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## Kettle Creek victory was one of Pickens' most important during Revolutionary War



William R. Reynolds Jr. (center) and Walker Chewning, president of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, visit the monument on

William Reynolds of Hebo, Oregon, recently described Col. Andrew Pickens' role in the Battle of Kettle Creek at a regular lunch meeting of the Rotary Club. Reynolds, author of *Andrew Pickens, South Carolina Patriot in the Revolutionary War*, showed Pickens to be a very serious Patriot.

Pickens was a Scots-Irish Presbyterian who had no use for the oppressive attitude of the Church of England and feared any sign of a continuation of this in the new land. He, his brothers, and his family fought and endured the cruel brutalities of the Loyalists as staunch, educated, and highly disciplined people. "Pickens never smiled," Reynolds said. The

War Hill with military historian  
Allen Burton.

family was strong in Presbyterian belief and held out  
for the rights and responsibilities of free people.

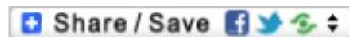
Reynolds described Picken's victory at Kettle Creek as one of the two major victories of his military career, the second being his "capture of Augusta" from the Loyalists in 1781. A third battle was his defeat of the Cherokees, allied with the British in Tennessee, the same year as the Kettle Creek victory, 1779.

George Washington described the Kettle Creek battle as "one which demoralized the British and resulted in peace in the West for a time." And the National Park Service describes it as the only major Patriot victory in Georgia

Reynolds began studies of Pickens before retirement in 2005. Professionally, he was chief properties engineer for the ICBM Space Com- mand at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. He is in the direct line of descent of Andrew Pickens' older brother Joseph.

Joe Harris, Rotary guest and chairman of the board of directors of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, introduced the speaker. Tena Blakey was program host.

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