

The Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

Vol. 1, No. 1

September 2004

Welcome to our first newsletter, "The Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution", dedicated to the study of the War for American Independence in the Southern Department from 1760 to 1789. We want to encourage the exchange of information on the Southern Campaigns' battle sites, their location, preservation, historic signage and interpretation, artifacts and archaeology, as well as the personalities, military tactics, units, logistics, strategy and the political leadership of the region. We will highlight professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation to encourage a dynamic exchange of information. All are invited to submit articles, pictures, documents, events, and suggestions. We will feature battles and skirmishes, documents, maps, artifacts, Internet links, and other people involved in research.

Charles B. Baxley, editor

In This Edition:

- Research and Notes on Gen. Thomas Sumter's attack on Rocky Mount (July 31, 1780)
- Musgrove Mill State Historic Site celebrates 10,000 visitors its first year in operations
- Battle of Camden Research and Site Preservation Project Update
- Book Review:

Nothing But Blood and Slaughter, The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume One, 1771-1779 by Patrick J. O'Kelley

- Featured Southern Campaigns Researcher: Patrick J. O'Kelley
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Visit Historic Camden and drive the new Battle of Hobkirk's Hill tour

Next Issue: Current Research on the Battle of the Waxhaws, "Buford's Massacre"
(May 30, 1780)

Editor's Notes

In pursuit of my hobby of understanding the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, work on battlefield preservation and interpretation, and building on my most incomplete education, I have met wonderful persons of the same interest. My first purpose of this venture is to share findings and facts (and opinions), and fellowship with others who are interested in learning about the Revolution in the South. Since beginning this personal journey about ten years ago, I have made many great friends, both professional and amateur historians, who have freely shared their research, ideas and talents along with dedicated re-enactors who research to bring our heritage to life and demonstrate forgotten arts. Every time I meet another enthusiast, I learn of a new map, collection, archive, letter, order book, thesis, website, or researcher that helps my discovery. With this effort, we can establish a convenient forum to connect, collect, share, and archive our research, ideas, friends, and helpful contacts.

Others looking at these Revolutionary people and their actions have amassed extensive personal research files. In our pursuit, I will help record and broadcast obscure records, documents, maps, books, papers, and archaeological reports all resources for understanding what happened when, where and to whom in the Southern Campaigns. Archives, personal collections and libraries, all with key contacts, are invaluable resources to researchers. This resource will be available for all to add to their connections, discoveries and interpretations.

In working with the Battle of Camden site preservation and interpretation, I have met dedicated amateur archeologists and relic collectors. Tension between these “diggers” and professional archaeologist and some property owners can be great; however, I have nevertheless found these artifact collectors dedicated researchers, respectful of the contribution of the Patriot, Loyalist, British, “Hessian”, and French soldiers and their sacrifices, and often to be the only people who can actually put these battles on the ground. It is extremely important to memorialize and integrate their work with the documentary archives to get a better understanding of these actions. We can document and visit the actual sites and put these actions on the ground before the first metal detected discoveries are lost.

Many Revolutionary War sites have been unintentionally obscured by development due to their owners' lack of awareness of their locations and historical significance. We owe a great debt to the SAR and DAR chapters and local societies who placed granite on these sites, but this task is far from done. Our research and publication can fight this ignorance. Private landowners can be great stewards of historical sites and where appropriate, governmental or private land trust intervention on a local level can be initiated. With this interchange, we will connect with the person who has actual knowledge of artifacts, legends and community traditions concerning the geography of this great struggle and put the Revolution on Southern ground.

Most importantly, this is not Charles Baxley's newsletter or a peer reviewed academic journal; it is a shared open forum for all fellow cohorts. Your input, criticism, contribution, and support are greatly appreciated. I will keep each issue somewhat focused. We will gather research materials for publication to help build your files around an event, person, place, or theme. As I am not an accomplished engaging writer, editor, credentialed historic researcher, talented cartographer, or graphic artist all I can offer is to serve as your catalyst for sharing ideas, research and personal connections in our common pursuit.

It is important to give proper credit where credit is due. I claim no copyrights on these materials and I assume copyrights are always reserved to the authors. I often edit old documents for easier reading and insert comments as to alternative dates, modern punctuation, and proper name spellings.

If you do not want to be on our mailing list, just let me know. Hopefully, my law practice and the quality of your contributions will allow a monthly publication schedule. My Revolutionary War files contain about a year's worth of materials. I do not plan any subscription fee at this time, but I solicit your voluntary contributions in proportion to your evaluation of the product. Currently, the newsletter will be duplicated and mailed; however, it will likely eventually evolve into an electronic publication to save printing and postage costs. Let me know your email address and preferred medium. Better graphics are desirable and a volunteer with layout experience would be great. Please send me a few names, addresses and email contacts of persons you know who are interested in the Southern Campaigns.

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Documentary Resources and Notes on Gen. Thomas Sumter and the North and South Carolina Militias attack on the British Forward Outpost at Rocky Mount, South Carolina (July 31 or August 1, 1780)

