

Commemorative Walk from Grindal Shoals to Cowpens National Battlefield

The following map is somewhat self-explanatory in the form shown from the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution Newsletter, March 2006. The location shown at the top of the map for the first day for Burr's/Byers mill is in error in several ways. This location was intended to be that shown as Byce's Mill on the 1786 Benson map of the area. I have since concluded that the name is wrong. What I read as Byers, I have since learned was Byce's. A Byce descendant from California has provided me with land plats making it clear that the mill was Byces and that it was on the road from Thomason's (shown as Thompson's on the map) to Hammett's Ford. The location is also in error. It should be approximately 2 miles west of where US-29 crossed Thicketty Creek. As noted earlier, Landrum provides a document assigning responsibility for road maintenance in which it was consistently referred to as Byas' Mill. Only Morgan, as far as I know, made reference to Burr's Mill. It would be my conclusion (and perhaps mine alone!) that the mill in question was actually Byce's (Byus') Mill.

I currently believe that Byce's Mill would have been at the junction of Cowpens and Little

Thicketty Creek and a third creek from the north described at the time or nearly so as Saffold's Creek. If this were concluded to be the location of the camp of Morgan (also of Tarleton and Ferguson), I would suggest that the route taken by first Morgan and a day later by Tarleton to Cowpens might well have followed more nearly that of modern SC-110.

The ending of the route shown is one of convenience. I would suggest that the entrance into the battlefield area at the time of the battle would have been that passing between New Pleasant Church and its cemetery, passing just to the west of exit road from the park picnic area and joining the “restored Green River Road” about halfway between the restored Scruggs cabin and park walking trail. This route would have avoided a boggy canebrake area (the “rivulet”) on the west side of the battlefield at the southernmost part of the self-guided trail.

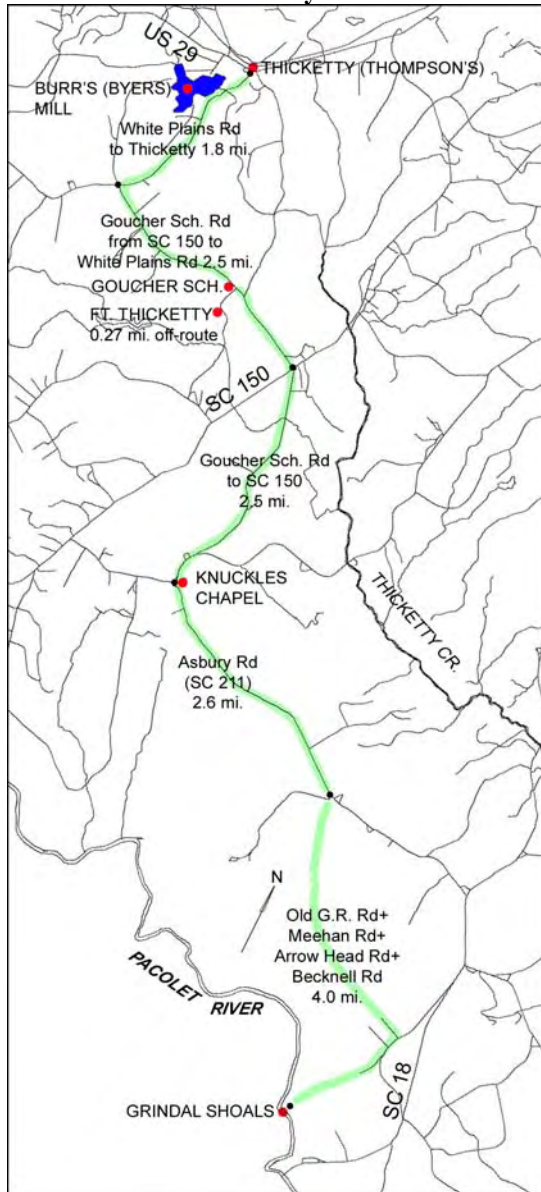
This map is a “notch-up” technically in that it uses gis-produced stream and road maps from the National Map mapserver (as usual, with dams and lakes removed!).

