# "No regular corps could have maintained its ground more firmly" Site Documentation for the Battle of the Hook October 3, 1781



Public Meeting, Gloucester Courthouse Library June 25, 2019







#### **Project Team**

#### Gloucester County

Katey Legg, Director, Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Carol Steele, Assistant County Administrator

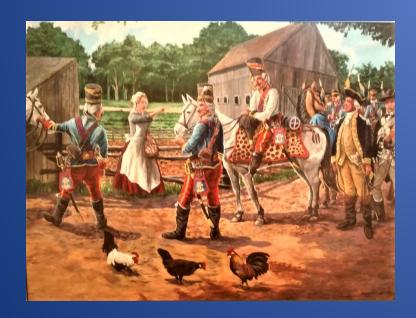
#### South River Heritage Consulting

- Wade P. Catts, RPA, Principal historical archeologist
- Robert A. Selig, Ph.D., historian
- Lt. Col. L.H. "Bucky" Burruss, USA (ret), local historian
- Kevin Bradley, GIS mapping



## **Project Goals**

- Review Documentation (Historical Context)
- Field View (establish where and what condition)
- GIS Mapping (parcels, historical maps, aerials, etc.)
- Assess overall Site Integrity and Threats
- Assess potential of NRHP eligibility
- Develop Informational Brochure
- Prepare Documentation/Plan







#### Sources

- Secondary Sources
- Primary sources
  - pensions, letters, reports, diaries, claims
- Historic Aerials & Maps
  - Gloucester Co. Plat Book
  - Du Perron Map
  - Siege Maps
  - 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c maps

- Historic Resources (Structures)
- Archaeological Collections
- Topography
- Landowners Knowledge
- Research of Others

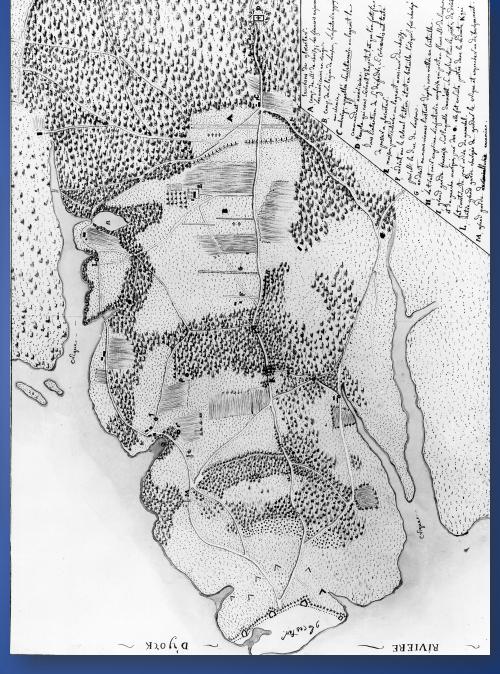




#### Du Perron Map, 1781



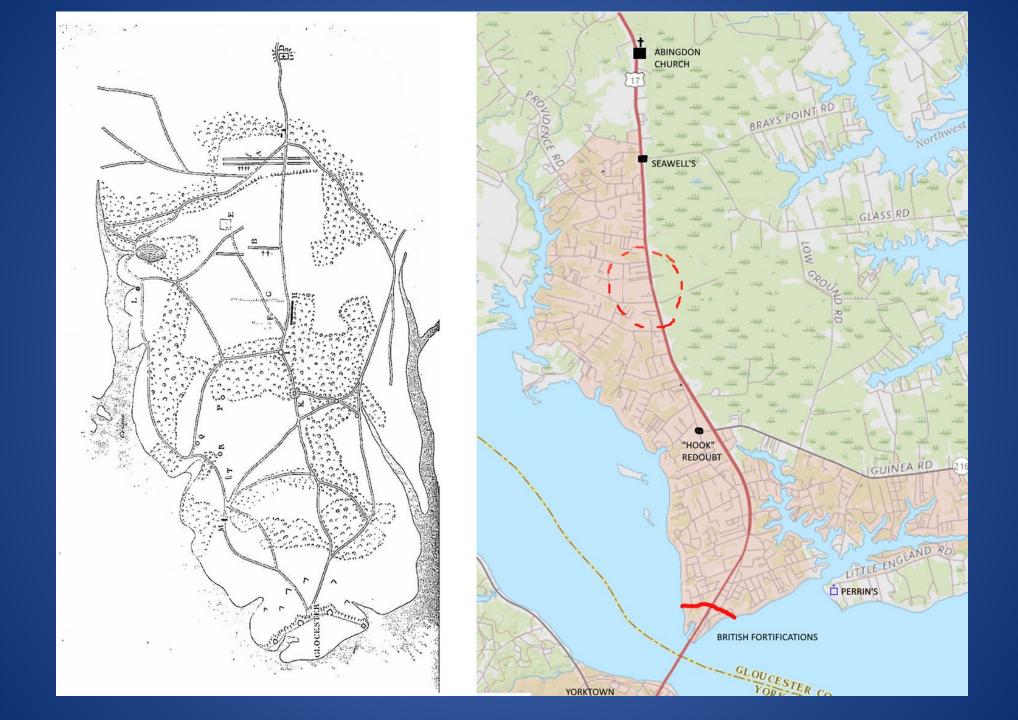
Joachim du Perron Comte de Revel (or the Comte du Perron)