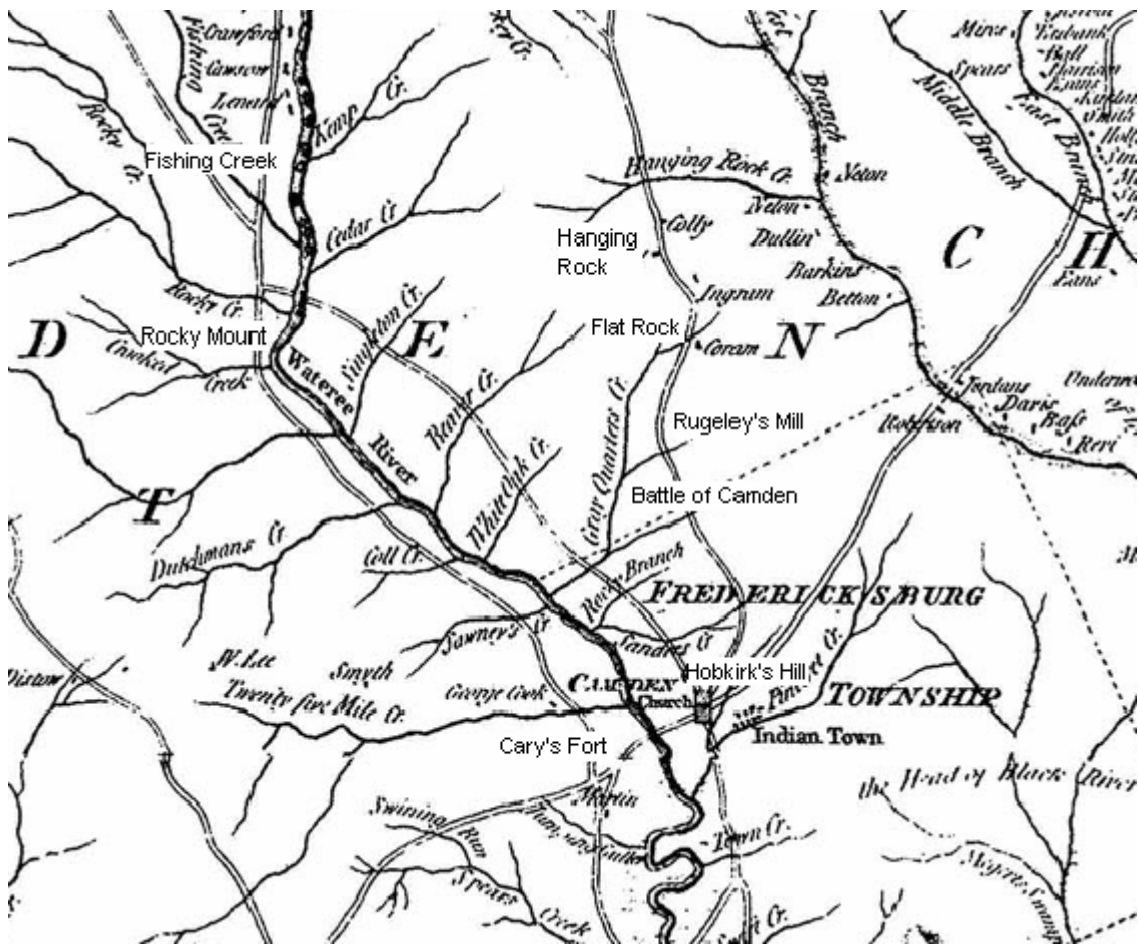
Gen. Thomas Sumter, Commandant, South Carolina Militia from a portrait by Charles W. Peale

In May 1780 the Commander of the Southern Department, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, surrendered his patriot army to Gen. Henry Clinton along with Charleston, the seat of the South Carolina's government. The South Carolina militia, organized under the rebel Council of Safety in 1775, was battle hardened, well-led and mobilized to fight the triple threats from unfriendly Cherokee Indians stirred to action by British agents, British invaders and the civil war between the loyalist and patriot militias. From the chaos of the fall of the State Capital and the flight of rebel Gov. John Rutledge to North Carolina in May 1780, Thomas Sumter, former Lt. Col. and commander of the South Carolina's 2d Regiment of Riflemen and later Colonel in South Carolina's Continental Line, was elected general of the South Carolina militia on June 15, 1780 by his peers. Sumter's appointment and brigadier's commission was not formalized by South Carolina's rebel Gov. John Rutledge until October 6, 1780.

The British controlled East Florida throughout the Revolution from their base at St. Augustine. After the British's successful capture of Savannah and coastal Georgia in December 1778 and its defense in 1779 and the capitulation of Charleston in May 1780, to pacify and restore Crown rule of the South Carolina and Georgia backcountry, to recruit provincial troops and loyalist militias, and to poise an invasion of North Carolina and Virginia, the British established a ring of bases in the interior on important communications routes at Augusta, Ninety Six, Camden and Georgetown. To advance towards North Carolina and to protect these bases forward positions were taken at Rocky Mount on the Catawba River, Hanging Rock on the Great Waxhaw Road, and at the Cheraws on the Pee Dee River. To begin the push of the British out of the Carolina backcountry Gen. Sumter and his colonels decided to attack the British forward fortified outpost at Rocky Mount, South Carolina with a coordinated diversionary attack on the British post 15 miles east at Hanging Rock. Rocky Mount is located just south of modern Town of Great Falls on the west side of the Wateree (Catawba) River in Fairfield County.

American Forces: Commanded by Gen. Thomas Sumter (Sumpter) with estimated 500-600 men including units from the South Carolina Militia Regiments of Cols. Andrew Neale (variously found spelled as Neel, Neal, Neil or Neile), William Bratton, William Hill, and Edward Lacey and North Carolina Militia commanded by Col. Robert Irwin (Ervin). Casualties: 3 killed, 6 wounded, and 2 captured.

British Forces: Commanded by Lt. Col. George Trumbull with estimated 150-300 men including the New York Volunteers Regiment of provincial troops and South Carolina loyalist militia. Casualties: 12 killed or wounded and 29 captured.



From Henry Mouzon's map of North and South Carolina with locations of 1780-1781 battles; published in 1775.

ATTACK ON ROCKY MOUNT (excerpt from Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton)

An instance of treachery which took place about this time ruined all confidence between the (British) regulars and the (local Loyalist) militia. The inhabitants in the districts of the Enoree and Tyger Rivers had been enrolled in the loyalist South Carolina militia since the siege of Charles Town, under the orders of Col. Floyd. Col. Andrew Neal, the former commanding officer of this South Carolina militia regiment, had fled out of the province for his persecution of the loyalists. Lt. Col. John Lisle (Lysle), who had belonged to the same militia corps, and who had been banished to the islands, availing himself of the proclamation to exchange his parole for a certificate of his being a good citizen, was made second in command of this regiment. As soon as the battalion was equipped by the British with arms and ammunition, Lt. Col. Lisle carried the regiment to Col. Neal who had joined Col. Thomas Sumter's South Carolina militia command which was camped with the Catawba Indians.

