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Corps of Discovery

March 19, 2011



The Siege of Ninety Six, giclee print on canvas, 24 x 36, by Robert Windsor Wilson, 1977.

“Off the Beaten Path at Ninety Six”

A Corps of Discovery

Besides the Star Fort, what happened at Ninety Six?

Corps Leaders: Daniel J. Tortora & Michael Burgess

Special Presenters: Steven J. Rauch, Barbara J. Abernethy, Marie Burgess & Charles F. Price

Charles B. Baxley & David P. Reuwer

**First Battle of Fort Ninety Six
February 2-3, 1760
Order of Battle**

South Carolina Forces

Commanding Officer Captain James Francis

Upper Saluda Militia - Captain James Francis (33 white men, 12 slaves)

Total South Carolina forces engaged 45

Casualties 2 wounded

Cherokee Forces

Commanding Officer Young Warrior of Estatoe

Estatoe Village - Young Warrior of Estatoe (40 men)

Total Cherokee Forces Engaged 40

Casualties 2 killed, 2 captured

**Second Battle of Fort Ninety Six
March 3-4, 1760
Order of Battle**

South Carolina Forces

Commanding Officer Captain James Francis

Upper Saluda SC Militia - Captain James Francis (25 men)

Amelia Militia - Major John Lloyd (12 men)

Total South Carolina forces engaged 37

Casualties 2 wounded

Cherokee Forces

Commanding Officer Young Warrior of Estatoe

Warriors from several Cherokee Lower Towns

Warriors from several Cherokee Middle Towns

Total Cherokee Forces Engaged 250

Casualties 6 wounded

Source: based on reports from the *South Carolina Gazette* and in William L. McDowell, Jr., *Documents Relating to Indian Affairs, 1750-1765, Vol. 2.*

**Battle of Fort Williamson
November 18-21, 1775
Order of Battle**

American (Whig) Forces

Commanding Officer Major Andrew Williamson

South Carolina Provincials - Major James Mayson
3rd South Carolina Rangers

SC Militia - Long Cane militia

Georgia Militia

Total American (Whig) Forces engaged 560

Casualties 1 killed, 12 wounded

Loyalist (Tory) Forces

Commanding Officer Major Joseph Robinson

South Carolina Loyalist Militia - Ninety Six District

Total Loyalist (Tory) Forces Engaged 1, 892

Casualties 52 killed and 20 wounded

Source: Based on Robert M. Dunkerly and Eric K. Williams, *Old Ninety Six: A History and Guide*

Corps of Discovery tours are organized by *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR)*. If you would like to be included on our free mailing list, join future SCAR programs or host a Corps of Discovery, please contact Charles B. Baxley, P. O. Box 10, Lugoff, SC 29078-0010 cbbaxley@truvista.net. Follow the upcoming Revolutionary War events on-line at www.southerncampaign.org.

SCAR thanks Acting Superintendent Chris Revels, Chief Ranger Tim Cruze and Interpretative Ranger Sarah Cunningham; Dr. Stanley South; and Robert M. "Bert" Dunkerly for their assistance with this program.

Greene's Siege of Ninety Six
May 22, 1781 – June 19, 1781
Order of Battle

American Forces

Commanding Officer **Major General Nathaniel Greene**

Maryland Brigade - Colonel Otho Holland Williams (427 men)

1st Maryland Regiment - Colonel John E. Howard

2nd Maryland Regiment - Major Henry Hardman

Virginia Brigade - Brigadier General Isaac Huger (421 men)

1st Virginia Regiment - Lt. Colonel Richard Campbell

2nd Virginia Regiment - Colonel Samuel Hawes

Delaware Regiment - Captain Robert Kirkwood (60 men)

North Carolina Troops (66 men)

South Carolina Militia - Brigadier General Andrew Pickens (400 men)

Virginia Militia - Captain Jeremiah Pate (100 men)

Lee's Legion - Lt. Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee (150 men)

Total American Forces engaged 1,624

Casualties 58 killed, 76 wounded, 20 missing

British Forces

Commanding Officer **Lieutenant Colonel John Harris Cruger**

Spartan Militia - Major Zachariah Gibbs (120 men)

