tarleton is sent by Cornwallis to find Francis Marion. Tarleton fails, and refers to Marion as that “damn old fox”
- ▶ December 1780: Marion begins using Snow's Island as his base of operations



"General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal",
by John Blake White
Public domain.

1780



"Marion's brigade crossing the Pedee River, S.C.. 1778. On their way to attack the British force under Tarleton"

Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006691581/>
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Greene takes command

- ▶ December 2, 1780: Nathanael Greene
Greene takes control of the Southern Command at Charlotte, North Carolina; he is to answer to no one but the Commander-in-Chief
- ▶ His master plan: capture the fortified British outposts in the interior of South Carolina (Granby, Watson, Ninety-Six, Orangeburgh), and cut off the British supply lines, forcing their retreat to Charleston

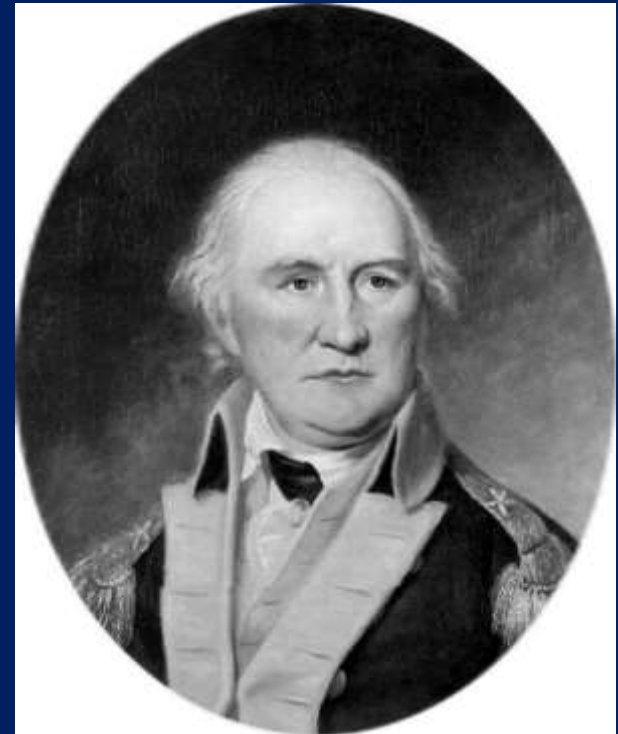


Nathanael Greene

<http://www.archives.gov/research/military/american-revolution/pictures/images/revolutionary-war-080.jpg>
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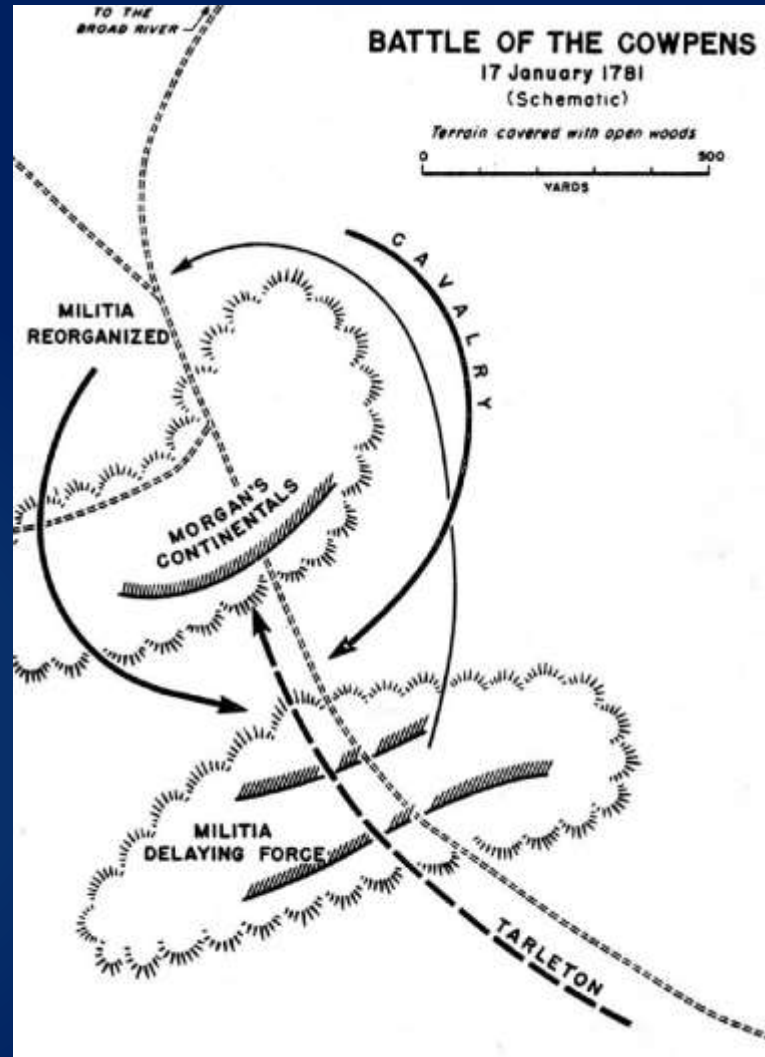
Battle of Cowpens

