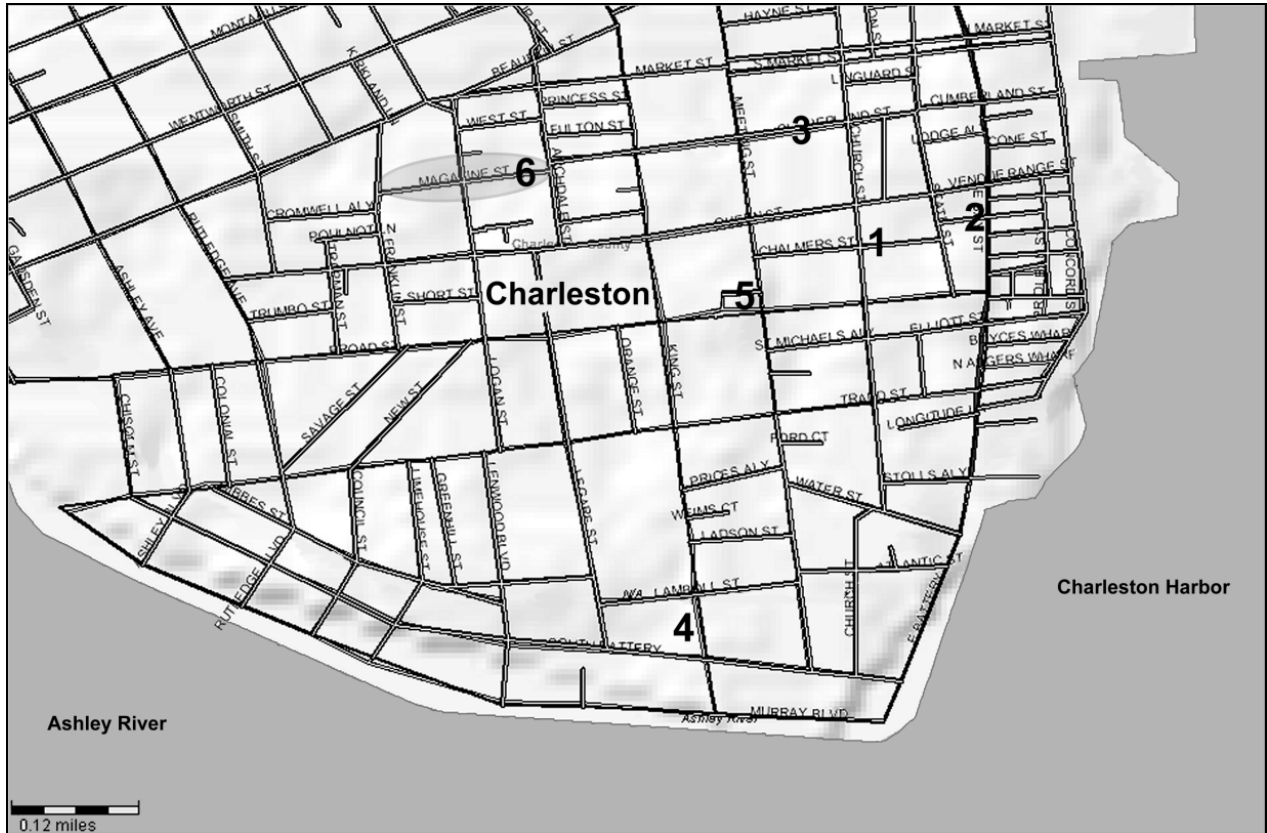


Peter DeLancey Killed, Arms Stolen & Powder Storage Explodes 69



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|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Peter DeLancey Killed (Chalmers St.) | 8/15/1771 | GPS: 32.77764°N 79.92903°W | Confidence: 1 |
| 2 Peter DeLancey Killed (McCrary's) | 8/15/1771 | GPS: 32.77804°N 79.92708°W | Confidence: 3 |
| 3 Colonial Powder Magazine | | GPS: 32.77955°N 79.93019°W | Confidence: 5 |
| 4 Gen. Clinton's Headquarters | 5/1780 to 12/1782 | GPS: 32.77106°N 79.93222°W | Confidence: 5 |
| 5 State House Armory | 4/21/1775 | GPS: 32.77654°N 79.93114°W | Confidence: 5 |
| 6 Powder Storage Explodes | 5/15/1780 | GPS: 32.77881°N 79.93622°W | Confidence: 3 |

Directions: Peter DeLancey was killed at one of two old taverns, either (#1) **The Tavern** that was at 17 Chalmers Street, which is now a museum, or at (#2) **McCrary's Tavern** at 2 Unity Aly. #3, the original colonial era **Powder Magazine** is at 79 Cumberland Street. #4, **Gen. Clinton and Cornwallis' Headquarters** was at 27 King Street, Rebecca B. Motte's house. #5, **State House Armory** was in the northwest corner of Broad and Meeting Streets at 77 Meeting Street. #6, **Powder Storage Explodes** was located somewhere on Magazine Street. The exact location is unknown as several magazines were there at various times, but would have been in the gray oval on the map.