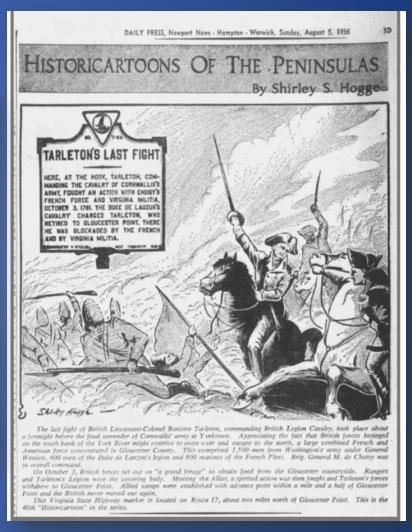




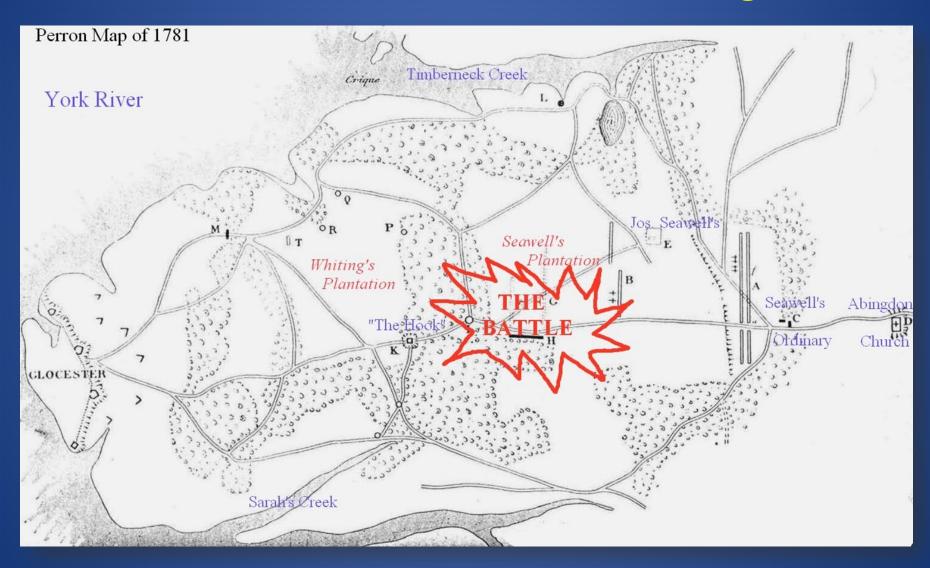
## **Current Historical Markers**



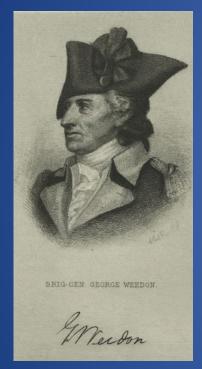
Markers, intersection of Hook Road and Hayes Road



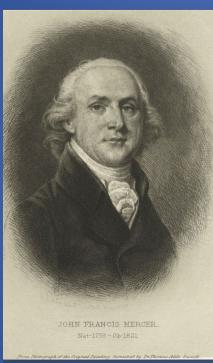
## Where we think the Battle was fought



#### **Allied Commanders**



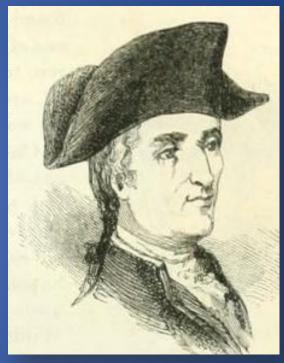
BG George Weedon



Col. John F. Mercer



Armand Louis de Gontaut, Duc de Lauzun



BG Claude Gabriel de Choisy

## **Allied Forces Engaged**

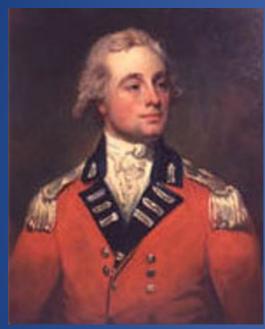


Mercer's Select Battalion of Grenadiers (Virginia Militia)



