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Only the Patriots had cannons. The large cannon fired a two pound ball and needed a horse to pull it. Two small swivel cannons that fired scattered shot were used with a tree stump for a base. They could be packed and moved on horseback.

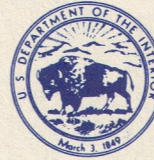
The Loyalists and Patriots both needed gunpowder, blankets, tents, axes, food, drink, and cooking equipment. Part of the supplies were taken from homes in the countryside and were usually carried in wagons. The men who camped at Moore's Creek may have had peas, corn, potatoes, and pork to eat. In camp, the men slept in canvas tents.

THE PARK TODAY

Moore's Creek National Military Park is about 20 miles northwest of Wilmington, North Carolina and can be reached by following North Carolina route 210, 4 miles west from U.S. Highway 421.

The park is open every day except Christmas Day and New Years Day. When you visit you should begin at the visitor center where you can see exhibits and a five minute slide program that describes the background of the battle. Walking tours of the battlefield along the history trail start from this point. Guide services are available for educational and other groups if advance arrangements are made with the superintendent. In addition to the historical area, there is a picnic area with tables, charcoal grills, and a shelter.

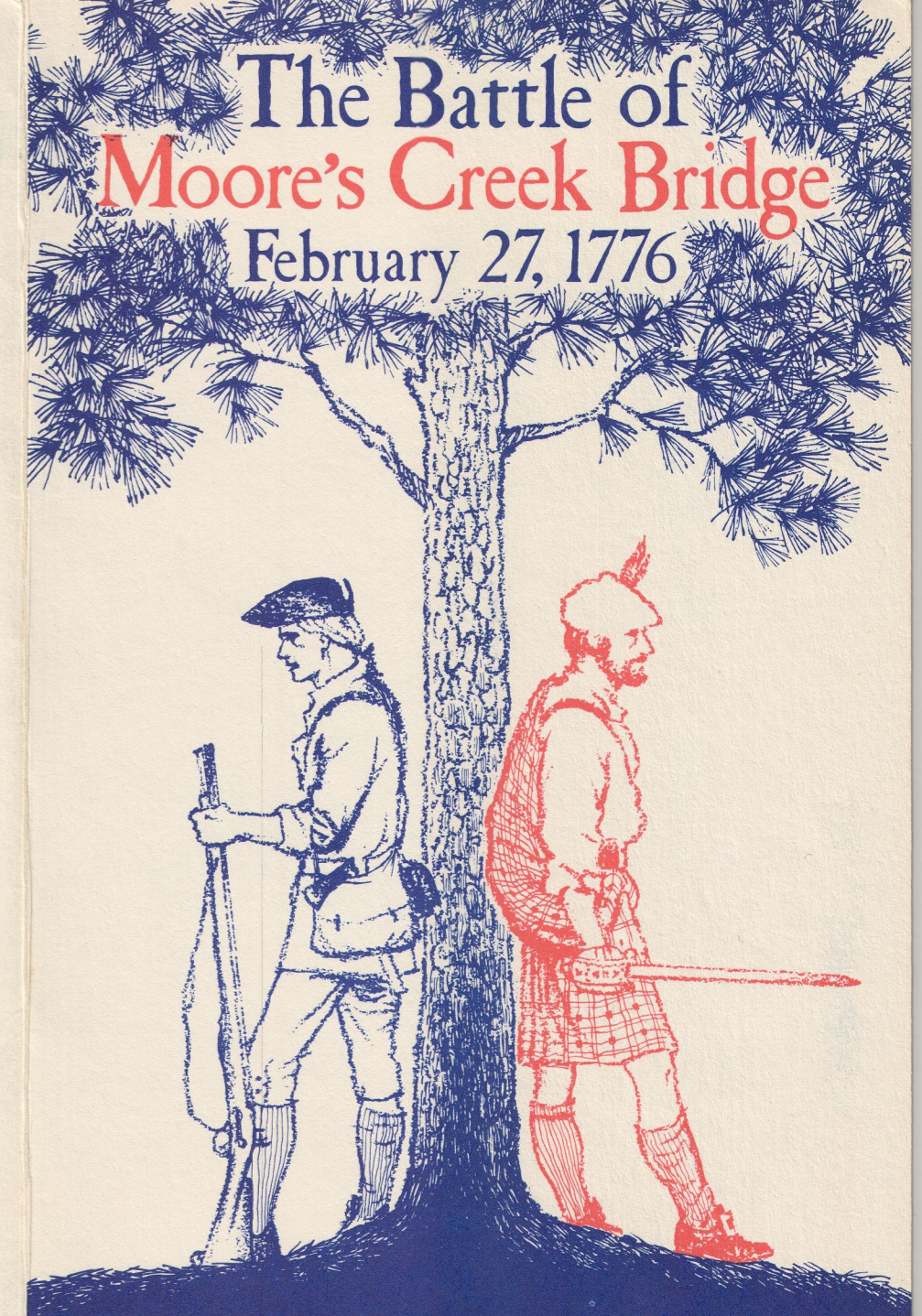
Moore's Creek National Military Park is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is P.O. Box 69, Currie, North Carolina 28435, is in immediate charge of the park.