Stevens Creek Militia - Captain John Cotton (241 men)

Long Cane Militia - Colonel Richard King (123 men)

Little River Militia - Major Patrick Cunningham (224 men)

Dutch Fork Militia - Captain Daniel Clary (60 men)

Fair Forest Militia - Captain Shadrack Lantry (88 men)

3rd Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers - Lt. Colonel Isaac Allen (253 men)

DeLancey's Battalion (NY) - Major Joseph Green (165 men)

Total British Forces Engaged 1,274

Casualties 27 killed and 58 wounded

Source: Based on Robert M. Dunkerly and Eric K. Williams, *Old Ninety Six: A History and Guide*

Timeline of Events at Ninety Six

ca. 1715

Scots-Irish traders pass through Ninety Six on their way to the Cherokee villages. With the defeat and dispersal of coastal tribes, traffic increases to the Indians of the southeastern interior.

1730

Ninety Six first appears in a colonial map as “96,” a site at the crossroads of two important trading paths.

1746

SC Governor James Glen visits Ninety Six. Surveyors George Pawley and George Haig lead ten South Carolinians to Ninety Six. There they purchase lands from the Lower Cherokees.

1751

John Hamilton purchases a royal grant of 50,000 acres and surveys it. Robert Gouedy, a Cherokee deerskin trader, builds a trading post south of Hamilton’s survey line. The post soon becomes the largest of its kind in South Carolina outside Charles Town.

1753

SC Governor James Glen visits Ninety Six while on his way to build Fort Prince George opposite the Cherokee Lower Town of Keowee

1755

William Simpson and Dr. John Murray purchase lands nearby. Andrew Williamson, a young Scotsman, arrives and takes up work as a cattle rancher.

1756-1757

British and SC Provincials pass and repass through Ninety Six during the construction of a fort in the Cherokee Overhills, Fort Loudoun on the Little Tennessee River (near modern Vonore, Tenn.).

1759

November 21-29 – SC Royal Governor William Henry Lyttelton arrives with an army of 1,300 SC militia, rangers, and volunteers. Among them are: Col. Richard Richardson and Christopher Gadsden, Francis Marion, John Moultrie, and Thomas Lynch, Sr. Forces build a stockade fort, around Robert Gouedy’s barn before continuing to Keowee. Lyttelton, with Cherokee hostages in tow, forces a controversial treaty upon the Indians. By early January, his troops stream through Ninety Six, leaving smallpox, measles, and other ailments in their wake.

1760

February 2-3 – Forty Cherokees from Estatoe, under the Young Warrior, attack Fort Ninety Six. The Fort’s defenders, under militia Capt. James Francis, include Andrew Williamson and the Gouedy family, defend the attack.

March 3-4 – 250 Cherokees vigorously, but unsuccessfully attack the fort again.

March 15 – Governor Lyttelton orders 35 militia and 4 swivel guns to reinforce Fort Ninety Six.

April 10 – SC Provincials and Rangers under Col. Richard Richardson gather at Ninety Six but are insufficient to relieve Fort Prince George (under modern Lake Keowee, Seneca, SC). They await British military reinforcements.

May 24-28, 1760 – The 77th Regiment of Foot (Scottish Highlanders), and the 1st Regiment of Foot (Royal Scots), commanded by Col. Archibald Montgomery, camp at Ninety Six in preparation for their expedition against the Cherokee Indians. Defeated by the Cherokees at Echoe Pass, they return through Ninety Six on July 9.

August – SC frontier garrison at Fort Loudoun is forced to surrender. As the men, women and children march away on August 10, Cherokee murder nearly thirty of them.

Late-1760 – Ninety Six becomes an important base for SC Rangers and militia scouting parties, and is the launching point for two Fort Prince George relief expeditions led by SC Ranger commander Maj. William Thomson.

1761

April 10 – After a four-day journey from the Provincial camp at the Congarees (present Cayce, SC), a detachment of Col. Thomas Middleton’s SC Provincial Regiment led by Maj. John Moultrie and including Lt. Francis Marion arrives with 150 men and 50 slaves. Moultrie’s men fortify and expand Fort Ninety Six in preparation of an army of 2,900 British troops, SC Provincials, and SC Rangers under Lt. Col. James Grant.

