

The 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

On Saturday, February 27, 2021, a virtual commemoration of the Battle of Moores Creek, a decisive action fought on February 27, 1776, was held to remember the North Carolina Patriot Militia's important victory over the North Carolina Loyalist Militia at what is now a National Battlefield in Currie, North Carolina.

The Commemoration was a National Level SAR event, hosted by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter of the North Carolina Society SAR, the Stamp Defiance Chapter of the North Carolina DAR and the Moores Creek National Battlefield. The Master of Ceremonies was Gary Green, Vice President of the Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

The Virginia Society of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America was a participant in that event. Governor Michael E. Weyer brought greetings from the Virginia Society and presented the Society wreath in a virtual ceremony attended by 155 participants from around the nation.



The Loyalist Militia, mostly Scottish Highlanders who maintained their loyalty to the British Crown, many of whom were armed only with broadswords, were marching to Wilmington to obtain weapons from the British ships waiting there. The Patriot Militia came out to stop them.

The Loyalists force was moving toward the Moores Creek bridge on their march to the sea, intending to cross the creek from the east side to the west side. The Patriot Militia had set up camp on the approaches to the bridge on the east side of the Moores Creek Bridge to oppose them. The Loyalist commander, seeing that the Patriots had the creek and the

bridge to their backs, planned to attack since any retreat by the Patriots would be hampered by the narrow bridge.

In the dark hours of the morning of February 27, the Patriots force slipped unnoticed across the bridge and set up entrenchments and cannon on the west side of the bridge a short distance down the road west of the bridge. They also took up the bridge planks and greased the supporting timbers.

The vanguard of the advancing Highlanders, in spite of the bridge's condition, crossed to pursue the Patriots. When the Highlanders had crossed in strength, the Patriots opened fire. The Highlands now had their backs to the greased bridge, across which retreat was greatly hampered, endeavored to escape. Approximately 40 Highlanders fell at the bridge while only one Patriot was killed.

Following the battle, the remainder of the Loyalist force scattered, showing no further desire to oppose the growing Patriot forces. Though a relatively small battle early in the war, the Patriot victory in February strengthened the Patriot cause in North Carolina and led to the Halifax Resolves in April, a document carried to the Second Continental Congress with North Carolina's vote for independence.