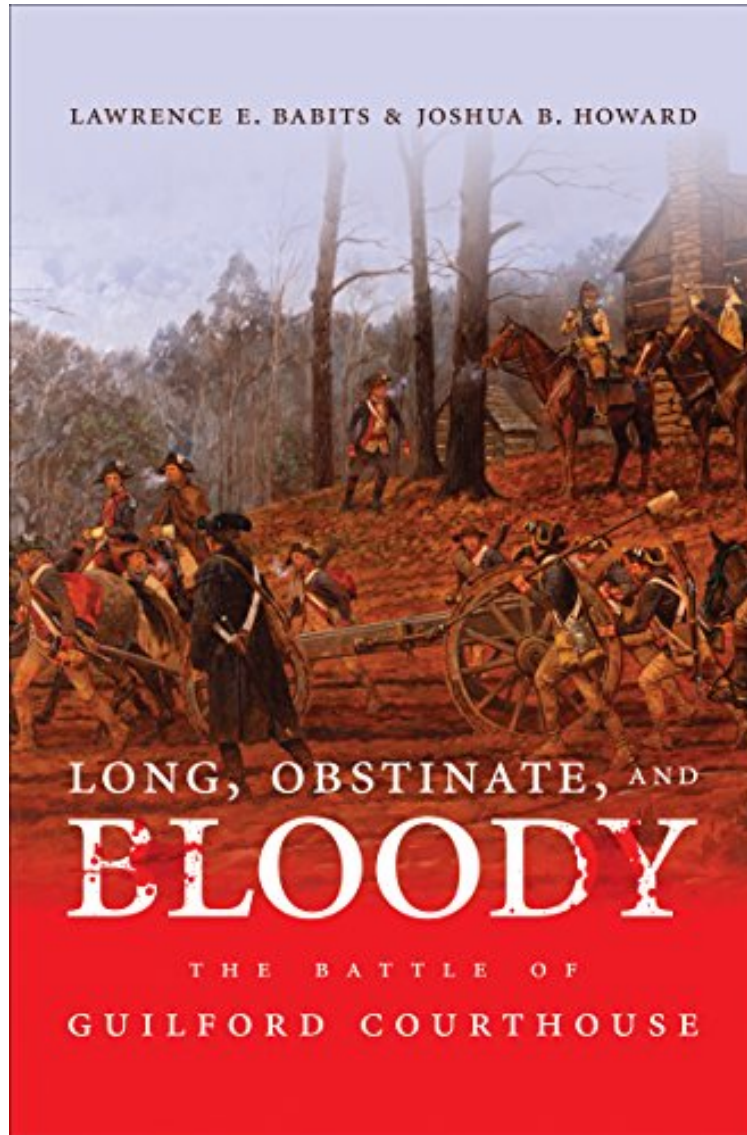


(Free) Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

## Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

*Lawrence E. Babits, Joshua B. Howard*  
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**Lawrence E. Babits, Joshua B. Howard : Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Read to learn how the Revolutionary War in the South contributed to the British capitulation at Yorktown. By anthonyWell researched and well written. Details Greene's battle with Cornwallis in one of the most important battles in the South. The British loss of 25% of their fighting Army

