



South Carolina: The Battleground State

Revolutionary War Battles & Skirmishes

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AI-Assisted Research and Composition

April 3, 2026 - WORKING DRAFT



South Carolina—more than any other colony—became the crucible of the Revolutionary War. From the first shots in the backcountry to the final British evacuation of Charleston, its soil bore the weight of relentless conflict. Here, neighbor fought neighbor in a brutal civil war layered atop the struggle for independence. Battles, skirmishes, and sieges scarred towns, plantations, rivers, and crossroads, leaving a legacy of sacrifice and resilience. These engagements, large and small, reveal how South Carolina earned its place as the Revolutionary War’s true battleground state—where the tide turned, and where American independence was ultimately secured.

1775

Naval Battle, Charleston Harbor (Nov 11–12, 1775, Charleston Co.)

- One of the earliest armed confrontations in South Carolina occurred when Patriot vessels engaged British naval forces in Charleston Harbor. Though tactically inconclusive, the clash marked a decisive escalation from political tension to open warfare along the coast. The engagement demonstrated the strategic importance of Charleston as a port and set the stage for future naval operations, foreshadowing the critical role maritime power would play in controlling the southern theater of the Revolutionary War.
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First Siege of Ninety-Six (Nov 19–21, 1775, Greenwood Co.)

- Patriot militia forces besieged Loyalists entrenched at Ninety-Six, one of the earliest major inland confrontations of the war. Lacking artillery and sufficient coordination, the Patriots failed to capture the fortified position. Despite its inconclusive outcome, the siege revealed deep political divisions in the South Carolina backcountry and previewed the brutal civil war conditions that would define the region, where neighbor often fought neighbor in a struggle for allegiance and control.
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Snow Campaign (Nov–Dec 1775, SC Backcountry)

- In response to Loyalist uprisings, Patriot forces launched the Snow Campaign, a winter offensive across the South Carolina backcountry. Operating under harsh seasonal conditions, militia units suppressed organized Loyalist resistance, capturing arms and dispersing opposition groups. This campaign secured early internal control for the revolutionary government and demonstrated its ability to project authority beyond coastal centers, marking a critical step in consolidating Patriot influence during the war's opening phase.
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Great Cane Brake (Dec 22, 1775, Greenville Co.)

- At Great Cane Brake, Patriot militia pursued and defeated a Loyalist force near Ninety-Six, capturing prisoners and disrupting organized resistance. The engagement strengthened Patriot control in the backcountry and contributed to the success of the broader Snow Campaign. This early victory boosted Whig morale and demonstrated the effectiveness of aggressive militia operations in suppressing Loyalist elements during the formative months of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina.
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1776

Capture of McCall's Party (Jun 26, 1776)

- Patriot forces successfully intercepted and captured a Loyalist party in the upper backcountry, disrupting British efforts to coordinate with Cherokee allies. This action prevented the formation of a broader frontier alliance that could have threatened Patriot settlements. The engagement highlights the strategic importance of intelligence, mobility, and preemptive strikes in the early southern campaign, where small-unit actions often had outsized influence on regional stability and control.
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Sullivan's Island / Fort Moultrie (Jun 28, 1776)

- American forces achieved a decisive victory by repelling a major British naval assault on Charleston Harbor. Fort Moultrie's palmetto-log walls absorbed cannon fire, allowing Patriot artillery to inflict heavy damage on the British fleet. This triumph boosted colonial morale and secured Charleston from immediate invasion. Celebrated as "Carolina Day," the battle became a defining symbol of South Carolina's resilience and demonstrated that well-positioned defenses could overcome superior naval power.

Lindley's Fort (Jul 15, 1776)

- Cherokee warriors attacked the frontier settlement at Lindley's Fort, which was defended by Patriot settlers. The engagement reflected the British strategy of encouraging Native American alliances to curb colonial expansion. Although the outcome was inconclusive, the attack intensified frontier violence and underscored the war's reach beyond conventional battlefields. It highlighted the vulnerability of isolated settlements and the complex, multi-front nature of the conflict in South Carolina.

Seneca (Cherokee Campaign) (Aug 1, 1776, Pickens/Oconee Co.)

- As part of the coordinated Cherokee Campaign, Patriot forces destroyed the town of Seneca, a key Cherokee settlement allied with the British. The action aimed to neutralize the Native American threat to frontier communities and dismantle the infrastructure supporting continued resistance. This campaign marked a turning point in frontier warfare, effectively ending large-scale Cherokee military operations against South Carolina settlements and securing the western frontier for the Patriot cause.

Tugaloo River (Aug 10, 1776, Oconee Co.)

- Patriot militia engaged Cherokee forces near the Tugaloo River in a continuation of the Cherokee Campaign. The operation focused on destroying villages, food supplies, and logistical support systems, thereby crippling the Cherokee capacity for sustained warfare. This engagement formed part of a broader strategy to eliminate coordinated Native resistance and stabilize the frontier, ensuring that Patriot forces could redirect attention to British operations along the coast and interior.