- ▶ January 17, 1781:
Catherine Moore Barry
warns the local militia
that the British are
coming before the
Battle of Cowpens
(South Carolina)
- ▶ January 17, 1781:
Brigadier General Daniel
Morgan defeats Colonel
Banastre Tarleton and
the British at the Battle of
Cowpens



"Portrait of Daniel Morgan, American general in the
American Revolutionary War"
By Charles Willson Peale (1741–1827). Independence
National Historical Park. Public domain.

Battle of Cowpens



Battle of Cowpens
Public Domain. United States Army Center of Military History.

Battle of Cowpens



"Colonel (William Augustine) Washington at the Battle of Cowpens. January 1781". Copy of print by S. H. Gimber., 1931-19-NARA-532886
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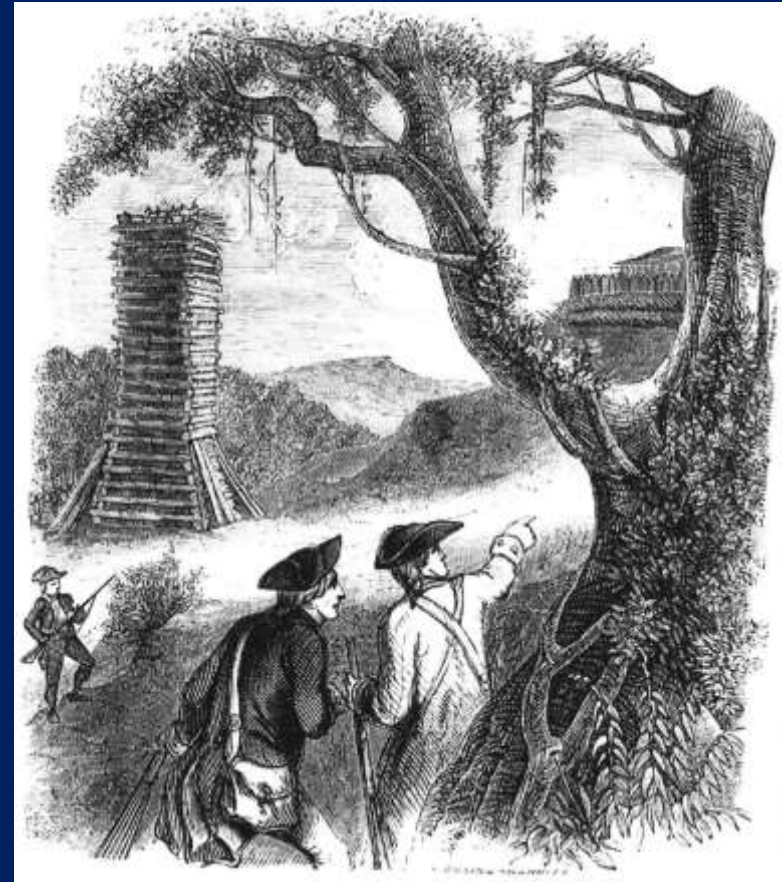
Battle of Cowpens



