

South Pacolet River, Battle of ^[1]

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Paceolet River, Spartanburg, SC.
Image courtesy of Flickr user Becky Pittman.

^[2]by John L. Bell, 2006

The Battle of South Pacolet River, a **Revolutionary War** ^[3]engagement, occurred along the North Carolina-South Carolina border on the night of 14-15 July 1780 as a result of **Loyalist** ^[4] colonel **Alexander Innes** ^[5] having sent a Major Dunlap with 70 dragoons from Prince's Fort to pursue Col. John Jones's 35 Georgians. Jones was traveling northward through the upcountry to join the first **Whig** ^[6] force he could find. Pretending to be Loyalists, Jones's troops had killed or captured about 40 South Carolina Loyalists at **Gowen's Old Fort** ^[7] late on 13 July. Fleeing northward, Jones joined Col. **Charles McDowell** ^[8]'s force north of Earle's Ford on the South Pacolet River on 14 July. That night Dunlap attacked the combined camps of Jones and McDowell, killing two men and wounding six. Outnumbered, Dunlap retreated to Prince's Fort, and Col. Edward Hampton pursued and killed several of Dunlap's men. These events strengthened the Whig cause in the upcountry.

Reference:

John S. Pancake, *This Destructive War: The British Campaign in the Carolinas, 1780-1782*(1985).

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#)^[13]

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