Tamasee (Aug 12, 1776, Oconee Co.)

- At Tamasee, Patriot forces continued their systematic destruction of Cherokee towns during the 1776 campaign. By targeting key settlements, they aimed to dismantle the Cherokee war effort and remove a significant threat to colonial expansion. The engagement contributed to the rapid collapse of organized Cherokee resistance in the region, reinforcing Patriot dominance in the backcountry and reshaping the balance of power along the South Carolina frontier.
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The Ring Fight (Aug 1776, Oconee Co.)

- The Ring Fight was a fierce and chaotic engagement between Patriot militia and Cherokee warriors during the frontier campaign of 1776. Characterized by close-quarters combat, the battle reflected the brutal realities of backcountry warfare, where terrain and personal combat played decisive roles. Though tactically inconclusive, the encounter exemplified the intensity of frontier fighting and the deeply personal nature of the conflict in South Carolina's upper regions.
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1778

Capture of Privateers (Jun 19, 1778, Charleston Co.)

- Patriot naval forces captured British privateers operating off the South Carolina coast, striking at one of Britain's key methods of economic warfare. Privateers preyed on American shipping, threatening vital supply lines into Charleston. Their capture not only protected coastal commerce but also demonstrated growing Patriot capability at sea. Though a relatively small action, it contributed to maintaining the fragile economic lifeline sustaining the southern war effort.
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1779

Port Royal Island (Feb 3, 1779, Beaufort Co.)

- British forces defeated Patriot militia on Port Royal Island, securing a critical foothold along the southern coast. This victory enabled the British to establish a base for further operations in the Lowcountry and demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated naval and land assaults. The engagement exposed the vulnerability of militia forces when facing professional troops and marked the beginning of a renewed British southern strategy focused on South Carolina.
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Coosawhatchie (May 3, 1779, Jasper Co.)

- At Coosawhatchie, British forces routed American troops, further tightening their control over the southern approaches to Charleston. The engagement formed part of a broader campaign to weaken Patriot defenses and secure key transportation routes. By defeating scattered American forces, the British improved their ability to move troops and supplies inland, steadily building the operational framework that would support their major offensive against Charleston the following year.
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Prevost's Siege of Charleston (May 11–13, 1779)

- British General Augustine Prevost advanced on Charleston, testing the city's defenses before ultimately withdrawing. Though the siege did not result in capture, it exposed the vulnerability of the Patriot capital and disrupted civilian life. The operation demonstrated British mobility from their Georgia base and served as a warning that Charleston could be isolated and attacked, setting the stage for the full-scale siege that would follow in 1780.
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Matthew's Plantation (May 20, 1779)

- A skirmish near Charleston at Matthew's Plantation reflected the ongoing contest for control of the Lowcountry following Prevost's advance. Both sides maneuvered to secure key approaches to the city, with Patriots attempting to strengthen defenses while British forces probed for weaknesses. Though limited in scale, the engagement illustrates the constant pressure surrounding Charleston and the fluid nature of military operations in the region.
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Stono Ferry (Jun 20, 1779, Charleston Co.)

- Patriot forces launched an assault on entrenched British troops at Stono Ferry but failed to dislodge them. Despite determined attacks, the British maintained their defensive position, securing a tactical victory. The battle underscored the difficulty of attacking fortified positions without sufficient coordination or artillery support and delayed Patriot efforts to regain control of the Lowcountry near Charleston, allowing British forces to consolidate their presence.
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Stono River Galley Fight (Jun 22–23, 1779, Charleston Co.)

- This naval engagement on the Stono River involved Patriot galleys clashing with British vessels in a struggle for control of inland waterways. These waterways were vital for transporting troops and supplies around Charleston's complex coastal geography. Though inconclusive, the action highlighted the importance of naval mobility in the southern campaign and the ongoing contest for dominance in both land and riverine environments.
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Attack on British Supply Ships (Jun 1779, Charleston Co.)

- Patriot forces struck British supply vessels near Charleston, targeting the logistical backbone of British operations. By disrupting supply lines, the Patriots aimed to weaken British capacity to sustain field forces and fortifications. These attacks reflected an understanding that victory in the southern theater depended as much on logistics as on battlefield success, and they demonstrated the increasing effectiveness of coordinated land-sea operations by Patriot forces.
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Schooner Rattlesnake (Jun 1779, Charleston Co.)

