Analysis of the Disparate Accounts About the Battle of Kings Mountain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Slide Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timeline of Key Commemorative Events &amp; Publications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So... What Exactly is “The Problem?”</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Harmonized Chronology Leading up to Battle</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline of Key Commemorative Events & Publications
Honoring the Battle of Kings Mountain
At the conclusion of the War of 1812 in 1815, there was a growing interest in “remembering our war heroes” of all eras, with particular interest in “the fallen” in the American Revolution.

These were primarily “local events” established by veterans associations and hereditary societies; and, they became mostly the interest of the “local elites.”

In the 1880s/1890s, Civil War veterans’ organizations sprang up and these were dominated by ex-enlisted men and their wives who advocated the celebration of patriotic holidays and heroes.

SAR was created in 1889, DAR was created in 1890. These began to urge legislators to preserve cemeteries and battlefields.

1926, the U.S. Congress finally adopted a program to survey, preserve, and mark the battlefields of all domestic wars.

### The Five Notable Commemorative Events Honoring The Battle of Kings Mountain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 4, 1815</td>
<td>35th Anniversary – Placement of the “Chronicle Marker” by Dr. William McLean of Lincoln County, NC. He had served under Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 1855</td>
<td>75th Anniversary – Former Navy Secretary George Bancroft spoke to over 15,000 spectators, and presented a plan for a military park. John S. Preston issued a pamphlet with some history and some legislative actions taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7, 1909</td>
<td>Unveiling of the U.S. Monument (Obelisk) arranged by local DAR. 8,000 people attended, along with governors from VA, TN, SC, NC, and GA. Dr. Henry Nelson Snyder, President of Wofford College, gave the keynote address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7, 1930</td>
<td>President Herbert Hoover addressed an audience of over 75,000 people, plus Over 100 major news organizations. Two new markers were unveiled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By a council of the principal officers, it was then thought advisable to pursue the enemy that night with nine hundred of the best horsemen, and leave the weak horses and footmen to follow as fast as possible. We began our march with nine hundred of the best men, about eight o’clock the same evening; and, marching all night, came up with the enemy about three o’clock P.M. of the 7th, who lay encamped on top of King’s Mountain, twelve miles north of the Cherokee Ford, in the confidence that they could not be forced from so advantageous a post. Previous to the attack, on the march, the following disposition was made: Col. Shelby’s regiment formed a column in the center, on the left; Col. Campbell’s regiment, another on the right; with part of Col. Cleveland’s regiment, headed in front by Major Winston, and Col. Sevier’s regiment, formed a large column on the right wing. The other part of Cleveland’s regiment, headed by Col. Cleveland himself, and Col. Williams’ regiment, composed the left wing. In this order we advanced, and got within a quarter of a mile of the enemy before we were discovered.

Col. Shelby and Col. Campbell’s regiments began the attack, and kept up a fire on the enemy, while the right and left wings were advancing to surround them, which was done in about five minutes, and the fire became general all around. The engagement lasted an hour and five minutes, the greater part of which time, a heavy and incessant fire was kept up on both sides. Our men in some parts, where the regulars fought, were obliged to give way a small distance, two or three times; but rallied and returned with additional ardor to the attack. The troops upon the right having gained the summit of the eminence, obliged the enemy to retreat along the top of the ridge to where Col. Cleveland commanded, and were there stopped by his brave men. A flag was immediately hoisted by Capt. DePeyster, the commanding officer. (Maj. Ferguson having been killed a little before), for surrender. Our fire immediately ceased, and the enemy laid down their arms, the greatest part of them charged, and surrendered themselves to us prisoners at discretion.

It appears from their own provisions returns for that day, found in their camp, that their whole force consisted of eleven hundred and twenty-five men; out of which they sustained the following loss: of the regulars, one Major, one Captain, two Sergeants, and fifteen privates killed; thirty-five privates wounded, left on the ground not able to march; two Captains, four Lieutenants, three Ensigns, one Surgeon, five Sergeants, three Corporals, one Drummer, and forty-nine privates taken prisoners. Loss of the Tories – two Colonels, three Captains, and two hundred and one privates killed; one Major, and one hundred and twenty-seven privates wounded, and left on the ground, not able to march; one Colonel, twelve Captains, eleven Lieutenants, two Ensigns, one Quarter-Master; one Adjutant, two Commissaries, eighteen Sergeants, and six hundred privates taken prisoner. Total loss of the enemy: eleven hundred and five men at King’s Mountain.

Given under our hands at camp,

William Campbell
Isaac Shelby
Benj. Cleveland

Only six (6) Patriot officers identified! Provides summary of how deployed.

The losses on our side were – one Colonel, one Major, one Captain, two Lieutenants, four Ensigns, nineteen privates killed – total twenty-eight killed; one Major, three Captains, three Lieutenants, and fifty-five privates wounded – total, sixty-two wounded.

Probably submitted in October of 1780 – but, earliest version found was printed in a newspaper on November 18, 1780
1780
Reprint of the Entire “Official Report” (1 of 2)

OFFICIAL REPORT, BATTLE OF KING’S MOUNTAIN.

[From the Virginia Gazette, November 15th, and Massachusetts Spy, November 20th, 1780.]

A state of the proceedings of the Western Army, from the 25th of September, 1780, to the reduction of Major Ferguson and the army under his command.

On receiving intelligence that Maj. Ferguson had advanced as high up as Gilbert Town, in Rutherford County, and threatened to cross the mountains to the western waters, Col. William Campbell, with four hundred men from Washington County, Virginia, Col. Isaac Shelby, with two hundred and forty from Sullivan County of North Carolina, and Lieut. Col. John Sevier, with two hundred and forty men of Washington County, assembled at Watanga, on the 25th of September, where they were joined by Col. Charles McDowell, with one hundred and sixty men from the Counties of Burke and Rutherford, who had fled before the enemy to the western waters.

We began our march on the 26th, and on the 30th we were joined by Col. Cleveland, on the Catawba River, with three hundred and fifty men from the Counties of Wilkes and Surry. No one officer having properly a right to command in chief, on the 1st of October we dispatched an express to Maj. Gen. Gates, informing him of our situation, and requesting him to send a general officer to take the command of the whole. In the meantime Col. Campbell was chosen to act as commandant till such general officer should arrive. We marched to the Cowpens, on Broad River in South Carolina, where we were joined by Col. James Williams, with four hundred men, on the evening of the 8th of October, who informed us that the enemy lay encamped somewhere near the Cherokee Ford of Broad River, about thirty miles distant from us.

By a council of the principal officers, it was then thought advisable to pursue the enemy that night with nine hundred of the best horsemen, and leave the weak horsemen and foot-men to follow as fast as possible. We began our march with nine hundred of the best men, about eight O’clock the same evening, and marching all night, came up with the enemy about three O’clock P.M. of the 7th, who lay encamped on the top of King’s Mountain, twelve miles North of the Cherokee Ford, in the confidence that they could not be forced from so advantageous a post. Previous to the attack, on the march, the following disposition was made: Col. Shelby’s regiment formed a column in the centre, on the left Col. Campbell’s regiment, another on the right, with part of Col. Cleveland’s regiment, headed in front by Maj. Winston and Col. Sevier’s regiment, formed a large column on the right wing. The other part of Cleveland’s regiment, headed by Col. Cleveland himself, and Col. Williams’ regiment, composed the left wing. In this order we advanced, and got within a quarter of a mile of the enemy before we were discovered. Col. Shelby’s and Col. Campbell’s regiments began the attack, and kept up a fire on the enemy, while the right and left wings were advancing to surround them, which was done in about five minutes, and the fire became general all around. The engagement lasted an hour and five minutes, the greater part of which time a heavy and incessant fire was kept up on both sides. Our men in some parts, where the regulars fought, were obliged to give way a small distance, two or three times, but rallied and returned with additional ardor to the attack. The troops upon the right having gained the summit of the eminence, obliged the enemy to retreat along the top of the ridge to where Col. Cleveland commanded, and were there stopped by his brave men. A flag was immediately hoisted by Capt. DuPeyster, the commanding officer, (Maj. Ferguson having been killed a little before,) for a surrender. Our fire immediately ceased, and the enemy laid down their arms, the greatest part of them charged, and surrendered themselves to us prisoners at discretion.

