



TOUR MAP & DESCRIPTIONS



Marker 1 **Battle of Charlotte Monument**

When the British invaded North Carolina in the fall of 1780, Charlotte was of vital importance. Four major battles occurred within 90 miles of Charlotte. The resistance of the people in the Carolinas and their hostility to the British helped to turn the tide of the war and led to victory at Yorktown, Virginia.

Marker 2 **Ishmael Titus Marker**

At least 5,000 African-Americans, many from North Carolina, served on the American side. Some were body servants and laborers, but most served as front line troops, including non-commissioned officers. One such was Ishmael Titus. Although slavery was still legal, there was no segregation in the military – the troops served side-by-side in the same units and suffered the same dangers and hardships.

Marker 3 **Catawba Indians & Indian Trading Path Marker**

The road now known as Tryon Street was once an Indian trading path which stretched over 800 miles from the Catawba Nation in the south to the Iroquois in the north. It was known as the Great Warriors Path, the Iroquois Path, or the Road to the Catawba Nation.

Marker 4 **Liberty Hall DAR Monument**

This granite monument is located on the site of Liberty Hall, originally known as Queens College (see below). It was erected in 1913 by the Daughters of the American Revolution to honor prominent early Charlotteans who were Trustees of Liberty Hall.

Marker 5 **Site of Queens College, established 1771**

In 1771 the Assembly and Governor Tryon authorized Queens College, the first publicly supported college in the South. (It was supported by a tax on rum!) In 1772, King George disallowed the operation of the college but the citizens of Charlotte changed the name to “Queen’s Museum” and continued operation. In 1777 they changed the name to Liberty Hall and the school continued operation into the 1790s. Liberty Hall was used as a hospital for soldiers on both sides during the Revolution. Today, Queen’s University carries on the name of this early school.

Marker 6 **British Encampment, 1780**

From September 26 to October 12, 1780 the British Army was encamped in Charlotte. The encampment made a

square centered on the courthouse, at the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets, about 300 yards across. This marker is in the southern part of that encampment where Lt. Col. Tarleton's infantry and cavalry, the Loyalists militia and camp followers were located. Four cannons of the artillery were placed in the crossroads near the courthouse.

Marker 7 **Battle of Charlotte – North Carolina State Historical Marker**

On September 26, 1780 the southern British army, commanded by Lieutenant General Charles, Lord Cornwallis advanced on Charlotte, by way of South Tryon Street. In the lead was Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's British Legion cavalry. They expected little or no resistance from the inhabitants.

As the British approached the Court House they were met with a volley of musket fire from a small force of American troops hidden on both sides of the street and under the courthouse, under the command of Colonel William Richardson Davie, and Captain Joseph Graham. The British Legion cavalry broke under the withering fire and retreated. They charged again and were driven back by another volley. Lord Cornwallis himself rode up, harangued the troops, and they advanced again. By this time the British infantry was moving up on both sides to surround the Americans who fired a third volley and withdrew in good order.

Marker 8 **The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence**

According to local legend, on May 20, 1775, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, N.C. became the first political entity in the American colonies to declare themselves free and independent from the King and Parliament of Great Britain. The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was signed by elected representatives in the county courthouse, a log building on brick pillars which stood in the middle of the intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets. This declaration preceded the US Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776 by more than a year. Nearby are two earlier markers to this historic event.

Marker 9 **Thomas Polk Park**

This park commemorates Colonel Thomas Polk: early settler, surveyor, state legislator, Justice of the Peace, founder of Mecklenburg County and of Charlotte, and a Colonel in the American Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. His house stood diagonally across the street from this park. Stones throughout the park give more details of Polk's life and accomplishments.

Marker 10 **Cook's Inn**

While on a tour of the southern states in 1791, President George Washington spent the night of May 28 in Charlotte. He was entertained by Col. Thomas Polk at his house at the square and stayed at Cook's Inn, across the street from this location. When Washington departed the next morning he left behind a box of white wig powder. For many years afterwards Mrs. Cook would put this powder on children's hair telling them to always remember that they had President Washington's powder on their hair.

Marker 11 **Captain Jack Homesite**

Captain James Jack lived here and ran the tavern owned by his father Patrick Jack. When the Mecklenburg Declaration and the Mecklenburg Resolves were signed on May 20 and May 31, 1775, Captain Jack volunteered to ride to Philadelphia and present them to the Continental Congress. Royal Governor Martin called these resolutions "most treasonable" and Jack no doubt would have been hanged if caught on his ride. A bronze statue of Captain James Jack, riding off to Philadelphia is located in the Trail of History in Little Sugar Creek Greenway, east of here at the corner of Fourth Street and Kings Drive.

Marker 12 **First Presbyterian Church**

In 1815, the Charlotte town commissioners set aside this land for a town church, whose first building was finished in 1823. While initially a non-denominational meeting house known as the Town Church, The Presbyterian Church purchased the property to nurture the Charlotte community. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, who later became the first President of Davidson College, was installed as the first pastor of the church in 1821. While Fourth Ward has changed over the years, First Presbyterian Church has stood "for Christ in the Heart of Charlotte." The main sanctuary was dedicated in 1895, while two additions from 1993 and 2001 renovations flank either side.