- The schooner Rattlesnake participated in a Patriot naval action targeting British maritime activity along the South Carolina coast. This engagement formed part of a broader effort to harass British shipping and protect American coastal trade. Though limited in scale, such actions complemented land-based partisan warfare and underscored the importance of maintaining pressure on British forces across multiple domains, including the often-overlooked maritime front.
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Siege of Savannah (Sep 16–Oct 18, 1779, Georgia)

- A combined Franco-American force attempted to retake Savannah from British control but ultimately failed after a costly assault. The siege demonstrated both the potential and limitations of allied cooperation. Despite significant manpower and naval support, entrenched British defenses proved too strong. The defeat preserved British control of Georgia and delayed any meaningful Patriot recovery in the Deep South, prolonging the struggle for control of the southern colonies.
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1780

McPherson's Plantation (Mar 1780)

- This early engagement occurred during the British advance toward Charleston, as forces moved through the Lowcountry to eliminate Patriot resistance. Actions such as McPherson's Plantation were part of a coordinated effort to secure interior routes and suppress opposition ahead of the main siege. Though relatively small, the engagement contributed to the tightening British grip on the region and demonstrated the systematic nature of their campaign.
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Salkehatchie Bridge (Mar 18, 1780, Colleton-Hampton)

- British forces secured the Salkehatchie Bridge, a vital crossing point that enabled continued movement toward Charleston. Control of such infrastructure was essential for maintaining supply lines and coordinating troop advances. This action reflected the methodical British strategy of isolating Charleston before the siege, ensuring that reinforcements and supplies could not easily reach the city from the interior.
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Bee's Plantation (Mar 23, 1780)

- At Bee's Plantation, British forces engaged and subdued Patriot resistance near Charleston. The action formed part of a broader campaign to clear the immediate approaches to the city. By neutralizing local opposition, the British tightened their operational perimeter, ensuring that Charleston would be effectively isolated before the formal siege commenced.
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Rutledge's Plantation (Rantowle's) (Mar 27, 1780)

- British forces struck Patriot positions at Rutledge's Plantation as they advanced on Charleston. The engagement helped secure critical roads and lines of communication leading into the city. Such operations were essential to encircle Charleston and prevent escape or reinforcement, demonstrating the disciplined execution of the British campaign plan during the opening phase of the siege.
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Siege of Charleston (Mar 29–May 12, 1780, Charleston Co.)

- British forces under General Sir Henry Clinton besieged Charleston, ultimately forcing the surrender of a major American army. Thousands of Patriot troops were captured in one of the most devastating defeats of the Revolutionary War. The fall of Charleston gave Britain control of South Carolina’s primary port and appeared to secure the southern colonies. However, the loss also set the stage for widespread resistance in the backcountry.
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Monck’s Corner (Apr 14, 1780)

- British cavalry surprised Patriot forces at Monck’s Corner, capturing critical supplies, artillery, and horses. This decisive victory crippled American mobility and communication during the Charleston campaign. By eliminating key logistical assets, the British ensured that Patriot forces could neither reinforce nor effectively withdraw, accelerating the collapse of organized resistance around the city.
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Wadboo Bridge (Apr 14, 1780, Berkeley Co.)

- British forces secured Wadboo Bridge, cutting off a vital escape route for Patriot troops attempting to withdraw from the Charleston area. This action formed part of a coordinated series of strikes that completed the encirclement of the city. Control of such crossings ensured that British forces maintained dominance over movement throughout the region.
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Biggin Bridge (Apr 14, 1780, Berkeley Co.)

- At Biggin Bridge, British forces defeated American cavalry in a coordinated operation alongside victories at Monck’s Corner and Wadboo Bridge. These simultaneous actions destroyed the remaining Patriot mobile forces outside Charleston, sealing the fate of the city. The engagement demonstrated effective British coordination and underscored the importance of cavalry in controlling movement and communication.
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Lenud’s Ferry (May 6, 1780)

- British troops defeated American forces attempting to retreat from the Charleston area at Lenud’s Ferry. The loss of men and supplies further weakened Patriot resistance during the final days before Charleston’s surrender. This engagement exemplified the relentless British pressure applied during the campaign, ensuring that no organized escape or regrouping could occur.
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Waxhaws (Buford’s Massacre) (May 29, 1780)

- British cavalry under Banastre Tarleton overtook and defeated a retreating Patriot force near the Waxhaws. Reports that surrendering soldiers were killed gave rise to the cry “Tarleton’s Quarter,” galvanizing Patriot resistance. The brutality of the engagement transformed public sentiment, driving recruitment and hardening resolve across the southern colonies. It became one of the most infamous episodes of the war in the South.
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Morris Ford (May 1780, Barnwell Co.)

- A skirmish at Morris Ford reflected the spread of British operations into the South Carolina interior following the fall of Charleston. As British forces extended their control, smaller engagements like this illustrated the shifting nature of the conflict from formal sieges to dispersed actions across rivers, roads, and frontier settlements.
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Beckhamville (Jun 6, 1780, Chester Co.)

