



18th Century Military Camp Life Comes to Life at Cowpens National Battlefield On January 17-19

GAFFNEY, SC: On January 17 – 19, 2014, over 100 reenactors in Revolutionary War period clothing will bring an 18th century military camp to life, and visitors can hear different perspectives about the American Revolution, as Cowpens National Battlefield celebrates the 233rd anniversary of the pivotal patriot victory over the British at a well-known pasturing area known as the Cow Pens.

The event will begin with a wreath-laying ceremony at 2:30 pm on January 17, the anniversary of the battle, by the Sons, Daughters, and Children of the American Revolution at the Daniel Morgan statue in Spartanburg, SC.

That evening, Scott Hodges will portray the battle's militia commander, Andrew Pickens at 7:00pm at Wofford College. Social time with dessert and coffee will be from 6:30 – 7:00. Tickets for the performance and dessert and coffee are \$5.00. For reservations, email Juanita Pesaro at pesarojb@wofford.edu.

At 10:00 am on January 18, SAR, DAR, and CAR chapters from around the country will have a wreath-laying ceremony at the 1932 US Monument in front of the Cowpens National Battlefield Visitor Center. At the conclusion of the ceremony at the US Monument, they will march with flags to the 1856 Washington Light Infantry Monument.

The first hour-long ranger-guided battlefield walk will begin at 10:30, behind the Visitor Center. Subsequent ranger walks will be at 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, and 4:30 on Saturday, and at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, and 3:30 on Sunday. Military historians Dr. George Fields will lead the 2:30 walk on Saturday, and LTC (ret) Joel Rexford will lead the 2:30 walk on Sunday.

Activities in the program tent begin at 11:00 on Saturday morning when Darlene Dowdy will give a genealogy workshop. At noon, former park ranger, Eric Williams, will present a program on 18th Century Medicine, and Scott Hodges will reprise his role as Andrew Pickens at 1:00. At 2:00, COL Neal Moore of the Washington Light Infantry will give a talk about the history of the park's Washington Light Infantry Monument and the Eutaw Flag. The Guilford Fife and Drum will give a concert in the tent at 3:00 and again at 5:30. Visitors can also find them playing music on the battlefield at 12:45 on Saturday and 10:45 on Sunday. For visitors who do not want to miss church on Sunday morning, the park will be offering an 18th century-style church service in the program tent at 11:00 am.

Author talks will take place in the program tent on Sunday, followed by book signings in the Visitor Center. At noon, Sheila Ingle will give a talk on Elizabeth Jackson, mother of Andrew Jackson, and heroine of her new book, *Brave Elizabeth*. Dr. Christine Swager, author of *Come to the Cow Pens!* will present a program on the "Militiamen after the Battle of Cowpens" at 2:00, and Joe Epley, author of *A Passel of Hate* will give a talk about Kings Mountain and Cowpens at 3:00.

Reenactors will not fight the battle, but will give 18th century weapons firing demonstrations at 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, and 4:15 on Saturday. They will also give firing demonstrations at 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, and 2:15 on Sunday.

The 3rd Continental Light Dragoons will talk about how cavalry was used in 18th century warfare and then demonstrate it on horseback at 11:45, 1:45, and 3:45 on Saturday and at 10:45 and 1:45 on Sunday.

The park will also present lantern-lit Twilight Walks beginning at 5:30 on Saturday evening. Reservations are required for the walks, which will leave every 10 minutes until 6:20. A perennial favorite of visitors and reenactors, the walks, led by park staff, take approximately 30 minutes. At the various stops, reenactors depict what *may* have happened the night before the battle: militiamen looking for Morgan's camp, British soldiers preparing for battle, cavalry discussing Tarleton, and Continentals going over battle plans. As participants in the walks, visitors will have the opportunity to "experience" the night before the battle, and are encouraged to interact with the reenactors. For reservations for the January 18 lantern tours, email Erica Hass at erica_hass@nps.gov.

Visitors can experience what it was like for Morgan's "Flying Army" to arrive at the Cow Pens by registering for Morgan's Victory March. Led by author and Rutherford County teacher Robert W. Brown who worked at Cowpens National Battlefield this past summer, the 2-day, 23-mile walk/ride retraces the route that Daniel Morgan's men took to the Cow Pens, a well-known landmark in 1781. Participants will arrive at the park at 1:30 on Sunday afternoon. For information about Morgan's Victory March, January 18 – 19, email or call Jane Waters at jane.waters@cherokeecountyhistory.org or 864-489-3988.

The park is continuing to set aside a special area where children of all ages can participate in 18th century activities such as quill pen writing, cartridge rolling, and learning the von Steuben weapons drill. These activities will be available from 11:00 – 4:45 on Saturday and 12:00 – 3:00 on Sunday.

So that visitors will not need to leave the park to eat, the Spartanburg Jaycees will have food such as hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries and funnel cakes available to purchase from 9:00 – 5:00 on Saturday and 9:00 – 3:00 on Sunday.

Cowpens National Battlefield is located 10 miles west of Gaffney, SC, and 3 miles east of Chesnee, SC at the intersection of Highways 11, 110, and 221-A. Normal Visitor Center hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily, closed on federal holidays except Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

For more information, call (864) 461-2828. Visit the Cowpens National Battlefield webpage at <http://www.nps.gov/cowp/specialevents.htm> to see or print the detailed schedule.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

--

Ginny Fowler
Park Ranger
Cowpens National Battlefield
338 New Pleasant Road
Gaffney, SC 29341
864-461-2828
864-461-7795 (fax)

www.nps.gov/cowp
<https://www.facebook.com/CowpensNationalBattlefield>