



Moore's Creek National Battlefield is one of over 400 units of the National Park Service.

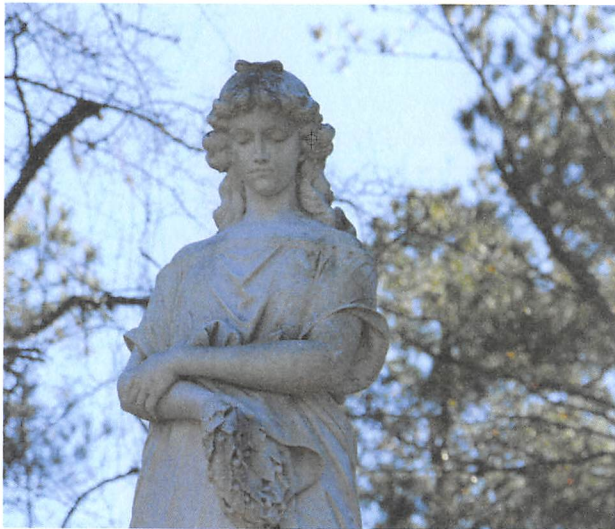
The National Park Service works to preserve and protect this site unimpaired for this and future generations.

Other sites to explore on your walk through the park today.

-Women's Monument - This monument honors the women of the Lower Cape Fear Region.

-Tar Heel Trail - This .25 mile long trail takes you into the longleaf pine forest and shares the story of the important role that the longleaf pine played, not only in the development of this area, but also in the beginning of the American Revolution.

To learn more visit, www.nps.gov/mocr or contact us at 910-283-5591.



Tour Stop 7: With the courier's information, General MacDonald sent his army on a daring night march to surround and capture the Patriots. Meanwhile, the Patriots pulled back to the east bank of the bridge into the earthworks. That morning, around 5:00am, the Loyalist forces moved into what they believed was the Patriot encampment on the west bank. Realizing the camp was abandoned, the Loyalists made their way here to Moore's Creek Bridge. The Loyalists found the bridge partially dismantled. The boards in the center were removed, leaving only the girders exposed, making it difficult for the Loyalists to cross. Once across, around 50 men charged up the causeway into the darkness, unaware the Patriots were behind strong earthworks.



Tour Stop 8: It was here, once the Loyalists were in range, that the Patriots opened fire. Patriot cannons and muskets killed at least 30 men, among them was Lieutenant Colonel Donald McLeod. Another 20 or so men were left wounded here on the battlefield. Although, some accounts say the battle only lasted 3 minutes, most other accounts suggest the battle lasted around 30 minutes.

Tour Stop 9: Here behind strong earthworks the Patriots set up a deadly ambush. Cannons and muskets are placed on a high sloping ridge above Moore's Creek Bridge. The oncoming Loyalists never had a chance.



Tour Stop 10: The Patriot Monument, honors Private John Grady, of Duplin County, the first North Carolinian to give his life in the fight for independence. This was the first monument placed in the park in 1857. Grady was the only Patriot killed during the battle. One other Patriot soldier was slightly wounded.

Tour Stop 11: The Loyalist Monument was placed here in 1909. This granite monument not only honors the Loyalists who fought here, but it also represents choice. Choice is one of our most cherished freedoms. The Loyalists were colonists that chose to remain loyal to Great Britain. Without their choice of loyalty, we would have never had the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, and the first Patriot Victory of the American Revolution.

This victory encouraged North Carolina delegates to support independence, making it the first colony to take such bold action.



Moore's Creek National Battlefield History Trail Walking Tour



Welcome to Moore's Creek National Battlefield, the site of the first decisive Patriot victory of the American Revolution! This site preserves the site of a battle between Loyalists and Patriots in North Carolina in the early days of the Revolution.

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, fought on February 27, 1776, not only became the first decisive Patriot victory of the war, but also allowed North Carolina to become the first colony to allow its delegates to vote for independence.

Using the map provided, we invite you to take a 3/4 mile walk through the battlefield, into the past, to a time when a fledgling nation was fighting for its freedom from Great Britain.

Enjoy your visit!

Tour Stop 1: As you take a step back in time to 1776, you will find that political and social tensions in North Carolina were at an all time high. While Patriot leaders worked to ease tensions with Great Britain, they also made enemies within their own colony. Loyalists were those colonists who remained loyal to Great Britain. Many of these were new immigrants from the Highlands of Scotland.



Tour Stop 2: As you stand next to these unique plants, look in front of you. You can see a remnant of the historic road that passed through here in 1776. This road was used by both Loyalists making their way to the coast, and Patriots trying to prevent those Loyalists from reaching the coast. This road connected Wilmington to Cross Creek and Campbelltown (modern-day Fayetteville, NC.)

Tour Stop 3: This wayside exhibit shows the troop movements by both Loyalist and Patriot soldiers on their march to Moores Creek Bridge. Take a look at the map on the wayside. You can see where the Loyalists had crossed the Black River at Corbett's Ferry, above the Patriot position, and almost captured the Patriots just north of Moores Creek. Richard Caswell, the Patriot Commander, ordered his men to fall back to Moores Creek Bridge, a crossing the Loyalists would have to make.



Tour Stop 1 - "Road to Independence" Wayside
 Tour Stop 2 - Venus Fly Trap Planter
 Tour Stop 3 - "Road to the Sea" Wayside
 Tour Stop 4 - Stage Road Monument
 Tour Stop 5 - "Very Bad Swamp" Wayside

Tour Stop 6 - "A Trap is Set" Wayside
 Tour Stop 7 - Moores Creek Bridge
 Tour Stop 8 - "Stunning Defeat" Wayside
 Tour Stop 9 - Cannon near the earthworks
 Tour Stop 10 - Patriot/Grady Monument
 Tour Stop 11 - Loyalist Monument

Tour Stop 4: The earthworks on the east side of Moores Creek, were designed in a circular pattern. This design served to help the Patriots protect their position from all sides. During the time of the battle, it is believed that the walls of the earthworks were around five feet tall.

Tour Stop 5: Moores Creek made a natural barrier between the Patriots and the Loyalists. Moores Creek is ten feet deep in most places. The deep waters of the creek would force the Loyalists to use Moores Creek Bridge to cross, making the bridge an ideal defensive position for the Patriots.



Tour Stop 6: Near this spot, on Feb. 26, 1776, Patriot forces set up a defensive position. Late that afternoon, a Loyalist courier arrived to deliver a letter to Patriot commander Richard Caswell to surrender his troops. While Caswell read the letter and consulted with his officers, the courier surveyed the situation. He observed the Patriot forces with their backs to the bridge. Caswell refused the ultimatum by the Loyalists. The Loyalist courier reported back to the Loyalist commander General Donald MacDonald, the observations he made in the Patriot Camp.