- The engagement at Beckhamville marked one of the earliest signs of renewed Patriot resistance in the backcountry. Though inconclusive, it demonstrated that British control following Charleston's fall was far from secure. Local militia began testing British authority, setting the stage for the rise of organized partisan warfare across the interior.
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Brandon's Defeat (Jun 10, 1780)

- British or Loyalist forces defeated Patriot militia at Brandon's Defeat, reflecting the difficulties faced by early resistance efforts. Poorly organized and lacking coordination, Patriot groups often suffered setbacks in these initial encounters. However, such defeats contributed to the evolution of more effective guerrilla tactics that would later challenge British control.
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Mobley's Meeting House (Jun 1780)

- This skirmish highlighted the deep internal divisions within South Carolina communities. Patriot and Loyalist neighbors clashed near Mobley's Meeting House, illustrating the civil war aspect of the Revolution in the backcountry. Such engagements were often personal and localized, with shifting allegiances and long-standing grievances fueling violence.
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Stallings (Jun 1780)

- Fighting at Stallings in York County reflected the rapid spread of partisan warfare following Charleston's fall. Small, mobile engagements became increasingly common as both sides sought to assert control over local territories. These skirmishes marked the transition from conventional warfare to a more decentralized and unpredictable conflict.
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Hill's Iron Works (Jun 18, 1780)

- Patriot militia struck Loyalist forces near Hill's Iron Works, achieving an important early success in the backcountry. Iron works were valuable strategic sites, providing materials essential for war. The victory demonstrated the growing effectiveness of Patriot resistance and the importance of targeting economic and logistical resources.
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Huck's Defeat (Jul 12, 1780)

- Patriot militia ambushed Loyalist forces under Captain Christian Huck, killing him and routing his command. The victory eliminated a feared Loyalist leader and boosted Patriot morale across the backcountry. It marked a turning point in the resistance, proving that organized militia could successfully challenge British-aligned forces and inspiring further recruitment.

Lawson's Fork (Jul 1780)

- A skirmish at Lawson's Fork highlighted the strategic importance of river systems in the backcountry. Control of these waterways allowed movement of troops and supplies. The engagement reflected intensifying conflict in the Spartanburg region, which would become a focal point of partisan operations throughout 1780.

Cedar Springs (Jul 12, 1780)

- Patriot militia engaged Loyalist forces near Cedar Springs in a significant backcountry clash. Though resulting in a British-aligned victory, the engagement demonstrated increasing resistance to British authority. The battle underscored the volatile and contested nature of the region, where control shifted frequently between opposing forces.

Gowen's Old Fort (Jul 13, 1780)

- A skirmish at Gowen's Old Fort reflected the expansion of conflict into the upper backcountry. Fortified positions such as this served as local strongpoints, making them frequent targets. The engagement illustrates how even small defensive sites played important roles in controlling territory during the decentralized fighting of 1780.

Earle's Ford (Jul 15, 1780)

- Fighting at Earle's Ford demonstrated the importance of river crossings in the South Carolina campaign. Control of such fords dictated the movement of forces across the region's many waterways. Engagements like this were critical in shaping the flow of the campaign, often determining whether armies could advance, retreat, or resupply.

Fort Prince (Jul 15, 1780, Spartanburg Co.)

- An engagement at Fort Prince highlighted the value of fortified positions in the backcountry. Such sites served as operational bases and supply points for both sides. Control of forts often meant control of surrounding territory, making them focal points of repeated conflict during this phase of the war.

Flat Rock (Jul 20, 1780, Kershaw Co.)

- British or Loyalist forces prevailed at Flat Rock as part of a broader effort to consolidate control across the South Carolina midlands following the fall of Charleston. Engagements like this helped secure interior lines of communication and suppress emerging Patriot resistance. Though not a major battle, it contributed to the tightening British hold on the region during the summer of 1780.

Beaver Creek (Jul 20–21, 1780, Kershaw Co.)

- Fighting at Beaver Creek reflected the intensely local and often personal nature of the backcountry war. Patriot and Loyalist forces clashed in a conflict shaped as much by community divisions as by military strategy. Such engagements underscored the civil war character of the Revolution in South Carolina, where allegiances were divided and violence often occurred between neighbors.

Hunt's Bluff (Jul 25, 1780)

- A skirmish at Hunt's Bluff along the Pee Dee River marked the expansion of conflict into northeastern South Carolina. This region would soon become a center of partisan activity under leaders like Francis Marion. The engagement illustrates how the war spread geographically, transforming previously quiet areas into active theaters of guerrilla warfare.

Hanging Rock I (Jul 30, 1780, Lancaster Co.)

- This preliminary engagement at Hanging Rock involved Patriot forces probing British positions ahead of a larger assault. Such reconnaissance actions were critical in gathering intelligence and testing enemy defenses. The clash set the stage for the more significant battle in August, reflecting the increasingly organized efforts of Patriot militia to challenge British outposts.

Rocky Mount (Jul 30, 1780, Fairfield-Chester)

- Patriot forces attacked the British-held post at Rocky Mount but failed due to the absence of artillery. The fortified position proved too strong for militia forces relying primarily on small arms. The engagement highlighted the challenges of confronting entrenched British defenses and underscored the limitations of irregular forces when facing well-prepared strongholds.

Hanging Rock (Aug 6, 1780, Kershaw-Lancaster)

- Patriot militia launched a bold assault on the British outpost at Hanging Rock, initially achieving success before discipline broke down during looting. The resulting disorder allowed British forces to recover and repel the attack. The battle demonstrated both the courage and limitations of militia forces, revealing the need for greater discipline while proving that British positions were vulnerable to determined assaults.

