

Corps of Discovery

“The Long Retreat”

Lord Cornwallis—with his tail between his legs—from Charlotte to Winnsboro – Fall 1780

A follow-on to the Cornwallis Invades North Carolina and the downtown Charlotte Corps of Discovery which covered Lord Cornwallis’ unsuccessful invasion of North Carolina, this is the third Corps of Discovery in the trilogy in which we will walk where Lord Cornwallis – with his tail between his legs – retreated from Charlotte, NC to Winnsboro, SC.

Event Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011 – rain or shine

Tour Planners: John Allison, Bill Anderson, Charles Baxley & David Reuwer

Public is invited – no reservations are necessary – car pool tour – “Dutch Treat” lunch available – optional moderate walking involved

Stops, Schedule and Curricula:

Corps of Discovery Schedule of Events

BRUCE T. RUSH PAVILION – Anne Springs Close Greenway, 1300 N. 21 Bypass (Coltharp Road) Ft. Mill

9:00 – 9:30 am – Coffee and Pastries – Sandra Allison - coffee and pastries available at the Pavilion for participants

9:30 – 9:35 am – Welcome and Schedule **Reuwer**

9:35 – 9:45 am – Catawba Reservation <http://www.palmettohistory.org/archaeology/CatawbaProject.pdf>
- Catawbas in the RW
- Indiantown - the major settlement of Catawba Indians **Scoggins**

9:45 – 9:55 am – British Southern Strategy – American’s defeat at Camden, Fishing Creek & victory at Musgrove Mill **Baxley**

9:55 – 10:05 am – Cornwallis invades NC – British move to and occupation of Charlotte **Allison
Williams**

10:05 – 10:10 am – Tarleton’s foray into the New Acquisition District 10 - 15 October 1780 **Scoggins**

10:10 – 10:15 am – British retreat from Charlotte toward Wynnsborough **Anderson and
Allison**

10:15 – 10:25 am – Maj. William Richardson Davie’s *petit guerre* **Anderson**

10:25 – 10:55 am – Walk to Steele Creek Crossing along the Old Nation Ford Road **Anderson**

- Colonial Nation Ford Road extant segments – British cross Steele Creek on October 16, 1780
- Description of British marching, column length, wagons, and distinctive regiment uniforms

10:55 – 11:15 am – Restroom Break – Mount-up – Travel to Spratt’s Plantation (8 min. drive time)

SPRATT’S PLANTATION – Brickyard Road

The Nation Ford of the Catawba River and Cornwallis’ retreat from Charlotte to Spratt’s Plantation

11:15 - 11:35 am – Spratt’s Site #1 - through farm gate and to old stone monument

- Spratt family settlement - Thomas Spratt (the pioneer) story **Tony Zeiss**
- Capt. Thomas “Kanawha” Spratt¹ (only son + 7 dau.)
- “Trail of History Project” in CLT that includes commemoration of Thomas Spratt

- Colonial Indian forts **Scoggins**
(JA has a 19th c. sketch of the fort from Draper Papers) NC fort per Mike Scoggins’ article (mention two colonial forts in area, built by SC and NC)

- Lord Charles Cornwallis **Hugh Dussek**

- British Army withdraws to Nation Ford, then backtracks to Spratt’s Plantation - **Anderson**

- Lord Cornwallis’ visit with the Spratt’s **Allison**
- Capt. Thomas Spratt’s wound at Walkup’s Plantation raid and subsequent treatment

11:35 - 11:45 am – Spratt’s Site #2 – at the Spratt cemetery **Allison**

- British hanging (deserter, turncoat?) – left the body up as a warning
- Death of a British officer (Lt. Alexander Fraser)

- Spratt Cemetery – Catawba RW vet. Peter Harris² **Scoggins**

11:45 – 12:00 noon – Spratt’s Site #3 – modern monuments

- History of Nation Ford – CSX railroad crossing there now **Reuwer**

- Illness in the British Ranks, Cornwallis sick and delegated command to Rawdon - Southern microbes and vectors – the toll on the British Army **Scoggins and Baxley**

- The exceptionally heavy rain beginning the night of 14 October that made the Catawba River impassible and Sugar Creek very difficult to pass on 16 and/or 17 October; British vulnerability while “trapped” between rain swollen streams. **Anderson**

12:00 noon – Directions to Unity Presbyterian Church – 303 Tom Hall Street **Allison**

12:05 – 12:15 pm – Drive to Unity Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall (9 min. drive time)

LUNCH – Unity Presbyterian Church – “pass the hat” for \$5.00 per person.