May 14-18 – Grant’s army camps at Ninety Six. Among his men are troops from the 1st, 17th and 22nd Regiment of Foot, SC Provincials under Col. Thomas Middleton, including Lt. Col. Henry Laurens, Maj. John Moultrie, Capt. William Moultrie, Lts. Andrew Williamson, Francis Marion, and Isaac Huger, and private Andrew Pickens.
October 26-30 – Grant’s army camps near the fort at Ninety Six on its return to Charles Town after reaching preliminary peace terms with the Cherokees. Tensions flare between Provincials and British Regulars.

1762

Spring 1762 – As Patriot sentiment emerges for the first time, the Fort is now known as “Fort Middleton,” in honor of the SC Provincial commander.

June-July 1762 – A major prisoner exchange occurs at Ninety Six. The Cherokee deerskin trade is restored. With peace restored, settlers stream into the South Carolina backcountry, and Gouedy’s business thrives again.

ca. 1765

Robert Gouedy’s eldest son, James, is born. He is later buried in the family cemetery at Ninety Six.

1768

The SC Assembly passes the District Court Act, creating seven new administrative districts. These are set up the next year. One of them is called “Ninety-Six District.” The move aims to address Backcountry lawlessness raised by disgruntled settlers in the “Regulator” movement.

1770

The South Carolina Assembly approves building the “Ridge Road” to Orangeburg.

1772

A new District jail and courthouse are opened at Ninety Six.

1775

July 2 – Indian trader and Ninety Six merchant Robert Gouedy signs his will and dies shortly thereafter

June 1775 – The SC Council of Safety orders Maj. James Mayson CO of Ninety Six to seize Fort Charlotte. He does so without bloodshed

July 17 – Loyalist forces under Col. Thomas Fletchall take control of the jail (a makeshift fort) at Ninety Six without bloodshed. Maj. Mayson is arrested but released.

August 2-September 15 – The SC Council of Safety sends Col. William Henry Drayton, Baptist preacher Oliver Hart, Presbyterian preacher William Tennant, Richard Richardson, and Joseph Kershaw on a diplomatic tour of the backcountry to woo Loyalist leaders and drum up support for the Patriot cause – “The Association”. Drayton and Tennant pass through Ninety Six District.

September 6 – Drayton seizes Ninety Six and prepares the jail as a defensive post. Drayton detaches men up Island Ford Road. But the Loyalists do not attack.

September 16 – Fletchall and Drayton sign the short-lived (First) Treaty of Ninety Six.

Late September – Drayton meets with Cherokee leaders and offers gunpowder for peace.

October 31 – Loyalists under Patrick Cunningham seize gunpowder being shipped to the Cherokee at Mine Creek.

November 18-21 – In the first Revolutionary War bloodshed in South Carolina: Maj. Andrew Williamson successfully defends “Williamson’s Fort,” at Ninety Six against Loyalists led by Maj. Joseph Robinson. The battle ends with the signing of the Second Treaty of Ninety Six. Whig militiaman James Birmingham is killed.

December 8-30 – SC Backcountry Whigs and Tories square off in the “Snow Campaign.” Whigs prevail militarily.

1776

July 15, 1776 – The Battle of Lindley’s Fort on Rabon’s Creek pits Loyalist derisively called “Scopholites” v. Whigs.

July 25-October 30 – Patriots launch a campaign against the Cherokee Indians.

March-April – many area Loyalists remove to British held East Florida. A new South Carolina Constitution is adopted. And it requires loyalty oaths.

1779

Col. John Boyd recruits Loyalists in western SC, then marches west to join the British in Augusta. SC militia Col. Andrew Pickens, with Col. John Dooley, and Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke of Georgia successfully attack Boyd’s Loyalists at Kettle Creek on February 14, 1779. In the months that follow, Loyalists are imprisoned, brought to trial and executed. Some, like David Fanning, escape.

