

In 1778, around the midpoint of the American Revolutionary War, the British shifted their focus to the southern colonies, known as the Southern Campaign. In South Carolina the Spartan Regiment was a key player in the American Revolutionary War, engaging in many important battles. Spartanburg County was named after the Spartan Regiment whose brave men and women were instrumental in the fight for independence. On Col. John Thomas's flintlock stock, the commander of Spartan Regiment, was a silver 13-point star representing the 13 colonies (as seen in the photo and logo on the front), inscribed with:

"United States We Are One"

These five words demonstrated commitment and indomitable spirit to our newly formed country.

Rifle Image: Col. John Thomas's Flintlock



ABOUT THIS TRAIL

This driving trail gives a flavor of the area's Revolutionary history and is a project of the Spartanburg County 250 Committee in conjunction with the Spartanburg County Historical Association. Some short hikes are involved, so dress in comfortable shoes and clothes to enjoy every location on the tour.



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www.spartanrevwar250.org



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SC 250
ANNIVERSARY
American Revolution

SPARTANBURG COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA



1. DANIEL MORGAN MONUMENT

Morgan Square, 148 W. Main St., Spartanburg 29301
Statue GPS: 34.949377, -81.933086



As one of the original 13 colonies, South Carolina played a pivotal role during the American Revolution. After the surrender of Charles Towne in May 1780, western South Carolina became a hotbed of activity as Patriot militia from across region gathered to oppose the British and their Loyalist allies. The area that became known after the Revolution as Spartanburg saw numerous battles during this time, including some of the most significant battles in the Southern Campaign of the Revolution.

2. WALNUT GROVE PLANTATION

1200 Otts Shoals Road, Roebuck 29376
Near exit 28 on I-26
Sign GPS: 34.840117, -81.968733



Walnut Grove Plantation, home of Charles Moore, was also the childhood home of Kate Moore Barry, who aided Gen. Daniel Morgan prior to the Battle of Cowpens, and Kate's younger brother, Thomas Moore, who fought there. Walnut Grove Plantation also served as a gathering place for local militia. Walnut Grove is operated by the Spartanburg County Historical Association. The home and grounds are open to the public seasonally, and staff is available for tours. The site includes a picnic shelter, restrooms and gift shop.

spartanburghistory.org

3. BATTLE OF MUSGROVE MILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

398 State Park Road, Clinton 29325
Sign GPS: 34.593000, -81.849383
On the right in the pull-off just across the Enoree River Bridge on Highway 56



In August 1780, 200 Patriot militia left their camp on the Broad River and rode under the cover of darkness to surprise an equal number of Loyalist militia camped at Musgrove's Mill on the south bank of the Enoree River. The Patriots lured the British into an ambush, resulting in a significant victory and setting the stage for the Battle of Kings Mountain in October. The state park features interpretive trails, a visitor center, restrooms and full-time staff.

Southcarolinaparks.com/musgrovemill

Image: The Musgrove House by Genie Marshall Wilder, courtesy of Battle of Musgrove Mill State Historic Site

4. THE BLACKSTOCK BATTLEFIELD

599 Monument Road, Enoree 29335
Sign GPS: 34.679300, -81.811050
(Half-mile beyond Palmetto Trail parking area and Kiosk)



In November 1780, Gen. Thomas Sumter and several hundred men under his command stopped on the hills overlooking the Tyger River at Blackstock's Plantation to face Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton as they approached. Using their superior numbers, the height of the hill they occupied and the protected cover of Blackstock's outbuildings, Sumter defeated Tarleton. The site features an information kiosk, parking, battle monument and a spur of the Palmetto Trail along the Tyger River.

Southcarolinaparks.com/musgrovemill

Image: Gen. Thomas Sumter, courtesy New York Public Library

5. THE BATTLE OF KELSEY CREEK

450 Croft State Park Road, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.863314, -81.840449
Half-mile hike along Foster Mill Trail Loop near the bridge



In the spring of 1780, a group of Loyalists advanced on the home of the Thomas family near Kelsey Creek, which was storing Patriot gunpowder and guarded by Capt. John Thomas, Jr. and two dozen others. Learning of the Loyalists' approach, Thomas removed the powder and left a few family members behind to create a diversion. Their steady fire from the house forced Loyalists to withdraw without the gunpowder. The Thomas home site is located near the junction of Fairforest Creek and Kelsey Creek inside Croft State Park. The exact location is not safely accessible.

Southcarolinaparks.com/croft

Image: Monument erected in honor of John Thomas and his wife, Jane, near where the family home stood.

6. THE BATTLE OF CEDAR SPRING

Below Cedar Springs Baptist Church
140 Cedar Springs Place, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.909528, -81.876000



In July 1780, a small force of Patriots gathered under Col. John Thomas, Jr. gathered near Cedar Spring. The British made plans to attack the camp in a nighttime raid, but Thomas' mother, Jane, heard of it and alerted her son. Thomas and his men prepared an ambush near their camp and opened fire on the British, killing and wounding many and scattering the survivors. The spring is on land owned by the S.C. School for the Deaf and the Blind near the Palmetto Trail.

