

Guilford Courthouse

Guilford Courthouse
National Military Park
2332 New Garden Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27410
National Park Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse



The First Maryland Regiment Charging the British Guards

On March 15th, 1781, American Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene moved to contest the invasion of North Carolina by a veteran force of 1900 redcoats commanded by Charles, Second Earl Cornwallis. Greene deployed his 4400-man army in three battle lines just west of the backcountry county seat called Guilford Courthouse. After two hours of savage fighting, the rebels withdrew from the field, allowing Cornwallis to claim the victory at Guilford Courthouse.

Paradoxically, the British victory at Guilford Courthouse bore all the consequences of a defeat. Possession of the battlefield in no way compensated Cornwallis for the sacrifice of more than one-quarter of his army. Left too weak to pursue the rebels (whose losses were almost half those of the British) and too weak to remain in North Carolina as an occupying force, Cornwallis led his remaining troops away from Guilford Courthouse. This began the first leg of the seven-month journey that would lead them to final defeat at Yorktown.

**“The battle was long,
obstinate and bloody.”**

--Major General Nathanael Greene

**“[T]he victory at Guilford [,] altho’ one
of the bloodiest of this War, was very
complete.”**

--Charles, Second Earl Cornwallis

**“Another such victory would ruin the
British army.”**

--Charles James Fox, speaking in Parliament



Open daily, except Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Free admission. Call ahead for groups or for further information at (336) 288-1776.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, the first national park established as a Revolutionary War site, preserves 230 acres of historic fields and forests, monuments and graves. The park visitor center features audio-visual programs and exhibits of period military artifacts.