1780

- June 1780 – Following the fall of Charles Town, the British establish key posts in the SC interior to protect Tories, to keep Patriots in check, and to maintain communication with potential Cherokee allies. British Lt. Col. Nesbit Balfour arrives at Ninety Six for this task. Balfour demands that area Patriots surrender & take parole and then loyalty oaths. SC militia Gen. Andrew Williamson, Cols. LeRoy Hammond and Andrew Pickens, and others, surrender and accept parole.
- July 10-12 – Jane Black Thomas races to Cedar Spring to warn her son, SC Patriot militia Col. John Thomas, Jr., of the Tories' plan to attack him on July 12, 1780. Capt. James Dunlop launches raids in to the Spartan District. Several battles follow. Lt. Col. Nesbit Balfour and Maj. Patrick Ferguson feud.
- August 13, 1780 – Balfour detaches seventy men of the 71st Regiment from Ninety Six to reinforce Camden. SC militia Col. Thomas Sumter's men capture them at Cary's Fort (modern Lugoff, SC) on August 15. But British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton recaptures them at Fishing Creek (north of modern Great Falls, SC) three days later.
- August 16, 1780 – Lt. Col. Alexander Innes leads several Loyalist provincial units to Musgrove Mill. They arrive on August 18. Patriot Cols. Isaac Shelby (western NC, now Tenn.), Elijah Clarke (Georgia) and James Williams (South Carolina) attack near Musgrove Mill and defeat the British the next morning.
- Early September – British Charleston commandant Brig. Gen. James Paterson falls ill and leaves SC in early September. Balfour is recalled from Ninety Six to take his place. Lt. Col. John Harris Cruger, a wealthy New York Loyalist, lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Battalion of DeLancey's Brigade, assumes command at Ninety Six.
- September 16-18 – Cruger leaves SC Loyalist militia Col. Moses Kirkland in command of the Ninety Six base and successfully marches to relieve besieged Tories at the first Siege of Augusta at McKay's Trading Post.
- ca. November 15-19 – SC militia Gen. Thomas Sumter takes aim at the British post at Ninety Six. With Tarleton in pursuit, he then turns the line of march, withdraws, stands and fights Tarleton at Blackstock's Plantation on the Tyger River on November 20.
- December 10, 1780 – Lt. Col. Isaac Allen and NJ Provincial Volunteers, SC Loyalist militia Gen. Robert Cunningham, and Capt. James Dunlop detach to White Hall and then to Long Canes. Two days later, they defeat Col. Elijah Clarke, Lt. Col. James McCall and Col. Benjamin Few near Troy, SC.
- December 1780 – Patriots launch raids against the British at Ninety Six. They capture and execute Ensign John Massey Camp on Christmas Day.
- December 27, 1780 – Gen. Daniel Morgan detaches troops under Lt. Col. William Washington from Grindal Shoals and attacks Georgia Loyalist militia under Col. Thomas Waters at Hammond's Old Store on December 30, 1780. He follows with an attack on Williams' Fort the next day.

1781

- May 22-June 19 – Gen. Nathanael Greene and the Southern Continental Army arrives and sets up siege.
- June 8 – Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and SC militia Gen. Andrew Pickens arrive from Augusta with about 300 prisoners.
- Early June – Lord Francis Rawdon marches from Charleston with a relief column.
- June 19 – Greene lifts the siege and withdraws east, crosses the Saluda and Broad Rivers and camps at "the Crossroads."
- June 21 – Lord Rawdon arrives with relief column at Ninety Six.
- June 23 – Rawdon marches east after Greene.
- June 29 – Rawdon withdraws down Cherokee Path Road to Granby (present Cayce, SC).
- July 8 – Cruger withdraws to Orangeburg, SC via the Ridge Road with the Loyalist garrison and many civilians

1783-1784

The town of Cambridge is laid out. It soon replaces Ninety Six as the center of activity in the region.

1970s

Dr. Stanley South and others conduct extensive archaeological investigations. Ninety Six is declared a National Historic Landmark in 1973 and becomes a National Historic Site in 1976.

2006

A special ceremony is held to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Siege of Ninety Six.

