

# TRAILS MAP



## Kettle Creek Battlefield Battle & Trails Map



*"Kettle Creek was the severest check and chastisement the Tories ever received in South Carolina or Georgia"*

*Colonel Andrew Pickens*

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# The Battle of Kettle Creek

On the morning of February 14, 1779, Col. Pickens divided his Patriot militia into three columns. Col. Clarke was on his left flank; Col. Dooly was on his right. As Col. Pickens's advance guard approached Kettle Creek, they encountered Col. Boyd's Loyalist pickets on top of a hill which is known today as Liberty Church. The pickets were slaughtering a cow when Col. Pickens's advance guard fired on them. Col. Boyd heard the shots, gathered 100 Loyalists, and advanced up the hill. Col. Boyd had his Loyalists lie behind a picket fence and around fallen trees as Col. Pickens's Patriot militia approached.

As the two opposing forces engaged, Col. Boyd was mortally wounded by Patriot sharpshooters. With the loss of their leader, the Loyalist forces began to panic and retreated back toward their camp along Kettle Creek. As you walk the trails you will see the crosses marking the places where engagements occurred and the fallen soldiers were buried.

Although the Loyalists had superior numbers, Col. Pickens pushed his men forward, and as they reached the Loyalist camp Col. Clarke and Col. Dooly broke through the canebrakes that had been hindering their advance.

Maj. Spurgin mounted a Loyalist defense on the hill on the south side of Kettle Creek. This last effort to stop the Patriot advance failed as Col. Clarke crossed Kettle Creek under heavy fire. Col. Pickens pushed through the Loyalist camp, and Col. Dooly attacked Maj. Spurgin from Pickens's right flank.

The Loyalists under Maj. Spurgin surrendered to the advancing Patriot militia, and those who were not killed or captured fled to Wrightsboro, a Loyalist stronghold.

