

mounted cavalry, assembled on Mountain Creek that was located sixteen miles northeast of Ramsour's Mill.

At dawn on Tuesday, June 20, 1780, a heavy fog blanketed Christian Reinhardt's farm. Led by their cavalry, the Patriots marched to battle, coming close to the encampment before being discovered. The surprise attack caught the Loyalists off guard, but they quickly rallied and opened a destructive fire. In the first charge, Captain Gilbraith Falls was mortally wounded. Fighting became fierce, often hand to hand, but gradually Patriot forces gained the advantage. The Loyalists retreated down the ridge toward the mill, crossing to west side of the creek where they quickly dispersed into the countryside. In less than two hours, all fighting had ceased.

As the morning fog lifted, the scene revealed many dead and wounded men scattered across the battlefield. An estimated seventy men had been killed and two hundred wounded, some so severely that they died within days. Casualties were about equally divided between the two sides, although the Patriot loss in officers was quite high.

By midday, a large force of Patriot militia commanded by General Griffith Rutherford reached the battlefield. Work began at aiding the wounded and burying the dead. While the bodies of some men killed in the battle were returned to their homes for burial, the majority of the dead were placed in a deep trench on the west side of the hill. Unable to distinguish Loyalist from Patriots since the men wore no uniforms, the dead were respectfully buried together. As men continued to die from their wounds in the coming days, other graves had to be opened.

Today, the 1780 farm of Christian Reinhardt contains three modern public schools, athletic fields, playgrounds, streets, and parking lots. Dotted among them are four known burial sites.

Proudly presented by
Lincoln County
in partnership with the
Lincoln County Historical Properties Commission
and the
Lincoln County Historical Association.

Please contact us if you are interested in being involved in our annual celebration at Ramsour's Mill as a volunteer, sponsor or living history demonstrator.

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History In The Making.

The Battle of Ramsour's Mill Celebration June 13 & 14th, 2009 Lincolnton, NC



The Battle of Ramsour's Mill

June 20th, 1780 - Lincoln County, NC



By the spring of 1780 the war for America's independence, begun five years earlier in Massachusetts, had moved south. Following decisive victories in Georgia and South Carolina, the British army under the command of Lord Cornwallis was poised to enter North Carolina.

In early June, Lieutenant Colonel John Moore and Major Nicholas Welch, native sons of Lincoln County from the Indian Creek settlement, returned home and issued a call for local residents to assemble and support the British. Moore and Welch had earlier joined with the British to help organize Loyalist militia units. By the evening of June 19, over 1,000 men and boys, many of them unarmed, camped on the east bank of Clark's Creek on the land of Christian Reinhardt. On the west bank of the creek, opposite Reinhardt's farm, was a gristmill operated by Jacob Ramsour.

While the Loyalists were assembling on Clark's Creek, a Patriot force of some 400 men was



being gathered to disperse them. Composed primarily of men from Rowan, Lincoln, Burke, and Mecklenburg counties, these militia units, commanded by various officers, had been together for some time. On the evening of June 19, the Patriot force, about one-fourth of the men

Schedule of Events

Saturday

- 9:00 am Camp Opens
Living History Demonstrations and events begin
- 10:00 am Memorial Service - Mass Grave Site
Catawba Valley Chapter,
Sons of the American Revolution
- 11:00 am Music and Dance Demonstrations
Ken Bloom and Marilyn Shore
- 11:45 am Lantz Log Building
Lantz Family Recognition Ceremony
- 12:15 am The Life and Opinions of Tom Paine
Presentation by Howard Burnham
- 1:15 pm Presentation by Dan Barefoot
- 1:45 pm Tactical Presentation
- 2:45 pm Music and Dance Demonstrations
Ken Bloom and Marilyn Shore

Sunday

- 10:00 am Camp Opens
Anglican Morning Prayer Service
Jim Daniel
- 11:00 am Bookbinding Demonstration
Jim Williams
- 11:45 pm Hornsmithing Demonstration
Bill Carter & Mark Ewing
- 1:00 pm 18th Century Surveying
James Daniel
- 1:45 pm Tactical Presentation

Food will be served from
11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Living History demonstrations and events will take place throughout the day in the main log building area.



The Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission (LCHPC) is the governmental agency that organizes, plans, and implements the annual celebration at the Ramsour's Mill Revolutionary War battle site in Lincolnton. The LCHPC, Lincoln County Historical Association, and Lincoln County Board of Commissioners are very proud of what has been achieved at this historic site over many years, and are committed to preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historic and cultural significance of this historic resource.

All contributions are deposited in the Ramsour's Mill Fund and earmarked for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of this historic site.

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- Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.
- Please do not acknowledge my gift in print.
- Please send a letter of recognition

Donation Levels:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | - <i>Patron</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | - <i>Individual</i> |
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Please Make Out Checks and Remit To:

Lincoln County Historic Properties Comm.
 403 East Main Street
 Lincolnton NC, 28092