Wofford's Iron Works (Aug 8, 1780)

- British or Loyalist forces engaged Patriots near Wofford's Iron Works, reflecting the strategic importance of industrial sites in the backcountry. Control of such facilities provided access to essential materials and resources. The engagement illustrates how economic infrastructure became a key objective in the decentralized warfare of 1780.

Retreat from the Iron Works (Aug 8, 1780, Spartanburg Co.)

- Following the clash at Wofford's Iron Works, Patriot forces conducted a fighting retreat under pressure from British or Loyalist troops. This action exemplified the adaptive tactics of militia forces, who often avoided decisive engagements with superior forces while preserving their strength for future operations.
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Carey's Fort (Aug 15, 1780)

- A skirmish at Carey's Fort occurred on the eve of the Battle of Camden, as both sides maneuvered for strategic advantage in the midlands. Control of such positions influenced troop movements and supply lines. The engagement reflects the heightened tension and widespread activity leading into one of the most significant battles of the southern campaign.
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Capture of British Convoy (Aug 15, 1780, Kershaw Co.)

- Patriot forces intercepted and captured a British supply convoy, demonstrating the effectiveness of partisan tactics even as the main American army prepared for battle at Camden. Disrupting logistics weakened British operational capability and highlighted the growing importance of guerrilla warfare in offsetting conventional disadvantages.
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Battle of Camden (Aug 16, 1780, Kershaw Co.)

- British General Cornwallis decisively defeated the American army under General Gates at Camden, shattering Patriot forces in the South. The rout exposed weaknesses in leadership and militia reliability, marking a severe low point for the Patriot cause. Despite the defeat, the battle ultimately contributed to a shift toward partisan warfare, which would erode British control in the months that followed.
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Fishing Creek (Aug 18, 1780, Chester Co.)

- British forces under Tarleton surprised Patriot militia at Fishing Creek, capturing men, supplies, and wagons. Coming just days after Camden, the defeat compounded American losses and further destabilized Patriot operations. The engagement highlighted the vulnerability of disorganized militia forces in the face of aggressive British cavalry tactics.
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Musgrove's Mill (Aug 18, 1780)

- In a remarkable victory, Patriot militia successfully ambushed Loyalist forces at Musgrove's Mill, despite having just learned of the disaster at Camden. The engagement demonstrated disciplined tactics and effective leadership, boosting morale at a critical moment. It proved that Patriot forces could defeat British-aligned troops even during the darkest phase of the southern campaign.
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Nelson's Ferry (Aug 25, 1780)

- British forces secured Nelson's Ferry, a key crossing on the Santee River, strengthening their control over central South Carolina. Control of this vital transportation route enabled efficient movement of troops and supplies, reinforcing British dominance in the aftermath of Camden.
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Blue Savannah (Sep 1780, Marlboro Co.)

- Francis Marion's militia achieved a sharp victory at Blue Savannah, marking one of his early successes in the Pee Dee region. The engagement helped establish Marion's reputation as an effective partisan leader and demonstrated the growing strength of guerrilla resistance against British control.

Black Mingo (Sep 28–29, 1780, Georgetown-Williamsburg)

- Patriot forces under Marion defeated Loyalists near Black Mingo Creek in a decisive partisan action. The victory disrupted British-aligned operations in the Pee Dee region and reinforced Marion's growing influence. It demonstrated the effectiveness of surprise attacks and mobility in guerrilla warfare.

King's Mountain (Oct 7, 1780)

- Frontier Patriot forces surrounded and destroyed a Loyalist army under Major Patrick Ferguson at King's Mountain. This decisive victory eliminated a key British-aligned force and marked a major turning point in the southern campaign. It disrupted British plans and reinvigorated Patriot resistance throughout the region.

Tearcoat Swamp (Oct 25, 1780, Clarendon Co.)

- Patriot militia launched a successful surprise attack at dawn against Loyalist forces at Tearcoat Swamp. The engagement demonstrated the increasing effectiveness of coordinated militia operations and reinforced Patriot control in the region through rapid, well-executed strikes.

Attack on Brown's Regiment (Oct 30, 1780)

- Patriot forces struck a British regimental unit in the Pee Dee region, continuing the pattern of sustained harassment that defined Marion's campaign. These actions weakened British control and limited their ability to operate freely in the countryside.

Murphy's Defeat (Nov 8, 1780)

- A Patriot force suffered defeat in Marlboro County, illustrating the continued volatility of the partisan war. Despite growing momentum, Patriot forces still faced setbacks, reflecting the unpredictable and shifting nature of backcountry conflict.

Fishdam Ford (Nov 9, 1780, Chester Co.)

- Patriot forces under Thomas Sumter successfully repelled a British night attack at Fishdam Ford. The engagement demonstrated improved discipline and coordination among militia forces and helped restore confidence following earlier defeats.
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Blackstocks Farm (Nov 20, 1780, Union Co.)

