

# Moore's Creek National Battlefield

National Park Service  
Department of Interior



## 1776 PATRIOT VICTORY

"King George and Broadwords!" shouted Loyalists as they charged across partially dismantled Moore's Creek bridge on February 27, 1776. Just beyond the bridge, nearly a thousand North Carolina Patriots waited quietly with cannons and muskets poised to fire.

The Loyalists, mostly Scottish Highlanders wielding broadswords, expected to find only a small Patriot force. As the Loyalists advanced across the bridge, Patriot shots rang out and dozens of Loyalists fell, including their commanders.

Stunned, out-gunned and leaderless, the Loyalists surrendered, retreating in confusion. Wagons, weapons and British sterling worth more than \$1 million by today's value were seized by the Patriots in the days following the battle.

This dramatic victory ended British authority in the colony and greatly influenced North Carolina to be the first to vote for independence. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, coupled with the Battle of Sullivan's Island near Charleston, SC a few months later, ultimately led the 13 colonies to declare independence on July 4, 1776.

# THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY

Throughout the park, remnants remain of the 1776 road traveled by Loyalist and Patriot forces. A 1-mile trail with wayside exhibits leads through the battlefield and across Moores Creek. The historic bridge site is located along the trail.

The park offers a visitor center with exhibits and audio-visual program; a .3 mile colonial forest trail and a picnic area. Guided tours may be available for groups upon request.

## ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The park is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Christmas and New Year's Day. An Anniversary observance, co-sponsored with the Moores Creek Battleground Association, is held annually the last full weekend in February.

The Battlefield is located 20 miles NW of Wilmington, NC. From Wilmington, follow US 421 to NC 210, then west on 210. From Interstate 40, take NC 210 west at the Rocky Point exit. Telephone (910) 283-5591 or check [www.nps.gov/mocr](http://www.nps.gov/mocr) on the internet.

