



www.sonofthesouth.net

The Lesser Known Frontier Forts & Actions of Backcountry Militia in the Revolutionary War

A Presentation to the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War
Roundtable , Wofford College, April 8, 2013

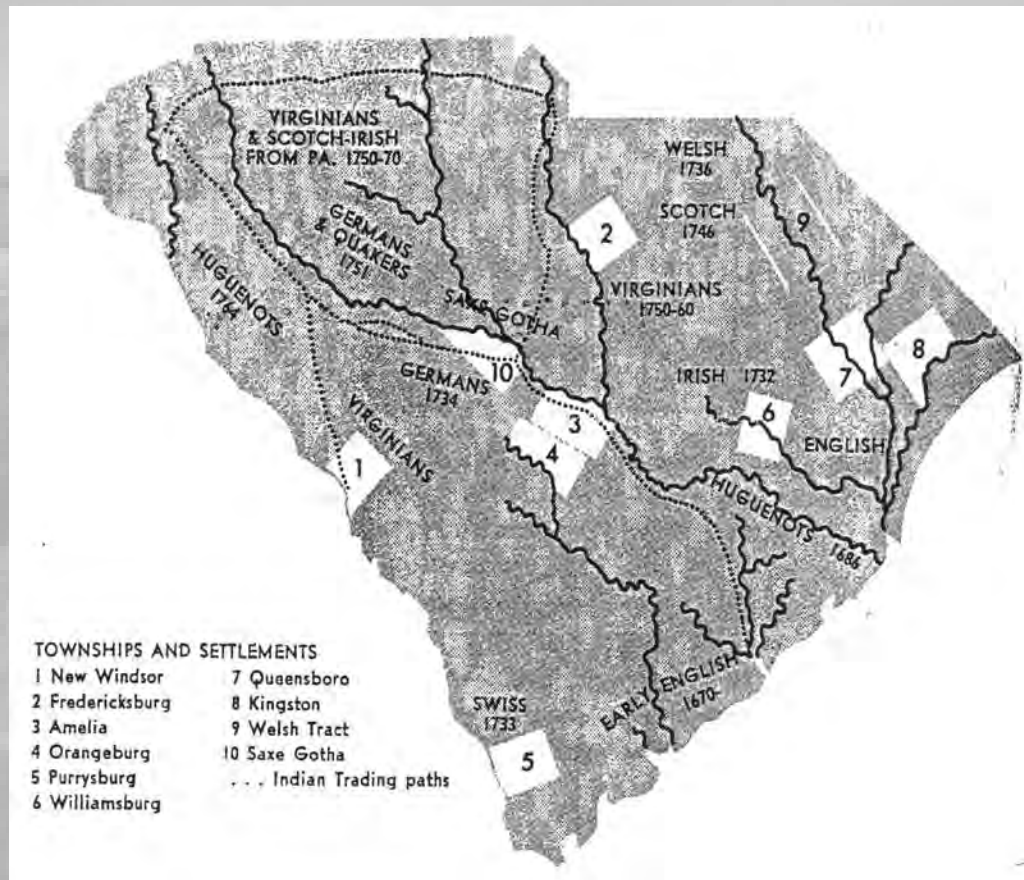


<http://www.historyisfun.org/militia-in-the-Revolutionary-war.htm>

JOHN H. JAMESON, JR., RPA
Senior Archeologist, Public Interpretation and Outreach Lead
Southeast Archeological Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
2035 E. Paul Dirac Drive
Johnson Building, Suite 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32310 USA

- NPS Interpretive Development Program (IDP) Curriculum Coordinator/Certifier
- Vice President, International Committee on Interpretation and Presentation (ICIP), ICOMOS
- Member, Interpret Europe/NAI International Interpretation
- Secretary, Board of Directors, Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation
- President, Jameson Family Cemetery, Inc. (Pickens County, SC)

Phone: 850-580-3011 extension 243; mobile: 850-322-5636
E-mail: john_jameson@nps.gov; jhameson@yahoo.com



<http://www.scgen.org/path.htm>; © 1999 - 2009 The South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.; © 2002 - 2009 Roy Vandegrift, III

Trails and settlements circa 1720-1761:

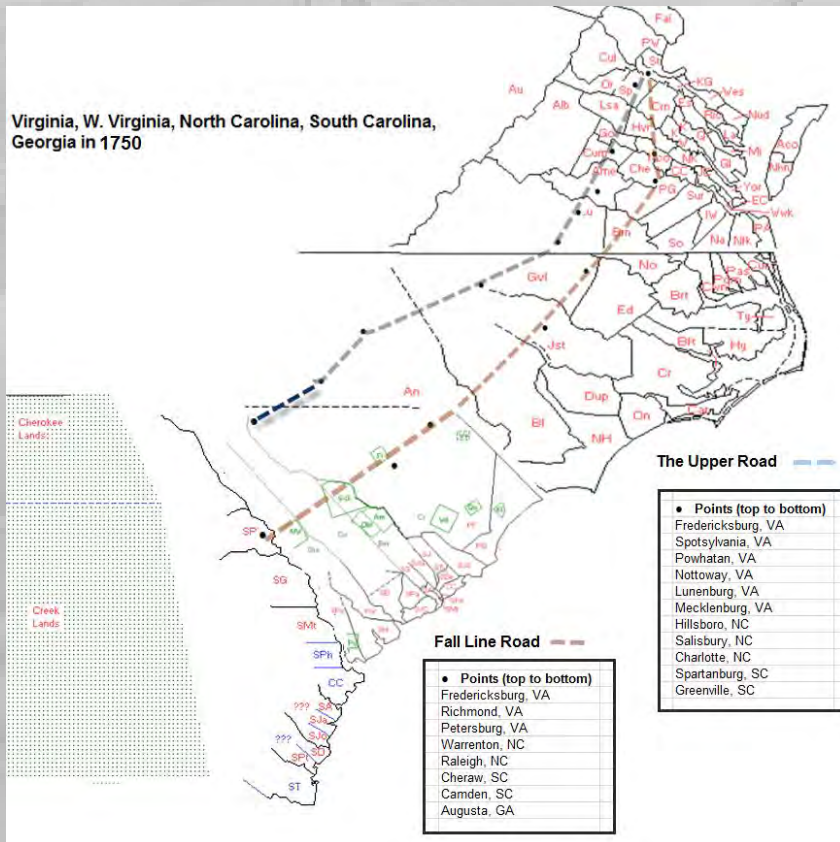
By the early 18th century, the Cherokee Path was a well worn trade route from the lower Cherokees towns through the Congarees connecting to Charleston. By 1737 it was a wagon road from the Congarees to Charleston. This road was extended beyond the Congarees by 1748, and it was the main road with the trees cleared but with no bridges. By 1759 the Path was the wagon road to Fort Prince George. Regulations mandated that the road be thirty feet wide with loaded wagons keeping to the right of the road's center.



Courtesy NPS and River Alliance, Inc; painting by Martin Pate

Trade at Fort Congaree, 1718-1722

Virginia, W. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia in 1750



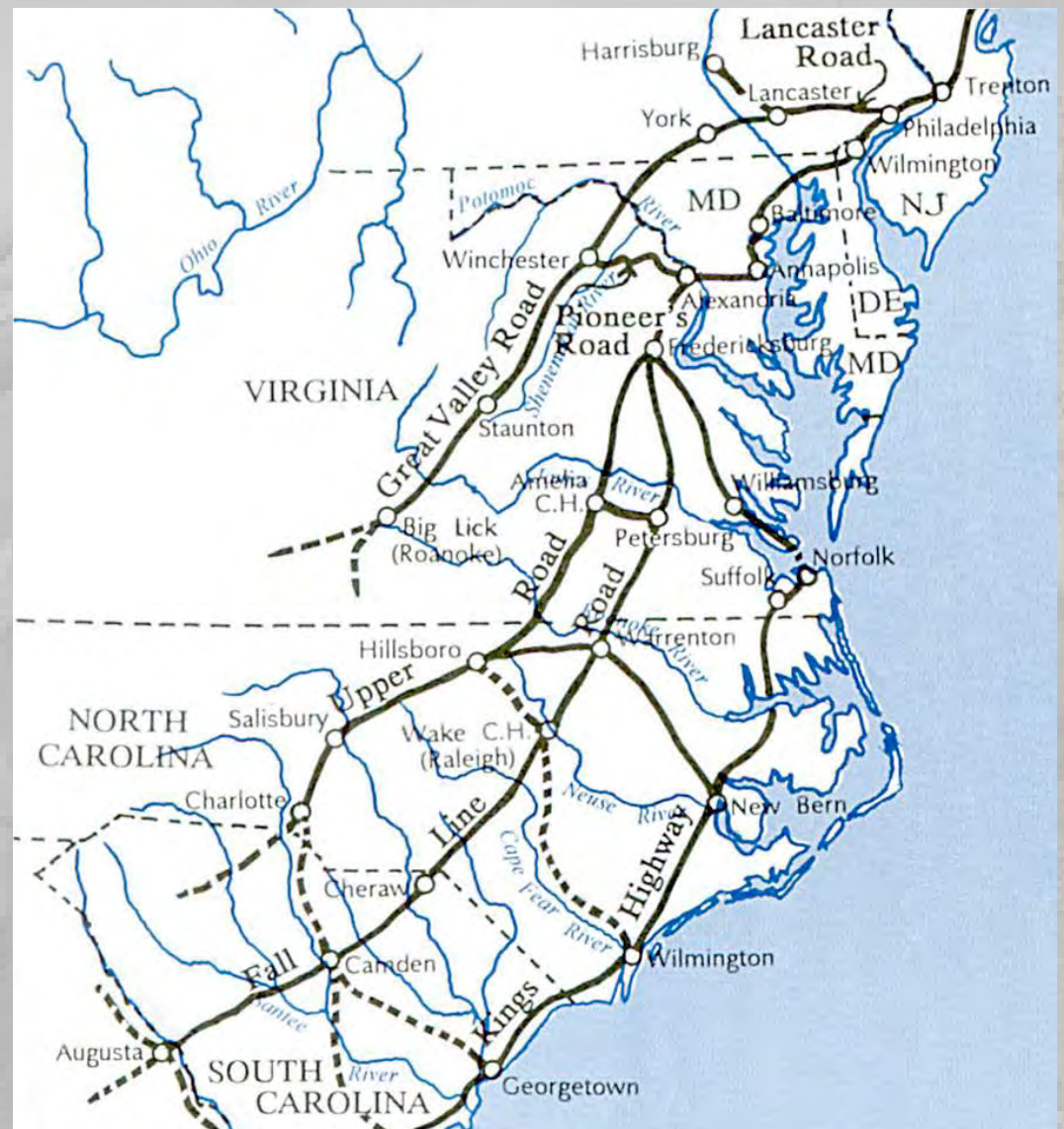
<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlas/americans%20revolution/ARGIFS/PopulationDensity.gif>; Date: 2010; History Department, United States Military Academy



For the most part, the militia units that served in the backcountry of South Carolina were recruited from the early settler communities who came to the area via the network of wagon roads and trails located east of the Appalachian mountains beginning in the 1750s. By all accounts, they were tough, tenacious, determined, and visionary in taking advantage of opportunities to carve out a livelihood in lands that had newly become available for settlement.