Lauzun's Legion Cavalry (Hussars)

#### **Crown Forces Commanders**



Lt. Col. Thomas Dundas Gloucester Garrison Commander



Captain Johann Ewald, Hessian Field Jaeger Corps



Lt. Col Banastre Tarleton,
British Legion

## **Crown Forces**

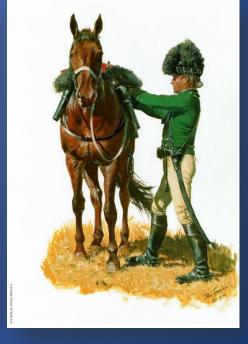
- British Legion/17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons
- Queen's Rangers (hussars & rangers)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot
- 80<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot
- Hessian Field Jager Corps
- North Carolina Loyalists











#### **KOCOA Analysis**

Military terrain assessment used by the US Army for tactical training and adopted by the ABPP

•<u>Defining features</u> – any feature mentioned in the battle accounts or shown on historic maps that potentially can be relocated on the ground.

Key Terrain
Observation /Fields of Fire
Cover/Concealment
Obstacles
Avenues of Approach/Retreat



## **Key Terrain**

- Terrain feature that:
  - Dominates immediate area
  - Enhances defense or attack
  - Provides good observation, fields of fire
  - Maneuver choke point
  - Local control of surrounding area



**Abington Church** 



High ground at Roane

#### **Observation and Fields of Fire**

- OBSERVATION
- Seeing the enemy
- Avoiding surprise



Intersection of Powhatan Drive and US 17

- FIELDS OF FIRE
- Where weapons may fire effectively (in range)
- No obstructions
- No dead ground
  - Places within range but not reachable with weaponry available



#### **Cover and Concealment**

- COVER
- Protection from enemy fire
   Protection from
  - Ditch, stream bank
  - Reverse slope (from direct fire)
  - Hedge, Fence, wall, building
  - Entrenchments



- CONCEALMENT
- Protection from Observation
  - Trees/woods
  - Reverse slope
  - Smoke, darkness, fog



http://boston.mommypoppins.com/bostonkids/celebrate-patriots-day-in-lexington-and-concord-boston

#### **Obstacles**

- Impediment to maneuver
  - Steep slope
  - Forest, swamp, marsh, stream
  - Fenceline, hedgeline
- Barrier to maneuver
  - River





https://www.flickr.com/photos/leewrightonflickr/6059652232/in/photostream

#### **Avenues of Approach/Retreat**

- (to key terrain)
- Route leading to objective
- Unobstructed terrain
- Gentle slope
- Can be constricted
  - Mobility corridor
  - Causeway
  - Limits size of moving unit





Intersection of Crewe Road and US 17

#### **Sources**

#### **Allied Forces**

- French
  - Diaries, letters, dispatches, maps
- American
  - Pension Applications
  - Public Service Claims
  - Wadsworth Papers



Receipt dated Gloucester Court House, 27 September 1781, for "5 Tons" and "110 Bundles ... Fodder" as well as "27 1/2 Loads Oats" which agents for Wadsworth and Carter purchased from Benjamin Bunster (?) to supply the needs of Lauzun's Legion.

#### **Crown Forces**

- British
  - British Legion
  - 80<sup>th</sup> Regiment
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment
- German
  - Hessian Jäger
- Loyalist
  - Queen's Rangers
  - North Carolina Loyalists



## **Project Schedule**

- Update (2<sup>nd</sup>) Meeting November 2019
- Final Public Meeting March 2020
- Informational Brochure April 2020
- Final Report/Preservation Plan June 2020



#### How you can help us

- Do you have knowledge of artifacts, buildings, property lines, road traces, or documents related to October 1781?
  - Interested in what you have and where it was found.
  - Do not need to acquire the collection, just review and record its contents.









If so – Please contact us

#### **Contacts**

Wade Catts
South River Heritage Consulting
wadecatts@gmail.com

Robert Selig
Robertaselig@gmail.com



## **Thank You - Questions?**