- Sumter's forces repelled British dragoons at Blackstocks Farm, achieving a tactical victory. However, Sumter was seriously wounded, temporarily removing a key Patriot leader from the field. The battle illustrated both the strength and vulnerability of partisan leadership.

Rutledge's Ford (Dec 1, 1780)

- A skirmish at Rutledge's Ford underscored the importance of controlling river crossings in the backcountry. Such locations were critical for movement and supply, making them frequent sites of conflict during the winter campaign.

Long Cane (Dec 11, 1780, McCormick Co.)

- Loyalist forces surprised and defeated Patriot militia at Long Cane, highlighting the continued strength of British-aligned forces despite recent Patriot successes. The engagement reflected the persistent instability of the region.

Halfway Swamp & Singleton's Mill (Dec 13, 1780)

- Patriot forces under Marion struck British troops at these locations, employing rapid-hit-and-withdraw tactics. These engagements exemplified the effectiveness of guerrilla warfare in disrupting British operations.

Sampit Road (Dec 28, 1780, Georgetown Co.)

- Patriot forces attacked British or Loyalist elements near Georgetown, maintaining pressure on coastal operations. These actions ensured that British forces could not operate unchallenged even near their strongholds.

Hammond's Storehouse (Dec 30, 1780)

- Patriot troops captured Hammond's Storehouse, disrupting British supply networks in the backcountry. This raid demonstrated the growing effectiveness of coordinated partisan operations in undermining British control.

1781

Waccamaw Neck (Jan 1781, Georgetown Co.)

- Patriot forces disrupted Loyalist activity along Waccamaw Neck, weakening British-aligned operations in the coastal region north of Georgetown. This engagement demonstrated the widening reach of Patriot resistance early in 1781 and helped deny the British secure use of coastal corridors vital for communication and supply.

Matthew's Bluff (Jan 1781)

- A skirmish along the Savannah River near Matthew's Bluff reflected continued fighting along the South Carolina–Georgia border. These engagements were critical in shaping control of frontier routes and demonstrated the fluid, contested nature of the war in the opening months of 1781.

Cowpens (Jan 17, 1781, Cherokee Co.)

- General Daniel Morgan achieved a decisive victory over Banastre Tarleton using a brilliant double-envelopment tactic. The battle destroyed a key British force and crippled their offensive capability in the South. Cowpens marked a major turning point, boosting Patriot morale and setting in motion the chain of events that would lead to the eventual collapse of British control in the Carolinas.

Wiggin's Hill (ca. Jan 25, 1781)

- Patriot forces engaged Loyalist elements near Wiggin's Hill along the lower Savannah River. The action reflected continued militia activity following the success at Cowpens and demonstrated that Patriot momentum was spreading across multiple regions simultaneously.

Georgetown (1st Capture) (Jan 25, 1781, Georgetown Co.)

- Patriot forces briefly captured Georgetown, an important coastal port north of Charleston. Though the occupation was short-lived, the action disrupted British supply operations and demonstrated that Patriot forces could project power into coastal strongholds.

Keithfield (Jan 1781, Berkeley Co.)

- A skirmish at Keithfield in Berkeley County reflected ongoing efforts by Patriot forces to contest British control of the Lowcountry. These engagements contributed to restricting British movement and maintaining constant pressure near Charleston.

Fort Granby I (Feb 19–21, 1781)

- Patriot forces initiated operations against Fort Granby, a key British post on the Congaree River. Though not immediately successful, this early effort provided valuable intelligence and set the stage for the eventual capture of the fort later in the spring.

De Peyster's Capture (Feb 21, 1781)

- Patriot forces captured a British officer near Georgetown, disrupting British command operations and gaining valuable intelligence. Such targeted actions were a hallmark of partisan warfare and contributed to weakening British coordination.

Thomson's Plantation (Feb 22, 1781)

- Patriot forces engaged British troops at Thomson's Plantation near the Congaree River. The engagement formed part of a broader campaign to dismantle British interior positions and reassert Patriot authority in the midlands.

Manigault's Ferry (Feb 23, 1781)

- Patriot militia struck British forces at Manigault's Ferry, targeting a key river crossing. Control of such crossings was essential for maintaining communication and supply routes, making this engagement strategically significant.

Fort Watson I (Feb 28, 1781)

- An initial Patriot probe of Fort Watson gathered intelligence on British defenses. This reconnaissance effort laid the groundwork for the innovative siege tactics that would later lead to the fort's capture.

Mud Lick (Mar 2, 1781, Newberry Co.)

- A skirmish at Mud Lick reflected the expanding scope of operations across the South Carolina midlands as Patriot forces increased pressure on British positions.

Ratcliff's Bridge (Mar 6, 1781)

- Fighting at Ratcliff's Bridge underscored the importance of bridge networks for coordinating troop movements. Control of these crossings was essential for both strategic mobility and supply.