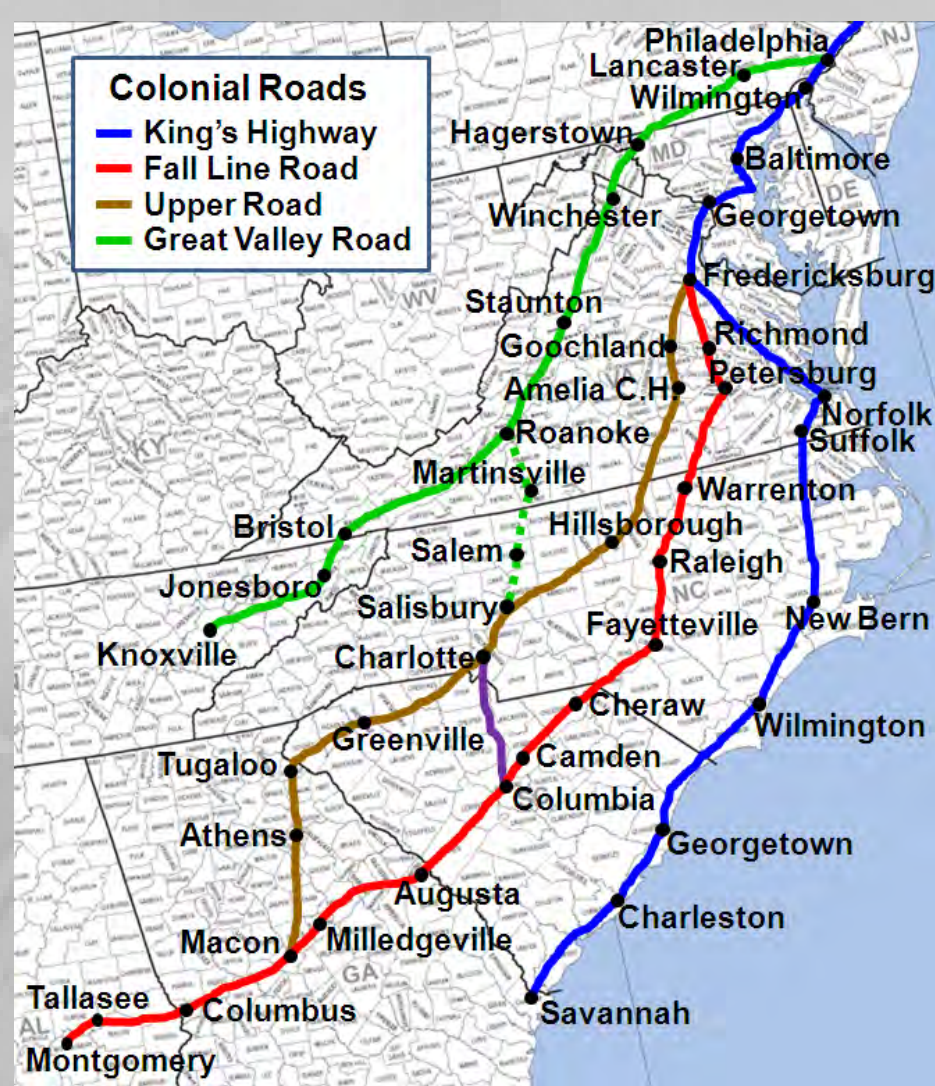


acgilbert.blogspot.com

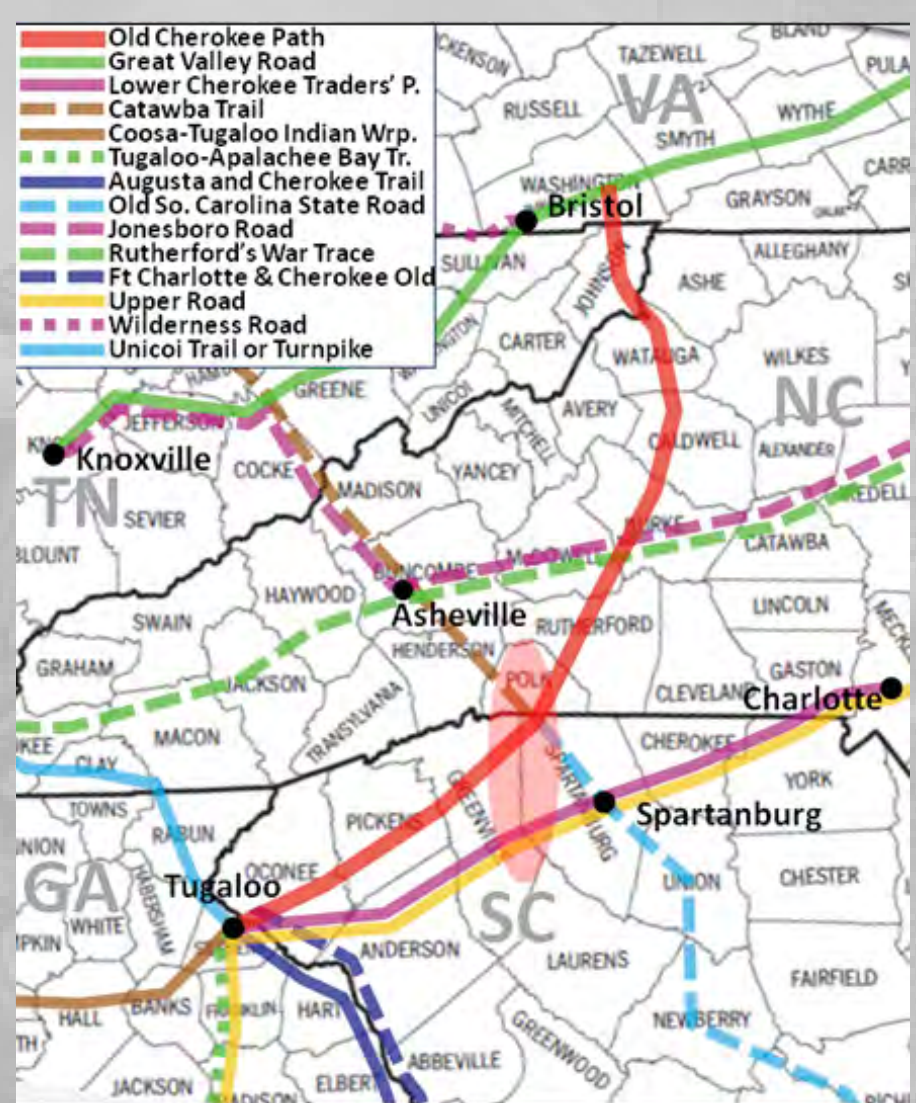


<http://philnorf.tripod.com/mapofthe.htm>

Daniel Boone said that there were three essentials for a pioneer: "A good gun, a good horse, and a good wife." They would also need strong bodies, sharp axes, and good luck.



http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Upper_Road



http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Old_Cherokee_Path

The Upper Road was especially popular among the Scots-Irish (or Ulster Irish) colonists who settled the backcountry mountains.



Ca. 1775



<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/revolutionary-war/colonies/south-carolina.htm>

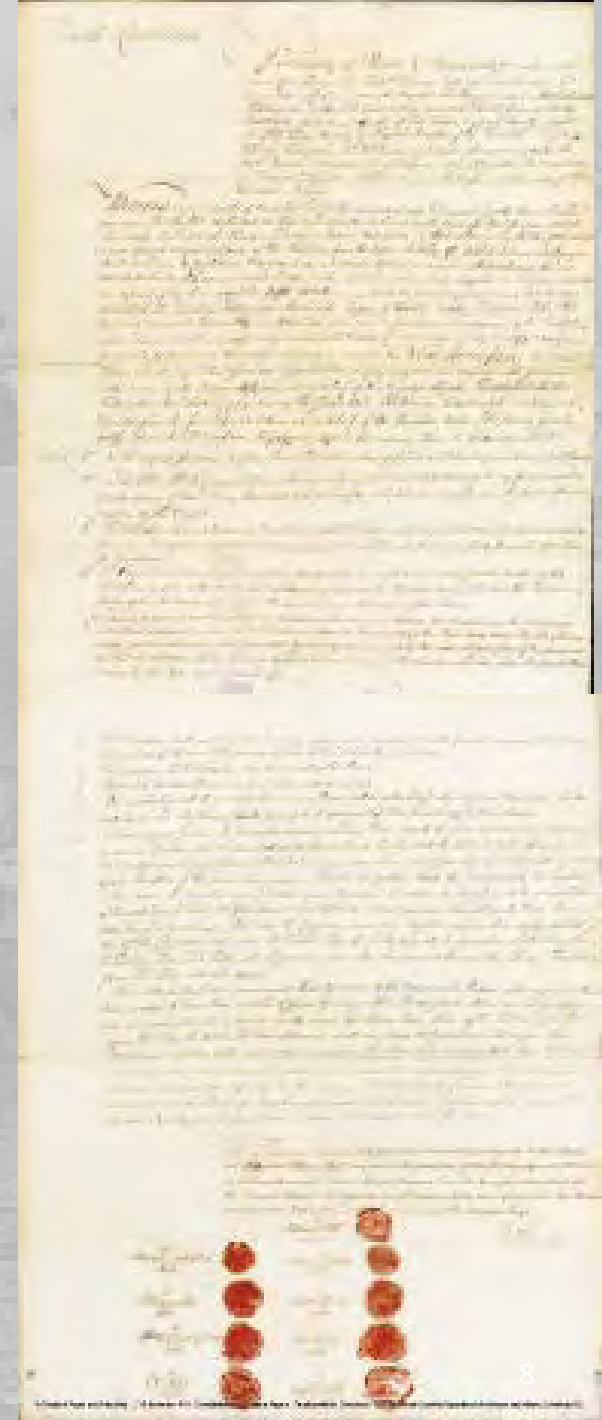


http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl

North-South eastern boundary (present Greenville-Spartanburg county line) between the Cherokee Nation and the Province of South Carolina from the end of the Cherokee War (1759-61) until 1777.

"A Treaty of Peace and Friendship..." Indian Treaty between the Cherokee Nation and South Carolina, 1761

<http://www.teachingushistory.org/lessons/indiantreaty1761.htm>





© V. & K.