Palmettoconservation.org

7. THE BATTLE OF THE PEACH TREES

Near the intersection of Dogwood Club and Old Petrie Roads, Spartanburg 29302
(Across from 680 Delmar Road)
Sign GPS: 34.924633, -81.862750



Continuing their attempts to control the region, British forces under Maj. Patrick Ferguson were in pursuit of several hundred Patriots under Cols. Elijah Clarke and Isaac Shelby. In August 1780, Ferguson detached a small group to attack the Patriots who occupied a Peach Orchard near Cedar Spring. The British were repulsed after savage, up-close fighting. Clarke and Shelby feared a follow-up attack and retreated north toward Lawson's Fork Creek.

Image: Col. Elijah Clarke was known as one of the fiercest fighters on the Southern frontier during the American Revolution, courtesy Hargrett Rare Books & Manuscripts Library at the University of Georgia.

8. THE BATTLE OF WOFFORD'S IRON WORKS

103 Emma Cudd Road, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.941767, -81.840133



After the Battle of the Peach Trees, Cols. Clarke and Shelby retreated north to avoid another confrontation with Maj. Ferguson. He caught them at Wofford's Iron Works on Lawson's Fork Creek but couldn't successfully engage because the Patriots were mounted. The Patriots continued their retreat and the British returned to their camp at Cedar Spring. This running battle is referred to by several names, including "2nd Cedar Spring," "The Battle of the Peach Trees," and "The Battle of Wofford's Iron Works." The precise sites aren't known since Wofford's Iron Works was destroyed by Loyalist "Bloody Bill" Cunningham in 1781.

Image: Co. Isaac Shelby, courtesy Kentucky Historical Society

9. THE BATTLE OF COWPENS

4001 Chesnee Highway, Gaffney 29341
Sign GPS: 35.131067, -81.797067
(Parking about a mile past the park entrance at Highway 11 and Hayes Road)



In December 1780, Gen. Daniel Morgan moved a veteran force of American Continentals and militia into the area west of the Broad River, in modern-day Spartanburg and Cherokee counties. To counter the threat, British Commander Lord Cornwallis sent Lt. Col. Tarleton. On the morning of Jan. 17, 1781, Morgan stood against Tarleton at Cowpens. The resulting battle was a complete victory for the Patriots and stands as one of the most significant events in American history. Cowpens National Battlefield has a visitor center, interpretive trails an auto tour and full time staff.

nps.gov/cowp

Image: The Battle of Cowpens by H. Charles McBarron, courtesy Cowpens National Battlefield

10. THE BATTLE OF EARLE'S FORD

Highway 14 east of exit 1 on I-26, Landrum 29356
Sign GPS: 35.190191, -82.143031
(Near the Pacolet River Bridge)



In July 1780, a small group of Loyalists under Capt. Dunlap left their post at Fort Prince to attack Patriots on the north side of the Pacolet River near Earle's Ford. Arriving early in the morning on July 15, Dunlap and his men crossed the lightly-guarded ford and surprised the Patriots closest to the river. The remainder of the camp formed for battle and Dunlap retreated after realizing he was badly outnumbered.

Image: The Daughters of the American Revolution erected this monument near the location of the Battle of Earle's Ford.

11. WOOD'S FORT

1904 Gap Creek Road, Greer 29651
(Intersection of S.C. 908 and Highway 357)
Sign GPS: 34.971467, -82.199800



The American Revolution provided an opportunity for pre-war conflicts and disputes to come to the surface in sometimes brutal ways. One of these incidents occurred in July 1776 when a party of Loyalists and Cherokees raided the Hampton home near the Middle Tyger River, killing several family members before the survivors fled to Wood's Fort, a pre-Revolutionary fort in the area. The fort was built to protect colonial families during the warfare in 1775 and 1776 with Cherokee Nation, allied with the British. It was re-fortified in 1780.

Image: Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton was a member of the Hampton family whose home was attacked by the Cherokees in 1776, courtesy New York Public Library

12. THE BATTLE OF FORT PRINCE

Off Fort Prince Road, Wellford 29385
(In the vicinity of the 350 block of Fort Prince Road)
Sign GPS: 34.964185, -82.050390



Following the British attack at Earle's Ford, a small group of Patriots under Capt. Edward Hampton pursued Capt. James Dunlap. Hampton caught Dunlap and began driving him and his men toward the British-held post at Fort Prince. Upon reaching the outskirts of the fort and its 300 British soldiers, Hampton and his men withdrew. Fearing an attack by a larger Patriot force, the British soon abandoned Fort Prince. The fort was one of several pre-Revolutionary forts built near the Indian boundary line, which is now the Greenville-Spartanburg county line.

Image: This monument was placed in a cove of oak trees near the fort and is surrounded by private property today.