Wiboo Swamp (Mar 6, 1781, Clarendon Co.)

- Patriot forces under Francis Marion engaged British troops in swamp terrain favorable to guerrilla tactics. The engagement demonstrated Marion's mastery of terrain-based warfare.

Mount Hope Swamp (Mar 1781, Williamsburg Co.)

- A continuation of Marion's operations, this engagement reflected sustained pressure on British forces in the Pee Dee region, where swamp terrain provided natural advantages for Patriot fighters.

Lower Bridge (Mar 1781, Williamsburg Co.)

- Fighting at Lower Bridge emphasized the strategic importance of river crossings in the coastal plain, where waterways served as primary transportation routes.

Sampit Bridge (Mar 1781, Georgetown Co.)

- Patriot forces contested British movement near Georgetown, targeting a key logistical corridor supporting British operations.

Snow's Island (Mar 1781)

- British forces attacked Marion's base at Snow's Island, temporarily disrupting operations. However, Marion quickly regrouped, demonstrating the resilience and flexibility of partisan forces.

Witherspoon's Ferry (Mar 1781)

- Patriot militia struck British troops along the Pee Dee River, maintaining pressure on enemy movements and supply lines in northeastern South Carolina.
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Beattie's Mill (Mar 21, 1781)

- Patriots defeated Loyalist militia, contributing to the erosion of British reliance on local support and weakening the Loyalist base in the backcountry.
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Bear Bluff (Apr 1, 1781, Horry Co.)

- A Patriot action at Bear Bluff demonstrated the geographic reach of resistance, extending even into the northern coastal regions.
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Four Holes (Apr 7, 1781, Dorchester Co.)

- Patriot forces engaged British troops in Dorchester County, maintaining pressure on British positions north of Charleston.
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Red Hill (Apr 8, 1781)

- Patriots attacked a British post at Red Hill as part of Greene's strategy to dismantle the British garrison network across the interior.
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Fort Watson II (Apr 15–23, 1781)

- Patriot forces captured Fort Watson using an innovative wooden tower that allowed them to fire into the fort. This victory disrupted British supply lines and marked a major step in reclaiming the interior.
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Hobkirk's Hill (Apr 25, 1781)

- British forces defeated Greene near Camden in a tactical victory, but their losses forced them to abandon the position soon after. The engagement illustrated the strategic effectiveness of sustained Patriot pressure.
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Fort Motte (May 6–12, 1781, Calhoun Co.)

- Patriot forces captured Fort Motte by setting fire to the structure, forcing surrender. The action demonstrated cooperation between military forces and civilians, notably Rebecca Motte's support.
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Orangeburg (May 11, 1781, Orangeburg Co.)

- Patriot forces captured the British post at Orangeburg, securing a key inland position and further weakening British control.
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Fort Granby II (May 15, 1781)

- British forces surrendered Fort Granby after a siege led by Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, marking another step in dismantling British interior defenses.
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Fort Galphin (May 21, 1781, Aiken Co.)

- Patriot forces captured Fort Galphin, disrupting British communications with Native allies and further isolating British positions.

Second Siege of Ninety-Six (May 22–Jun 19, 1781, Greenwood Co.)

- Greene's siege failed tactically but forced the British to abandon Ninety-Six shortly thereafter. The result effectively ceded the interior to Patriot control.

Burning of Georgetown (Jun 1781, Georgetown Co.)

- Patriot forces destroyed portions of Georgetown to deny the British use of the port, reflecting a strategy of resource denial.

Capture of Rawdon's Baggage Train (Jul 1781)

- Patriot forces intercepted and captured supplies belonging to Lord Rawdon, weakening British logistical capability and embarrassing their command.

Assault on Home of Godfrey Dreher Jr. (Jul 1781)

- In July 1781, as Lord Rawdon retreated from Ninety-Six and occupied Granby, British cavalry attempted to capture furloughed patriot Dreher. Warned by his sister, he hid his family upstairs and defended the stairway, killing the lead attacker. With his brother and the women creating noise to suggest many defenders, Dreher bluffed superior numbers, shot another soldier, and repelled the British, who fled with casualties, leaving a dead comrade behind.

Eutaw Springs (Sep 8, 1781, Orangeburg Co.)

- One of the final major battles in the South, Eutaw Springs resulted in heavy casualties on both sides. Though technically a British tactical victory, their subsequent withdrawal to Charleston marked the effective end of large-scale combat in South Carolina.

1782

Videau's Bridge (Jan 3, 1782)

- Patriot forces defeated Loyalist troops near Charleston at Videau's Bridge, demonstrating continued determination to reclaim full control of South Carolina. Even as peace negotiations began in Paris, local fighting remained intense. This engagement showed that Patriot militia would not relax pressure until British forces were completely removed from the state.

Cherokee Towns Campaign (Jan 1782, Oconee Co.)

