

Second Skirmish at Fort Fairlawn August 29, 1782

Location	Moncks Corner, Berkeley County, SC
Commanders	American - Gen. Francis Marion British—Maj. Thomas Fraser
Casualties	American— ? British— 20 killed British Victory

About the middle of July, 1782, Francis Marion marched from the Santee to Wadboo near Fair Lawn Plantation, home of Sir John Colleton. As the buildings were strong, they were safe from rifle and musket fire. The long lane flanked by cedars, with branches sweeping to the ground, offered a perfect ambush against attackers.

The attack came on the morning of August 29. British Maj. Thomas Fraser, with 100 dragoons, crossed the Cooper River and set out to surprise the guards at Biggin Bridge and Strawberry Ferry. Learning of the raid, Marion called in his pickets, posted his marksmen among the cedars, and sent out a reconnaissance party under Capt. Gavin Witherspoon.

Meeting Witherspoon in the woods, Fraser charged. Marion's men turned back toward Fair Lawn. As they were approaching the lane at full gallop, Witherspoon bore to the left and then fell back as if British wheeled and charged toward the cedars at Fairlawn. The marksmen fired. Twenty men and five horses fell. At the sound of the volley, the horses drawing Francis Marion's ammunition wagon bolted. Also lost was Marion's tent and personal baggage. Five Americans ran out and recovered the wagon but they fled when Fraser's dragoons gave chase. Without powder, as he had so often been, Marion gave an order for his men to retreat again to the Santee. At that moment, among the cedars of Fair Lawn, Francis Marion ended his fighting days. He commanded his Brigade until the end of the war, but he never again gave a command to fire.

Sources:

Barbour, R.L. *South Carolina's Revolutionary War Battles* 2002

Bass, Robert *The Swamp Fox, The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion* 1959