



Captain James Jack The Spirit of Mecklenburg

MAY 20, 1775

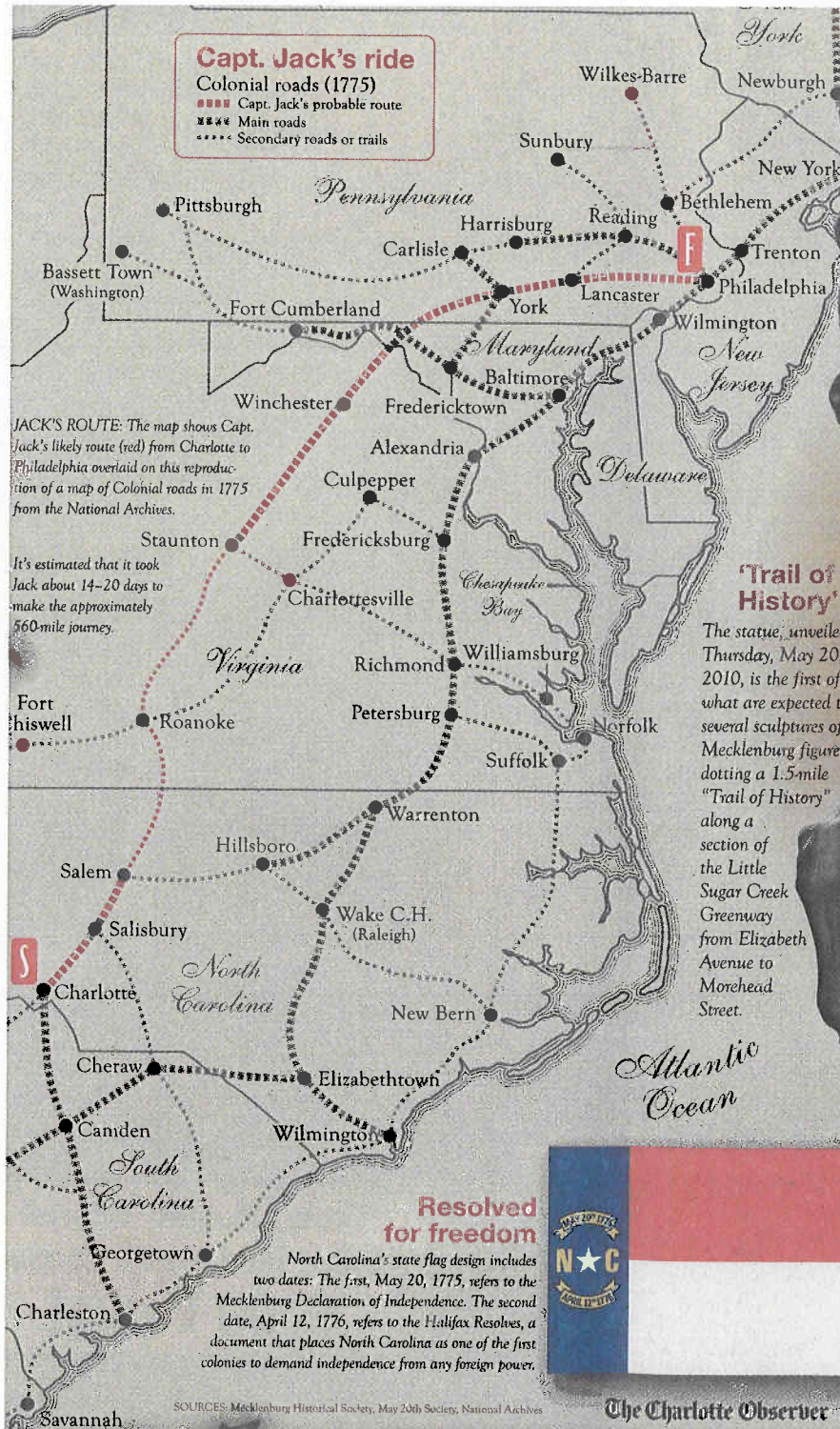


Capt. James Jack departs from the Mecklenburg Courthouse on his famous ride to Philadelphia in July 1775. (The painting is by Chris Farnsworth.)

Capt. Jack's ride

Colonial roads (1775)

- Capt. Jack's probable route
- Main roads
- Secondary roads or trails



JACK'S ROUTE: The map shows Capt. Jack's likely route (red) from Charlotte to Philadelphia overlaid on this reproduction of a map of Colonial roads in 1775 from the National Archives.

It's estimated that it took Jack about 14-20 days to make the approximately 560-mile journey.

'Trail of History'

The statue, unveiled Thursday, May 20, 2010, is the first of what are expected to be several sculptures of Mecklenburg figures dotting a 1.5-mile "Trail of History" along a section of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway from Elizabeth Avenue to Morehead Street.

'The Spirit of Mecklenburg'

By Chas Fagan



Resolved for freedom

North Carolina's state flag design includes two dates: The first, May 20, 1775, refers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The second date, April 12, 1776, refers to the Halifax Resolves, a document that places North Carolina as one of the first colonies to demand independence from any foreign power.



This 3-ton bronze statue honors the spirit of a Charlotte man who helped fan the flames of rebellion as war clouds gathered in the summer of 1775. His name was James Jack, a Trade Street tavern keeper and a captain in the local militia. To many in these parts, he achieved Paul Revere status, racing through the N.C. Piedmont on a galloping steed, into Virginia and finally Pennsylvania to deliver seditious papers from Mecklenburg County to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

SOURCES: Mecklenburg Historical Society, May 20th Society, National Archives

The Charlotte Observer

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WM FITZER - hfitzer@charlotteobserver.com