It appears from their own provision returns for that day, found in their camp, that their whole force consisted of eleven hundred and twenty-five men, out of which they sustained the following loss: Of the regulars, one Major, one Captain, two Sergeants and fifteen privates killed, thirty-five privates wounded, left on the ground, not able to march, two Captains, four Lieutenants, three Ensigns, one Surgeon, five Sergeants, three Corporals and one Drummer, and forty-nine privates taken prisoners. Loss of the Tories, two Colonels, three Captains, and two hundred and one privates killed; one Major, and one hundred and twenty
Seven privates wounded and left on the ground, not able to march, one Colonel, twelve Captains, eleven Lieutenants, two Ensigns, one Quarter-master, one Adjutant, two Commissaries, eighteen Sergeants, and six hundred privates taken prisoners. Total loss of the enemy, eleven hundred and five men at King’s Mountain.

Given under our hand at camp,

WILLIAM CAMPBELL.
ISAAC SHELBY.
BENJ. CLEVELAND.

The losses on our side were, one Colonel, one Major, one Captain, two Lieutenants, Four Ensigns, nineteen privates killed; total, twenty-eight killed; one Major, three Captains, three Lieutenants and fifty-five privates wounded; total, sixty-two wounded.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

---

RETURN OF THE KILL'D & WOUNDED of the Troops under the Command of Colo. Campbell in the Action of King’s Mountain, 7th October, 1780:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIMENTS</th>
<th>Killed</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>Captains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbells</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowells</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas's*</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sevier's</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col. Williams (Killed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One wasn’t even there!
• Five (5) pages dedicated to the Battle of Kings Mountain, SC.
• Col. William Campbell (VA) had nominal command over four other colonels:
  ✓ Col. Benjamin Cleveland  
  ✓ Col. Isaac Shelby  
  ✓ Col. John Sevier  
  ✓ Col. James Williams
• Patriots brought 910 of their “best men” and surrounded Maj. Patrick Ferguson
• 1,100 enemy were wounded, killed, or taken prisoner, including “100 regulars” [no]
1789
“The History of the American Revolution” (2 Volumes)
by Dr. David Ramsay

- 1 full page dedicated to the Battle of Kings Mountain, SC.
- Col. William Campbell (VA) had nominal command over:
  - Col. Benjamin Cleveland
  - Col. Isaac Shelby
  - Lt. Col. John Sevier
  - Maj. Joseph McDowell
  - Col. James Williams
  - Col. Edward Lacey
  - Lt. Col. James Hawthorn
  - Col. William Hill

- Patriots brought 1,600 men and surrounded Maj. Patrick Ferguson
- Col. Edward Lacey attacked on the West end
- Col. Benjamin Cleveland attacked on the East end
- Col. William Campbell attacked on the Center

- Loyalists lost 225 either killed or wounded, and 800 as prisoners
The mountaineers, a bold and hardy people, began to be alarmed at Colonel Ferguson’s near approach to them with a large body of men, and being informed that they plundered all the Whig inhabitants and treated them ill, (they had never yet felt the effects of the war,) they spread the alarm throughout their country, and immediately every man took up his rifle, blanket and knapsack, saddled his horse, and went in pursuit of Colonel Ferguson, leaving some few in their rear to drive the cattle after them; and some hunters were kept out to supply them more plentiful with provisions.

They soon fell in with Ferguson’s encampment at the foot of King’s mount, the whole of their force making nine hundred and ten men. Though Colonel Campbell was said to command, yet Colonels Cleveland, Shelby, Sevier, Williams, Lacey, and Brenan [Brandon], each commanded their own men, and an excellent disposition they made, so that their attack would have disconcerted the most experienced officer with the bravest troops.”
It also being known that Col. Tarleton with his reinforcement would in a least 2 days join Col. Ferguson. This induced the Officers to select 933 men & mounted them on their fleetest horses, leaving about an equal number of foot & horse in the camp, they began their march about 9 o’clock, but it proved a very dark & raining night the path being small & the woods very thick, the troop got scattered & dispersed through the woods thus wondering [sic] the whole night, that when the morning appeared the rear of them was but 5 miles from the Cowpens, this caused them to march uncommonly hard which caused many of the horses to give out as but few of them were shod, a small halt was made near the mountain in which the Officers planned the manner of the attack – The officers that conducted this enterprise was [sic] Cols. Campbell, Cleveland, Shelby, Lacey, Hamright, & Hawthorne, he being my Lieutenant, myself with the rear guard & not being well of my wounds as before mentioned; there was very little military subordination as all that was required or expected was that every Officer & man should ascend the mountain so as to surround the enemy on all quarters which was promptly executed, this being the 7th Day of October 1780 commencing at one Oclock…”

1815
“Col. William Hill’s Memoirs of The Revolution” by William Hill

• 35 pages
• Starts at the Fall of Charlestown
• Describes several key battles/skirmishes
• Blatant enmity for Col. James Williams
• Great admiration for Col. Thomas Sumter
Dr. William McLean of Lincoln County, NC, who had served under Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, brought about this commemorative event. This low, 3.5 foot tall thumb-shaped slate stone is a grave marker memorializing the presumed location of the deaths of patriots Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, William Rabb, and John Boyd, and of Loyalist Major Patrick Ferguson. The face of the slate, originally inscribed with the commemoration, has been worn by time and weather with the inscription now eroded and illegible.

**West Face**

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
MAJOR WILLIAM CHRONICLE, CAPTAIN JOHN MATTOCKS
WILLIAM RABB AND JOHN BOYD,
WHO WERE KILLED AT THIS PLACE ON THE 7th OF
OCTOBER 1780 FIGHTING IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA.

**East Face**

COLONEL FERGUSON, AN OFFICER OF HIS BRITANNIC
MAJESTY WAS DEFEATED AND KILLED AT
THIS PLACE ON THE 7th OF OCTOBER 1780.

This marker was erected as a replica of the weather-beaten 1815 Chronicle Marker. It was dedicated to the four patriot soldiers -- Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, William Raab, and John Boyd and the loyalist officer Major Patrick Ferguson and commemorated what was generally considered to be the location of their burial. This marker is a four foot tall stone in the style of a gravestone. It has a smooth front and rough cut sides and bears the inscription preserving the text of the 1815 Marker.

**Inscription**

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
MAJOR WILLIAM CHRONICLE, CAPTAIN JOHN MATTOCKS
WILLIAM RABB AND JOHN BOYD,
WHO WERE KILLED AT THIS PLACE ON THE 7th OF
OCTOBER 1780 FIGHTING IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA.
COLONEL FERGUSON, AN OFFICER OF HIS BRITANNIC
MAJESTY WAS DEFEATED AND KILLED AT
THIS PLACE ON THE 7th OF OCTOBER 1780.
NOTE: THIS INSCRIPTION IS A COPY OF THAT ON
THE OLD MONUMENT ERECTED BY DR. WILLIAM
MCLEAN IN 1815
THIS STONE HAS BEEN PLACED HERE BY THE KING’S
MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF YORKVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
1815
Commemoration

Original (1815)  Replacement (1914)
1832

Militiamen Authorized to Submit Federal Pension Applications (FPAs)

- 1818 – Ex-Continental soldiers authorized to submit FPA; very few were at the battle of KM
- From 1818 to 1860, over 150,000 FPAs were submitted; they ended up in three categories:
  - S = Survivor; means the soldier submitted when he was still alive
  - W = Widow; means the soldier’s wife or children submitted the final FPA
  - R = Rejected; does not mean the man didn’t serve, might be wife could not prove marriage, or the soldier could not prove 6 months of service, or he could not provide witnesses to corroborate his service (a requirement)

- Thank you Will Graves and Leon Harris for transcribing and posting these online - FREE

Almost all Federal Pension Applications include many more names

Battles & Skirmishes

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Six (6) pages dedicated to the Battle of Kings Mountain, SC.