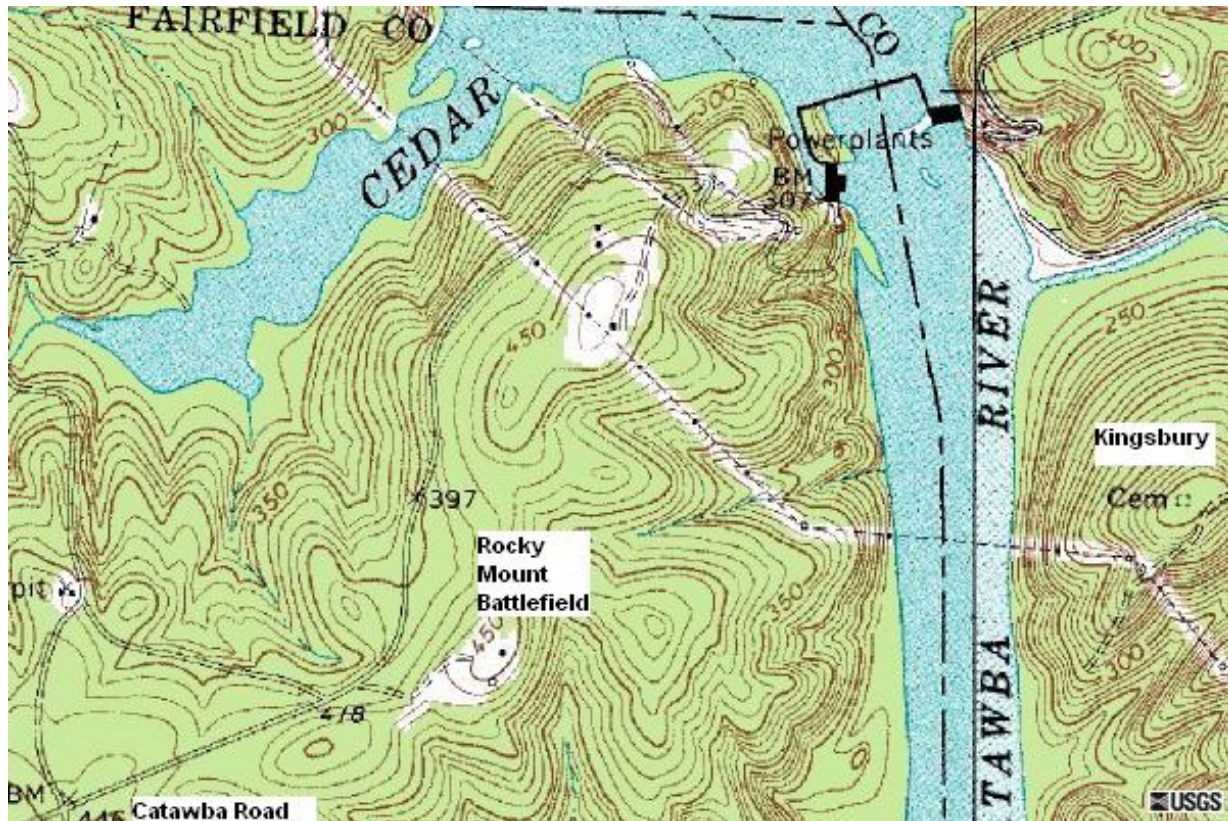
With Col. Neal's reinforcement added to his former numbers, Col. Sumter desired to attack some of the British posts on the frontier. Having gained the necessary intelligence about the British post, Col. Sumter directed his efforts against the loyalist corps at Rocky Mount.

Near the end of July, 1780, Col. Sumter crossed the Catawba River to the West side with about nine hundred men and advanced South upon Lt. Col. George Turnbull, British commander at Rocky Mount, whose force was composed of one-hundred and fifty New York Volunteers provincials and as many South Carolina loyalist militia. The defenses of Rocky Mount consisted of two log houses, a loop-holed building and abbatiss placed upon an eminence which commanded a view of the neighboring country.

Col. Sumter having no cannon to destroy the abbatiss or the buildings selected some of his bravest followers to remove the abbatiss and to endeavor to set fire to the buildings, while his troops, under cover of the trees and rocks, on the declivity of the mountain, maintained a heavy fire upon the Rocky Mount garrison. After three attacks, in the last of which some of the forlorn hope penetrated within the abbatiss, the Americans retreated with loss and precipitation.

In the defense of the post at Rocky Mount, Lt. Col. George Turnbull had one officer killed and one wounded, and about ten men killed and wounded.

Excerpt from Banastre Tarleton, *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, (1787; reprint, North Stratford, NH: Ayer Company Publishers, Inc., 1999), Chapter II, pp. 93-94 and edited by Charles B. Baxley.



Excerpt from USGS 7.5 minute topographical map, Great Falls Quad.

The Post at Rocky Mount Attacked (excerpt from William R. Davie)

Cols. Thomas Sumter and Andrew Neal with a number of the South Carolina Refugees (embodied militia) and Col. Robert Irwin with 300 of the Mecklenburg North Carolina Militia rendezvoused near Maj. William Richardson Davie's camp about the last day of July, 1780. A meeting was immediately held by the officers to fix upon a proper object to strike at while this volunteer force was collected. The British outposts at Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock presented themselves as not only the most important at the time but lying within the Patriot's reach and strength. It was finally agreed Col. Sumter should march with the South Carolina militia and the North Carolinians under Col. Irwin to attack Rocky Mount while Maj. Davie made a diversionary attack to engage the attention of the British and loyalist corps garrisoned at Hanging Rock. Their detachments marched the same evening. The defenses of Rocky Mount consisted of two log houses designed for defense and a loop-holed building and the whole secured by a strong abatis. The British post at Rocky Mount was considerably elevated and surrounded by cleared grounds. Col. Sumter arrived before the Rocky Mount post early the next day (August 1, 1780), some small parties of rifle men were advanced under the cover of rocks and trees and kept up a fire upon the Houses. Several units of Sumter's detachment marched repeatedly through the old field to the attack the British defenses with great intrepidity, but were repulsed by the heavy fire of the Rocky Mount garrison. Various strategies were considered and tried in vain to set the garrison's buildings on fire. Finally, having no artillery the Patriots gave up the attempt of taking the post at Rocky Mount. Col. Neal lost his life in one of the attacks near the abatis. Col. Neal was an influential enterprising officer whose death was much lamented. The loss was "was otherwise inconsiderable four or five privates killed or wounded". The retreat of Col. Sumter's corps was effected without interception by the British.