1932 U.S. Government monument
(Photo by Robert C. Jones)

Siege of Fort Watson

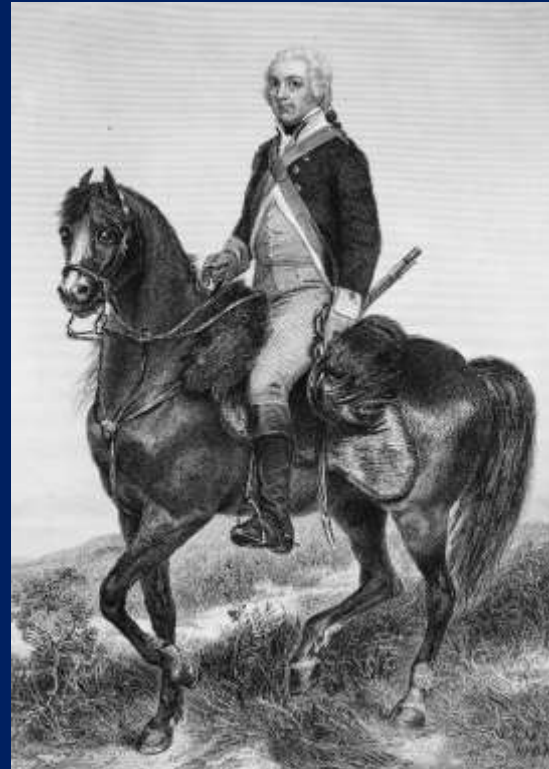
- ▶ April 16/23, 1781: Francis Marion and Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee besiege Fort Watson (near Summerton, SC)
- ▶ Colonials build a tower to shoot down on Fort Watson
- ▶ Colonials cut the water supply, but the British dig a well
- ▶ April 23, 1781: Final assault takes the fort



1879 engraving of the Siege of Fort Watson, showing the Maham Tower. Public domain.

1781

- ▶ April 25, 1781: The British retain the field, but later retreat from nearby Camden at the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, SC
- ▶ May 15, 1781: Lighthorse Harry Lee seizes Fort Granby, SC
- ▶ June 18, 1781: British defeat Nathanael Greene at Ninety Six, SC



Lighthorse Harry Lee
National Archives and Records Administration, 532869
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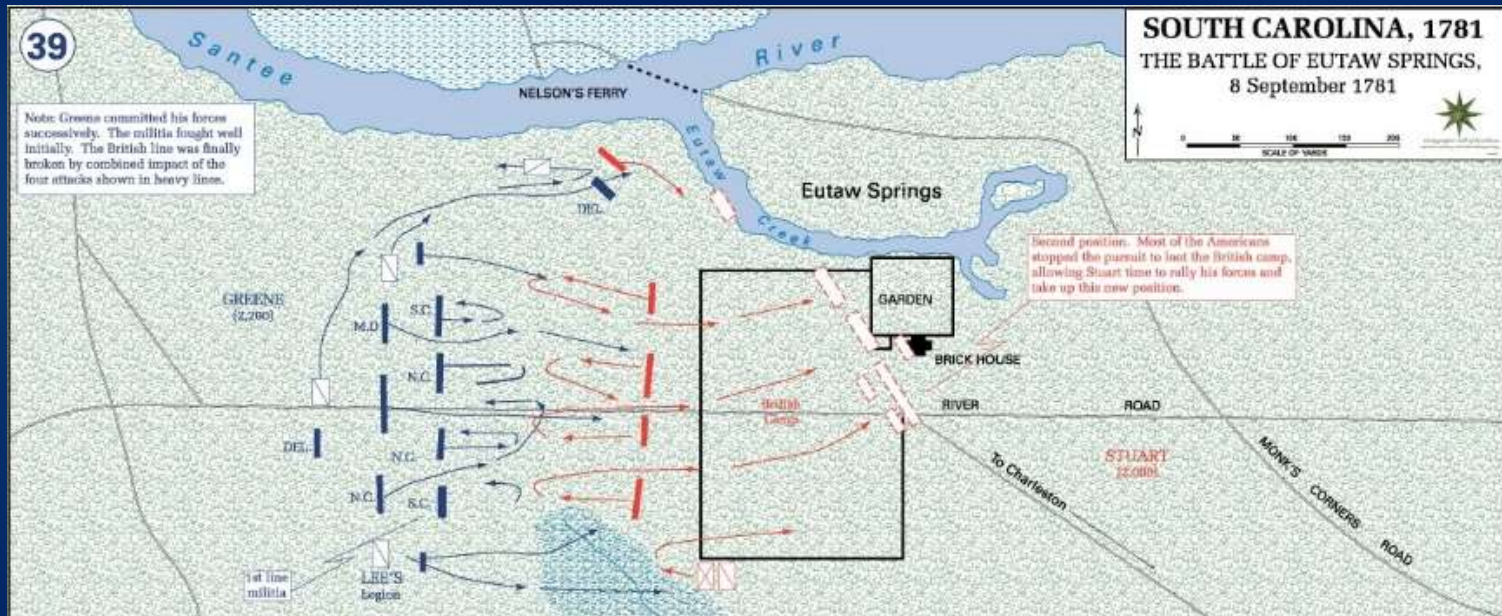
Siege of Ninety Six



"The stockade fort at Ninety-Six National Historic Site, South Carolina, USA"
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1781