Moore's Creek National Military Park
 Post Office Box 69
 Currie, North Carolina 28435
 (919) 283-5591

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

February 27, 1776



United States Dept. of the Interior
 National Park Service
**MOORES CREEK
 NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**

THE BATTLE OF MOORES CREEK BRIDGE — 1776

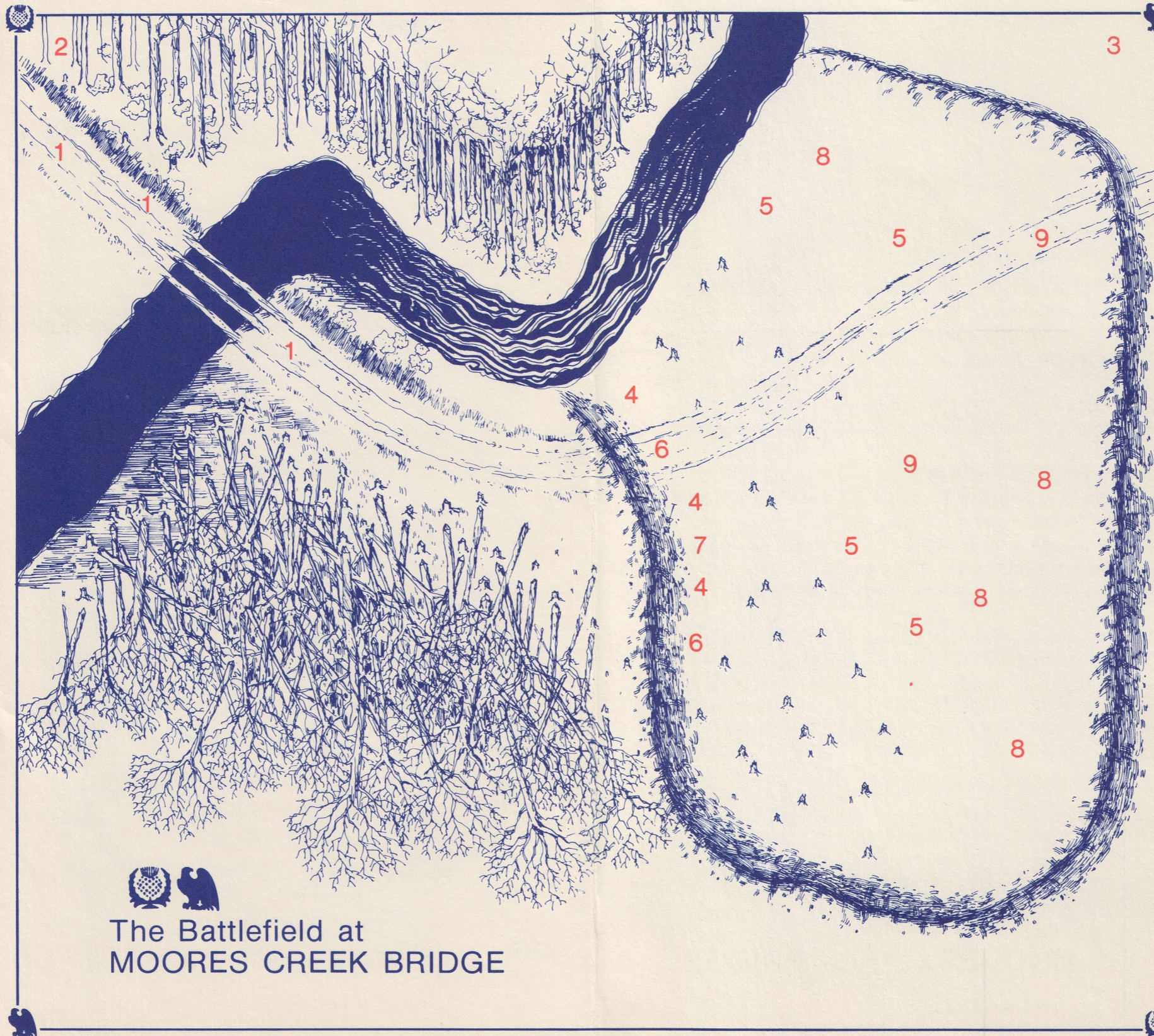
At the beginning of the American Revolution some colonists in North Carolina wanted to remain loyal to the King. These Loyalists wanted to form an army and help the King get control of the colony. After three weeks of getting ready and marching across the countryside, the Loyalist army met a large number of North Carolina colonists called Patriots, who wanted to stop anyone from helping the King. These two armies fought in the early morning of February 27, 1776 at Moore's Creek Bridge. The Loyalist army was badly beaten and many of the men ran away. Only one Patriot soldier died in the battle. As a result of the Patriot victory, North Carolina became the first colony to vote for independence.