- Patriot forces under Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke launched a campaign against Cherokee towns after renewed hostilities encouraged by Loyalists. The destruction of these settlements forced the Cherokee to seek peace, securing the western frontier. This action effectively ended large-scale Native resistance in South Carolina during the war's final phase and stabilized the region for Patriot control.
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Wambaw Creek (Feb 24, 1782, Berkeley Co.)

- British forces repelled a Patriot attack near Wambaw Creek, demonstrating that despite their shrinking control, British troops could still mount effective defensive actions. The engagement highlighted the persistence of organized resistance near Charleston even in the closing months of the war.

Tydiman's Plantation (Feb 25, 1782)

- A skirmish at Tydiman's Plantation occurred just one day after Wambaw Creek, reflecting the continued intensity of local conflict near Charleston. These closely timed engagements illustrate how both sides remained actively engaged despite ongoing peace negotiations, with neither willing to concede ground prematurely.

Chowan Creek (ca. Mar 7, 1782, Beaufort Co.)

- Fighting near Chowan Creek in the Beaufort region reflected continued conflict in the coastal and sea island areas. These engagements demonstrated the importance of controlling waterways and coastal routes even in the final stages of the war.

Galley Captured, Ashley River (Mar 19, 1782, Charleston Co.)

- Patriot forces captured a British galley on the Ashley River, disrupting British naval operations near Charleston. This action reduced British mobility and highlighted the continued importance of maritime control even as the war drew to a close.

Dorchester II (Apr 21, 1782, Dorchester Co.)

- A second engagement near Dorchester reflected sustained Patriot pressure on British positions outside Charleston. The British defensive perimeter continued to contract as Patriot forces tightened control over the surrounding countryside.

Dean Swamp (May 4, 1782, Aiken Co.)

- Patriot forces ambushed Loyalists at Dean Swamp, driving them into the swamp and dispersing the group. This action demonstrated the continued effectiveness of militia tactics and the diminishing ability of Loyalist forces to operate openly.

Ordnance Convoy Destroyed (ca. May 8, 1782, Orangeburg Co.)

- Patriot forces destroyed a British ordnance convoy, denying valuable military supplies to the Charleston garrison. This engagement reflected a continued strategy of targeting logistics to weaken British capacity and hasten their withdrawal.

Lorick's Ferry (May 1782)

- A skirmish at Lorick's Ferry on the Broad River highlighted continued militia activity in the midlands. Even in the war's closing months, control of river crossings remained strategically important for both sides.
-

Sharp's Skirmish (ca. Jun 1, 1782)

- A minor engagement in Calhoun County reflected the persistence of localized conflict across South Carolina. Such skirmishes typically involved militia and Loyalist remnants, illustrating how the war devolved into scattered violence even as larger campaigns had ended.
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Black Lake (Jun 1782, Horry Co.)

- A skirmish at Black Lake in the northeastern region of the state demonstrated that fighting continued across a wide geographic area. Even remote areas remained contested, reflecting the fragmented and lingering nature of the conflict.
-

Caper's Scouting Party (Jul–Aug 1782)

- A scouting operation by Patriot forces in Berkeley County reflected ongoing intelligence-gathering efforts near Charleston. Even as formal hostilities wound down, both sides remained vigilant, monitoring enemy movements and preparing for potential final engagements.
-

Tar Bluff / Page's Point (Combahee Raid) (Aug 27, 1782)

- British forces conducted a destructive raid along the Combahee River, destroying supplies and liberating enslaved people. One of the final offensive operations of the war in South Carolina, the raid demonstrated that British forces still possessed offensive capability even as evacuation loomed.
-

Wadboo (2nd) (Aug 29, 1782, Berkeley Co.)

- A second engagement at Wadboo occurred shortly after the Combahee Raid, reflecting continued instability near Charleston. These late-war clashes underscored how volatile the situation remained even as British withdrawal plans were underway.
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Port Royal Ferry (Sep 2, 1782, Beaufort Co.)

- Fighting at Port Royal Ferry was among the final engagements in the sea islands region. The skirmish illustrated the persistence of conflict in strategically important coastal zones as both sides maneuvered in anticipation of the war's conclusion.
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John's Island (Nov 4, 1782)

- Recognized as the last battle fought in South Carolina, the engagement on John's Island occurred just before the Provisional Treaty of Paris. Though small in scale, it symbolized the final chapter of armed conflict in the state after years of intense warfare.
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James Island (Nov 14, 1782, Charleston Co.)

- A late-war skirmish near Charleston reflected lingering tensions as British forces prepared for evacuation. Though peace negotiations were underway, neither side fully disengaged until the final withdrawal.
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British Evacuate Charleston (Dec 14, 1782, Charleston Co.)

- British forces evacuated Charleston, ending their occupation and concluding major military operations in South Carolina. The withdrawal marked the restoration of Patriot civil authority and is commemorated as South Carolina Independence Day. This moment symbolized the success of years of sustained resistance, from early militia actions to coordinated campaigns that ultimately forced British withdrawal.

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Note on Sources

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The engagements presented in this work represent those for which **reliable date, location, and narrative data** could be established through cross-referenced sources.