

Battle of Blue Savannah

September 4, 1780

Location:	Near Port's Ferry on the PeeDee River
Commanders:	Americans: Br. Gen. Francis Marion British Loyalists: Maj. Michajah Ganey, Capt. Jesse Barefield
Casualties:	Americans: 4 wounded Loyalists: 30-50 killed or wounded

The Battle of Blue Savannah occurred on September 4, 1780, when Brigadier General Francis Marion and a band of Patriot guerrillas ambushed and defeated a force of 200 Loyalist militia. American Forces were commanded by Gen. Francis Marion and consisted of about 53 Soldiers. British Forces was commanded by Maj. Micajah Ganey and consisted of about 250 Soldiers. William Dobein James, one of Marion's men tells the story:

"On the second or third day after his arrival, [from the win at Nelson's Ferry] General Marion ordered his men to mount white cockades, to distinguish themselves from the tories, and crossed the Pedee, at Port's ferry, to disperse a large body of tories, under Maj. [Micajah]Ganey, stationed on Britton's neck, between great and little Pedee. He surprised them at dawn in the morning, killed one of their captains and several privates, and had two men wounded. Maj. [John] James was detached at the head of a volunteer troop of horse, to attack their horse; he came up with them, charged, and drove them before him. In this affair, Maj. James singled out Maj. Ganey, (as he supposed) as the object of his single attack. At his approach Ganey fled, and he pursued him closely, and nearly within the reach of his sword, for half a mile; when behind a thicket, he came upon a party of tories, who had rallied. Not at all intimidated, but with great presence of mind, Maj. James called out, "'Come on my boys! -- Here they are! -- Here they are!' And the whole body of tories broke again, and rushed into little Pedee swamp.

Another party of tories lay higher up the river, under the command of Capt. Barefield; who had been a soldier in one of the South Carolina regiments. These stood to their ranks, so well, and appeared to be so resolute, that Gen. Marion did not wish to expose his men, by an attack on equal terms; he therefore feigned a retreat, and led them into an ambuscade, near the Blue Savannah, where they [the Loyalists] were defeated. This was the first manoeuvre of the kind, for which he afterwards became so conspicuous."