On the inside of this folder you will find a map of the area where the Battle of Moore's Creek was fought. The map shows the creek, swamp and bridge that the armies found when they arrived at Moore's Creek. It also shows the earthworks that were built and the trees that were probably cut by the Patriots before the battle. On another page are the soldiers and their equipment that were in the battle. There are numbers on the backs of the pieces that you can match with numbers on the map to make it look much like it did in 1776.

THE LAND BEFORE THE BATTLE

The Widow Moore's Creek is a dark stream about 30 feet wide and from 7 to 10 feet deep, so a bridge is needed to cross it. The road that crossed the bridge went west towards Cross Creek, which today is called Fayetteville, and Wilmington in the opposite direction. Much of the land near Moore's Creek is only 5 feet above sea level and floods easily. Plants such as bamboo, wax myrtle, venus fly trap and pitcher plants grow well here. Near Moore's Creek grows a variety of oak, bald cypress, and pine trees.

When the Loyalist army started marching towards Wilmington, a Patriot army rushed to Moore's Creek Bridge to stop the Loyalists from crossing the creek. To help defend themselves, the Patriots dug up large mounds of earth called earthworks, overlooking the bridge and surrounding their camp. The Patriots cut down trees between the creek and their earthworks so that the Loyalists would have no protection from cannon and musket fire. Just before the battle, the Patriots removed planks from the bridge, leaving only 2 or 3 logs across the creek. This made it very hard for the Loyalists to cross the creek.



The Battlefield at
MOORES CREEK BRIDGE

Soldiers and Equipment, February 1776

Most of the Loyalists were from Scottish Highland families who lived in Cumberland County. Their battle dress was the colorful tartan. Their battle cry was "King George and Broadsword!". Those people loyal to King George III flew the British Union Flag. The Lillington Crescent carried the famous motto of the Patriot minutemen, "Liberty or Death!".

Most of the Patriots were from eastern North Carolina. They belonged to the militia and minuteman companies who brought their own muskets and clothing from their homes. To fool the Loyalists, Colonel Caswell, who was a Patriot leader, had his men make campfires on the west side of the creek (not shown on map). Then they moved their camp across the bridge to the east side of the creek and inside the earthworks.