Excerpt from *William R. Davie, The Revolutionary War Sketches of William R. Davie*, Blackwell Robinson, editor (Raleigh: NC Division of Archives and History, 1976) and edited by Charles B. Baxley.

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To visit the Rocky Mount battlefield turn onto Catawba Road (S-20-20) from US Highway 21, just south of the Fairfield – Chester County line, proceed east about 2.4 miles. The granite historic marker is on the right side of the road. The precise location of the fortified buildings attacked by Gen. Sumter are unknown although Revolutionary War era relics have been recovered from the area 150 yards north of the Barkley/Johnson house. I know of no formal archaeological surveys of this area. The old town site of Rocky Mount and the Barkley (Johnson) house now in ruins, as are mentioned in Lossing, are about 200 yards east of (behind) the monument on private property. The house, abandoned, burned in about 2001 leaving only the foundation and three chimneys standing. There are only a few foundation ruins left of the Rocky Mount community. Gen. Sherman's troops camped at Rocky Mount during his southern tour. The abandoned town site of about 11 acres is not legally protected and is located on private property. The Congaree Land Trust owns a private conservation easement on some adjoining property to the east of the town site. Trespassing on private property is illegal in South Carolina.

At the end of the paved road is Duke Power Company's Cedar Creek Dam and Stumpy Pond Reservoir and the remnants of the 1820-1835 Rocky Mount Canal, designed by Col. John (Johann) Christian Senf (senf is German for mustard), British Gen. Johnny Burgoyne's "Hessian" engineer. Col. Senf, after being captured at Saratoga, New York, switched sides and served in the Southern Department under Gen. Horatio Gates in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Col. Senf's papers are at the New York Historical Society. Senf engineered and built the 22-mile long Santee Canal, connecting the Santee and Cooper Rivers beginning in 1793. This was America's first summit canal. Senf lived his later years at Great Falls, SC where he died in 1808. He is buried in an unknown location, probably on an island created by impounding the Catawba River for hydro electrical production in the early 1900s.



Excerpt from Mills' Atlas of Fairfield District, surveyed in 1820 and published in 1825

Battle of Rocky Mount (excerpt from Benson J. Lossing)

The defeat of Loyalist Capt. Christian Huck at Williamson's Plantation had an important bearing upon the future condition of South Carolina. It encouraged the Whigs, and many joined the standard of Col. Thomas Sumter; while the Tories, abashed, were fearful and silent. Strengthened by daily recruits, until Col. Sumter had more than six hundred men under his command, Sumter determined to attack the royal post at Rocky Mount. The massacre of Col. Abraham Buford's command at the Waxhaws on May 29, 1780, had fired the Whigs with a desire of revenge and Col. Sumter felt strong enough to attack a force known to be a third larger than his own. The post at Rocky Mount was commanded by Lt. Col. George Turnbull with a garrison of one hundred and fifty New York Volunteers provincial troops and some South Carolina militia. These were stationed principally in three buildings, built upon a slope surrounded by a ditch and abatis and encircled by an open wood.

On the thirtieth day of July 1780, Col. Thomas Sumter's corps left Maj. William Richardson Davie's camp, at the parting of the roads for Rocky Mount and Landsford, and crossing the Catawba River at Blair's Ford and proceeded cautiously, but swiftly, toward Rocky Mount. Maj. William R. Davie, in the mean while, was to attack the outposts of the British camp at Hanging Rock, east of the Catawba, twelve miles distant. Sumter was accompanied by Cols. Andrew Neil, Robert Irvin and Edward Lacey, and Captain John M'Clure and some of the Gastons. At an early hour of the day, Col. Sumter appeared with his whole force upon the crown of the hill now occupied by the servants' houses of Mrs. Barkley. The British commander, warned of his approach by a Tory, was prepared to receive him, and though the Americans poured severe volleys upon the British fortification, they produced little effect. Having no artillery, the Patriots resorted to means for dislodging the enemy, seldom used in war. Leaping the abatis after three assaults, the Patriot drove the British garrison into the houses. These two houses, according to Mr. M'Elwees, who was in the engagement, were situated near the bottom of a slope and were composed of logs. The Patriots first attempted to set the buildings on fire by casting burning fagots upon them. Not succeeding in this, an old wagon was procured and upon it was placed a quantity of dry brush and straw taken from the abatis. These were ignited and then rolled down the hill against the houses. The British, perceiving their danger, hoisted a white flag. Supposing the British intended to surrender, Col. Sumter ordered the firing to cease. At that moment a shower of rain extinguished the flames and the enemy continued to fight. Having no other means at hand to dislodge or seriously injure the Rocky Mount garrison, Col. Sumter withdrew, first to the north side of Fishing Creek, near the Catawba River (where he was surprised eighteen days afterward at the Battle of Fishing Creek), and then to Landsford, where he crossed the Catawba River. On August 6, 1780, Col. Sumter was again battling with the British at Hanging Rock. Early in the action at Rocky Mount, in front of the abatis, the gallant (Lt.) Col. (Andrew or Thomas)* Neil was slain with two other white men and a Catawba Indian. Col. Sumter had ten wounded, also. The British lost ten killed and an equal number wounded.

*Patrick O'Kelley states that Lt. Col. Thomas Neil was killed at the Battle of Rocky Mount and Col. Andrew Neil was killed in the vicinity at Rocky Creek three days later. Elmer O. Parker in a published endnote to M. A. Moore, Sr., M.D.'s *Life of General Edward Lacey* that "Col. Andrew Neil (not Neil) was son of Col. Thomas Neil of the New Acquisition District (York County) militia who was killed at Stono Ferry on June 20, 1779."



Excerpt from Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, Vol. II* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1851) and as edited by Charles B. Baxley.

Excerpt From Col. William Hill's *Memoirs*

.... 13th July 1780 (sic, probably July 31, 1780). General (still a Colonel at this time, but elected general by his peers) Thomas Sumter made an unsuccessful attempt to reduce the British post at Rocky Mount. This was made under the impression that the enemy was in a large framed house the walls of which were only thin clapboards and we supposed that our balls would have the desired effect by shooting through the wall. But so it was, that from the time we received this information until the time the attack was made the enemy had wrought day and night and had placed small logs about a foot from the inside of the wall and rammed the cavity with clay. Under this delusion we made the attack, but soon found that we could injure them no way, but by shooting, in their port-holes. The brave Col. Andrew Neil was killed and 7 privates.