- Mentioned that he tied up his horses at the grave of Ferguson and his “fellow-sleepers.”
- Ferguson had 110 “regulars” [no, provincials] plus local loyalist militiamen, with a total of more than 1,000 men.

He identified the Patriots as:

- Col. William Campbell of Washington County, VA, with 400 men
- Col. Isaac Shelby of Sullivan County, NC, with 240 men
- Lt. Col. John Sevier of Washington County, NC, with 240 men

This group marched to Burke County, where they linked up with:

- Col. Charles McDowell, with 160 men from Burke and Rutherford counties, NC
- Col. Benjamin Cleveland, with 350 men from Wilkes and Surry counties, NC

They then marched to the Cowpens in South Carolina, where they linked up with:

- Col. James Williams, with 400 men from NC and SC

- From the Cowpens, they selected 900 men to pursue Ferguson to Kings Mountain.
- Battle lasted one hour and five minutes.
1855
75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain.
Attended by 15,000 people.
Key Information about the battle in the 1855 Celebration Pamphlet (108 Pages)*

• After a brief description of the “state of affairs” in the Carolinas, with Cornwallis and Tarleton ranging freely after Gates fled to Hillsborough, the author simply states that the men of Watauga dashed swiftly over the mountains going after Ferguson.

• At Gilbert Town, they stopped and selected about 1,000 of their swiftest and strongest men, and without waiting for daylight they sped off with the speed of the wind. The night after leaving Gilbert Town, they selected a chief to act until they got word from Gates.

• The Patriot Army was composed of roughly equal numbers of men from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Each band was led by its own officer – Sevier, Shelby, Campbell, Cleveland, Williams, and McDowell were the colonels. They selected Campbell as their leader, and they rode in the dark and rainy night.

• This Patriot Army arrived at Kings Mountain about 12 o’clock, and they began to deploy around the enemy, after their horses were tied up. Sevier went right. Those under Cleveland and Williams went left. Campbell went right of center. Shelby went left of center. Fairly detailed description of the battle.

• Four (4) Edmonson’s fell in this fight, and with them Craigs, Beatties, Bowens, Willoughbys, Blackburns, Crawfords, Campbells, and Cummings.

• Appendix includes copies of letters to Col. William Campbell from Sevier and Shelby, the “official account” of the leaders who went to Hillsborough after the battle, a letter from NC Brig. Gen. William Lee Davidson to NC Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner describing the events, and letters from Isaac Shelby in the 1820.

• Appendix also includes several letters from British officers giving brief accounts of the battle.

*Written by John S. Preston
In 1879, citizens from VA, TN, NC, & SC formed the Kings Mountain Centennial Association to erect this monument. Public and private contributions made it possible.

Near Blacksburg, SC

Five commemorative events, held in 1815, 1855, 1880, 1909 and 1930, marked the anniversaries of the battle or honored its participants. In 1909, the War Department recognized the site’s national significance and in 1931 Congress included Kings Mountain in the system of national military parks. In 1933, the National Park Service gained administrative authority over the battleground.
Fell on this battle ground in defence of Civil Liberty
Col. James Williams
Maj. William Chronicle
-- Captains--
John Mattocks, David Beatie
William Edmonson
--First Lieutenants--
Reece Bowen, Thomas McCullogh
William Blackburn
Robert Edmonson
--Second Lieutenants--
John Beatie, Andrew Edmonson
Humberson Lyon, James Corry
James Laird, Nathaniel Guist
Nathaniel Dryden, James Phillips
--Privates--
William Rabb, John Boyd, David Duff
Henry Henigar, William Watson
Arthur Patterson, Preston Goforth

Here on the 7th day of October A.D. 1780 the British forces commanded by Col. Patrick Ferguson were met and totally defeated by Campbell, Shelby, Williams, Cleveland, Sevier, and their heroic followers from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee

In Memory of the Patriotic Americans who participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain this Monument is erected by their grateful Descendants.

Here the tide of battle turned in favor of the American Colonies.
1880
Centennial Celebration Pamphlet (48 Pages)*

- Large Patriot group assembled at Sycamore Shoals as planned on September 25, 1780
  - Col. William Campbell with 400 men from Washington County, VA
  - Col. Charles McDowell with 160 men from Burke and Rutherford Counties
  - Lt. Col. John Sevier with 240 men from Washington County, NC
  - Col. Isaac Shelby with 240 men from Sullivan County, NC

  Also as planned, this large army left on September 26th

- This army of 1,040 men reached the foot of the mountains on September 30th and rendezvoused with:
  - Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Maj. Joseph Winston with 350 men from Wilkes and Surry Counties, NC

- According to this pamphlet, it was around October 1st that this group held a Council and agreed to send Col. Charles McDowell to meet with Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates and request a general officer to lead them. He left his brother, Maj. Joseph McDowell, in charge of his men.

- In the meantime, at or around the same time – October 1st – Col. James Williams, with about 450 men, was on the east side of the Catawba River, at Tuckaseegeee Ford. According to this pamphlet, Col. Lacey and Col. Hill were already with Col. Williams at this time. After crossing at Beattie’s Ford, they were met by Col. Graham and Lt. Col. Hambright, with about 75 men. Soon, they were again joined – by Colonels Hammond, Roebuck, and Majors Chronicle and Hawthorn, with about 60 men.

- On the night of October 4th, a Council was held with Williams, Hill, Lacey, Roebuck, Graham, Hammond, Hambright, Brannon [Brandon], Hawthorn, and Chronicle. They agreed to send Col. Lacey to meet with the other Patriot group, which he did before daylight the next day.

- Early morning of October 5th, the NC and VA group selected 910 horsemen and headed towards “the Cowpens.” Before sundown on October 6th, they arrived, and found the SC group under Williams with nearly 2,000 men, plus Hambright and Chronicle with 60 men. From these, 933 men were selected to join the 910 under Col. William Campbell. By eight o’clock (p.m.), all were in the saddle and riding towards Ferguson.

- This Patriot Army of 1,843 men arrived at Kings Mountain about 12 o’clock, and they began to deploy around the enemy, after their horses were tied up. Shelby, Sevier, McDowell, Campbell, and Winston went right. Those under Cleveland, Chronicle, Hambright, and Williams went left. Both continued until they met, and the battle commenced around 3 o’clock, with the Patriots climbing the slopes. It lasted one hour and five minutes.

*Written by Robert Lathan and L.M. Grist
1881
★ “King’s Mountain and Its Heroes”
by Lyman C. Draper

- With over 20 years of research, Draper is considered the preeminent source on Kings Mountain
- 612 pages, fully indexed, with appendices of over 50 personal accounts
- Brief biographies of many patriot officers and some loyalist officers; pictures of some officers
- Names more field officers (Cols. Lt. Cols., Majors) than he seems to give credit for leading
- Names quite a few company officers (Captains and Lieutenants)
- Describes 910 men in the units that went to the battle of Kings Mountain

- All discussions are grouped into Draper’s own designation of “units:”
  ✓ Col. William Campbell
  ✓ Col. Isaac Shelby and [Lt.] Col. John Sevier
  ✓ Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Maj. Joseph Winston
  ✓ Maj. Joseph McDowell and Col. Andrew Hampton
  ✓ Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright and Maj. William Chronicle
  ✓ Col. Edward Lacey and Lt. Col. James Hawthorn

- Describes key events that led up to the Battle of Kings Mountain
- Describes each “unit’s” approach and when and where they all linked up
- Describes the Patriot deployment around Kings Mountain and the initial attacks
- Many patriot officers remained on horseback and were directed to dash upon the main guard
- Asserts that the columns under Col. Campbell and Col. Shelby were repulsed two or three times
- Asserts Maj. Ferguson had ~800 men under him; Lt. Allaire adds ~320 SC/NC for total ~1,120
- Names all the men who he could prove were killed, mortally wounded, and wounded
- Describes some of the aftermath, including marching prisoners, executing nine loyalists, etc.
1891
“Narrative of the Battle of Cowan’s Ford
February 1st, 1781”
and
“Narrative of the Battle of Kings Mountain”
by Capt. David Vance

• Actually two separate accounts – one by David Vance, and one by Robert Henry
• Dr. J. Hardy provided Robert Henry’s manuscript to Lyman C. Draper in 1874.

