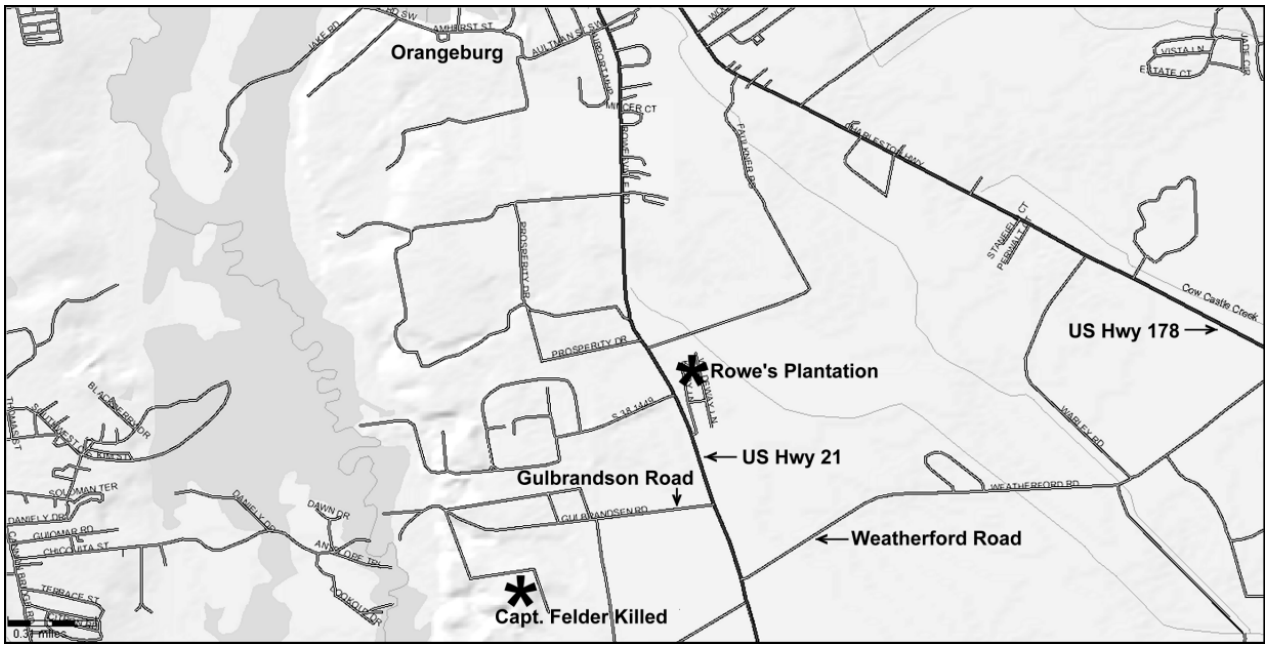
310 Capt. Felder Killed and Rowe's Plantation



Capt. Felder Killed	2/12/1780	GPS: 33.44602°N 80.84098°W	Confidence: 4
Rowe's Plantation	11/13/1781	GPS: 33.44888°N 80.84372°W	Confidence: 3

Directions: From US Highway 21 and US Highway 178 Bypass, go south on US Highway 21 about 2.1 miles, then turn left onto Peanut Drive which will change to Kirby Lane and go to its end. The **Rowe's Plantation** site is on the right. Return to US Highway 21and continue south about .3 mile to Gulbrandson Road, turn right and go about 1 mile to the unnamed road that goes to the left. Follow it to **Capt. Felder Killed** indicated on the map.

Capt. Felder Killed Action: John Henry Felder migrated to America as a youth with his parents from Switzerland and settled in Orangeburg Township in 1735, where his parents were granted 350 acres. Upon growing up, he dropped the name John and was known as Henry Felder. Felder was very active in politics. He was a member of the second Provincial Congress on 3/26/1776, when it adopted a constitution and formed the independent government of South Carolina. He manufactured gunpowder for the Revolutionary War, was a militia captain during the war and had five sons in his company. The Tories surrounded Capt. Felder's house and with the aid of his wife and servants who loaded guns while he fired, he killed more than twenty foes. His house was set on fire, forcing him to flee. In his attempt to escape, he was shot and killed. **Note:** After his death, his son, also named Capt. Henry Felder, guided Gen. Thomas Sumter in his approach to Orangeburg [this was in May 10, 1781]. This would make his death in 1780 possible as reported by many sources. However, some sources state that he was killed in late 1781 or at the close of the war. The site Capt. Felder Killed 1 is on modern maps as Felder, so may be the most accurate site.

Rowe's Plantation: SC Loyalist militia Maj. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham and his men went to Orangeburg from Charleston and camped at Col. Christopher Rowe's plantation, just south of the village. At this time, Gen. Thomas Sumter resumed his old command at the request of Gen. Nathanael Greene, and moved toward Orangeburg with the South Carolina state troops to direct operations in the area. On November 13, Maj. John Moore was scouting ahead of Sumter's troops, when he encountered Cunningham at Rowe's Plantation. Moore drove the Tories back at first, but his troops were later thrown into confusion by a heavy gunfire from the swamp. Moore was defeated and his men scattered. Eleven Patriots died in this action**.**

Note: This action is also known as Moore's Defeat. However, it is frequently referred to in some references as Hampton's Surprise, since a newspaper of the period incorrectly identified Moore as Maj. Richard Hampton. To further confuse this action Gen. Sumter identified the Loyalist commander as Gen. Robert Cunningham in his report to Greene, when the actual Loyalist commander was Maj. "Bloody Bill" Cunningham. Rowe's Plantation was the first action of Maj. William Cunningham's series of attacks and murders known as the "Bloody Scout". His rampage of revenge would take him to many counties, including Laurens, Newberry and Spartanburg, resulting in many deaths and much destruction along his route.