Upon this we were forced to retreat behind a ledge of rocks about a hundred yards from the house. Here the officers held a council and it was discovered that there was a large rock and between this rock and the fort, stood a small house which might be set on fire by throwing fire brands over the rock and that this house would communicate the fire to the house the Enemy was in and as we had the command of the water they could not possibly extinguish the flames. From this ledge of rocks where the (patriot) army lay to the rock near the house was about 100 yards free of any obstructions. It is well known that when any object is going from or coming to a marksman, the marksman had near as good a chance as if the object was stationary; it was then proposed by Col. Sumter and other officers for

2 men to endeavor to set fire that small house, but the undertaking appeared so hazardous that no two men of the army could be found to undertake it.

After some considerable time was spent, Col. William Hill proposed that if any other man would go with him he would make the attempt. At length a young man (Jim Johnson), brother to the Johnsons now living in Fairfield District, proposed to undertake the mission with Col. Hill. We had every assistance that could be obtained; rich lightwood split and bound with cords to cover the most vital parts of our bodies, as well as a large bundle of the same wood to carry in our arms, being thus equipped we run the 100 yards to the rock; Mr. (Jim) Johnson was to manage the fire and Col. Hill was to watch the enemies sallying out of the house. But before the fire was sufficiently kindled the enemy did sally out with fixed bayonets; the same race was run again, to where the (Patriot) army lay, and under a heavy fire, not only from those who had sallied out, but like wise from a large number of port holes in that end of the house. It was then proposed that the whole of our rifle-men should direct their fire to that space between the small and great house, which was about 15 ft.; we being equipped as before mentioned, made the second attempt. And the plan already mentioned, prevented the enemy from sallying a second time. We then had an opportunity of making a large fire behind the rock and throwing fire brands on the roof of the little house. We stayed until that roof was in flames and the heat of it had caused the wall of the great house to smoke. We then concluded the work was done and undertook the fourth race, which was much more hazardous than the former ones, as the enemy during the interval, had opened a great many more port-holes in that end of the building. And here I beg leave to remark that Providence so protected us both, that neither of us lost a drop of blood, although locks of hair was cut from our heads and our garments riddled with balls. Scarcely had we time to look back from behind the rock where our men lay, in hopes to see the fire progressing, but to our great mortification, when the great house was beginning to flame as heavy a storm of rain fell as hath fallen from that time to the present, which extinguished the flames. We were then forced to retreat under as great mortification, as ever any number of men endured.

Excerpt from Col. William Hill's *Memoirs*, edited by A. S. Salley, Jr. (Columbia, SC: The Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1921) and edited by Charles B. Baxley.

***History of South Carolina, Vol. I*, by Yates Snowden, page 388**

"On the first of August Sumter attempted to carry Rocky Mount in three assaults, without success. He then ordered Col. Neel to storm a loop holed fortified house in which the British were strongly posted. Neel was killed and the storming party repulsed. Then Sumter called for two men to volunteer to burn the building and in the force of almost certain death Col. William Hill and Adj. "Jemmy" Johnson (sic) made the attempt and running directly in front of the portholes and guns of the fort, threw the burning, lightwood faggots on top of the house and set it afire. They escaped, their clothes riddled with bullets and their hair singed, but a heavy rain storm put out the fire and Sumter ordered his force to withdraw to Landsford."

Yates Snowden, *History of South Carolina* (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1920)

***History of Fairfield County, South Carolina* by Fitz Hugh McMaster, page 210**

"It would not be worth while to speak of the spirited attack made by a part of Sumter's force on the British post at Rocky Mount. (Lt. Col. George)Turnbull, in command of that post with British and Tories made out to maintain his position with inconsiderable loss. The hope in the attack consisted in firing a stack of hay and so communicating the flames to the fort. But the unruly wind blew the wrong way. And how often life do we find that we fail because the wind is perverse or intractable? James Johnston, commonly known as Adjutant Johnston, was the Whig hero on this occasion. He wore then the blade which graced the side of his grandfather at the Siege of Derry."

History Of Fairfield County South Carolina From "Before the White Man Came" to 1942 by Fitz Hugh McMaster With new index by Margaret H. Cannon, Ph.D. (Index copyrighted 1980; Reprinted: The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, S.C., 1980).

Col. Richard Winn's Notes, edited by Samuel C. Williams

Owens, who was a major in the Royal Militia, reported that Col. George Turnbull commanded at Rocky Mount and had about 300 men and was posted in a strong blockhouse, two stories high, properly prepared for defense, with abattis. This information I got about the 20th July. Gen. Thomas Sumter was still in North Carolina. On my communicating this information to him, he returned to the State and marched with his force to Landsford on the west side of Catawba River, 18 miles above the Mount.

Here a council was held by the officers and finally it was determined to make an attack on Rocky Mount on Sunday, 31st July. Accordingly, we left our encampment the evening before and marched all night and at day was ready for action; and should have completely surprised the place had it not been for a Tory colonel by the name of Black, with about 100 Tory militia, from Broad River to reinforce the Mount. They, getting to the place late, encamped out with intention of going on early in the morning. These people we had no knowledge of until we were among them. Col. Richard Winn, being in advance, gave them a fire and they run and left many of their horses and clothing. This gave the alarm to the Mount. However, in a few minutes the place was attacked. Cols. Winn and Neil,¹ marched up in front of the abbatis and sustained a heavy fire for some time from the blockhouse, which was returned. Here Col. Neil was killed, Col. Winn, being in a clear old field and finding his men much exposed, ordered a retirement for a small distance. In the meantime, Cols. William Bratton, Edward Lacey and William Hill attached the enemy to the right, but Gen. Sumter, finding that nothing could be done, thought it best to refresh his men for a short time and bring on the attack from another quarter by marching round the place. And under the cover of large rocks he got with his whole in about 50 yards of the blockhouse. From this point the enemy was prevented from firing on us as they dare not come to their port holes. It was here Gen. Sumter directed Col. Winn to demand a surrender of the place:

Summons.