Strengths:

Anti-British, at height:

35,000 Continentals

44,500 Militia

5,000 Continental Navy sailors (at height in 1779)

53 ships (active service at some point during the war)

12,000 French (in America)

Pro-British, at height:

56,000 British

78 Royal Navy ships in 1775

171,000 Sailors

30,000 Germans

50,000 Loyalists**13,000 Natives****Casualties and losses:**

American: 25,000 dead 8,000 in battle

17,000 by other causes

Total American casualties: up to 50,000 dead and wounded

Allies: 6,000± French and Spanish (in Europe)

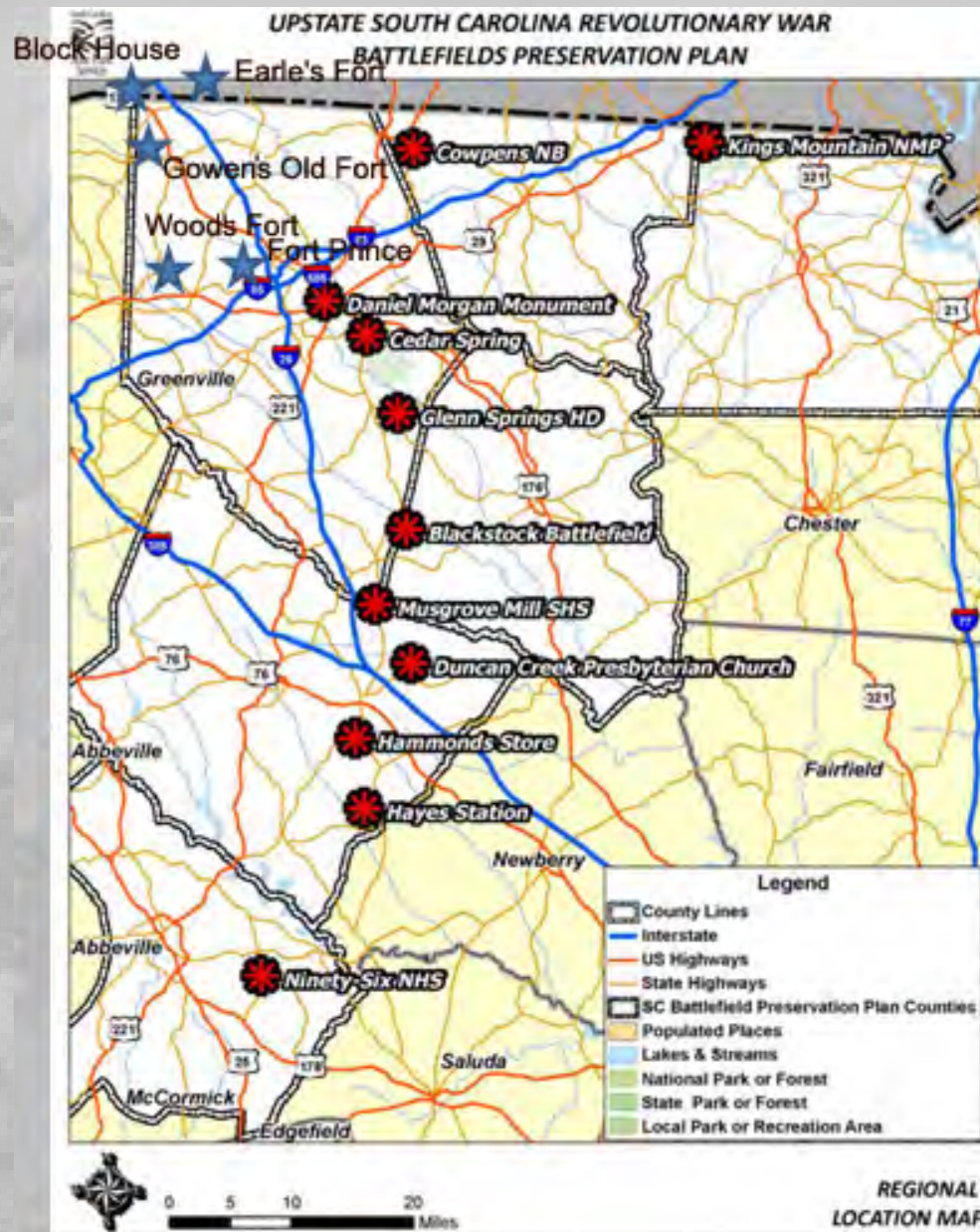
2,000 French (in America)

20,000± Soldiers from the British army dead and wounded

19,740 sailors dead (1,240 in Battle)

