



Hopkins Place

12/1780

GPS: 34.66101°N 81.34345°W

Confidence: 3

Directions: From the junction of SC Hwys 215 and SC 121 in Carlisle, go east on SC Hwy 121, cross the Broad River and continue for 2.7 miles, then turn left onto West End Road. Go north about .7 miles where it becomes Leeds or Woods Ferry Road (S-12-25), continue straight about 1.3 miles and turn right (east) onto Calvary Church Road (S-12-25) just before it crosses a railroad. Go northeast about 4.2 miles to the site, which is about 1 mile east from the road on the right. **Note:** The No Name Road shown on the map above is a private road. There is no close public road access to this site. The modern name for Hopkins Branch is “Rocky Branch”.

Action: In late 1780, the Americans still enjoyed their stunning victory at Kings Mountain, but the British Army still controlled all of the towns in the Backcountry, and Lord Cornwallis was camped at Winnsboro, recovering from Ferguson’s Defeat at Kings Mountain, his premature foray into North Carolina, and awaiting promised reinforcements from England. Not strong enough to attack Cornwallis directly, American militia patrols interdicted his communications and forage parties, cowered backcountry Loyalists and watched the British main camp. SC Patriot militia Maj. Samuel Otterson and eight or ten men, from the Hamilton’s Ford area of the Tyger River, were sent to gain intelligence about the Loyalists embodied in the western Chester County emboldened by the nearness of the British Army. When they reached the home of Loyalist Capt. David Hopkins, they found no one there. Otterson noticed a fire a quarter mile away on the west side of a ridge. He approached the camp alone and “discovered Tories, double his strength. They must be Tories or they would have been at Hopkins”, he thought. Otterson returned to his men and ordered them to crawl to the Loyalist camp and to fire on his signal.

Old Capt. Moore, the Loyalist commander, went to build the fire as the Whigs were approaching the camp. “He was on his knees blowing up a blaze” when Otterson gave the signal to fire. The attackers killed several Loyalists in their beds and hit Moore from behind, sending him sprawling into the fire. “A few escaped like wild turkeys.”

One of the Loyalists grabbed his musket and clubbed one of the Patriots. He would have smashed his skull in, except for another Whig “who had just knifed his antagonist, came to the relief of the overpowered man and dispatched the Tory with his knife.”²¹⁷