Marker 13 **Settler's Cemetery**

In this cemetery lie the mortal remains of many of the founders and leading citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. It is a municipal cemetery and is not affiliated with the nearby First Presbyterian Church. Use the bronze map at the entrance to find the graves of: Thomas Polk and his wife Susanna Spratt Polk; Joel Baldwin, 1776 (the oldest grave here); a Memorial to NC Governor Nathaniel Alexander; and a Memorial to Major General George Graham. There are bronze markers along Fifth Street recounting the history of Mecklenburg County.



{ READING OF THE MEC DEC,
MAY 20, 1775 BY DAN NANCE

Marker 14 Line of the American Retreat Battle of Charlotte, September 26, 1780

The American militia fought a delaying action along North Tryon Street against the entire Southern British Army. Colonel William R. Davie commanded the North Carolina militia cavalry for several months before the British Army invaded North Carolina. Captain Joseph Graham commanded the Mecklenburg County mounted militia which was called out to oppose the British invasion of North Carolina.

In the Battle of Charlotte, these two groups defended the Courthouse in the middle of Trade and Tryon Streets. After firing three volleys to good effect, and causing the British Legion Cavalry to draw back and re-form, the Americans retreated up the Salisbury Road (today North Tryon Street) past this spot. Farther up the road they stopped twice to form a defensive line, delaying the British advance each time. By the time the British reached the main American force eight miles north of town, it was late in the day and they withdrew to Charlotte. The Southern British Army occupied Charlotte for 16 days and then, after hearing of the American victory at King's Mountain, retreated to South Carolina.

Marker 15 Queen Charlotte Statue

This delightful statue of Queen Charlotte in her garden with her dogs was privately funded and for many years has been preserved and maintained by Bank of America. Mecklenburg County was named in honor of Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz who was married to



King George III shortly before the county was formed in 1763. The city of Charlotte was named in her honor when it was established in 1768.

Marker 16 Dr. Ephraim Brevard Lived near here in 1775

Dr. Brevard was a prominent local patriot. Although blind in one eye, he attended college in Princeton, New Jersey, trained as a doctor, and taught at Queen's College where he was also a Trustee. He married Martha, the daughter of Thomas and Susanna Polk and had a hand in writing both the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Mecklenburg Resolves. He served as an officer and later as a surgeon during the Revolution and was captured at the fall of Charleston in 1780. As an officer he could have signed a parole and been sent home, but he chose to stay on in Charleston to minister to the American prisoners. In doing so, he contracted the same fever that killed so many of his fellow soldiers. He returned to Mecklenburg where he died aged only thirty five.

Marker 17 Thomas Polk Homesite

Here stood the house of Colonel Thomas Polk the founder of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Polk's home was used by Lord Cornwallis as his headquarters when the British occupied Charlotte in the autumn of 1780. President George Washington visited Charlotte on May 28, 1791 and was entertained here. For over a hundred years, Polk's house was Charlotte's leading tourist attraction.

Marker 18 Nathanael Greene 1742-1786 – North Carolina Historical Marker

After the American defeat at the battle of Camden, Congress relieved General Horatio Gates of command. General George Washington chose General Nathanael Greene to replace Gates as the commander in the south. Greene took command near this spot. Greene reorganized the American Army and caused Lord Cornwallis to lead the British Army through North Carolina and to a major battle at Guilford Courthouse, near present day Greensboro, NC. After this battle the British forces were so weakened that they retreated to the coast. Eventually they marched north to Virginia where they were defeated at the Siege of Yorktown.

Marker 19 Mecklenburg Resolves

On May 31, 1775, the Mecklenburg Committee adopted a set of radical resolutions which annulled all laws dictated by the King and Parliament and set forth new laws for governing the now independent Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg County citizens began governing themselves more than a year before Continental Congress finally severed ties with Britain. The Resolves—different from the MecDec—have confused historians ever since!

Charlotte's Revolutionary Historic Sites

{ 1775 – 1780 }



{ BRONZE STATUE OF THE LEGENDARY
CAPTAIN JAMES JACK BY CHAS FAGAN

Little Sugar Creek Greenway provides a unique opportunity to learn about Mecklenburg County's history and culture. Stretching 19 miles when completed, it begins in Cordelia Park in North Charlotte, travels past uptown and historic neighborhoods and ends at the NC/SC line. The Urban Section located along Kings Drive just east of uptown features a Trail of History with larger-than-life sculptures. Included is a bronze statue of the legendary Captain James Jack who carried the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Resolves to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1775. This Trail of History stretches from East 7th Street at Central Piedmont Community College south to Morehead Street. It is just one mile long and makes a lovely walk along the creek and through the history of the area.

1. Battle of Charlotte Monument
2. Ishmael Titus Marker
3. Catawba Indians & Indian Trading Path Marker
4. Liberty Hall DAR Marker
5. Queens College
6. Site of British Camp
7. Battle of Charlotte State Historical Marker
8. Independence Square
9. Thomas Polk Park
10. Cook's Inn
11. Captain Jack Homesite
12. First Presbyterian Church
13. Settler's Cemetery, History of Charlotte markers, founders' gravesites including T. Polk
14. Line of Patriot's Retreat - Graham & Davie
15. Queen Charlotte Statue
16. Ephraim Brevard Marker
17. Thomas Polk Homesite
18. Nathanael Greene State Historical Marker
19. Mecklenburg Resolves Marker



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