For Further Reading

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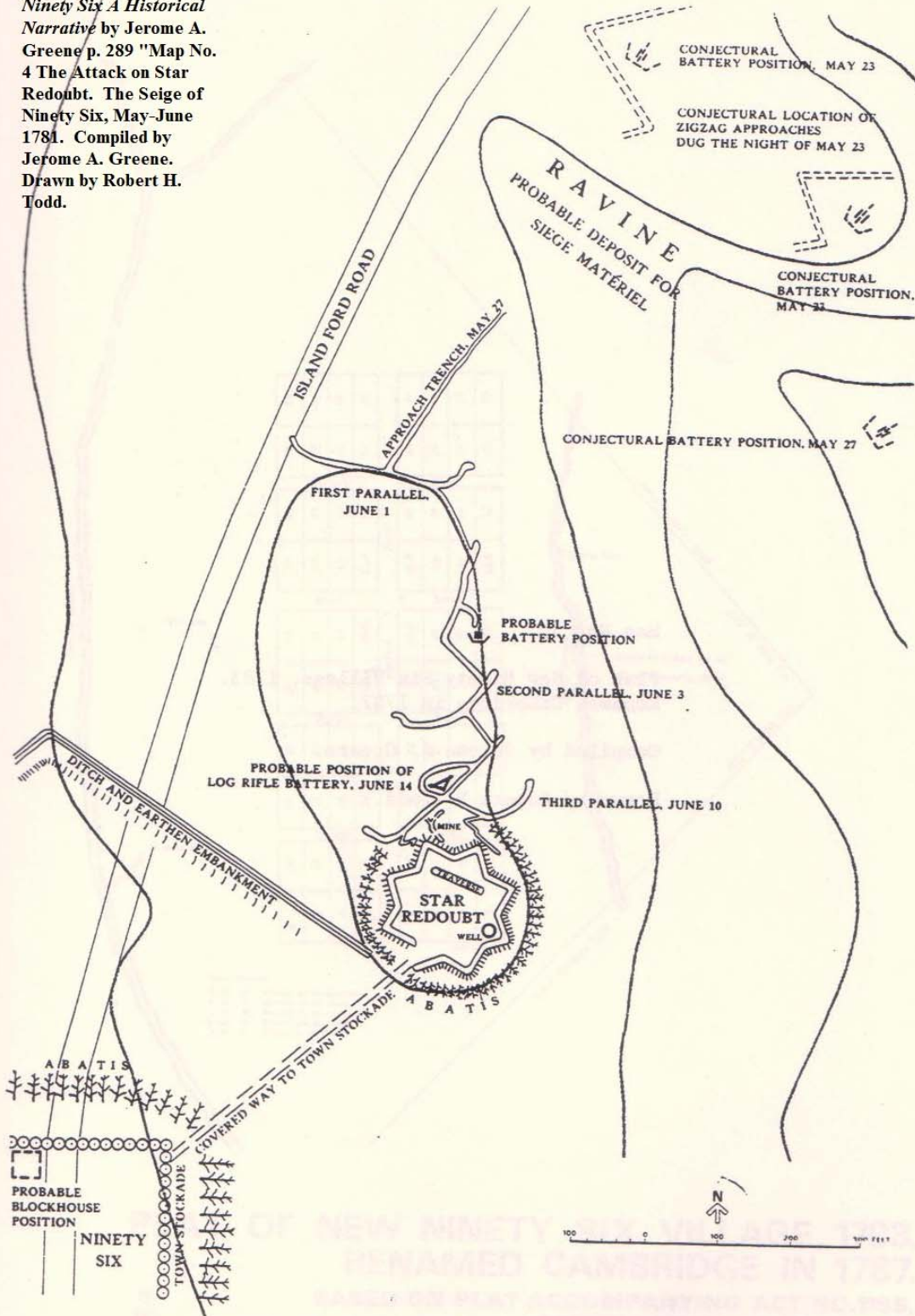
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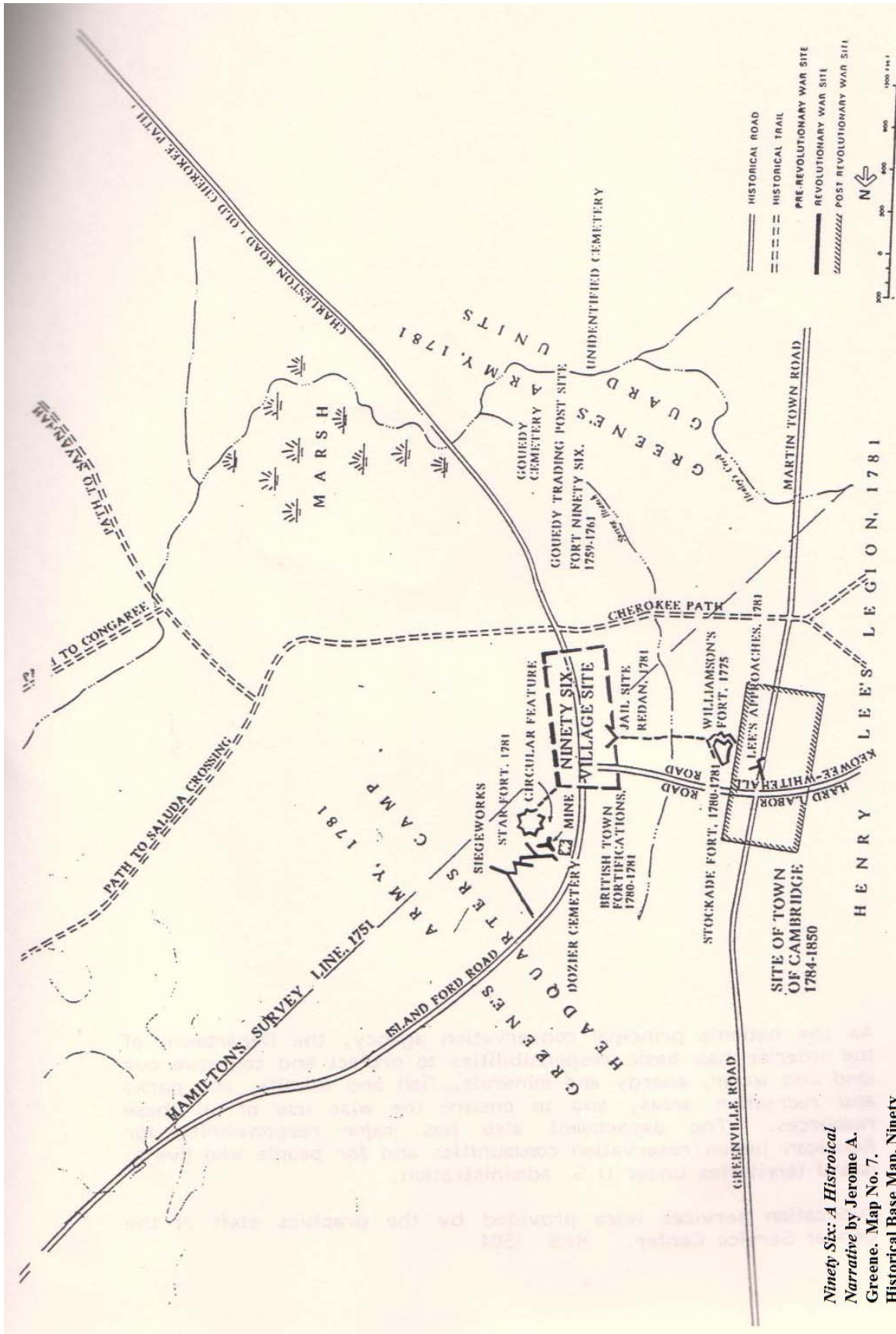
Ninety Six A Historical Narrative by Jerome A. Greene p. 289 "Map No. 4 The Attack on Star Redoubt. The Seige of Ninety Six, May-June 1781. Compiled by Jerome A. Greene. Drawn by Robert H. Todd.



