

**SOUTH CAROLINA'S  
Revolutionary War Battlefields**

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**SOUTH CAROLINA'S  
Revolutionary War  
Battlefields  
A TOUR GUIDE**

**R. L. Barbour**



**PELICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
Gretna 2002

*This guide is in memory of and  
dedicated to Arnold G. Stewart*

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## Preface and Acknowledgments

When Americans think about the Revolutionary War, minutemen and Massachusetts automatically come to mind. In fact, more Revolutionary War battles took place in South Carolina than in any other state. Approximately 250 battles and engagements can be documented, although some historians estimate the figure to be closer to 300. And this is just armed conflicts. The number of American Revolutionary War-related sites is much higher. Put simply, South Carolina is to the Revolution what Virginia is to the War for Southern Independence.<sup>1</sup>

Of the 250 battle sites in South Carolina, about 100 are documented well enough to be locatable today. As you might guess, many sites have been lost to urbanization and development. Others are deep in a woods or out in a cotton field; a few are under the waters of one of the state's manmade lakes; many are on private property. The sites included in this guide were chosen based on three criteria: they are associated with a good battle story, they are accessible by car or on foot, and there is something to see when you get there. In one case, no battle took place at the site—Francis Marion's grave. As you visit battle sites, you will become familiar with General Marion and his exploits. He is such an important figure in South Carolina's history that his final resting place could not be overlooked, and the exception seemed justified.

Serious students can appreciate the past simply through the written word. For most people, however, history truly comes alive when one can be physically present at the location where an event took place. This guide is for serious students, casual sightseers, and everyone in between.

In the process of conducting research for this book, I drew upon the resources of a valuable yet largely untouched source—county historical societies and the local historians associated with them. I owe a debt of gratitude to all those who assisted me in locating battle sites and who opened

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their counties' collections to me. I would especially like to thank Rick Hatcher, chief historian, Fort Moultrie/Fort Sumter National Monument; Dr. Stephen R. Wise, curator of the museum at the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina; Wofford E. Malphrus and Curtis Smart, Jasper County Historical Society; Horace Rudisill, Darlington County; Tommy Lett, curator, Marion County Museum; Susan Starnes, South Carolina Cotton Museum, Bishopville; Agnes Corbett, Camden Archives & Museum; Laurie Robinson, director, Old Edgefield District Archives; Jackie Bartley, Aiken County Historical Museum; Ellen Jenkins, Barnwell County Public Library; Bob Edmunds, McCormick County; Eric K. Williams, chief park ranger, Ninety Six National Historic Site; Arnold Stone, Newberry County; David George, Laurens County; Chris Revels, chief park ranger, Kings Mountain National Military Park; Wade B. Fairey, executive director, Historic Brattonsville; Hurley Badders, Pendleton District Historical and Recreation Commission; Mike Foley, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; and Ty Houck, park superintendent, Old Dorchester State Park.



## How to Use This Guide

This guide will lead you to South Carolina's Revolutionary War battlefields. It is neither a comprehensive history of that war nor of any of the battles included herein. To further your knowledge of the subject, refer to the bibliography at the end of this guide for more reading material.

These battle synopses are meant to be read on site, although the five National Park Service sites all have visitor centers with orientation films, exhibits, maps, and ranger programs that will be integral to your visit.

Although the war spanned nearly seven years, most of the battles in South Carolina took place in 1780 and 1781. However, the terminology, rather than the dates, seems to cause the most difficulty for students of the war. Troops were known by their military, political, national, and colloquial nomenclature. Here, then, is a simple chart to help keep them straight:

<i>American</i>	<i>British</i>
Patriots	Loyalists
Whigs	Tories
Militia and Continentals	Redcoats

Bear in mind that the Loyalists were Americans fighting for the British, whereas the Patriots were fighting for independence *from* the British.

You will be visiting four types of sites: 1) National Park Service sites at major battlefields, 2) historic towns and villages, primarily Brattonsville and Camden (an NPS affiliate), 3) state parks/sites such as Eutaw Springs, Fort Dorchester, and Francis Marion's grave, and 4) bridges and ferries, where many encounters took place due to the fact that troops became bottlenecked at river crossings, making them easy targets for the enemy.

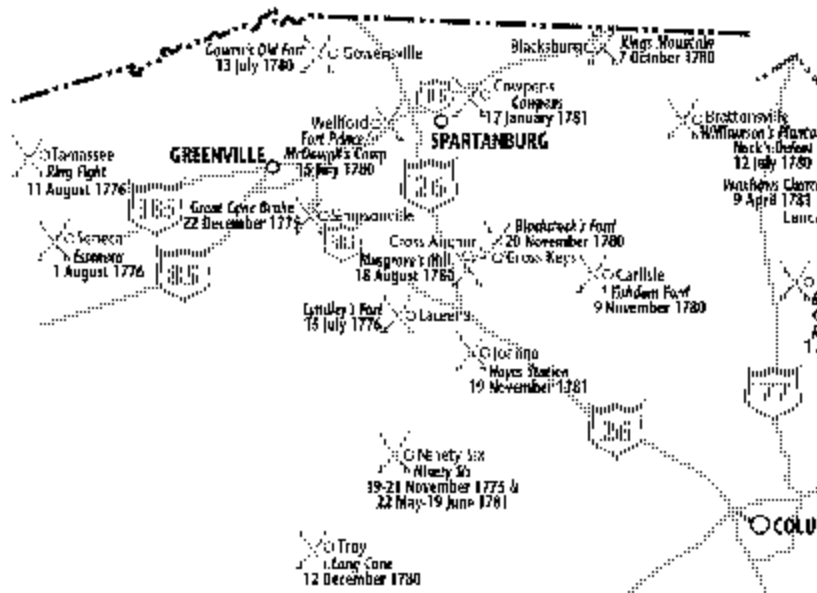
The sites in this book are arranged chronologically by the date of the engagement. The dates of some battles are