David Vance’s Account:
• 19 pages long, written in 1799
• Said Col. Charles McDowell initiated
  the set of events right after the battle
  of Musgrove’s Mill by sending express
  riders to Sevier, Shelby, Cleveland, etc.
• Maj. William Chronicle had 20 men
• Col. William Graham had 160 mounted
  men – joined at Camp Creek
• Lt. Col. John Herndon had all the Infantry
• Said Ferguson had 1,200 men

Robert Henry’s Account:
• 6 pages long, unknown when written
• At KM with Enoch Gilmer, Hugh Erwin,
  and Adam Barry
• Saw William Chronicle and William Rabb
  killed
• Capt. John Mattocks was killed
• J. Boyd was killed
• William Gilmer and John Chittim
  wounded
• He was wounded via a bayonet in the
  thigh, pulled out by William Caldwell
• Said Ferguson had 1,200 men
1897
“Kings Mountain Day – October 7”
Tennessee Centennial Exhibition
by John Allison

• 25 pages with comments from many notables, including Thomas Jefferson
• Provided details starting in 1779 up to the battle of Kings Mountain
• Described Siege of Savannah, Fall of Charleston, Gates’s Defeat at Camden and Maj. Patrick Ferguson chasing the Patriots after the battles of Cedar Spring and Musgrove’s Mill in August of 1780 [Ferguson did not chase, went to Camden]

• Described the Patriots’ who pulled together in order to repulse Maj. Ferguson
  ✓ Col. William Campbell of Washington County, VA, with 400 men
  ✓ Col. Isaac Shelby of Sullivan County, NC, with 200 men
  ✓ Lt. Col. John Sevier of Washington County, NC, with 240 men
  ✓ Col. Charles McDowell – no numbers identified
  ✓ Col. Williams – no numbers identified, said was with them at Watauga [no]

• Described how they dressed, the utensils they took with them, and driving of beeves
• Does not mention the South Carolinians, but does say 910 Patriots went to the battle
• Claimed that Maj. Joseph McDowell was attached to Lt. Col. John Sevier
• Claimed the official report asserted that Maj. Ferguson had 1,125 men
Five commemorative events, held in 1815, 1855, 1880, 1909 and 1930, marked the anniversaries of the battle or honored its participants. In 1909, the War Department recognized the site’s national significance and in 1931 Congress included Kings Mountain in the system of national military parks. In 1933, the National Park Service gained administrative authority over the battleground.
1909
Two of the Four Plaques on the U.S. Monument

Northern Face

On This Field, the Patriot Forces
Attacked and Totally Defeated
An Equal Force of Tories and
British Regular Troops.
The British Commander Major
Patrick Ferguson was Killed,
And His Entire Force was Capt-
tured After Suffering Heavy
Loss. This Brilliant Victory
Marked the Turning Point of
The American Revolution.

Southern Face

To Commemorate the Victory
of
King’s Mountain
October 7, 1780
Erected by the Government
of the
United States
To the Establishment of Which
The Heroism and Patriotism of
Those Who Participated in This
Battle so Largely Contributed
Two of the Four Plaques on the U.S. Monument

**Western Face**

- Col. James Williams
- Lt. Col. James Steen
- Maj. William Chronicle
- Capt. William Edmondson
- John Mattocks
- 1st Lt. William Blackburn
- Reece Bowen
- Robert Edmondson, Sr.
- 2nd Lt. John Beattie
- James Corry

- Capt. Robert Sevier
- Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright
- Maj. James Porter
- Capt. James Dysart
- Samuel Espey
- William Lenoir
- Joel Lewis
- Moses Shelby
- Minor Smith
- 1st Lt. Robert Edmondson, Jr.
- Charles Gordon
- Samuel Johnson

- 24 Unknown

**Killed**

- 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Dryden
- Andrew Edmondson
- Nathaniel Gist
- Humberson Lyon
- James Phillips

- Private Thomas Bicknell
- John Boyd
- John Brown
- David Duff
- Preston Goforth

- Mortally Wounded

- 1st Lt. Thomas McCullough
- Private Moses Henry

- Wounded

- 1st Lt. Samuel Newell
- J.M. Smith

- Private Benoni Banning
- William Bradley
- William Bullen
- John Childers
- John Chittim
- William Cox
- John Fagon
- Frederick Fisher
- William Giles
- ----- Gilieland

- Private Henry Henigar
- Michael Mahoney
- Arthur Patterson
- William Rabb
- John Smart
- Daniel Sisake
- William Steele
- William Watson
- Unknown

**Mortally Wounded**

- 2nd Lt. James Laird

**Eastern Face**

- Private Henry Henigar
- Michael Mahoney
- Arthur Patterson
- William Rabb
- John Smart
- Daniel Sisake
- William Steele
- William Watson
- Unknown

- Where Organized

- Washington County, VA
- Washington County, NC (now Tenn)
- Sullivan County, NC (now Tenn)
- Ninety Six District SC and
- Wilkes and Surrey Counties, NC
- Lincoln County, NC
- Burke and Rutherford Counties, NC
- York and Chester Counties, SC
- (Then Part of Camden District)
- Georgia

- American Forces

- Commander

- Colonel William Campbell
- Colonel John Sevier
- Colonel Isaac Shelby
- Colonel James Williams
- Colonel Benjamin Cleveland
- Major Joseph Winston
- Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright
- Major William Chronicle
- Major Joseph McDowell
- Colonel Edward Lacey
- Colonel William Hill
- Major William Candler

- Reserves

- Colonel James Johnston

- Note: Colonel Charles McDowell, the Regular Commander of the Burke and Rutherford County Regiment, Was Absent from the Battle On a Special Mission to General Gates.

- British Forces

- Major Patrick Ferguson (K) Captain Abraham De Peyster
1924
“*The Kings Mountain Men*”
by Katherine Keogh White

- Two pages about the actual battle, plus the Patriots letter of October 4th signed by Cleveland, Shelby, Sevier, Hampton, Campbell, and Winston (see Slide 74)
- 57 pages about the Watauga Settlement, with miscellaneous accounts
- Biography of John Sevier
- Letters of Lyman C. Draper to William Martin – Material to be used in Volume II, which was not completed due to Draper’s death.
- Letters from George Christian to Lyman C. Draper
- Speech of Hugh Lawson White – on the State of Franklin and the battle of KM
- Handful of Militia Rosters, Pension Declarations
- Alexander Moore
- Alexander Chesney
- Personal sketches of many regular soldiers
- Focus is on men from Virginia and what is now Tennessee
1928

“Historical Statements Concerning the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina”
by the Historical Section of the U.S. Army War College

- 46 pages with some useful background information
- 42 sources cited, plus many maps cited
- Detailed movements of most Patriot units (a few omitted)
- Detailed movements of Maj. Patrick Ferguson after the battle of Musgrove’s Mill
- Described the Patriots’ who pulled together in order to repulse Maj. Ferguson
  ✓ Col. William Campbell of Washington County, VA, with 400 men
  ✓ Col. Isaac Shelby of Sullivan County, NC, with 240 men
  ✓ Lt. Col. John Sevier of Washington County, NC, with 240 men
  ✓ Col. Charles McDowell of Burke & Rutherford Counties, NC, with 160 men
  ✓ Col. Benjamin Cleveland (Wilkes) and Maj. Joseph Winston (Surry), with 350 men
  ✓ Col. James Williams (SC & NC), with 450 men, including:
    o Col. William Hill
    o Col. Edward Lacey

Described how they divided into four (4) divisions and deployed around the mountain

(Map provided turns out to be almost exactly opposite of all other depictions).
President Herbert Hoover addressed an audience of Over 75,000 people sitting on the side of Kings Mountain. His address was delivered via radio to over 100 news outlets around the world.