led Cornwallis to seek resupply at a port, so he chose Yorktown, and so this battle led to the surrender of the British. Some of the American Militia fought bravely, however, some entire companies broke ranks. British held the field at a dear cost, principally determined by superior discipline of the 3 regiments of Royal Guards and a lust for battle by the Tarleton led Legion. Cornwallis commented Guilford Courthouse was the most fierce battle he had witnessed and described the engagement with American Soldiers as "They fought like Demons". One British Parliament member commented "If we win any more battles like Guilford Courthouse we won't have an Army to fight the Americans". My Patriot ancestor fought in this battle as a Sargent of the Virginia Rifleman, on the American right flank under Colonel's Lynch and Campbell. He was in his second tour of duty having served in the Militia Pa Rifle Company and was engaged at the Battle of Red Bank and Fort Mifflin. in NJ.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One You Don't Want To MissBy richard e whitelockThe southern campaign was probably the greatest force that instigated the surrender at Yorktown and finally 2 years later the Treaty of Gent. The British had such a strategic hold on the coastline, but when they went into the interior with loyalists bearing the brunt of the battle, poor lines of communication, supplies and medical assistance led equally to their ultimate defeat. General Gates failure to reinforce Cornwallis at Yorktown, Washington's slick maneuvering and the arrival of the French fleet put the final nail in the coffin. British military failure to act and react were more important factors in America's military successes than the actual performance by our troops. But we should never underestimate the contribution of General Green once he replaced the inept Gates. This is a great book. Camden, Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, Fort 96 are all part of this most interesting account. The loss of Savannah, Augusta and Charleston were well documented. For a couple of years, it looked as if the Americans were doomed. It also brings to light the contributions by the English loyalists who were well established in number and wealth along the southern coastline cities. Once you ventured into the interior, it was any body's gain or loss. General Green performed well for the Rebels and Cornwallis was beaten back and placed on the run by American forces. But inbetween, there was much blood shed and atrocities from both sides, 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Marchers and Killers...By Kevin F. KileyThis is a model battle study, and one that sets a new high standard in the understanding of the battle of Guilford Courthouse and Greene's southern campaign, which one knowledgeable historian compared favorably with the great French Marshal Turenne. The battle, which took place on 15 March 1781 near a small hamlet in central North Carolina, was the largest battle of the War of the American Revolution in North Carolina, and was decisive in that it led to the victory at Yorktown by the allied army under Washington and Rochambeau seven months later in Virginia. It was also one of the most decisive of the war, as the British army commanded by General Earl Charles Cornwallis held the field and Greene withdrew, the British army was so badly mauled in the vicious, no-quarter fighting they were forced to withdraw to Wilmington, North Carolina to rest and refit. From there, Cornwallis made the decision to march north to Virginia, leaving other British commanders in the Carolinas to deal with Greene and the American southern army. Guilford Courthouse has been mentioned in many larger studies previous to this new work, but there has not been a work dedicated to the battle since the 1971 publication by the National Park Service of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse by Charles Hatch. That void has now been filled by this excellent account of what happened near a Quaker meeting house in rural North Carolina on a cold, bloody afternoon in the winter of 1781. This volume is the definitive account of the battle. Very well-researched and capably presented, this volume covers the battle from muzzle to buttplate. The old myths and legends that have come down through time are dispelled and this refreshing account of two armies slugging it out on a small battlefield in the middle of the sparsely-settled North Carolina interior presents the fighting as a minor epic, which indeed it was. Not only are the generals and other senior officers and their actions and decisions discussed, but the private soldier in the ranks, who actually wins battles, are presented in a down-to-earth and accurate presentation. Primary source research is impeccable in this volume, and the secondary accounts that are used were chosen with care. This is definitely the best-researched account of the action also. This new work surpasses these former studies as a model of in-depth historical research, clearly demonstrating that the authors are not only at home with their subject, but they show an understanding of historical research and presentation that is rare in the study of military history. While this book can be classed as an 'academic study' it reads as a popular account and contrary to many academic studies, the authors do not ignore the necessary 'marching and killing' that is the core of military history. Too many 'military historians' today tend to discount the men who actually did the fighting, and instead concentrate on social or political issues and leave the nuts and bolts of fighting to someone else to discuss. Not so here- the authors discuss the ordinary man in the ranks and what he did or failed to do. The authors clearly demonstrate a grasp of period tactics of the period, and clearly understand the use of good maps in a battle study. The three appendices are dedicated to orders of battle, unit strengths, and battle casualties. The bibliography is a model for further study, and this volume is also an excellent reference work on its own merit. This book is enthusiastically recommended for any student of the period, the war in the south during the War of the Revolution, and for any student of Greene's campaigns against the British in the Carolinas in 1780-1781.

On March 15, 1781, the armies of Nathanael Greene and Lord Charles Cornwallis fought one of the bloodiest and most intense engagements of the American Revolution at Guilford Courthouse in piedmont North Carolina. In Long,

Obstinate, and Bloody, the first book-length examination of the Guilford Courthouse engagement, Lawrence E. Babits and Joshua B. Howard piece together what really happened on the wooded plateau in what is today Greensboro, North Carolina, and identify where individuals stood on the battlefield, when they were there, and what they could have seen, thus producing a new bottom-up story of the engagement.