31st July, 1780

Sir: I am directed by Gen. Sumter to demand a surrender of Rocky Mount; therefore, you will surrender this place with the men, &c., under your command, which will be considered as prisoners of war.

R. Winn.

To this, Col. Turnbull² required that hostilities should cease for one hour for consideration. Granted. Meantime, returned the following answer:

Sir: I have considered your summons and return for answer, that duty and inclination induce me to defend this place to the last extremity.

31st July, 1780

Turnbull, Colo. Command't

In consequence of this, Sumter commenced a heavy fire on the house, having nothing but small arms, which could make little or no impression on the building. Notwithstanding, this place would shortly fall into our hands, as the house could have been easily set on fire had it not been for the powerful rains that fell one after another. As we had failed in all our efforts to reduce the place, Gen. Sumter in the evening retreated about 8 miles on the road leading to Landsford. The rains continued to fall in great abundance.

August 1st, Col. Winn with 100 men returned to Rocky Mount and fell down below on the main road leading to Camden; fell in with a body of Tories he shortly dispersed, making several prisoners and releasing some of our men, one or two of which was to be hung the next day at the Mount; then returned to camp.

On Tuesday, the 2nd of August, Rocky Mount got reinforcement from Hanging Rock of eight hundred men and two field pieces. Gen. Sumter could not move from his encampment until the 3rd on account of high water in Rocky Creek. This day at eleven o'clock he crossed the creek and halted. The men turned out their horses and scattered about in search of roasting ears and green peaches, for this in fact was the most we could get to eat. In this situation, the first thing we knew the enemy to the number of eight or nine hundred men and two pieces of artillery was in a mile of our rear. Col. Winn immediately called out for one hundred men and officers that could first get their horses to join him with intention to hang on the enemy until Gen. Sumter could move off. Col. Winn halting the enemy often gave time for the General to make his retreat good. Col. Winn kept two men ahead of him to watch and give notice of the enemy's motions. One of these men was a Capt. Coleman from Midway in Georgia, the other by the name of Stroud of this place. These two men ventured too near the British; both were made prisoners, stripped naked and immediately hung up by the side of the road. Col. Winn, finding the enemy on retreat back to the Mount, perused without delay. Gen. Sumter at night took possession of his old encampment near Landsford. The day after the battle at Rocky Mount Col. Harthorn [Hawthorn] was sent with a flag to bury Col. Neil. He says that from the best information he could gain the enemy's loss, killed and wounded, was twelve or fourteen men. We had one man wounded; Col. Neil was killed.

¹ Col. Neil's full name was not given by Richard Winn. Wheeler in his *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* (Philadelphia, 1851) wrote: "Andrew Neal of South Carolina."

² George Turnbull was a seasoned soldier; he had served in America during the French and Indian War. He was now lieutenant-colonel of the Loyal New York Volunteers.

See also Lyman C. Draper's *Sumter Papers*: 9VV62-63, 101, 14VV260-261, pp. 436-443. Letter from Samuel McCalla, dated May 31, 1873, refers to John Miller and Samuel Morrow as the Whig soldiers who climbed up and started the fire at Rocky Mount. Lyman C. Draper's *Sumter Papers*: Reel 14VV, p. 438.

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Col. Edward Lacey, son of Edmund (Edward) Lacey a staunch (Irish or English) Tory of Chesapeake Bay areas, including Virginia, Maryland, and Cumberland County Pennsylvania, retired at the end of 1781 from the Colonial Army of the American Revolution. Having sided with the Whigs in 1776, he commanded the forces that defeated the Philadelphia Tory Captain Christian Huck at Williamson's Plantation on July 12, 1780. He also commanded the Turkey Creek Militia and then, "The Chester Troops" militiamen at the decisive battle of Kings Mountain, where on October 7, 1780, Lacey lost his horse in the blaze of battle and the British lost the fight and their large provincial corps. Col. Lacey served with Gen. Andrew Williamson in the Cherokee campaign and with Gen. Thomas Sumter at Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Cary's Fort, Fishing Creek, Fish Dam Ford, Blackstock's Plantation, Orangeburg, Biggin Church, Quinby Bridge, Eutaw Springs and Edisto Island.

Epilogue:

On August 15, 1780 at Rocky Mount, South Carolina and North Carolina Patriot militia under Gen. Thomas Sumter, this time with a detachment of Maryland Continentals and cannon, appeared for a second time to attack Lt. Col. George Turnbull, the New York Volunteers and South Carolina loyalist militia garrisoning the Crown's fortified outpost at Rocky Mount. However, Lt. Col. Turnbull had evacuated Rocky Mount on August 14, 1780 pursuant to Lord Francis Rawdon's orders to withdraw to Camden, issued on August 12, 1780. Lt. Col. Turnbull successfully avoided Gen. Sumter's militia and withdrew west to the British stronghold at Ninety Six, South Carolina. On August 18, 1780 Gen. Sumter again camped at Rocky Mount while retreating north up the west side of the Wateree River after his successful capture of the garrison, supplies and British Troops at Cary's Fort (in Lugoff, SC) on August 15, 1780. From the camp at Rocky Mount, Gen. Sumter marched his troops, spoils and prisoners to his defeat by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton at the Battle of Fishing Creek.

David P. Reuwer has completed and filed with the National Park Service an American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant funded survey of the Eutaw Springs (September 6, 1781) battlefield near Eutawville, South Carolina. In this action, Gen. Nathanael Greene's victory pushed the British dominance of South Carolina into the Charleston area. For many years many believed that most of this critical battlefield was lost when flooded by the construction of Lake Marion. Reuwer's battlefield map shows most of the battlefield high and dry, but largely overbuilt by modern lakeside development. We hope to have a detailed report available soon for this newsletter.

David, a practicing attorney in Camden, South Carolina, has served as my inspiration, advisor, grammarian, tour guide, and historian on this and other historical projects. Most importantly he is my friend and fellow traveler in our research into the Southern Campaigns. David's dedicated work with the College of Charleston teaching practical historic preservation, his enthusiasm for fieldwork on the actual Revolutionary War sites, and making contacts to glean information on these places is an inspiration to all who seek knowledge of this part of our heritage.