The next year, the National Park Service took over management of Kings Mountain.
1930
One of Two Monuments Added
Chronicle Monument

Erected in 1930
By the
Major William Chronicle Chapter of the DAR

Inscription
HERE FELL
MAJOR WILLIAM CHRONICLE
OCT. 7, 1780
ERECTED BY THE
MAJOR WILLIAM CHRONICLE CHAPTER
D.A.R
GASTONIA, N.C.
1930
Ferguson Monument

Inscription

To the Memory of
Col. Patrick Ferguson
Seventy-First Regiment,
Highland Light Infantry.

Born in Aberdeenshire,
Scotland in 1744,
Killed October 7, 1780
In Action at
KING'S MOUNTAIN
While in Command of
The British Troops

A Soldier of Military
Distinction and of Honor

This Memorial
Is From the Citizens of
The United States of America
In Token of Their Appreciation
Of the Bonds of Friendship and
Peace Between Them and the
Citizens of the British Empire

Erected on October 7, 1930

1930
Second Monument Added
1931
Two of Three Monuments Added

Hoover Monument

Erected on October 7, 1931, one year after the visit of President Herbert Hoover to the battlefield to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle, the Hoover Monument is a 5’ x 1’ x 4’ elliptical piece of uncut granite with a 12” x 19” bronze plaque.

I n s c r i p t i o n

ON THIS SITE
PRESIDENT HOOVER
ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF 75,000
AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE
SESQUI-CENTENNIAL
OF THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN
OCT. 7, 1930

Col. Asbury Coward Monument

This marker is a two foot square uncut piece of granite with a bronze plaque affixed to the north face. The marker is slightly thumb-shaped, giving it the appearance of a small, natural boulder. The plaque bears an inscription to the memory of Colonel Asbury Coward, American patriot, and includes the insignia of the North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the marker’s sponsor.

I n s c r i p t i o n

TO HONOR
COL. ASHBY COWARD
SOLDIER PATRIOT EDUCATOR
PRESIDENT, KINGS MOUNTAIN
CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION, 1880
ACKNOWLEDGED INSPIRATIONAL FORCE IN
PERPETUATING THE GLORY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE
BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN.
ERECTED BY THE KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA
OCT. 7, 1931
1931
Third Monument Added

Hambright Monument

Inscription
THIS TABLET
MARKS THE SPOT WHERE
COL. FREDERICK HAMBRIGHT
WAS WOUNDED

PLACED BY
COL. FREDERICK HAMBRIGHT CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1949
One Monument Added

Hawthorn Monument

IN HONOR OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES HAWTHORN
COMMANDER OF
COLONEL WILLIAM HILL'S REGIMENT
YORK COUNTY TROOPS
IN THE BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN
7 OCTOBER 1780

COLONEL HILL HAVING BEEN DISABLED
BY WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN A FORMER ENGAGEMENT

ERECTED BY KING'S MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA, 1949
Anniversary Of Battle Of Kings Mountain Celebration Planned

The 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain will be celebrated this fall. Numerous events are being planned for the Sept. 23-Oct. 7 anniversary. Presidential candidates will be invited to speak at Kings Mountain.

Many historians believe that the American victory in the Battle of Kings Mountain was the turning point of the Revolution.

Frontiersmen from the mountains of Western North Carolina, Eastern Tennessee and Southwestern Virginia — with strong support from troops from South Carolina, Georgia and Piedmont North Carolina — surrounded and soundly defeated the British force.

The triumph lifted sagging American spirits and led to the surrender at Yorktown, Va.

A major event of the 200th anniversary celebration will be a re-enactment of the march made by the “Overmountain Men” as they were known to the British. The march began at Abingdon, Va.

The exact route and timing of the march will be followed by Grand Marshal Dennis (Stump) Kline of Rogersville, Tenn. As many as 1,000 people are expected to participate in some segments of the 219-mile march.

President Jimmy Carter has been invited to speak during festivities on Oct. 7 at Kings Mountain.

There will be special events involving the “Overmountain Men” at Abingdon, Va., on Sept. 24, at Sycamore Shoals near Elizabethton, Tenn., on Sept. 26, at Quaker Meadows near Morganton, N.C., on Sept. 30, and at Cowpens National Battlefield near Chesnee on Oct. 6.

Former U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina is scheduled to speak at Quaker Meadows on Sept. 30.

Then Conquer We Must, a drama about the battle and written by the late Robert Osborne of Kings Mountain, will be presented Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-7. All performances will be at the 500-seat amphitheater at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

The Kings Mountain Rotary Club will sponsor a “Bicentennial Run” on Oct. 4.

Displays and demonstrations of military life during the Revolution and more recently will take place adjacent to Kings Mountain Governmental Services Facilities Center Oct. 4-7.

A “Patriots Ball” has been scheduled for Oct. 6 at the National Guard Armory in Kings Mountain.

The Oct. 7 anniversary date will include a “prayer breakfast.” The governors of North Carolina and South Carolina have been invited to meet at the state line near Kings Mountain National Military Park to exchange handshakes. The governors would then join other dignitaries at B.N. Barnes Auditorium at Kings Mountain Senior High School for the first-day cancellation ceremonies of a postcard commemorating the battle.

A bicentennial luncheon will be held at noon at Kings Mountain Senior High School, followed by a 200-unit parade at 1 p.m.

The “Overmountain Men” will arrive at Kings Mountain National Military Park at 3 p.m. There will be a “living history” demonstration of how things might have been at Kings Mountain 200 years ago.
1990

“The Patriots at Kings Mountain”
Dr. Bobby Gilmer Moss

• The “definitive work” on identifying the Patriot participants at Kings Mountain

• Identifies ~875 men who were “almost definitely” in the battle in alphabetical order
• Identifies an additional ~1,210 men who were “possibly” in the battle
• Identifies ~80 men who were in the campaign, but “most likely not” in the battle

• Primary sources include:
  ✓ Federal Pension Applications (FPAs)
  ✓ Bounty Land Warrants
  ✓ Audited Accounts of Payments to Soldiers
  ✓ Available Muster Rolls
  ✓ Plus, nearly 100 other reliable sources, books, pamphlets, etc.
1998
★“The Loyalists at Kings Mountain”
by Dr. Bobby Gilmer Moss

• The “definitive work” on identifying the Loyalist participants at Kings Mountain
• Culmination of over 25 years of research on both sides of the Atlantic

✓ Brief overview (10 pages) of events that led up to the battle of Kings Mountain
✓ 885 confirmed men identified in alphabetical order. 50+ men probably at KM.
✓ Regiments identified for the most part, a few exceptions

• Primary sources include:
  ✓ Draper Manuscripts
  ✓ Cornwallis Papers
  ✓ British Treasury Payrolls and Muster Rolls
  ✓ Public Archives of Canada
  ✓ County Court Records from NC, SC, and GA
So... What Exactly is “The Problem?”
From 2007 to 2014, this Author performed a comprehensive bottom-up / top-down evaluation of the entire Patriot military organizations for the states of South Carolina and North Carolina.