42,000 sailors deserted

7,554 German dead

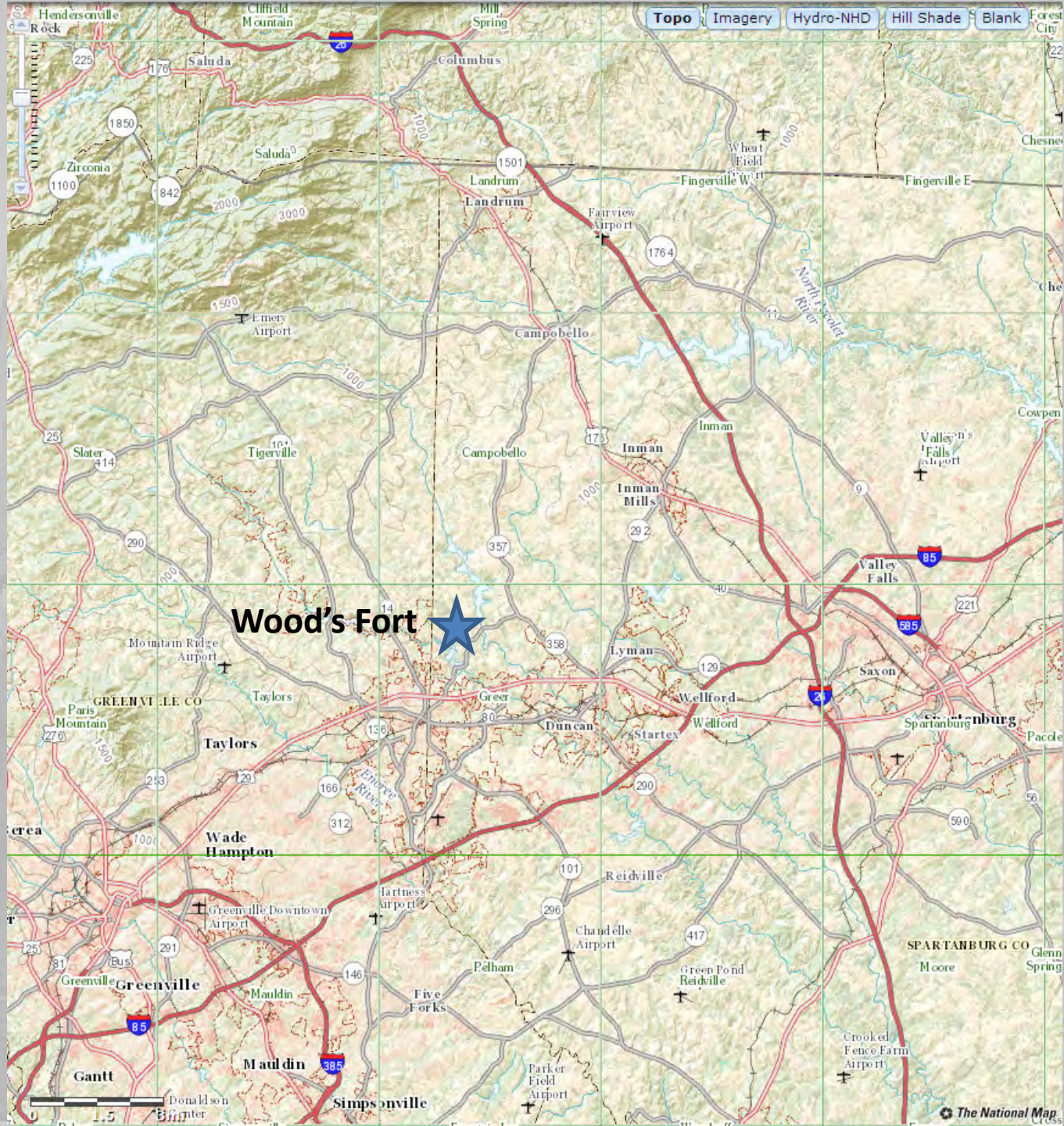


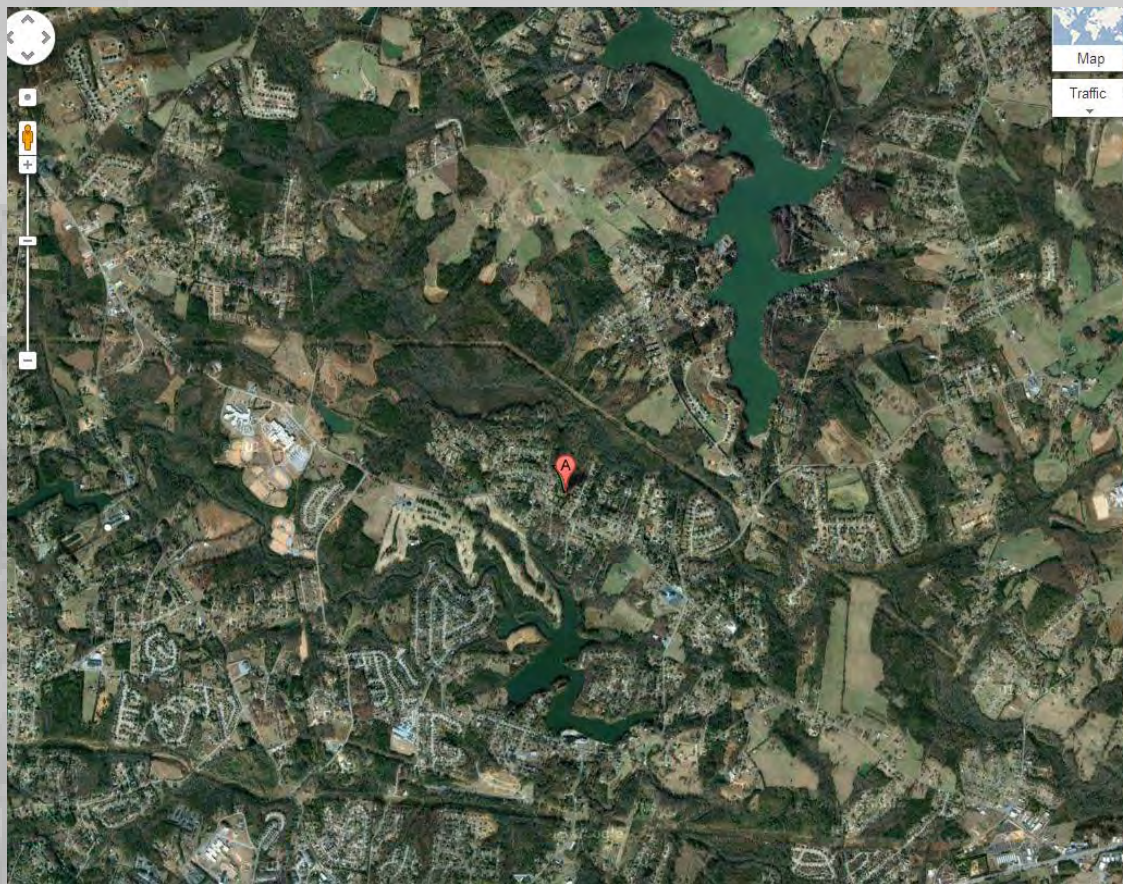


Drawing of Daniel Boone Station,
Kentucky, 1779 - 1784

O'Malley, 2002



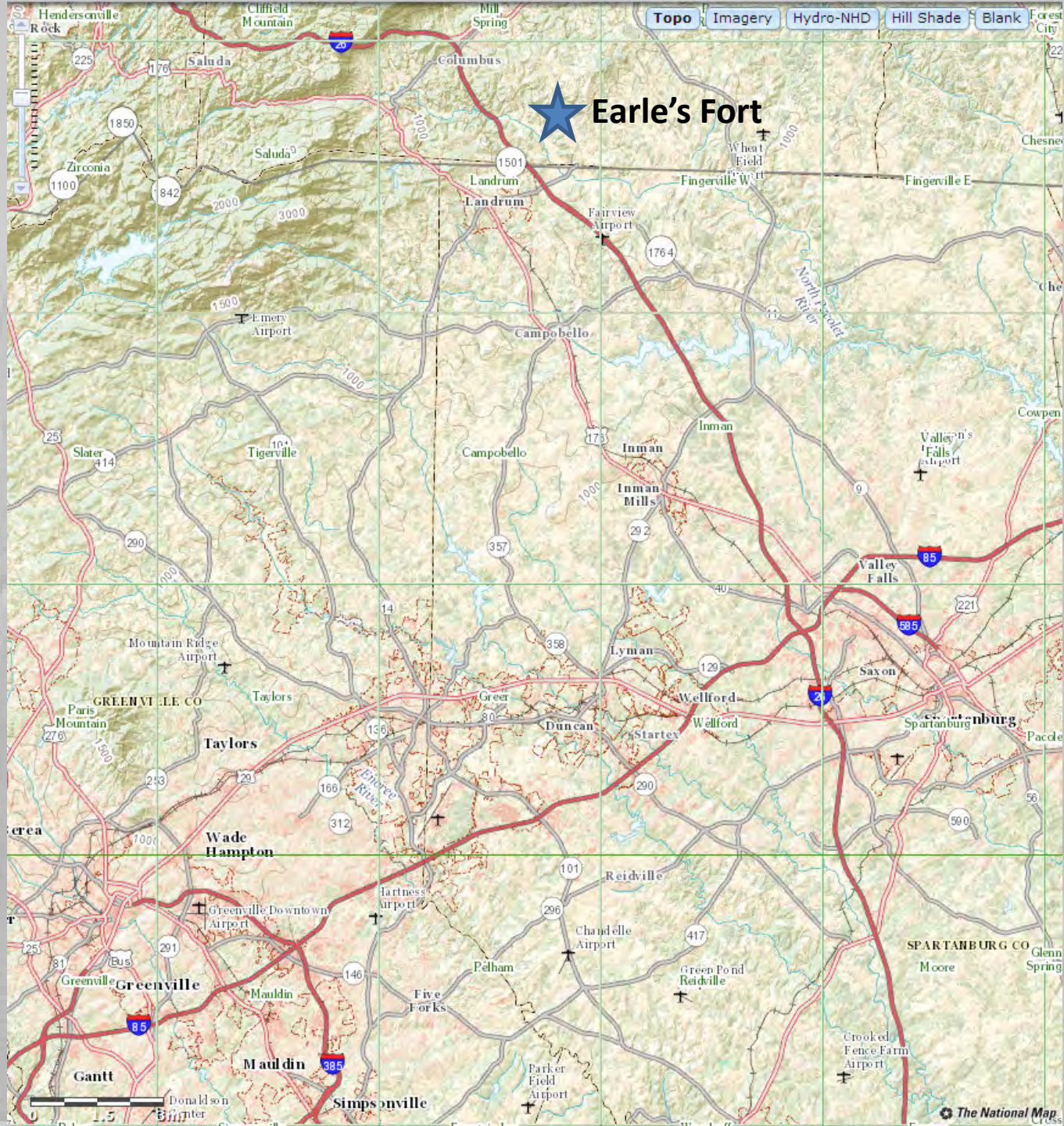


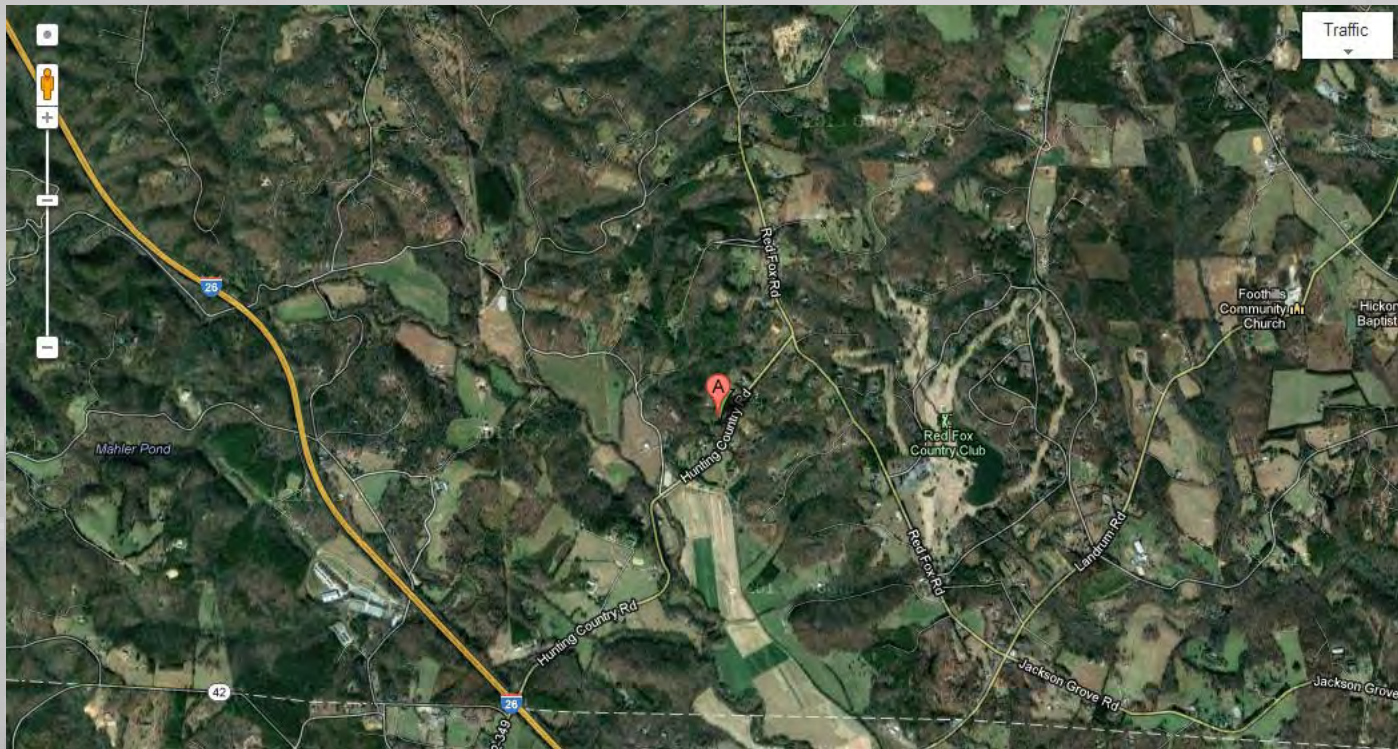


Wood's Fort ca. 1776-1778

American fort related to the 1776 massacre of the Hampton family by Indians

Wood's Fort was the same post referred to as Thompson's Fort. It was built (or rebuilt) in the latter part of 1777 by an expedition from Fort Prince under the command of Captain William Wood and Lieutenant Elisha Thompson, and this may explain why the two names were used so interchangeably. It was located between the South and Middle forks of Tyger River near Beaverdam Creek; it also seems to have been near a small tributary of South Tyger that is called Hampton Branch. The 1784 land plat of Elisha Thompson locates Wood's Old Fort very near the present Greenville-Spartanburg county line. The site is about two miles north of where U.S. 29 crosses the boundary line, or in other words, two miles north of Greer.





Earle's Fort ca.1775-1777

Massacre; May 1776; Settlers killed by Cherokees . "At a dirt road along Pacolet River, where Ralph Cote now raises horses... Joseph Hannon Daniel pointed out the scene of the massacre. (They) "escaped through the canebrakes over there and up the hill to Fort Earle." Mr. Thawley took us to the back of his house to an elevated point commanding a sweeping vista of the Pacolet valley. He stated, "I've been clearing this knoll off for four months, and only last week came on the foundations of the fort., which has been buried here for years under a tangle of briars and honeysuckle that must have been six feet deep". "There they are", he pointed to the stacks of grey lichen-covered rocks arranged in two adjoining squares, all that remains today of Col. John Earle's fortress-home. Eugene Warner, March, 1963.

Hoyt Prince could remember seeing site logs with loop holes in them that had been part of the old fort. Hunting Country Rd. was previously known as Princes Fort Road. (The Earles and Birnies, 1974).