An extraordinarily detailed narrative. It also fills a gap in literature on the war by showcasing a consequential but comparatively understudied Carolina battle.--Raleigh News ObserverThe battle's only full-length monograph. . . . Professional history written in an approachable manner.--Library JournalBabits's and Howard's most excellent work will be invaluable to any reader interested in the long playing out of Cornwallis's contest with Greene, or in the relationship between battles, campaigns, and the overall strategy by which the American Revolution was decided." -- Georgia Historical QuarterlyThis book will give you a clearer understanding of this battle than you will find anywhere else. . . . Extremely readable. . . . Maps are crystal clear and very well done.--1776mag.comTHE most definitive description of any engagement of the American Revolution. . . . Will prove to be one of the most thorough works of the 21st century dealing with the American Revolution. . . . Superbly written, edited, and researched, and . . . sets a comprehensive standard that will change the expectations of analysis, source materials, and writing of military history.--Northwest Ohio HistoryA read through this work will bring an understanding of the events of the day, how they relate to the larger events of the [Revolutionary War], and a sense of what the world was like at that time.--Southern Pines PilotA compelling read. . . . Great details from unexpected sources. . . . Another step forward in giving the Revolutionary War its due.--Greensboro News RecordIllustrations and maps enhance the work. . . . A welcome addition to the library of any serious student of the American Revolution.--On PointA fine, professional account. . . . A remarkable story . . . Babits and Howard do an excellent job of summing [the battle] up.--Wilmington Star NewsProvides an unprecedented level of research and detail. . . . This account of Guilford Courthouse is a welcome and much-needed addition to the body of Revolutionary War military history, and will be the foundation upon which all future research into this engagement is based.--The Journal of Military HistoryBabits and Howard admirably demonstrate how meticulous research in under-utilized primary sources yields new insights and substantive corrections on long-accepted accounts of the past.--Military History of the WestThe authors have discovered new pieces to the puzzle and have achieved perhaps the best synthesis to date. . . . A masterful job. . . . A major addition to the scholarship, and for students of the American Revolution, particularly the Southern Campaign, it is a must-read.--Journal of America's Military PastThis book will clearly have value to historians trying to understand the critical Southern campaign. And there will be readers--serious military history buffs, battlefield re-enactors--who will treasure the detail.--journalnow.comDetailed and comprehensive.--McCormick MessengerThe definitive, unbiased account of this important and largely ignored battle of the Revolution. . . . This book is one of the best ever written on the American Revolution.--The North Carolina Historical [A] masterful microhistory of the engagement . . . employing a truly impressive array of primary sources. Babits and Howard have cleared away two hundred years of conjecture and brought the battle of Guilford Courthouse closer to historical reality.--Journal of Southern History The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, a pivotal engagement in the Revolutionary War, has long awaited a first-rate treatment. It is here. In Long, Obstinate, and Bloody, historians Lawrence Babits and Joshua Howard have produced the definitive account of the battle, coauthoring a thoughtful and meticulously researched book that explores the armies, commanders, soldiers, and weaponry in the battle as well as the significance of this all-too-often neglected clash.--John Ferling, author of Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of IndependenceIt is surprising that such a significant and dramatic event has avoided detailed treatment for more than 225 years, but we are fortunate that historians of the caliber of Babits and Howard have undertaken the task. This is certainly the best and most complete account of Guilford Courthouse produced to date, and it serves as a model for future battle histories dealing with the War of Independence.--Gregory J. W. Urwin, Temple UniversityFrom the Inside FlapOn March 15, 1781, the armies of Nathanael Greene and Lord Charles Cornwallis fought one of the bloodiest and most intense engagements of the American Revolution at Guilford Courthouse in piedmont North Carolina. In Long, Obstinate, and Bloody, the first book-length examination of the Guilford Courthouse engagement, Lawrence E. Babits and Joshua B. Howard piece together what really happened on the wooded plateau in what is today Greensboro, North Carolina, and identify where individuals stood on the battlefield, when they were there, and what they could have seen, thus producing a new bottom-up story of the engagement.