Yet… NONE of the previous histories come up with the same or even similar results as this Author’s.

1. Number of men at KM not even close among the previous histories.
2. Regiment names never used in ANY previous histories. Few agree on “who served under who?”
3. Deployment at KM not even close among most previous histories.

OK… Granted… There are many discrepancies recorded, yet no one seemed to acknowledge them. Everyone seemed to just “pick a version” and stick with it. No “new” analysis.
COL. BENJA. CLEVELAND AND OTHERS TO MAJ. GENL. GATES.

RUTHERFORDTON COUNTY, CAMP NEAR GILBERT TOWN

October, 4, 1780.

Sir:

We have now collected at this place about 1,500 good men, drawn from the Counties of Surry, Wilkes, Burke, Washington and Sullivan Counties in this State, and Washington County of Virginia, and expect to be joined in a few days by Colo. Clark of Georgia and Colo. Williams of South Carolina, with about 1,000 more. As we have at this time called out our militia without any orders from the Executive of our different States, and with the view of Expelling the Enemy out of this part of the Country, we think such a body of men worthy of your attention, and would request you to send a General Officer, immediately to take the command of such Troops as may embody in this quarter. All our Troops being Militia, and but little acquainted with discipline, we could wish him to be a Gentleman of address, and able to keep up a proper discipline, without disgusting the Soldiery. Every assistance in our power shall be given the Officer you may think proper to take command of us.

It is the wish of such of us as are acquainted with General Davidson and Colo. Morgan (if in Service) that one of these Gentlemen may be appointed to this command.

We are in great want of Ammunition, and hope you will endeavor to have us properly furnished with Article.

Colo. McDowell will wait upon you with this, who can inform you of the present situation of the Enemy, and such other particulars respecting our Troops as you may think necessary.

We are, Sir,

Your most obdt. and very hble. Servts.,

BENJA. CLEVELAND.
ISAAC SHELBY.
JOHN SEVIER.
ANDW. HAMPTON.
WM. CAMPBELL.
JO. WINSTON.
AN ACCOUNT OF THE MARCH AND BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

(By an unknown member of Campbell's regiment.)

On hearing of a large body of British and Tories assembled in North Carolina, under the command of Col. Ferguson, and threatening to visit Holston river, on the 22d September, 1780, two hundred and fifty of the militia of Washington County, Virginia, were ordered out under the command of Col. William Campbell, and rendezvouzed on Watanga, where they were joined by three hundred and fifty men from the western part of North Carolina, under the command of Col. Sevier and Col Isaac Shelby, together with a party of one hundred and fifty men, under the command of Col. Charles McDowell, who had been driven over the mountains by Col. Ferguson. While we were yet at the place of rendezvous, Col. Arthur Campbell, believing that there was not a sufficient force to successfully engage with the enemy, ordered out and came on with two hundred more of the Washington militia, and joined us at Watanga. Col. Arthur Campbell returned home to take care of the frontiers, which were left bare of men, & were in danger of being attacked by the Indians, who were near neighbors. A council was held to select a commander, and it was unanimously given to Col. William Campbell. We began our march from Watanga on the 27th of September, with nine hundred and fifty men. With a very bad road, we were four days in passing the mountains, when we arrived at the settlements of North Carolina; and the next day we were joined by Col. Cleveland, from Wilkes County, and Major Winston, from Surry, with four hundred men. From there we proceeded on, living mostly on parched corn. We left four hundred footmen behind, not being able to keep up with the horse, and the fifth (sixth) of October joined Col. Williams, and some Georgia troops, being about three hundred and fifty. From Col. Williams' camp we set out about dark, and traveled all that night, expecting to attack the enemy at day break, but Col. Ferguson, sometime before hearing of our coming, retreated and took an advantageous position at a place called King's Mountain, where the enemy thought they were safely posted, and sent to Cornwallis for a re-inforcement. But Col. Campbell proceeded so precipitately on his march that we came on them with surprise, on the 7th of October, the sun being about an hour & half high.

Col. Campbell ordered Col. Williams and Col. Cleveland to the left and Col. Shelby for a reserve, and attacked on the right himself, making the first onset, but the action soon became general, Col. Williams and Col. Cleveland acting with great bravery on the left. Col. Ferguson ordered a charge to be made on the Virginia regiment, which forced some of them to retreat a short distance, but they were rallied again, and the enemy fell so fast they were obliged to retire to the top of the mountain. Col. Shelby with the reserve came up, and in about half an hour the enemy was surrounded. Too much cannot be said in praise of our brave commander, who exerted himself animating the men to victory. We advanced on the enemy and broke their lines, but they were rallied three times by Col. Ferguson, but to no effect, our men pressing so close on them on every side; at length that active British officer, losing all hopes of victory, thought with some others to break through our lines and get off, but fell in the attempt, Col. Ferguson having two balls through his body and one through his head. The enemy then soon surrendered. The action lasted an hour and five minutes. The enemy had about two hundred and thirty dead on the ground and a number wounded. We lost some brave officers, and about thirty-five lay dead on the ground. The enemy mostly overshot us as we marched up the mountain. It was dark again we got the prisoners under guard. Cornwallis had sent Tarleton with four hundred dragoons to re-inforce Col. Ferguson, but hearing of his retreat returned.

\[ 950 + 400 - 400 + 350 = 1,300 \text{ Patriots at KM} \]
These regulations being adopted the army marched into Gilbert Town. Ferguson had left it two or three days. The Americans pursued upon his trail which appeared for some distance as if he intended to take shelter under the walls of Ninety-Six – in order to move with greater velocity in their pursuit the American officers spent the whole of Thursday night in selecting their best men, best horses, and guns, & by daylight Friday morning were ready to pursue with nine hundred and ten picked men well armed and mounted on good horses – the residue about seven hundred of weak horses and foot men, were directed to follow as fast as possible – the Americans pursued hard on the Enemy’s trail all day on Friday without lighting until they arrived at the Cowpens just at dusk, here they killed some cattle, stayed an hour and roasted some beef then resumed their pursuit. The night was very dark but it was discovered that Ferguson had changed his route and that instead of Ninety-Six, his object appeared to be set in the rear of Cornwallis, who lay at Charlotte, in North Carolina with the British Grand Army - & that his making this circuit was merely to gain time to collect his Tories who had been suffered to go to their homes before it was known that the Americans had collected to oppose him. At the Cowpens Colonel Williams and his men left the Army & started just after dark to go to attack six hundreds Tories said to be collecting at Major Geile’s but a few miles distant from that place. The Colonel was much importuned to abandon that object but refused in the morning however just at day light on the army arriving at the Cherokee Ford of Broad River, Colonel Williams with his men came up in the rear; this was a welcome sight as from the sign on the enemy’s trail the American army had gained ground greatly upon him and the conflict was growing to a crisis – This was Saturday morning and at sun rise it began to rain hard. The army however continued unremittingly to pursue its main object, traveled hard all day through the rain, until they got within a few miles of the enemy where he lay encamped on Kings Mountain, and where he only arrived late the evening before – On gaining information of the position of Major Ferguson’s Army, the American line of battle was formed as follows – Colonel Campbell’s regiment head by himself formed the center column to the right; Colonel Shelby’s regiment commanded by himself formed the center column on the left. The right wing was composed of Colonel Sevier’s regiment, Col. McDowell’s regiment, Col. Winston’s regiment & commanded by Col. Sevier in front. The left wing was composed by Col. Cleveland’s regiment, Col. Williams’ regiment, Colonel Lacey’s regiment & Colonel Brannum’s [Brandon’s] regiment, & headed in front by Col. Cleveland himself, in this order the American Army advanced in four lines until it arrived in sight of the Enemy’s Camp on Kings Mountain at three o’clock in the afternoon of Saturday the 7th of October, 1780. The two center columns then wheeled to the right and left formed a front, marched up and attacked the enemy, while the right and left wing were marching round. The action then became general and lasted one hour and a half. The Americans had upwards of sixty killed and wounded – and they killed and took of the Enemy eleven hundred and five – three hundred and seventy five of them were left weltering in their Gore upon Kings Mountain, among the latter Major Ferguson himself, he fell in the close of the action – about the time or shortly before Colonel Williams was mortally wounded of which he died.