Location notation to James Gregory, local land surveyor

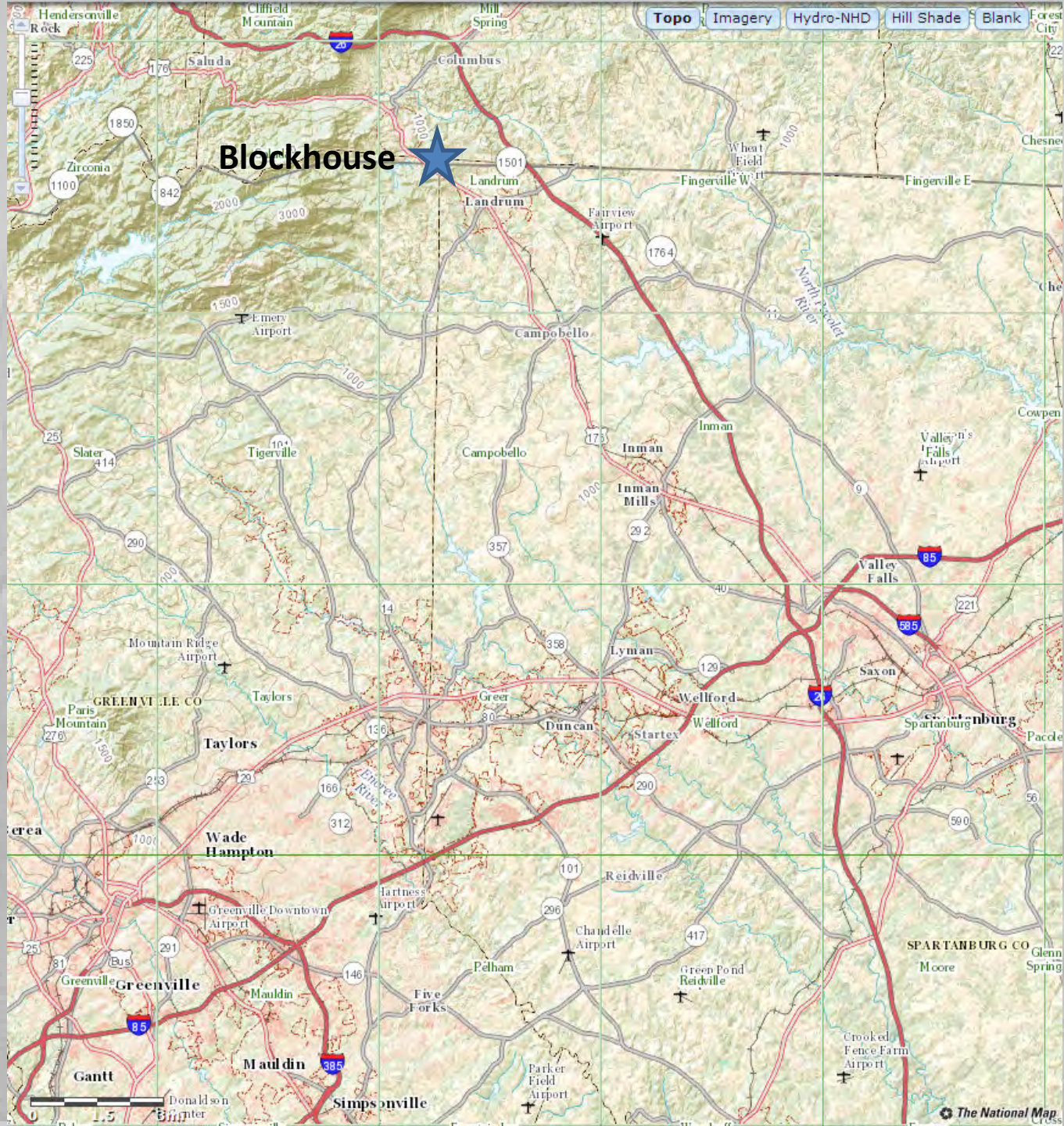




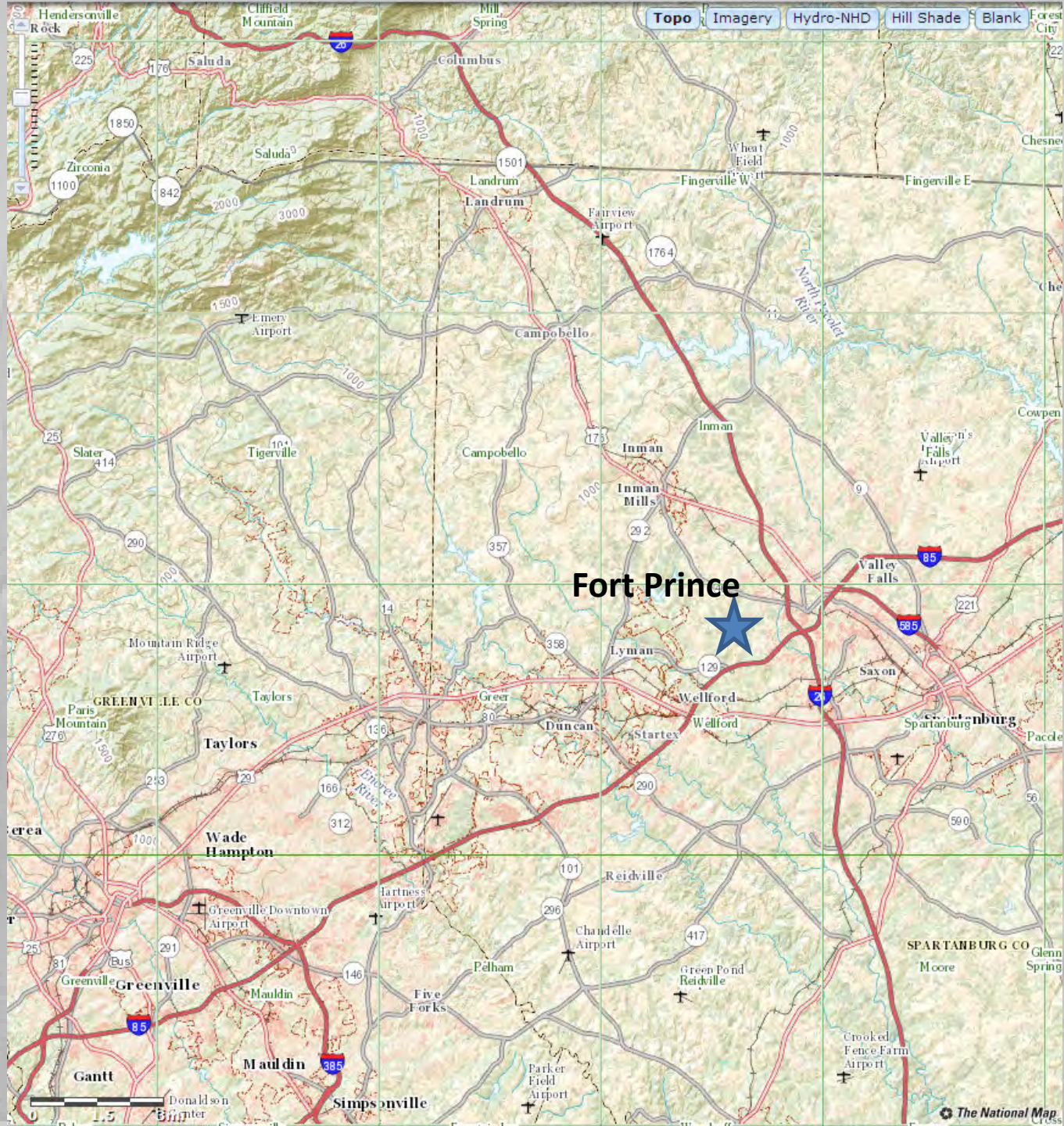
Photo: Jack Parker; courtesy John Robertson,
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/blockhouse.htm>

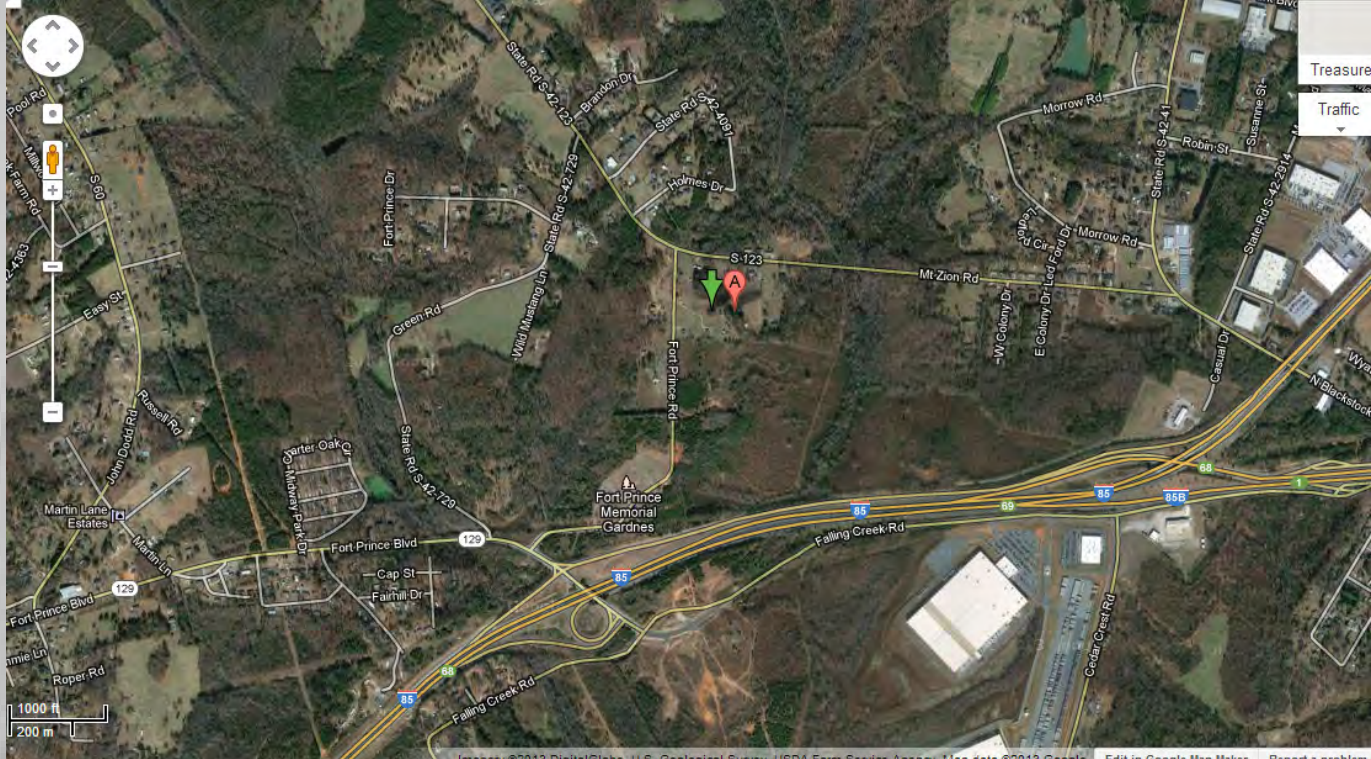


Blockhouse 1776

Possible site of murder of Indian trader and capture of his wife and daughters; Summer 1776

Location notation to J.W. Lawrence





Fort Prince ca. 1777-1780

Along the Blackstock Road. "Prince's Fort, circular in shape, was constructed of heavy logs. It was 150 ft (46 m) in diameter and 15 ft high. Port holes were cut for use by riflemen, and it was surrounded by a ditch, the dirt from which was thrown against the walls to parapet height. . . The fort was built circular and of heavy timbers from 12 to 15 feet high. . . secured in front by a abatis of heavy timbers . . . A circular depression in the ground on one side." In 1777, Prince's Fort was commanded by Captain James Steen (Landrum 1897:31-32). "Hampton pursued Dunlop to Fort Prince, in which three hundred men were posted." (Landrum 1897:126).