- ▶ September 8, 1781: Nathanael Greene forces the British under Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Stewart to retreat to Charleston after the Battle of Eutaw Springs (Eutawville, South Carolina)
- ▶ Greene captures 400 British soldiers picking yams

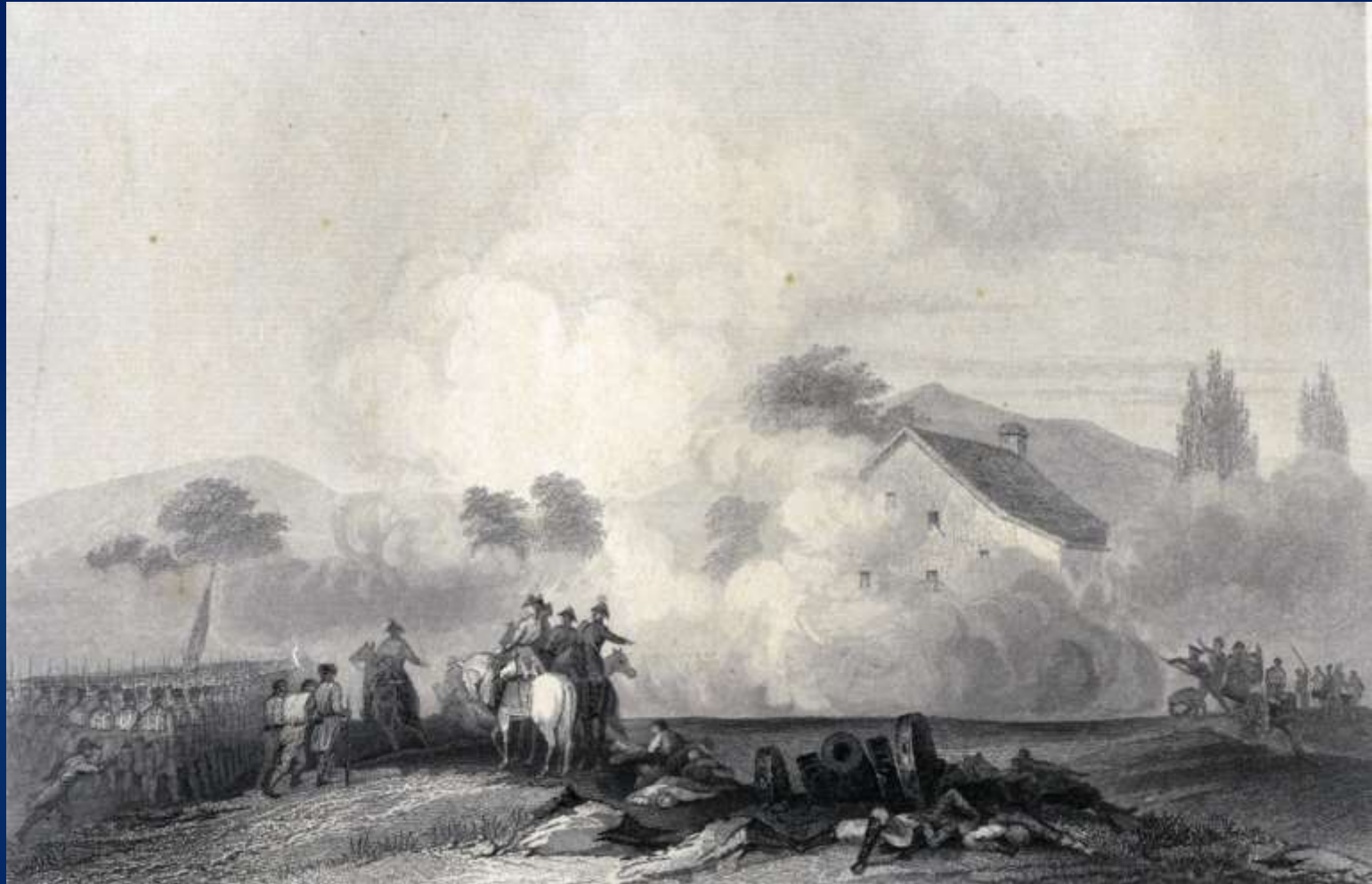


Battle of Eutaw Springs



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Battle of Eutaw Springs



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Battle of Eutaw Springs



Photos by Robert C. Jones

The end of the War

- ▶ October 19, 1781: British troops under Lord Cornwallis surrender to troops under George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia
- ▶ December 14, 1782: The British abandon Charleston, South Carolina, which is quickly occupied by Nathanael Green's forces
- ▶ September 3, 1783: Treaty of Paris officially ends the Revolutionary War

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