**THE ATTACK ON STAR REDOUBT,
THE SIEGE OF NINETY SIX, MAY-JUNE, 1781**
NINETY SIX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, SOUTH CAROLINA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

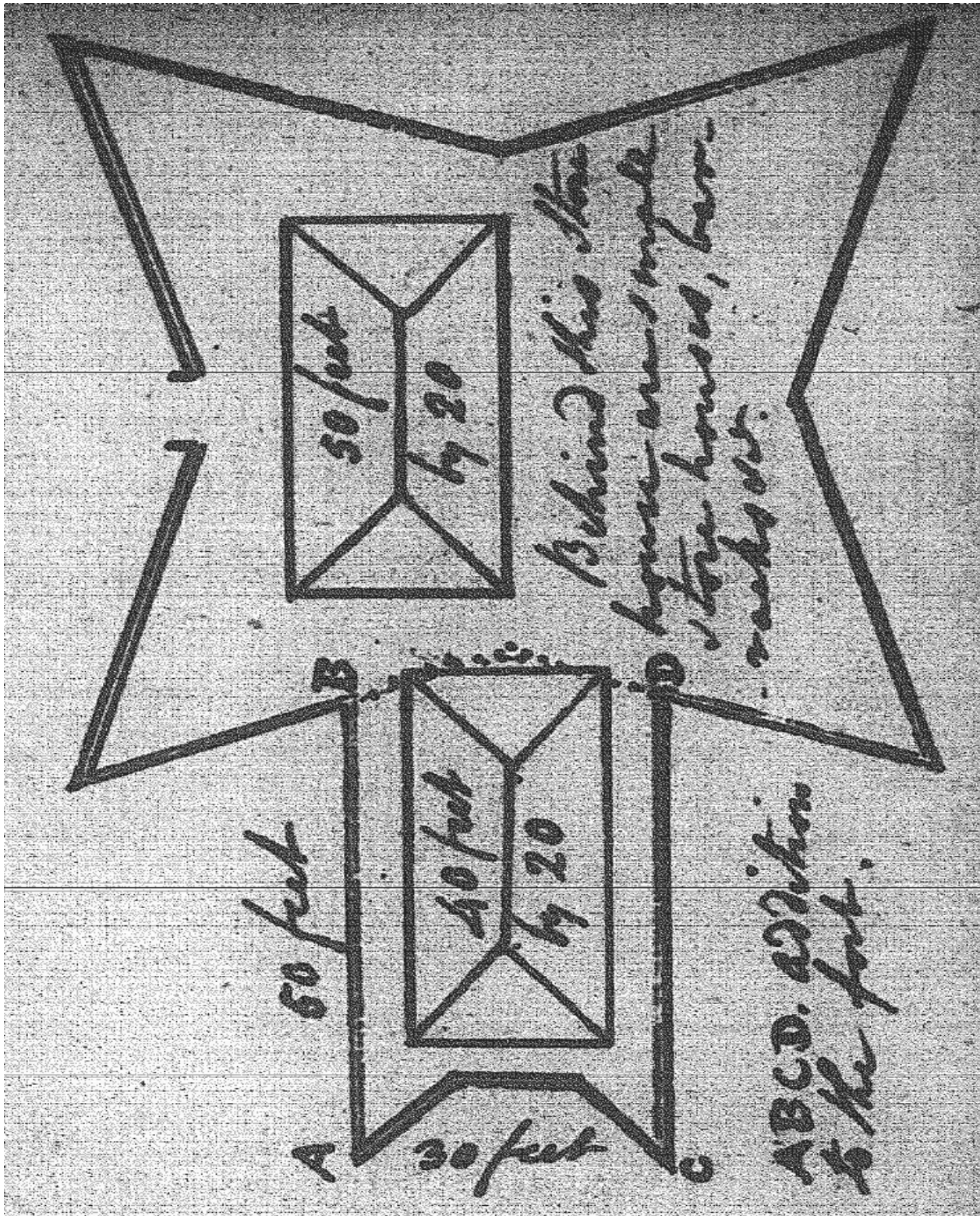
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HISTORICAL BASE MAP
NINETY SIX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Ninety Six: A Historical Narrative by Jerome A. Greene. Map No. 7.
 Historical Base Map, Ninety Six National Historic Site. Compiled by Jerome A. Greene. Drawn by Robert H. Todd.



Sketch of Plans for Renovations to Fort Ninety Six, enclosed with letter from Major John Moultrie to Colonel James Grant, Ninety Six, April 10, 12, 1761, *Papers of James Grant of Ballindalloch, 1740-1819*, James Grant of Ballindalloch Papers, National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh Scotland, Box 33. Walls are 90 feet on the side. Supplied by Dan Tortora.