Like the other Old Indian Boundary stations and forts, Fort Prince was the general rallying point in times of danger when the people of the settlement sought safety and may have been used by both sides during the Revolutionary War. There may have been 300-400 men posted at Fort Prince at times

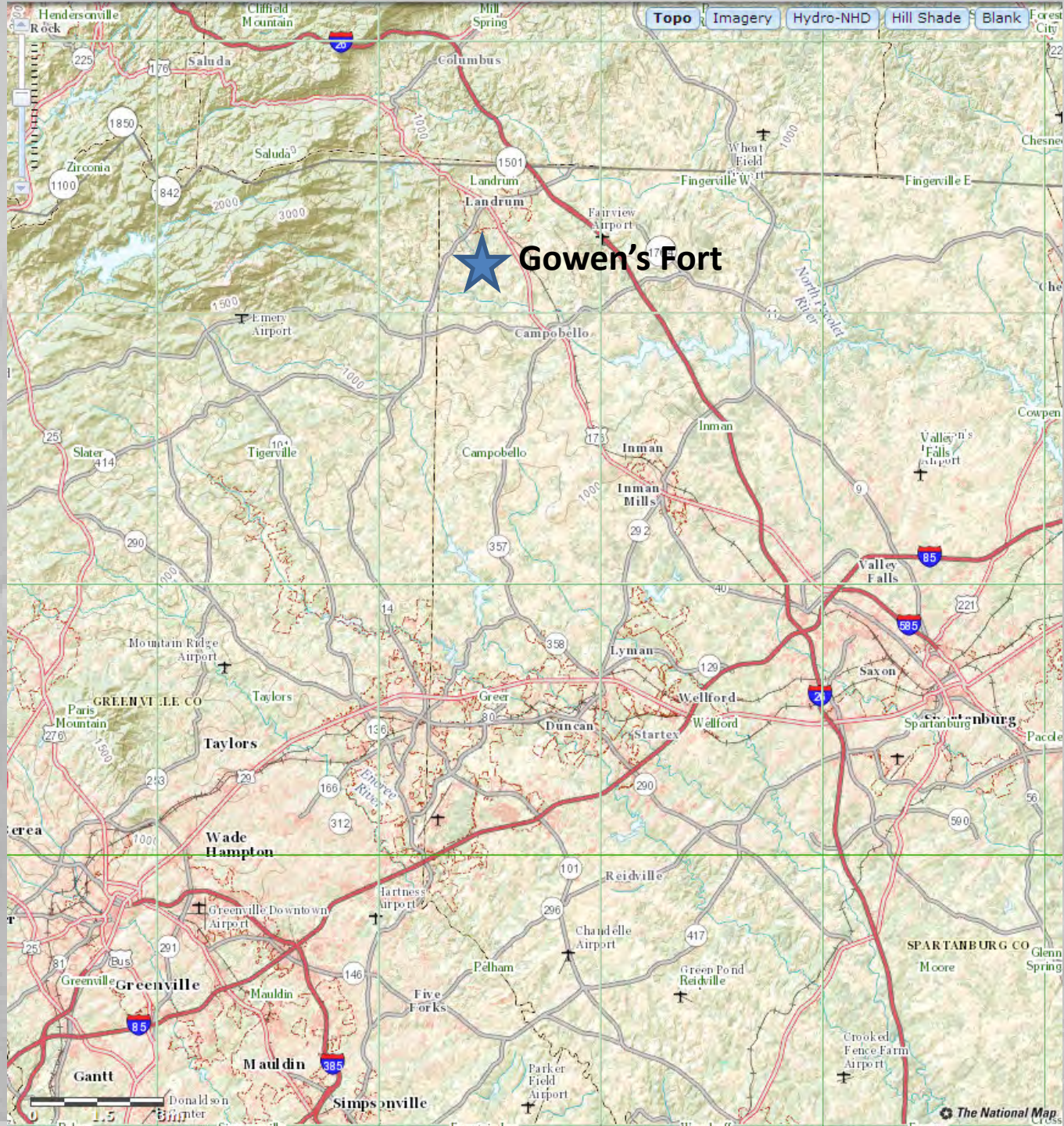
The Battle to Win Hearts

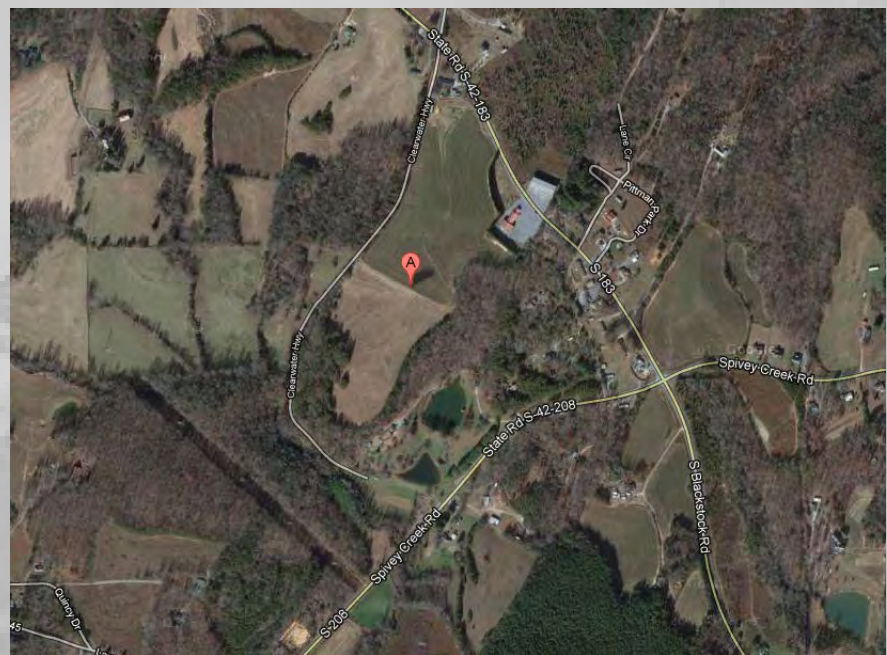
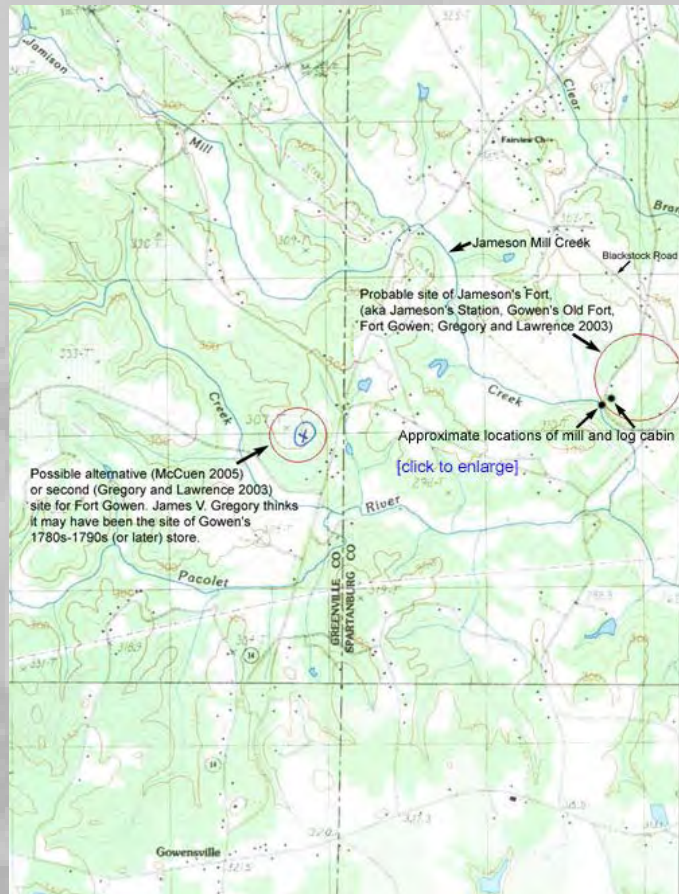
A series of events caused alarm bells to go off in the minds of the upcountry settlers as the war entered its sixth year in 1780.

1. The fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780 was seen as an ominous sign that the Patriot cause could be lost.
2. To add salt to the wound, on May 22, 1780 Sir Henry Clinton, overall British Commander, issued of series of disquieting degrees:
 - The first declared that anyone taking up arms or persuading “faithful and peaceable subjects” to rebel would suffer imprisonment and confiscation of property.
 - In a second proclamation on June 1, Clinton granted a full pardon to those individuals who returned to their allegiance.
 - However, two days later, the third decree proclaimed that all paroled civilians had to sign an oath of allegiance to the Crown within seventeen days; if not, they would be considered rebels.

➤ The last decree was viewed as downright treachery in that paroled soldiers and militia could not now live as neutrals. Taking the oath meant resuming the duties of British citizenship, including service in Loyalist militia units. Many had no desire to take up arms against their former comrades, and as a result they fled to the backcountry in order to resume the fight against the Loyalists and Redcoats.
3. The disaster that beheld the Patriot militia at the Battle of Camden in August of 1780 may have further motivated the backcountry militia units to more determined efforts at Kings Mountain in October 1780 and Cowpens in January 1781.







Gowen's Fort (aka Jameson's Station, Jameson's Fort) ca. 1777-1782, ref. to 1864-1865 use by Confederate deserters

1 November 1781: Loyalist Capt. William "Bloody Bill" Bates led a large force of Chickamauga Cherokee Indians, allegedly including Dragging Canoe, called Tecumseh of the South, and Tories dressed as Indians, from the mountains and laid siege to Patriot-held Gowen's Fort. There was a shortage of ammunition that forced the garrison to surrender after receiving assurances concerning the safety of the prisoners. After the surrender, Bates ordered a massacre of all men, women, and children. A few of the captives were taken into the mountains to be burned at the stake by the Indians. Among them was Maj. John "Buck" Gowen, who had been in command of the garrison. The slaves at the fort were taken as spoils of war, but Gowen was able to send his personal servant to summon help prior to his capture. Of those in the fort, 10 were killed (Parker's Guide, p. 329).

Location notation to George Fields

13-14 July 1780: A band of Tories pursuing Col. John Thomas halted at Gowen's Old Fort for the night. These Tories were part of the same group that had been defeated at Cedar Spring. Georgia Patriot militia Col. John Jones and his 35 men passed themselves off as Loyalists and were admitted into the fort manned by a Loyalist force of 40 men. With 21 of his men, Jones surprised the garrison, killed 1, wounded 3, and took 32 prisoners (including the wounded). The Tories were paroled, but Jones took their best horses and guns and damaged those guns he could not take with him. The next day, Jones joined North Carolina Patriot militia Col. Charles McDowell's 300 men at Earle's Ford on the east side of the North Pacolet River.



Dragging Canoe
"Tecumseh of the South"

chickamaugacherokee.org
notesfromthe9th0cherokee.blogspot.com



americathroughrickseyes.com

"BLOODY BILL" BATES
 APPEARS IN THE VICINITY OF GOWEN'S FORT, ACCOMPANIED BY INDIANS AND BAD MEN.--MASSACRE AT THOMSON'S FORT AND MILL'S STATION.--MURDER OF THE MOTLEY FAMILY.--**BATES** BECOMES A HORSE THIEF.--IS CAPTURED AFTER THE REVOLUTION AND CARRIED TO GREENVILLE.--IS SHOT BY YOUNG MOTLEY.

Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, by John Belton O'Neill Landrum, page 341

Sample of archival records alluding to Fort Gowen (Jameson's Station, Stockade, Fort):

John "Buck" Gowen was authorized to rebuild a fort in the western extremity of South Carolina as detailed in the following order:

Winn, SOUTHERN LINEAGES, "Gowen" p. 327, "I bequith to my son James Gowen, 800 acres to begin at the ford on the south Pacelot, thence to the beginning so as to include the Jamison fields." p. 329. In John Gowen's Record of military service ... "I hereby certify that I ordered John Gowen, Capt., to build, or rather, rebuild, a fort at Jamison's station on the line, April 14 1779." SC Stub Indent X 760; 27 April 1785, "John Gowen was paid for rebuilding a stockade fort at Jamison's Station on the Line in 1779. Five Pounds; fifteen shillings; three pence farthing; sterling."

"To John Gowen, Dr: To building one stockade fort for the use of the publick by order of Colonel William Wofford, S.C. Valued to 440. I hereby certify that I ordered John Gowen, Captain, to build, or rather rebuild, a fort at Jamison's station on the line, April 14, 1779. Hood, L.C.

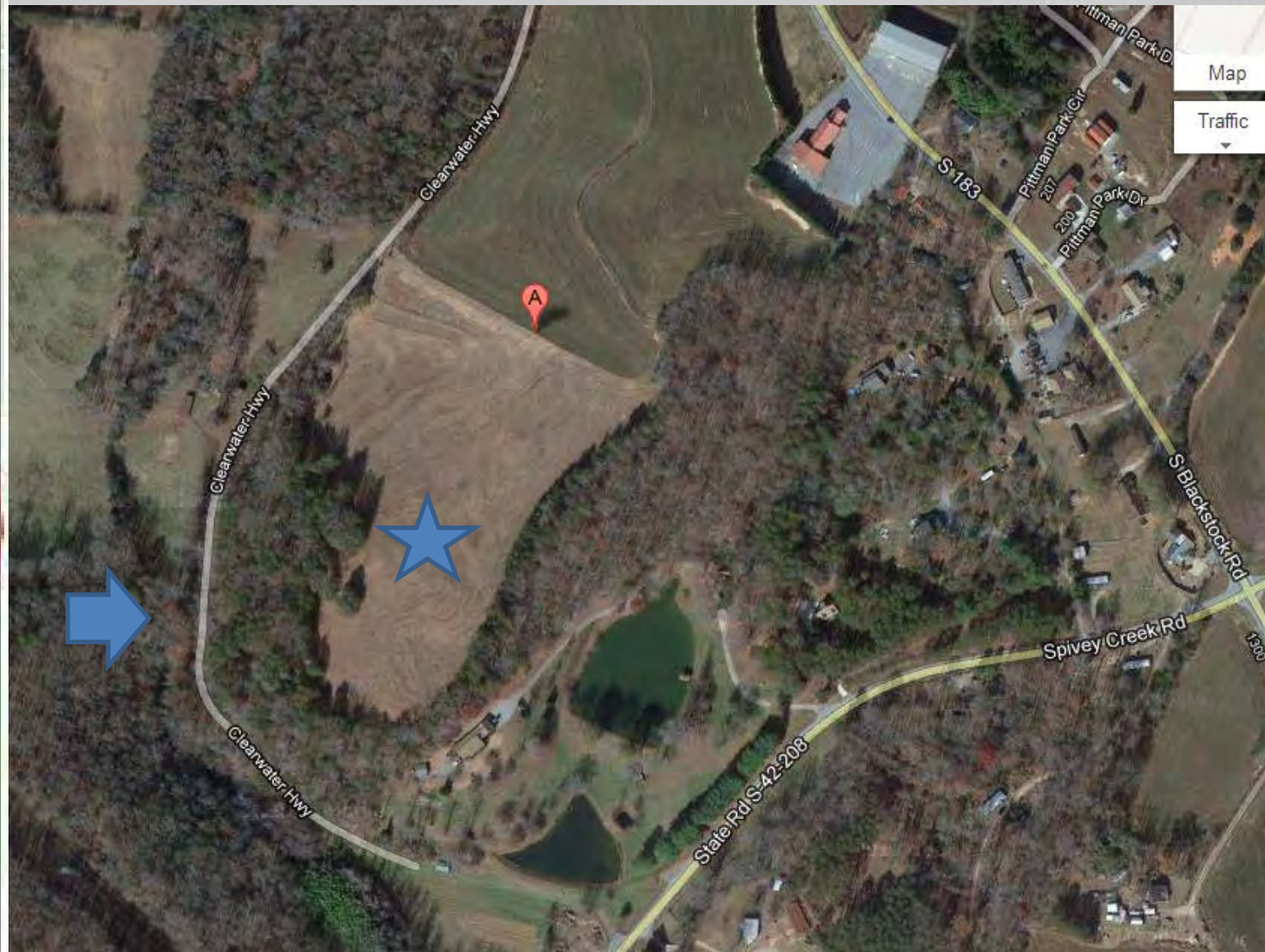
"John Gowen for rebuilding a stockade fort at Jamison's Station on the line in 1779. Amt. £5:15:3. Five pounds; fifteen shillings; three pence farthing; sterling. Ex'd. W.G. J.M.C. N.G. South Carolina, Ninety-Six District. By James Wood, a justice assigned to keep the peace in the District aforesaid. Personally appeared before me Captain John Gowen and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the within account is just and true, and no part thereof received. Sworn to before me this 12 day April, 1779."

Testimonies of Service (Moss 1990):

p. 195. "Jesse Nevill mentions he was stationed at Jamison's Fort on the South Pacolet River."

p. 328, "Samuel Fowler mentions his service at Jamison's Fort, where he served as an Indian Spy for five or six years."

p. 465, "James Howard mentions he was sent to Jamieson's Fort." Holcomb, SPARTANBURG COURT MINUTES pp. 120, 128, 263, "James Fowler served at Jameson's Stockade."





05/22/2005

View looking southwest of second possible site of Fort Gowen (Jameson's Fort).



05/22/2005

James V. Gregory taking GPS reading.



William Jameson (Jamison, Jamieson), born in Ireland in 1737:

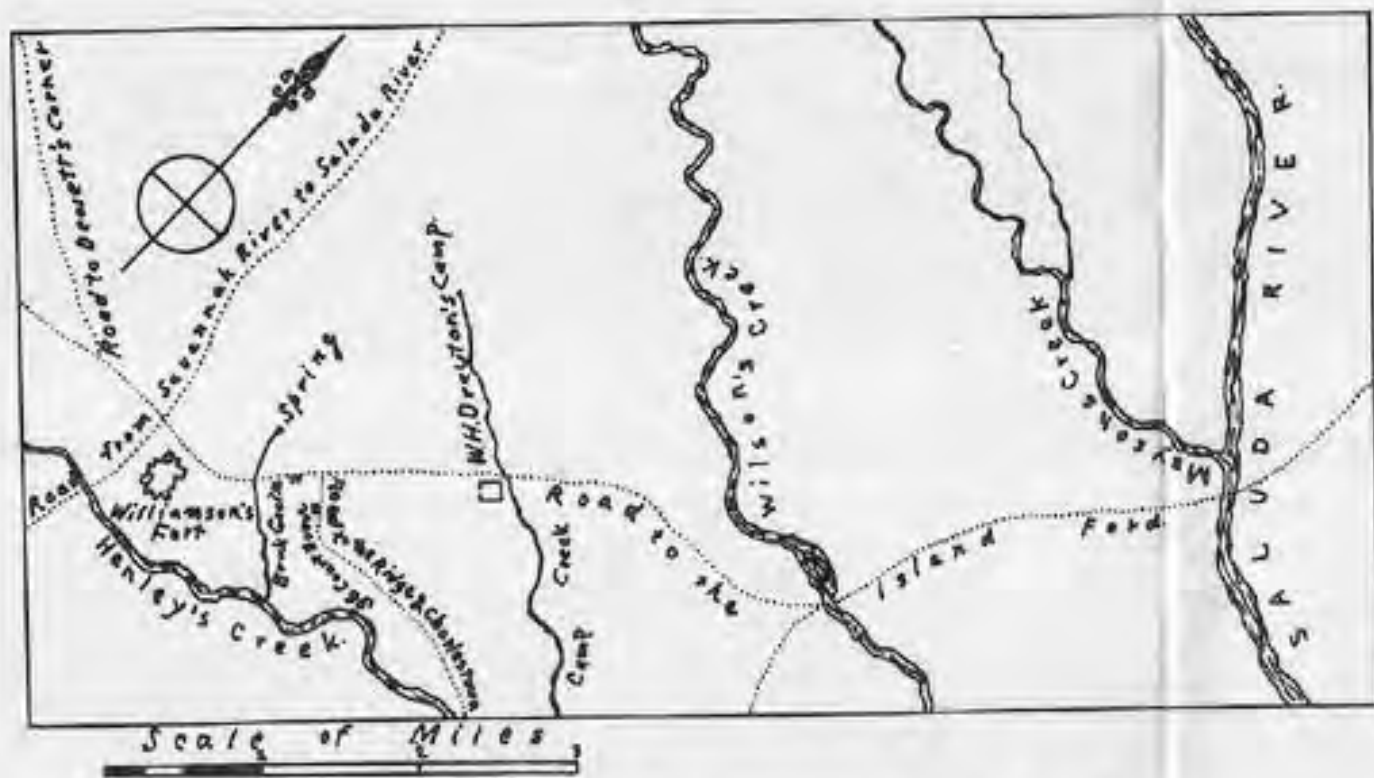
- Likely immigrated from Pennsylvania and Virginia via branches of the Great Wagon Road in the late 1760s or early 1770s.
- Was living in the area of the Old Indian Boundary by 1772.
- Was a member of the pre-war militia that protected settlers from Indian incursions (maintained Jameson's Station).
- Served under Capt. John "Buck" Gowen, Roebuck's Battalion of the Spartan Regiment, ca. 1777-1782.
- Bought from and sold land to Gowen in the area of the Old Indian Boundary near present-day Landrum.
- Bought land from Gowen in Pendleton District (in today's Pickens County) and moved there about 1790.
- Had a son, William Jameson, Jr., who had eleven children who survived to adulthood. Most of the Jamesons in Pickens County are descended from the eleven children.

Jameson's Station was repaired and upgraded under Gowen in 1779; starting in 1779, Jameson's Station was commonly referred to as Fort Gowen or Old Fort Gowen.

2003-present: Jameson Family Cemetery, Inc., has been active in preservation and investigations of William Jameson, Sr., and created the "Descendants of William Jameson, Sr." website:
<http://www.nettally.com/jameson1/williamjameson/index.htm>.