David is an engaging presenter and enthusiastic tour guide. He has led tours and staff rides at Eutaw Springs, Thomas Sumter and Francis Marion battle sites, Charleston area sites, the Savannah Campaigns, and back country trips to sites like Camden, Hobkirk's Hill, Buford's, Musgrove Mill and Blackstocks. He is available for presentations and to contract tours for groups large and small. You may contact David at davidreuwer3@aol.com or at P. O. Box 1716, Camden, South Carolina 29020. (803) 427-4029 (c) or (803) 432-1780 (o).

Battle of Camden Site Preservation Project Update

From George D. Fields and Charles B. Baxley

Since the purchase last year of about 300 acres containing the core of the battle, the battlefield is open to the public, but the site is still largely unimproved and unmarked. Activities at the battlefield have slowed during the summer, but the protection and interpretation project is still making consistent progress and shaping plans for a busy fall and winter.

Research. The Battle of Camden documentary research continues. John A. Robertson has catalogued and posted the worldwide research efforts to date at the Internet's most complete Revolutionary War battle site at www.battleofcamden.org. Please take a look at the efforts and post documents we have not uncovered.

American Battlefield Preservation Program grant. All activities and reports in the second American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant will be finished by late September. This includes more collector's artifacts GPSed, identified and placed in the GIS database, our professional metal detector sampling project completed, the 2' topographic survey flight completed, and a climax uplands longleaf pine forestry reestablishment and management plan and the site security plans are almost finished. Over the next six weeks, drafts of plans will be sent to the advisory council members for review and recommendations before the final reports are prepared in early October to the National Parks Service.

Successful Interpretation Planning Session. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) staff led an outstanding planning session for the battlefield interpretation program. The session provided essential information on major themes, customers, and partners for the future program. Special thanks to Council members who participated: Lindsay Pettus, Joanna Craig, Phil Gaines, Phyllis Gale, Charles B. Baxley, Vicki Fletcher and Walter Barron. Now we go to work on translating these ideas in a kiosk, signs, brochures and trails.

225th Anniversary Celebration. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation is cooperating with Historic Camden in planning the 225th Battle of Camden Anniversary Celebration in August 2005. We hope to have the park ready for a daybreak program for re-enactors on August 14 and a Memorial Service for those buried on the battlefield on August 16.

Fund Drive. The pace of the fund drive has picked up during the summer to meet the challenge of raising \$2,500 to receive Frederick Upton Foundation Grant. Thanks to those of you who have contributed already in 2004. Thanks to Dale Williams for his help in obtaining a grant.

Financial Report. The Battle of Camden Friends Fund rose from a deficit of \$968 on June 30th to a surplus \$1,666 now. We cannot rest because we are facing a \$16,250 interest payment on the battlefield purchase mortgage in December. Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Friends of the Battle of Camden fund c/o Palmetto Conservation Foundation, P. O. Box 1984, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304.

You are welcome to visit the battlefield. It is located about 4 miles north of Camden, SC on the modern Flat Rock Road (S-28-58), once called the Great Waxhaw Road. From Camden, take North Broad Street (US 521/601) north, cross Sanders Creek and about one mile later veer to the left onto Flat Rock Road. After about .8 mile cross Gum Swamp Creek and continue north approximately 1.2 miles. The roadside historical marker on the east side is about the position of the Patriot lines.

Dr. George D. Fields, Jr. is an ordained Methodist minister, retired President of Spartanburg Methodist College and retired Brigadier of the US Army Chaplains Corps. George is a dedicated student of the Southern Campaigns. In his "retirement" work with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, he has tirelessly raised money, awareness of South Carolina's precious Revolutionary War sites and proven himself an excellent herder of cats (volunteer coordinator). He serves as the Palmetto Conservation Foundation's Military Heritage Program Director. He is the tireless project coordinator of the Battle of Camden preservation project. Contact George at gfields@palmettoconservation.org or at Palmetto Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 1984 Spartanburg, SC 29304 (800) 416-8937 toll free

Nothing But Blood and Slaughter, The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume One, 1771-1779
by Patrick J. O'Kelley

Patrick O' Kelley's book is an encyclopedic treatment of the Southern campaigns beginning with the 1771 Regulator War in North Carolina, the Snow Campaign against the Cherokees in 1775-1776, the first British failed attack on Charleston, Sullivan's Island and Fort Moultrie (as is now called) in 1776 through the French and American allies failed siege to recapture Savannah in September and October 1779. This volume is an essential Southern Campaigns research tool for every personal library. It is organized chronologically with a clear synopsis of each battle and skirmish, and is the first comprehensive detailed daily order of battle for each skirmish and action including all known units, their commanders and strengths at each action on both sides. It also includes the known casualties and a summary of local naval actions and coastal raids.

This book first demonstrated to me the personal "comrades-in-arms" connections of many units and battlefield command experience of the many Crown and Patriot commanders in the Southern Department. It is also useful to trace promotions of individual officers and the amazing mobility of the units. Patrick includes a comprehensive index and detailed endnotes of his sources.

Patrick tells us to expect Volume Two within a few weeks. It will detail all of the North and South Carolina's Revolutionary War battles and skirmishes in the 1780 campaign year.

Copies may be purchased from Booklocker Books at <http://www.booklocker.com/books/1469.html> for \$18.95, plus shipping and handling or you can order it for \$25.00 (which includes shipping) with a check, from:

Blue House Tavern Press
709 Kramer Road
Lillington, NC 27546

Patrick J. O'Kelley (goober.com@juno.com) is a decorated combat veteran and now retired from the US Army Special Forces. He is an active living history re-enactor with the North Carolina 2d Regiment. www.2nc.org Patrick lives with his wife, Alice and three daughters in Lillington, North Carolina. He is currently a Junior ROTC instructor and has been a Revolutionary War re-enactor and living historian for over 25 years. Notably, O'Kelley may be one of the few living field commanders having drilled street rabble into a functional 18th century "British" Infantry Regiment for the movie "The Patriot".