This map enlarges well for additional detail.

Commemorative Walk from Grindal Shoals to Cowpens NB Following approximate route taken by Gen. Daniel Morgan

Day I: Grindal Shoals to Thicketty
13.4 miles

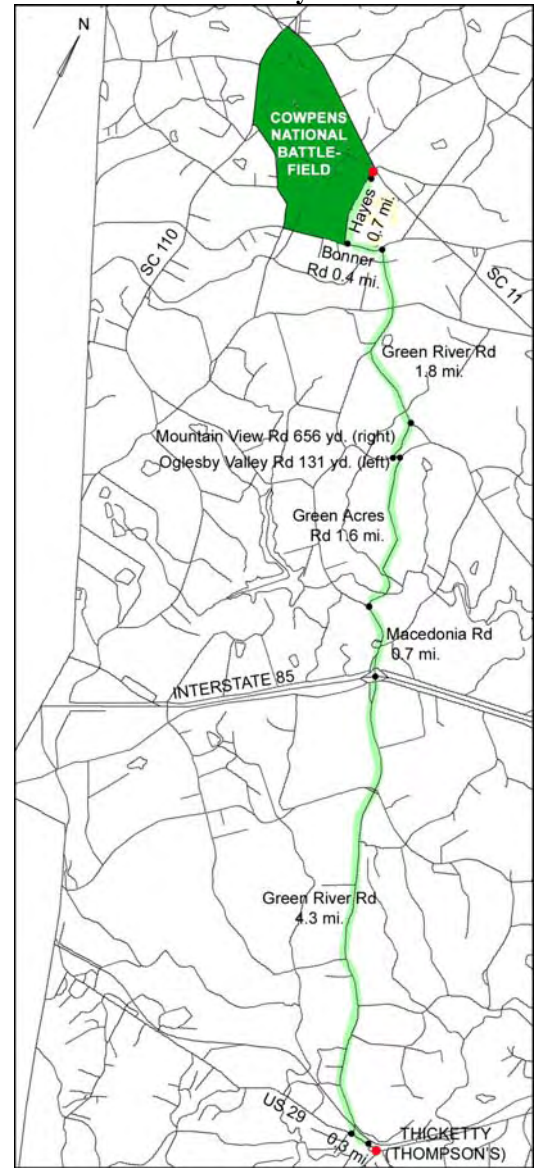
End Day I



Start Day I

Day II: Thicketty to Cowpens NB
10.3 miles

End Day II



Start Day II

Maps of the two-day commemorative hike from Grindal Shoals of the Pacolet River to Cowpens, drawn by cartographer John Robertson. The Commemorative Walk route was selected by a committee based on modern practicalities and to approximate the route of march. SC Patriot militiaman Thomas Young, in his pension application, said that Gen. Daniel Morgan's army took the 2nd left (on modern Asbury Road SC-211) after leaving Grindal Shoals rather than the 1st left (modern Arrow Head Rd). Arrow Head Road is the approximate midpoint of Morgan's camp. Those at the upper end (SC-211E, to the east) are far more likely to have taken the route described by Young.

Some historians believe that the Patriots entered Cowpens park area at its lower west corner by New Pleasant Church (the old road passing to the west of the picnic area and passing between the Scruggs house and the battlefield), however they got there. The restored Green River Road on the actual battlefield is probably fairly close to the original. Since there was a boggy area at the lower west corner of the battlefield, it is reasonable that the road would have passed it on the higher ground on its east side and it is my belief that it would have turned southeastward (it was a SE/NW route) about halfway between the battlefield and the Scruggs house. The mapped route is a "commemorative route" in the same sense that the Commemorative Motor Route represents the actual Overmountain Victory Trail. ★