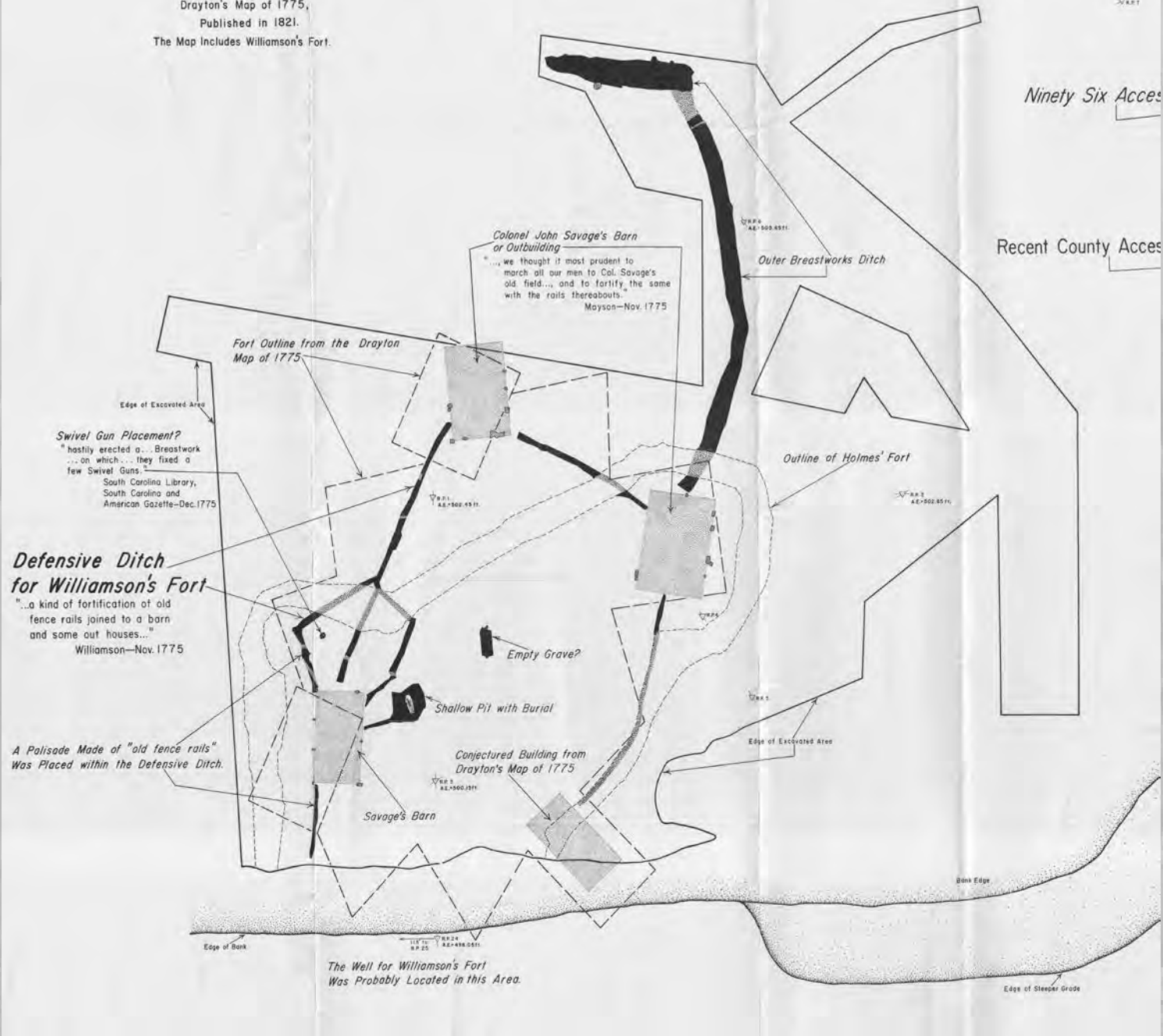
12

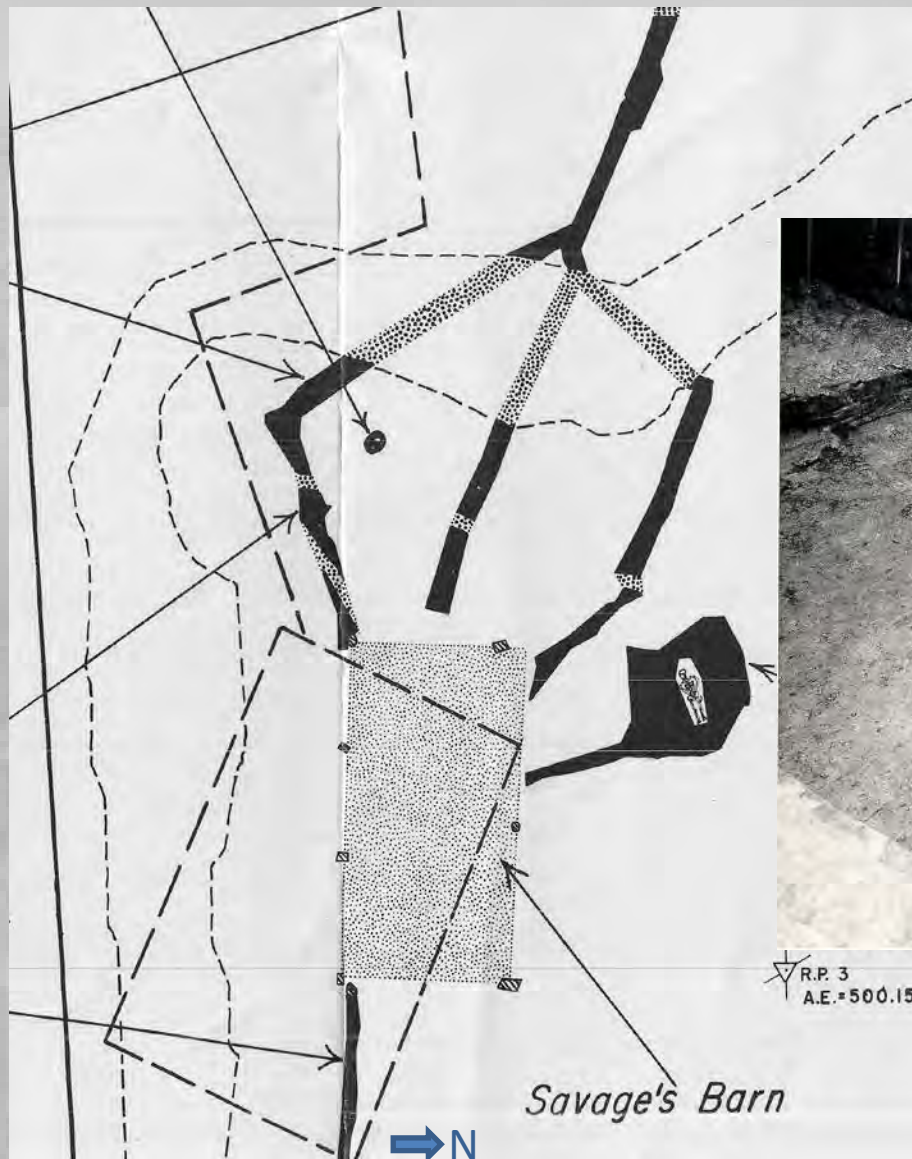


Drayton's Map of 1775,
Published in 1821.

The Map Includes Williamson's Fort.

Drayton's Map of 1775,
Published in 1821.
The Map Includes Williamson's Fort.









Need to identify and protect *in situ*, if possible, what is left of these stations and forts

Expected Archaeological Patterns:

1. Low Artifact density: very low, such that metal detecting usually is the best way to locate them.
2. Metal artifacts are the most commonly found: Given the low artifact density, common artifacts found by metal detecting are nails and cast iron objects such as kettle fragments that often exploded. In some cases there may be larger pits that may have served as a powder magazine, as well as evidence of on-site blacksmithing. Ceramics, glass, personal items are often very low frequency, but are present, and require screening to recover.
3. Forts derived from permanent dwellings have greater numbers of artifacts than purely military purpose structures: Forts that were constructed out of, or at, an existing house will have more artifacts generally than a purely militia fort site, where the occupation ceased when the danger passed. Many of the settler or “home” forts occurred at the house of a local leader, often a militia company officer.
4. Purely militia-fort sites will have much greater clarity in terms of understanding the military occupation.
5. Settler or “home” forts tend not to contain stockades: especially lacking stockades are the settler forts that were initially built as a house, and perhaps later became a place of local defense, more of a fortified house than what we think of as a fort, but these were sometimes called “forts” locally.
6. Stockade forts can encompass all buildings, including barns and other outbuildings and outside walls of buildings as part of the stockade, so that there is a gap in the stockade trench where it intersects buildings. The stockade trenches can be 1.5 to 2 feet wide and similar depth into the subsoil. In plowed areas, expect to encounter the stockade trench at the base of the plow zone.
7. Militia-built forts are more formal in design vs. the more vernacular fortified houses: The militia built forts tend to have two to four bastions, while the fortified houses are often more vernacular, and show adaptations to deal with existing structures and terrain, often not fortifying all four sides of the site equally. Often there were blockhouses constructed in militia-built forts.
8. Faunal remains are common: Faunal remains are quite common and potentially informative, so need to budget for faunal analyses. Some ethno botanical preservation is common in trash pit features, which vary in frequency from site to site.

Investigation Methods:

Assuming in most cases, no other significant settlement occupation:

- Metal detecting is usually the best way to locate artifacts, since metal artifacts are commonly detectable, albeit sites generally have a very low artifact density.
- Conduct concurrent oral histories, both from descendants of fort inhabitants/militia leaders and land owners.
- Conduct archival research of the documentary data, including site history, geography, chain of title and other land records, and Rev. War soldiers' pension records.
- Survey the entire area: archeological exploratory work and remote sensing, including systematic metal detecting in conjunction with non-intrusive exploration and remote sensing depending on soil conditions, geography, and depositional history.
 - Other common remote sensing techniques:
 1. Resistivity
 2. Ground penetrating radar
 3. Aerial photography:
 - a. Multispectral and hyperspectral sensors
 - b. Thermal infrared multispectral scanner (TIMS)
 4. Satellite imaging:
 - a. Laser altimeters or light detection and ranging (LIDAR)

Costs: can be up to \$75K+ per site



www.sonofthesouth.net

The Lesser Known Frontier Forts & Actions of Backcountry Militia in the Revolutionary War



<http://www.historyisfun.org/militia-in-the-Revolutionary-war.htm>

JOHN H. JAMESON, JR., RPA
Senior Archeologist, Public Interpretation and Outreach Lead
Southeast Archeological Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
2035 E. Paul Dirac Drive
Johnson Building, Suite 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32310 USA

- **NPS Interpretive Development Program (IDP) Curriculum Coordinator/Certifier**
- **Vice President, International Committee on Interpretation and Presentation (ICIP), ICOMOS**
- **Member, Interpret Europe/NAI International Interpretation**
- **Secretary, Board of Directors, Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation**
- **President, Jameson Family Cemetery, Inc. (Pickens County, SC)**

Phone: 850-580-3011 extension 243; mobile: 850-322-5636
E-mail: john_jameson@nps.gov; jhameson@yahoo.com