Shelby was running for another term as Governor, and he began to retell the story of Kings Mountain. For some strange reason, he took this opportunity to downplay Col. William Campbell’s leadership at Kings Mountain. This example is only one of many from 1814 to 1821.
APPENDIX.

Diary of Lieut. Anthony Allaire, of Ferguson’s Corps.

MEMORANDUM OF OCCURRENCES DURING THE CAMPAIGN OF 1780.


We marched from Savannah at six o’clock in the morning; arrived at Caerokee Hill, nine miles from Savannah, at twelve o’clock, and encamped to refresh ourselves. At three o’clock in the afternoon got in motion, and marched to Abercorn, eight miles from Cherokee Hill; here we encamped and lay all night. Disagreeable, rainy weather.

Monday, 6th. At eight o’clock we got in motion, and marched to Ebenezer, a village situated on Savannah river, eight miles above Abercorn. It contains about twenty houses and a church. The inhabitants are high Dutch. It is garrisoned by our troops; there are four redoubts, but no cannon in any of them.

Tuesday, 7th. Remained at Ebenezer. Pleasant morning, showery evening and very warm. Spent part of the evening with two Indian Captains, John and James; smoked tobacco and drank grog with those two devils incarnate.

Wednesday, 8th. Still remained at Ebenezer. Orders to draw two days’ provisions, and be ready to march at reveille beating. Several men taken suddenly ill with pain and swelling of the extremities, occasioned by a weed that poisons where it touches the naked skin, when the dew is on it.

510

ALLAIRE’S DIARY.

Friday, 6th. Got in motion at four o’clock in the morning, and marched sixteen miles to Little King’s Mountain, where we took up our ground.

Saturday, 7th. About two o’clock in the afternoon, twenty-five hundred Rebels, under the command of Brig.-Gen. Williams, and ten Colonels, attacked us. Maj. Ferguson had eight hundred men. The action continued an hour and five minutes; but their numbers enabled them to surround us. The North Carolina regiment seeing this, and numbers being out of ammunition, gave way, which naturally threw the rest of the militia into confusion. Our poor little detachment, which consisted of only seventy men when we marched to the field of action, were all killed and wounded but twenty; and those brave fellows were soon crowded as close as possible by the militia. Capt. DeFeyster, on whom the command devolved, saw it impossible to form six men together; thought it necessary to surrender to save the lives of the brave men who were left. We lost in this action, Maj. Ferguson, of the Seventy-first regiment, a man much attached to his King and country, well informed in the art of war; he was brave and humane, and an agreeable companion; in short, he was universally esteemed in the army, and I have every reason to regret his unhappy fate. We had eighteen men killed on the spot; Capt. Ryerson and thirty-two privates wounded of Maj. Ferguson’s detachment; Lieut. McCannis, of Allen’s regiment of Skinner’s Brigade, killed. Taken prisoners, Two Captains, four Lieutenants, three Ensigns, and one Surgeon, and fifty-four sergeants rank and file, including the mounted men under the command of Lieut. Taylor. Of十二 killed, including officers; wounded, ninety; taken prisoners, about six hundred. Our baggage all taken, of course. Rebels lost Brig.-Gen. Williams, one hundred and thirty-five, including officers, killed; wounded, equal to ours.

Sunday, 8th. They thought it necessary to move us sixteen miles, to one Waldron’s plantation, where they halted.

Monday, 9th. Moved two miles and a half to Bullock creek;* forded it, and halted on the banks.

Tuesday, 10th. Moved twenty miles and halted in the woods.

Wednesday, 11th. Moved at eight o’clock in the morning; marched twelve miles to Col. Walker’s, and halted.

Thursday, 12th. Those villains divided our baggage, although they had promised on their word we should have it all.

Friday, 13th. Moved six miles to Bickerstaff’s plantation. In the evening their liberality extended so far as to send five old shirts to nine of us, as a change of linen—other things in like proportion.

Saturday, 14th. Twelve field officers were chosen to try the militia.

* Apparently Buren’s creek—Bullock’s creek was some fifteen or eighteen miles distant.
Again… Only 9 Regiments Identified

**RETURN OF THE KILL’D & WOUNDED of the Troops under the Command of Colo. Campbell in the Action of King’s Mountain, 7th October, 1780:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIMENTS</th>
<th>KILLED</th>
<th>WOUNDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>Lieutenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbells</td>
<td>1  2  4</td>
<td>5  12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell</td>
<td>4  4</td>
<td>1  3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas's</td>
<td>8  8</td>
<td>1  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland's</td>
<td></td>
<td>2  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby's</td>
<td></td>
<td>1  1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sevier's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon's (Killed)</td>
<td>1  1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,600 **good horse**, who immediately went in pursuit of Colo. Ferguson, who was making his way to Charlotte. Our People overtook him well posted on King’s mountain, & on the Evening of the 7th instant at 4 o’Clock began the Attack, which continued 47 minutes. Colo. Ferguson fell in the action, besides 150 of his men; 810 were made prisoners, including the British; 150 of the Prisoners are wounded; 15 hundred stand of Arms fell into our hands. Colo. Ferguson had about 1,400 men; our People surrounded them & the Enemy surrendered. We lost about 20 men, among whom is Major Chronicle of Lincoln County. Colo. Williams is mortally wounded; the number of our wounded cannot be ascertained. This blow will certainly affect the British very considerably. The designs of our Conquering friends near King’s mountain are not clearly known. It is most probable that they will secure their Prisoners in or over the mountains & proceed towards Charlotte. The Brigade Major who gives us this was in the action. The above is true; the blow is great. I give you joy upon the occasion.

I am &c., &c.,

WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

The Hnble. Genl. Sumner.
A Quick Recap of the Many Publications (1 of 3)

From “King’s Mountain and its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7, 1780, and the Events Which Led to It” by Lyman C. Draper, LL.D., 1881, Cincinnati

- Campbell 200
- Shelby 120
- Sevier 120
- Cleveland 110
- McDowell 90
- Winston 60
- Lacey 100
- Williams 60
- Graham/Hambright 50

Draper also notes that:
- Official report signed by Campbell, Shelby, and Cleveland 900
- Shelby’s account in the American Review 910
- Col. William Hill in his Memoirs 933
- Ramsey’s Revolution in South Carolina (1785) 910
- Gordon’s American War (1788) 910
- Moultrie’s Memoirs (1802) 910
- Brig. Gen. (Pro Tempore) William Lee Davidson letter 1,600

(Identical to Draper, who adds Candler’s 30 in with Williams’s 30)

There are numerous other sources on the ‘Net that use the same regiments and numbers.


Maj. William Candler arrived soon thereafter with about 30 men.

These latter two groups selected 933 of their best horsemen to join the 910 selected by the first group under Col. Campbell, and by 8 p.m., 1,843 horsemen left the Cowpens for Kings Mountain.

