

REVOLUTIONARY RIVERS

TAKE A PADDLE TOUR BACK IN TIME ► By Jason Frye

They say our history is in the soil; well, here it's also in the water.

—Terry Cook, Swamp Fox Kayaking

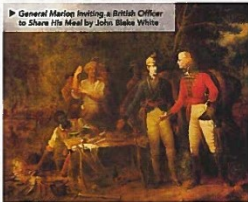
Ln Florence County, the roots of the American Revolution grow in the sandy soil and draw water from the rivers of the Pee Dee. General Francis Marion harried British soldiers in the swamps, fields and towns here, emerging from the cypress swamplands to attack before disappearing among the trees. His sly guerilla tactics earned him the nickname "Swamp Fox," and his victories helped restrict valuable British supply lines.

On the South Carolina Revolutionary Rivers Trail, visitors can paddle the Lynchs and Great Pee Dee rivers, tracing the path the Swamp Fox cut across the country—some 66 miles of river on this National Recreation Trail. From the markers located at landings along the route and the stories kayak guides share as you float along, you'll come away with an appreciation for the boldness of Marion and his militia.

The cypress and tupelo swamps on the Lynchs River create an eerie landscape where it's easy to envision Marion passing just out of sight from the top of his Marsh Tacky, a hardy breed of horse he rode through the swamps, creeks and canals. Large sections of this flatwater river are wide and slow, though as you get into the heart of the cypress swamps, you'll find tight, swift and twisted sections as the river bends back on itself. Here, one of the expert river guides can help you navigate the turns and ease your trip downstream.

As you make your way to Snow Lake Landing, where General Marion had his primary camp, you'll hear birds calling in the trees—something Marion and his men used to their advantage. Whistling and hooting to one another, they'd communicate as British soldiers passed by, then attack and disappear as quick as a bird on the wing.

► General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal by John Blake White



Once you've had a taste of the rivers, have a look at General Marion's mounts at Heritage Stables. Here, breeders are bringing the Marsh Tacky back from the brink of extinction, preserving another piece of South Carolina's Revolutionary history. 🐾

🕒 Captured in Time

From artifacts and remnants of historic battle sites to annual re-enactments across the state, DiscoverSouthCarolina.com reveals many ties to the past.