Samuel K. Fore of Columbia, South Carolina, knowledgeable resource on the Revolutionary War documents in the Manuscripts Division of the University of South Carolina's Caroliniana Library, has completed his M.A. in Library and Information Sciences at USC and has accepted a position of Special Collections Librarian at the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library at Colonial Williamsburg. While we are all sad to see Sam leave the Caroliniana Library this is a great career move. Sam can be contacted at sfore@cwf.org or sciamfore@yahoo.com He is researching Col. William Washington.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please submit items to post upcoming Southern Campaigns programs and events that may be of interest to Revolutionary War researchers.

2004

September 9, 2004 Savannah, Ga. - Dr. Martha Keber of Georgia College & State University lectures on the French naval involvement in the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah; Savannah History Museum Theater, 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. lecture.

<http://www.chsgeorgia.org>

September 18, 2004 Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC – forum <http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

September 18, 2004 Eutawville, SC – Church of the Epiphany lecture and battlefield tour by David P. Reuwer, Esq. on the Battle of Eutaw Springs. <http://www.pietty.com/epiphany/index.htm>

September 23, 2004 Savannah, Ga. - Dr. Christopher Hendricks of Armstrong Atlantic State University lectures on the American participation in the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah; Savannah History Museum Theater, 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. lecture.

<http://www.chsgeorgia.org>

September 30, 2004 Savannah, Ga. - Dr. Dan Morrill of UNC-Charlotte lectures on the British participation in the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah; Savannah History Museum Theater, 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. lecture. <http://www.chsgeorgia.org>

October 7, 2004 Savannah, Ga. - Dr. Charles Elmore of Savannah State University lectures on the Haitian participation in the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah; Savannah History Museum Theater, 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. lecture.

<http://www.chsgeorgia.org>

October 7, 2004 Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 224th Anniversary of Battle of Kings Mountain wreath laying ceremony at 11 am at the US Monument. Keynote address at 3:00 pm. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

October 8, 9 and 10, 2004 Savannah, Ga. - 225th Anniversary of The Siege of Savannah. <http://www.chsgeorgia.org>

October 9, 2004 Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - Living History Encampment featuring Carolina Backcountry Militia, Guilford Militia and Locke's Militia living history encampment. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo>

October 16, 2004 Musgrove Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC - [The New Acquisition Militia](#) will portray life in the militia during the American Revolution in South Carolina. <http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/stateparks/Parkdetail.Asp?Pid=3888>

October 16, 2004 Summerton, SC - American Revolutionary Living History Encampment/Re-enactment: "3rd Annual Victory at Fort Watson" at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge. Featuring the Battle of Stono Ferry, 1779. <http://web.ftc-i.net/~gcsommers/index.htm>

<http://web.ftc-i.net/~gcsommers/friendsrefuge.html>

November 6 and 7, 2004 Historic Camden, SC - Revolutionary War Field Days. Daily battle skirmish, British court-martial, Military Music, Period Fashion show and dancing, military roundtable discussion, 18th century church services, and kids' activities. Colonial craftsmen and demonstrations; Sutlers Row teaming with unique traditional gifts. Admission charged. <http://www.historic-camden.org>

Musgrove Mill State Historic Site Celebrates 10,000 Visitors its First Year in Operations

South Carolina's newest state historic site, Musgroves Mill, located on the scenic Enoree River in Laurens County, South Carolina, officially opened its new visitors center last year. According to Brian Robson, Interpretive Ranger, the park saw over 10,000 visitors its inaugural year.

Musgrove Mill was the site of an important backcountry Southern Campaign battle on August 19, 1780. Only three days after Gen. Horatio Gates' rout at the Battle of Camden and the day after Gen. Thomas Sumter's defeat at Fishing Creek, two hundred Patriots and 500 Tories and Provincials fought at Musgrove Mill. Leading the Patriots were Col. Isaac Shelby, commander of western North Carolina "Over-mountain" militia, Col. James Williams, commander of the Laurens District South Carolina militia, Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke of the Georgia militia, and Capt. Shadrack Inman of Clarke's Georgians. Lt. Col. Alexander Innes ably led the Crown forces with Provincial troops and South Carolina Tory Col. Daniel Clary of the South Carolina Royalist. The Patriots clearly prevailed, but soon evacuated the area when they received news of both Gates' and Sumter's defeats. There were four Patriots killed, eight or nine wounded, 63 Loyalist killed, 90 wounded, and 76 prisoners captured. This coordinated multi-state action set the pattern for the later Patriot victories at Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

Frank Stovall, Superintendent, 398 State Park Rd., Clinton, S.C. 29325
fstovall@scprt.com Phone: (864) 938-0100

Brian Robson, Interpretive Ranger **brobson@scprt.com**

The site is located about 6 miles northeast of Exit 52 on I-26 (Clinton Exit) on South Carolina 56.

New Battle of Hobkirk's Hill Driving Tour

After the pyrric battle on March 15, 1781 at Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, Southern Department Commandant Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene turned his attention from Lord Cornwallis to recapture South Carolina from the British. Col. Francis Lord Rawdon, the Crown's young noble Irish commandant of South Carolina, sallied out of his base at fortified Camden to meet the challenge of Greene's Continentals camped on Hobkirk's Hill on the morning of April 25, 1781. Despite intelligence to the contrary, at the base of Hobkirk's Hill the British were surprised by Col. Charles Harrison's artillery at close range. The developed neighborhood streets allow a view of the terrain, the paths Col. William Washington's cavalry and the clash between the Maryland and Virginia Continental Line against Lord Rawdon's British Regulars, Provincials and Loyalist militia.

When you have a few hours, I recommend a visit to Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site in Camden, South Carolina. <http://www.historic-camden.org> At this park you can talk with a staff member, visit their gift shop and pick up a brochure and driving tour map of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill sites, all located to the north of the old town site. For a free copy of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill Driving Tour brochure you may contact Vicki Fletcher at the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center at <http://www.camden-sc.org> or call **1-800-968-4037** or contact Kathee Stahl at the Kershaw County Historical Society at <http://www.mindspring.com/~kchistory> or call **(803) 425-1123** (any Thursday afternoon).

For more information on the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, I have a website on the battle in "Beta" testing, temporarily located at <http://www.students.sbc.edu/baxley06/hobkirk> . Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Camden, South Carolina is located on US Highway #1 and I-20 about 30 miles northeast of Columbia. Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park is located one mile north of Exit 98 of I-20 on US 521 in the City of Camden. The park is open daily.