The best way to see the park is by taking the following self-guiding auto/bicycle tour traced on the map below. From the visitor center walk to Stop 1, then take the 2½-mile driving road around the park. Allow about an hour for the tour, depending on your interests. Foot trails at the stops lead to many features you would otherwise miss. Include Tannenbaum Historic Park, part of the battle’s first line action, in your visit.

For Safety’s Sake: Use caution driving the tour road. Watch for bicycles and cross carefully at intersections of Old Battleground Road. Do not climb on cannons or monuments. Pets must be leashed and attended at all times.

1. American First Line On both sides of New Garden Road, about 150 yards away, were more than 1,000 North Carolina militiamen divided into two brigades. They held a position behind a rail fence overlooking three muddy farm fields. Though Greene knew these untested citizen-soldiers were no match for veteran redcoats, he hoped they would get off a few shots each and at least slow the British attack. But when the British rushed forward after taking the first American fire, part of Eaton’s brigade on the right of the road fled, beginning a panic that quickly spread down the line.

2. Fragmented Attack As the rest of the first line dissolved into the woods behind, some of the North Carolinians in Butler’s brigade on the American left joined with the forces of “Light-horse Harry” Lee and William Campbell. These units withdrew to the southeast taking two of Cornwallis’s regiments with them.

3. Sustained Firefight Two brigades of Virginia militia waited in the deep forest behind the first line. Gen. Edward Stevens, south of the road, and Gen. Robert Law-son, holding the line north of the road, kept up a long fight in the woods until the British finally broke through to the third line. A foot trail leads to the Greene Monument along the sector that Stevens’s Virginians defended.

4. Expanding Battle The monument to Maj. Joseph Winston honors those Surrey County militiamen who fought stubbornly under Lee and Campbell on the American left. As Tarleton’s cavalry ended this separate fight far to the southeast, one of Winston’s men, Richard Taliaferro, was shot; he may have been the last American soldier killed in the battle. Winston and a fellow soldier, Jesse Franklin, are buried nearby.

5. Battlefield Preservation The preservation of the Guilford Courthouse battlefield began in 1887 by David Schenck and the Guilford Battlefield Ground Company. Using information then available, they erected memorials and marked battlefield locations. Since then, extensive research and technology, providing a wealth of new information, have been used to correct battlefield locations and enhance historical interpretation. The 1909 monument to the American cavalry specifically honors the service of the legendary Peter Francisco, William Washington, and the Marquis de Breigny, a French volunteer fighting for American independence.

6. Guilford Courthouse and the Third Line The battle took its name from the first county courthouse built in 1775 on the brow of a hill near the “Great Salisbury Wagon Road” (New Garden Road). President George Washington visited here in 1791. The community began its decline in 1806 when the decision was made to move the county seat six miles south. Nothing remains of either the small wooden building standing here in 1781 or the town that was later named “Martinville.” The trail leads to the hillside position held by the southern flank of Greene’s Continents. British units, farther to the north, were the first to assault this line. In low ground in front of this position, part of connected fields that half-circular area in 1781, British Guards and grenadiers clashed with the veteran 1st Maryland and William Washington’s cavalry. On the opposite side, Cornwallis’s order to his artillery to fire into the American horsemen stopped them but inflicted casualties on his own Guards.

7. The British Soldier at Guilford Courthouse Frequent fireworks in the woods and gullies slowed the British army as it fought its way toward the American Third Line. Trails take you to several monuments, including one honoring a British officer killed in the third line fighting. Other trails lead to the historic New Garden Road and the American Third Line.


Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is one of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Visit www.nps.gov to learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America’s communities.

HISTORIC PARK

Touring the Battlefield

The British Soldiers

North 0 100 Feet

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The Turner Monument pays tribute to Kerrenhappach Norman Turner. One of her sons was badly wounded in the battle, and she is said to have ridden on horseback from her home in Maryland to Guilford Court House to nurse him back to health. The statue shows her holding a cup and towel, her tools of healing.

The battle was long, obstinate, and bloody. We were obliged to give up the ground and lose our artillery, but the enemy have been so soundly beaten that they dare not move towards us since the action, notwithstanding we lay within ten miles of him for two days. Except the ground and the artillery, they have gained no advantage. On the contrary, they are far short of being ruined.”

— Nathanael Greene