1 & 2 Peter DeLancey Killed Action: A Patriot, Dr. John Haley killed Peter DeLancey, a prominent New York Tory in a duel at a Charleston tavern. Mr. McCrary built a tavern in 1771. Before and during the Revolution, many notable Charlestonians, such as the Rutledge brothers, the Pinckneys, Christopher Gadsden, the Horrys, and Charles Alston met to drink and discuss politics at McCrary's Tavern. When DeLancey came to Charleston in 1771, he was probably arguing over politics, liberty, and separation from England with these local Charlestonians. This tavern is now McCrary's Restaurant.

Note: Peter DeLancey was the son of New York Royal Lt. Gov. James DeLancey. The DeLanceys were a prominent Manhattan, NY family. The killing of Peter DeLancey revealed the Patriot sentiments of the south and in 1776 resulted, in part, with Loyalist Brig. Gen. Oliver DeLancey raising and commanding a provincial regiment (three battalions), known as DeLancey's Brigade, consisting of light horse troops, to fight the Patriots. The Patriots referred this Brigade as "DeLancey's Cowboys", as they drove cattle to Manhattan to supply the regular British regiments stationed there. The first two of these battalions fought in the southern campaign under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell at Savannah, under Lt. Col. John Harris Cruger in skirmishes around and at Ninety Six, and at Eutaw Springs. The 3rd Battalion remained on Long Island, New York.

(Continued on the next page.)

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Lt. Governor of South Carolina, William Bull, stated that the location of the duel was the house of William Holliday and the public was asked to assist in apprehending Dr. Haley, who fled after the crime.

Note: Even though Gov. William Bull stated the killing was in the home of William Holliday, who probably would have also been a Tory. Dr. John Haley, a Patriot, would not have been invited to Holliday's home. Therefore, it is much more likely that this action happened at a public tavern rather than in the home of a Loyalist.

There was also a tavern at 17 Chalmers Street that is now a museum. Peter DeLancey was probably killed at one of these two taverns with McCrady's seeming to be the best choice, but the actual site remains unknown.

State House Armory Action: In 1775, the arms stored in the attic of the State House by the British were seized by the Americans. (Also see Cochran's and Hobcaw Magazines, Charleston County). South Carolina's original State House was the scene of the first significant incident of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina. This incident happened just 2 days after Patriots fired on the British at Lexington, Massachusetts.

Powder Storage Explodes: After the fall of Charleston in May 1780, the British collected all the Patriot weapons in Mount Pleasant and Charleston. As the British loaded the wagons, they were warned that some of the weapons were loaded and should be handled carefully. After the weapons were loaded, they were driven to a warehouse on the extreme west side of Charleston because it was sparsely populated and bordered by a creek and marsh. The warehouse contained 4,000 pounds of fixed ammunition (cartridges already joined to their projectile) and next to it was a Patriot powder magazine only 200 paces away containing 10,000 pounds of black powder.

Even though the British were warned of some weapons being loaded, they began throwing the weapons into the warehouse. The cause of the explosion is not known, but was believed to be caused by a loaded weapon discharging into a keg of black powder.

The result was that the building exploded with such force that debris and body parts were blown about .3 mile to the intersection of Meeting and Cumberland Streets. The explosion set fire to several buildings close to the warehouse, but did not set the Patriot magazine on fire as it had a high brick wall around it. It is believed that 200-300 people died in the explosion and resulting fire. The number of British killed in the explosion nearly equaled the number killed during the Siege of Charleston.

Capt. Johann von Ewald, a Hessian soldier who was going to a Charleston coffeehouse stated: "I had hardly entered the house, when such an extraordinary blast occurred that the house shook. I ran out of the house, saw a thick cloud of vapor a short distance away, and rushed there. The most dreadful cries arose from all sides of the city. I saw that the magazine into which I intended to go some eight or ten minutes earlier, had blown up with all the people who worked in and around it, along with several adjacent houses. The view was horrible. Never in my life as long as I have been a soldier, have I witnessed a more deplorable sight. We found some sixty people who were burnt beyond recognition, half dead and writhing like worms, lying scattered around the holocaust at a distance of twenty, thirty, to forty paces, and in the confusion one could not help them. We saw a number of mutilated bodies hanging on the farthest houses and lying in the streets. Nearby and at a distance, we found the limbs of burnt people. Many of those who hurried to the scene were killed or wounded by gunshots which came from the loaded muskets in the cellars."

He also stated: "The entire disaster had occurred through carelessness. In the cellars in which the muskets were stored there was a quantity of powder, and, as one might assume, one of the muskets had discharged while being handed into the cellar and the shot struck a powder keg."

Note: The powder in the old colonial era powder magazine (#3 on the map) was located in the middle of old Charleston and next to many houses. This powder was moved to the Charleston Neck (Cochran's Magazine), Mount Pleasant (Hobcaw Magazine) and to Forts Sullivan and Johnson out of the city to preclude its being blown up and destroying a large part of the city prior to April 21, 1775. The powder in the warehouse and Patriot magazine mentioned above was used in the defense of Charleston during the British 1776 naval attack on Fort Sullivan and again in the 1780 Siege of Charleston. Some of the powder was shipped to the Cherokee for tribute payments and some stored in the backcountry.

During the occupation of Charleston in 1780, Gens. Sir Henry Clinton and Charles Cornwallis used the Rebecca Motte house (#4 on the map) as their headquarters.