uncertain. The date found in the majority of sources is listed in this guide for each site. American commanders are listed first; British commanders are listed after the semicolon. Abbreviations for casualties are as follows: k—killed, w—wounded, c—captured, m—missing. Directions to each site begin with a city or town that can be found on the state highway map distributed free of charge at South Carolina Welcome Centers and published by the Department of Transportation. The abbreviation “SR” in the directions indicates a state road.

State highway markers are found at or near many sites. A guide to those markers is available from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Some of these markers have been knocked down or are missing. Therefore, the granite markers placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution are more reliable. These markers are the focal point of many of the battle sites you will visit on your journey throughout the beautiful and historic state of South Carolina.

A word of warning is in order to all who visit these sites. Your journey will take you through woods, fields, swamps, creeks, lakes, and rivers. While you admire the beauty, always be mindful of where you are walking. South Carolina is home to many varieties of snakes, some of them poisonous. Although snake bites are rare, look before you step. Also, alligators abound in the lowcountry—the area from the coast up to Lake Marion. As wild animals, they generally keep their distance from people. However, *do not*, under any circumstances, feed an alligator. This may provoke an attack not only from that particular alligator but from its future progeny as well, as over time these animals will associate people with food. And finally, you will be traveling along many dirt roads of varying condition. If you are driving a vehicle with low clearance, be careful where you drive, stop, and park. Assistance may not be readily or easily available if you are far off the beaten track. Common-sense precautions will help you enjoy your Revolutionary adventure!

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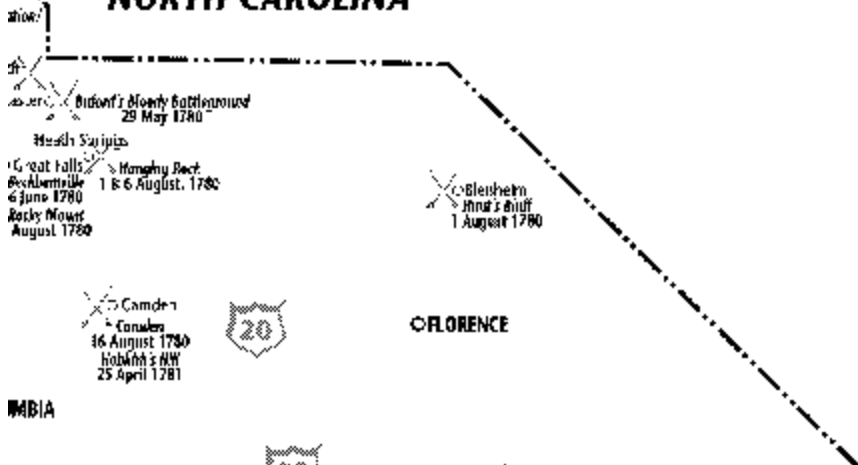


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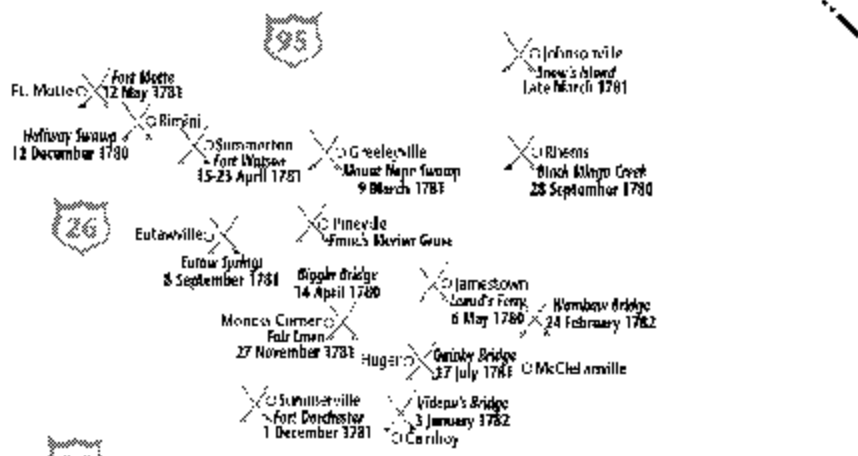


**GEORGIA**

# NORTH CAROLINA



# FLORENCE



# CHARLESTON



# ATLANTIC OCEAN