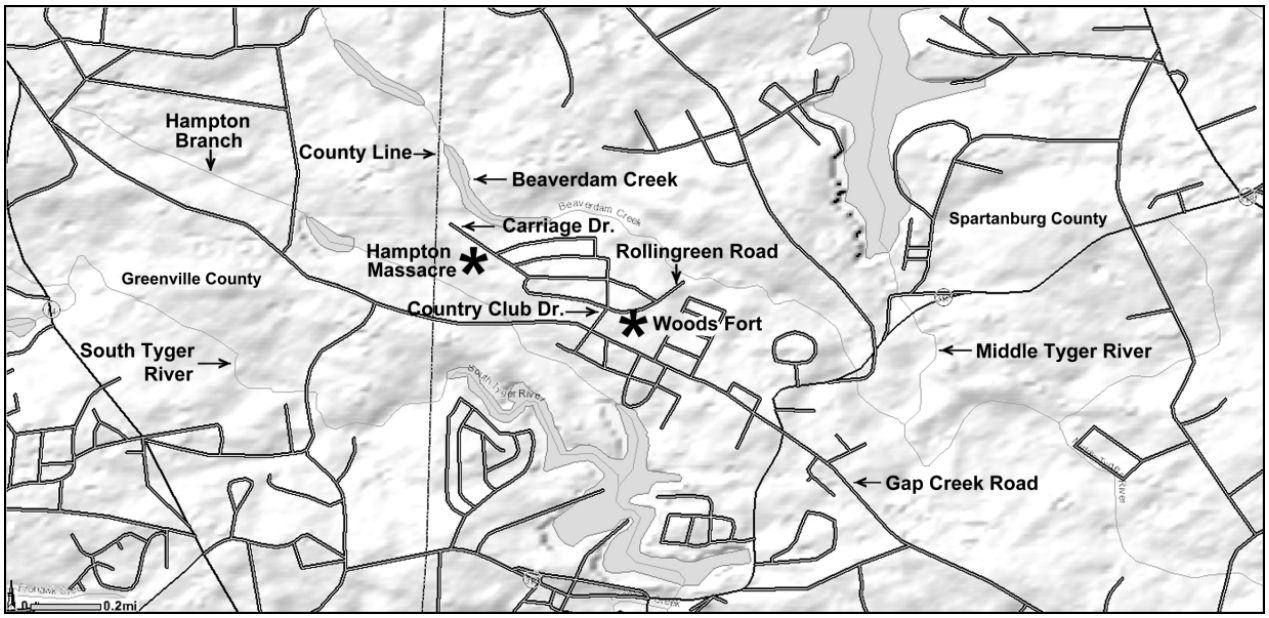
330 Hampton's Massacre



Hampton's Massacre	ca.6/30-7/3/1776	GPS: 34.98180°N 82.21799°W	Confidence: 3
Wood's Fort		GPS: 34.97832°N 82.20926°W	Confidence: 3

Directions: From the intersection of US Highway 29 (East Wade Hampton Blvd.) and SC Highway 357 (Arlington Road) in northeast Greer, go northeast on SC Highway 357 about 1.1 miles, then keep right on SC Highway 357 and go 1 mile. Turn left onto Gap Creek Road and go about .8 mile, then turn right onto Country Club Drive, then turn right onto Rollingreen Road and go about 100 yards. The site of Wood's Fort is on the right about 90 yards from the road on the high ground. Return to Country Club Drive, cross it and continue on Rollingreen Road for about .3 mile, then turn left onto Carriage Drive and go about 340 yards. The site of the Hampton Massacre is on the left about 65 yards from the road on the high ground.

Action: On June 30, 1776, marauding Cherokees and Tories paid a visit to Anthony Hampton's house. Elizabeth (Hampton) Harrison was visiting her parents while her husband, James Harrison, was away recruiting militia. Of her brothers, only Preston was there. Preston had stopped to talk with his father after returning from a conference with the Cherokee Chiefs concerning a peace treaty with the new Patriot government of South Carolina2+.

When the Indians arrived in the yard, Preston saw a friendly chief and went outside to greet him. His father followed him into the yard. Old Mr. Anthony Hampton gave the Chief a cordial welcome and hand shake, but almost immediately Preston was shot down by a Tory and another sent a tomahawk through Mr. Hampton's skull. Mrs. Hampton appeared and was killed in like manner. Then the Indians entered the house, drank all the brandy, and pillaged the family possessions.

Hearing the war whoops, Elizabeth Harrison and Mrs. Sadler rode as close as possible, then crept through the canebrake to investigate. When they were within sight of the house, they saw the mutilated bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Hampton and Preston in the yard. As the terrified women watched, a Cherokee brave carried Elizabeth's infant into the yard, held him by the feet and bashed his head against a tree, killing him. Mrs. Sadler clasped her hand over Elizabeth's mouth to stifle her scream and pulled her back through the canebrake to their horses. Mounting bareback, they galloped to Wood's Fort for help.

A search party was sent, but on arrival at the Hampton's home, they found the Indians had burned the house and departed with Preston's wagons and the Hampton's nine year old grandson, John Bynum. The attackers disappeared over the mountains into Cherokee country (Greenville County).

Local tradition states that the Indian raiding party stopped at Preston Hampton's home and murdered his two children on their way to his father's home where he was also killed. His wife fled through the swamp and was found several days later wandering through the woods. She was so frightened that her mind never fully recovered from the ordeal.

Note: The exact location of Preston Hampton's house is unknown. It could be in Spartanburg or Greenville counties.