¹ As to the meaning and origins of the name “Kanawha”, see article in *York County* magazine by Mike Scoggins.

² Louise Pettus’ article in the *Fort Mill Times* at http://www.movefortmillforward.com/peter_harris_indian.pdf

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

- Unity Presbyterian Church's History (c. 1788) **Sandra Allison**

- Presbyterian Church's Influence on Mecklenburg and New Acquisition Patriots **Scoggins**

- Cornwallis' Sugar Creek Crossing - Stedman's account **Anderson**

1:20 pm - 1:50 pm – Mount-up and Travel to Andrew Jackson State Park (26 min. drive time)

ANDREW JACKSON STATE PARK – US Hwy 521

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

- British Route to Land's Ford – why move downstream? **Anderson**

- McArthur and Moncrief, then rest of British Army camp at Crawford's on October 18 - 21

- Restroom break at Andrew Jackson State Park

- Form carpool to Land's Ford – limited parking. If road is muddy end tour at Waxhaws Presbyterian Church.

2:20 - 2:40 pm – Travel to Land's Ford (19 min. drive time)

LAND'S FORD of the Catawba River on Lancaster County side (if road OK)

A moderate walk to the 18th or 19th century mill site included.

2:40 – 3:00 pm – History of Land's Ford - both sides of river **Scoggins**

- State Park and the Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies **Al James**

- East side – Cornwallis' route and camps, crossing and direction to Winnsborough **Allison Baxley**

- West side – Thomas Sumter's camps

- William R. Davie & Tivoli **Scoggins**

- Extant Senf canal – the Landsford Canal **James**

3:00 – 3:10 pm – American response to Cornwallis' retreat Davidson, Morgan, William Washington, and Smallwood arrive at Camp New Providence, south of Charlotte, on the same day, 21 October, the British cross the Catawba River at Land's Ford. **Anderson**

3:10 – 3:25 pm – Walk to Mill Ruins

3:25 - 3:45 pm – Mill Presentation and Tour

- 18th c. Blair-Izard-Gibson Mill – *Catawba River Valley Gristmill Survey* **Al James**
Blair's Mill is where Tarleton recovered from yellow fever from about 24 Sept. thru about 6 Oct. 1780. It was also occupied by some British soldiers, probably from the 71st Regiment 2nd Battalion, during this time period 12-21 Oct. 1780

3:45 – 4:05 pm – Walk from mill ruins to parking lot

4:05 – 4:15 pm – Drive to Waxhaws Presbyterian Church (10 min. driving time)

4:15 – 4:45 pm – Waxhaws Presbyterian Church

- Brief history of the Church & the Waxhaws Presbyterian Church in the RW
- Site of American (June 1780)/British hospital
- Other British raids into Waxhaws
 - o Summer 1780 – Maj. Mekan and the 23^d Rgt. Royal Welch Fusiliers
 - o Site of British Raid April 1781 - Coffin's 1781 skirmish with Crawford
 - o Capture of the Jackson boys
- Cemetery tour - Davie, Walkup and Jackson's father are buried
- William R. Davie grave and biography

Scoggins

**Reuwer
Anderson**

4:45 – 4:48 pm – Closing Comments

Baxley

4:48 – 5:10 pm – return to Andrew Jackson State Park

Speakers:

Charles Baxley: lawyer, founder Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR),
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David Reuwer: lawyer, cofounder SCAR, editor of Patriots of the American Revolution, president of
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John Allison: financial investment management, historical archeologist, john@allinvmgt.com

Jim Williams: computer company executive, history re-enactor, past president Mecklenburg
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Bill Anderson: software developer, American Revolution history mapper, band@elehistory.com

Hugh Dussek: history professor, Central Piedmont Community College, hugh.dussek@cpcc.edu

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