

The Crescent Moon



Winter Issue Number 4

A publication of the Sons of the Revolution
In the State of South Carolina

February 27, 2016



Anniversary of Brigadier General Francis Marion Death 1795

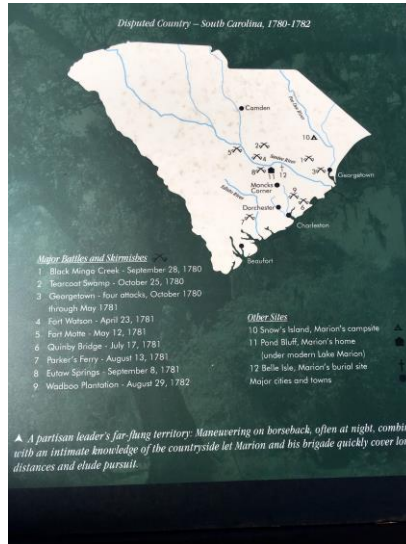
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The Francis Marion Historical Burial Site at 1 Francis Marion Way in Pineville, SC. is managed by the Santee State Park.

Francis Marion, Brigadier General of the South Carolina Militia during the American Revolution, died on February 27, 1795 at the age of 63. He is buried at Belle Isle Plantation, home of his brother, Gabriel. His wife, who died in 1815, is buried next to him. In previous issues of The Crescent Moon, the battle of Camden and the monument of Francis Marion in Johnsonville, SC have been discussed. This historical figure in the Revolutionary War continues to “pop up” in my travels around the state of South Carolina and the low country. Francis Marion is a local hero represented by several murals in the towns of Summerton, Manning, and Turbeville.

The defeats at Charleston and Camden during the summer of 1780 led many South Carolinians to give up the fight. But Francis Marion carried on with guerrilla warfare in the forests and swamps of the low country. In two years, Francis Marion and his brigade

attacked enemy columns, captured isolated outposts and fought with the regulars in many battles.



Francis Marion's campsite was on Snow's Island along the Little Pee Dee River near Johnsonville, SC. The island is owned by the Sonoco Company and maintains and preserves the area. Francis Marion's plantation is 15 miles upriver from his burial site, now under Lake Marion. It was called Pond Bluff. During a two year period, 1780-1782, maneuvering on horseback, often at night, with an intimate knowledge of the countryside he and his brigade covered long distances and eluded pursuit. The areas of skirmishes included: Black Mingo Creek (9/28/80), Tearcoat Swamp (10/25/80), Georgetown was the location of four from 10/80 to 5/81, Fort Watson (4/23/81), Fort Motte (5/12/81), Quinby Bridge (7/17/81), Parkers Ferry (8/13/81), Eutaw Spring (9/18/81), and Wadboo Plantation (8/29/82).

At the Eutaw Springs Battlefield, near the intersection of State Road 6 and 45, a historical marker reports that General Nathanael Greene led an American army into South Carolina in the Spring of 1781. His force included South Carolina militia under Francis Marion and Andrew Pickens, who had been fighting in the state as guerrillas. This battle was the last major Revolutionary War battle in South Carolina.

Occurring on the morning of September 8, 1781, the annual celebration “field days” will be held September 3rd 2016. If you attend, you are in the area of Pineville. Please consider paying a visit to Belle Isle Plantation and the burial site of Brigadier General Francis Marion.
Ivan Bennett, Editor



Children of the American Revolution (CAR)

The March issue of The Crescent Moon will be dedicated to the South Carolina Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Below is a January 30, 2016 photo of the Aiken County CAR Society. (Pictured are Judi Romeo, Chapter sponsor and State Society First Vice President with seven Children members and Adult members at the Aiken County Historical Museum)