14 different “regiments” identified, although not properly named.
A Quick Recap of the Many Publications (3 of 3)

Will Graves estimated the following order of battle and number of men in his fairly recent book (2012), entitled, “Backcountry Revolutionary – James Williams (1740-1780)”

Col. William Campbell (VA) 139
Col. Benjamin Cleveland (NC) 138
Col. Isaac Shelby (including Maj. Winston) (NC) 58
Lt. Col. John Sevier (NC) 62
Maj. Joseph McDowell (NC) 68
Maj. William Chronicle (NC) 11
Col. James Williams (SC) 131
Col. Thomas Brandon
Col. Benjamin Roebuck
Lt. Col. Samuel Hammond
Lt. Col. James Steen
Lt. Col. Robert Anderson
Col. Edward Lacey & Lt. Col. James Hawthorn (SC) 62
Lt. Col. William Bratton*
Lt. Col. Liles [?]
Unassigned men 190
859

*Lt. Col. William Bratton was severely wounded at the battle of Williamson’s Plantation on July 12, 1780. Most sources assert he remained out of action until he recuperated and was promoted to full Colonel and took over the 1st Spartan Regiment immediately after the battle of Cowpens. Others assert he returned to active duty and was at the engagements of Hanging Rock (8/6), Fishing Creek (8/18), then Kings Mountain. This Author finds no compelling evidence that Lt. Col. William Bratton was at KM, but he may have been. This Author believes that Bratton was with four other officers meeting with Gov. Rutledge in Hillsborough. Much Better List Than Anything Earlier
### Subsequent Histories – The Participants & Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Campbell</th>
<th>Shelby</th>
<th>Sevier</th>
<th>Cleve-Land</th>
<th>Winston</th>
<th>Ham-Bright</th>
<th>Mc-Dowell</th>
<th>Williams</th>
<th>Lacey</th>
<th>Haw-Thorn</th>
<th>Candler</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Leaders</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Tate*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Allaire**</td>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>Patriot</td>
<td>Colonels</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>❞</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>Unknown***</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>&lt;&lt; 400</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Behind</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;&lt;</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Ramsay</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Ramsay</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Moultrie</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
<td></td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Lossing</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
<td>160</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Lathan/ Grist</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>&lt;&lt; 75</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1,843 at KM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Draper</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Allison</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>240</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>US Army</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>&lt;&lt;</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Moss</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Graves</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>&lt;&lt; With Shelby</td>
<td>11 Chronicle</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>&lt;&lt; With Williams</td>
<td>859</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Loyalist Lt. Anthony Allaire’s journal. Provided earlier herein on Slide 43.

*** Unknown member of Col. William Campbell’s regiment, not long after the battle – provided earlier herein on Slide 41.

✓ = Commander named in the publication, number of men not separately identified.

<<< or >>> = Number of men included in earlier or later column.
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (1 of 7):

9 Patriot “Units” Identified:
Campbell    VA Col. William Campbell
Cleveland   NC Col. Benjamin Cleveland
Hambright   NC Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright
Lacey       SC Col. Edward Lacey
McDowell    NC Maj. Joseph McDowell
Sevier      NC Lt. Col. John Sevier
Shelby      NC Col. Isaac Shelby
Williams    SC Col. James Williams
Winston     NC Maj. Joseph Winston

Draper’s Version - 1881

King’s Mountain, upon which Maj. Patrick Ferguson was encamped, is a spur of the Blue Ridge. It is a narrow, oval shaped knoll, having the direction of the Blue Ridge, and terminates abruptly at its northern extremity. It is covered with a kind of slate stone. The ridge, which is about one hundred and twenty feet above the ravines by which it is surrounded, and about a mile long, is not more than thirty yards wide, and the sides, especially on the north, are precipitous. It is situated in York County, South Carolina, about a mile and a half from the North Carolina line. [this description comes from the 1880 Centennial Association Pamphlet, written by Robert Lathan and L.M. Grist.]
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (2 of 7):

Patriot “Units” Identified:

- Campbell VA Col. William Campbell
- Chronicle NC Maj. William Chronicle
- Cleveland NC Col. Benjamin Cleveland
- Hawthorne SC Lt. Col. James Hawthorne
- Lacey SC Col. Edward Lacey
- McDowell NC Maj. Joseph McDowell
- Sevier NC Lt. Col. John Sevier
- Shelby NC Col. Isaac Shelby
- Winston NC Maj. Joseph Winston

[Note – SC Col. James Williams not identified]

[9 Units]
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (3 of 7):

“Cornwallis, the American Adventure”
by Franklin & Mary Wickwire (1970)

“Profile of a Patriot”
by Stephen O. Addison (1993)
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (4 of 7):

[8 Units – completely different deployment]

“Historical Statements Concerning the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina” by the Historical Section of the U.S. Army War College (1928)
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (5 of 7):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 1780 Official Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divided into four columns:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Wing: Cleveland led, with Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Center: Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Center: Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Wing: Sevier led, with Winston in front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby and Campbell began the attack, while the rest marched around the mountain, which only took about five minutes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1814 Account – Shelby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divided into four columns:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Wing: Cleveland led, with Williams, Lacey, and Brandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Center: Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Wing: Sevier led, with McDowell &amp; Winston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two center columns wheeled to the right and left and formed a front, marched up and attacked, while the left and right wings were still marching around KM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1855 Celebration - Preston</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patriots stopped about 700 yards from the mountain and surveyed the objective, which was then described by guides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divided into three/four columns:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left: Cleveland/Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Center: Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Center: Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Sevier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle began before all units were properly deployed. By the third repulse, the Patriots finally had the enemy surrounded. A fierce counter-attack began.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal Pension Applications (FPAs) from the 1830s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>David Allen (S16601)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Divisions: Shelby Cleveland Williams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward Darten (S30983)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left: Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center: Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Campbell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andrew Evans (S3341)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left: Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center: Shelby, Sevier, Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Campbell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andrew Hannah (W794)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His company under Capt. Minor Smith was thrown in the Right Wing, led by Lt. Col. John Sevier.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Malcolm Henry (S16866)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left: Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center: Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Shelby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James LaFoy (S10971)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left: Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center: Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Williams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambrose Yancey (S46059)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left: Cleveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center: Shelby &amp; Sevier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right: Campbell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (6 of 7):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patriots marched in four columns:</td>
<td>Patriots arranged in two divisions, each of almost equal numbers, to attack opposite sides of the mountain.</td>
<td>In taking their positions, the Center to the Northeast was occupied by Cleveland, with Hambright &amp; Winston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left Wing</strong>: Cleveland led, Williams supported</td>
<td><strong>Left Wing</strong>: Cleveland led, with Williams and Hambright</td>
<td>To the South were divisions led by McDowell, who was in touch with Winston, Sevier, and Campbell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left Center</strong>: Shelby</td>
<td><strong>Left Center</strong>: Shelby, to take position on the left of the mountain, directly opposite Campbell</td>
<td>Lacey was in touch with Cleveland, then Williams &amp; the Rowan volunteers, then Shelby on the North Side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Right Center</strong>: Campbell</td>
<td><strong>Right Center</strong>: Campbell, led Virginians across southern end of ridge and southeast side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Right Wing</strong>: Sevier</td>
<td><strong>Right Wing</strong>: Sevier, with McDowell and Winston, to go northeast of Campbell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied horses within view of enemy. Shelby, Sevier, McDowell, Campbell, then Winston were ordered to file to the right and pass around KM.</td>
<td>Right Wing: Sevier, with McDowell and Winston, to go northeast of Campbell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland, Chronicle, Hambright, and Williams were ordered to file to the left and pass around KM.</td>
<td>Four columns, two on either side of the mountain. Campbell/Sevier on right; Shelby/Cleveland on left. To march until they completely surround the enemy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both were to continue, without firing, until they met, completely surrounding the enemy. The order was to then face the mountain, raise the Indian war-whoop, then attack.</td>
<td>Men marched two deep, led by officers. Left and Right Wings took longer than expected to reach their designated place.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby &amp; Campbell began the attack.</td>
<td>Shelby &amp; Campbell began the attack.</td>
<td>Draper contradicts himself and later says that Shelby was on the southwestern end of the mountain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subsequent Histories – The Deployment (7 of 7):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1928 – US Army Historical Branch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Command was divided into four parts, and Led in four columns abreast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Flank Column: Chronicle led, then Cleveland, Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Columns: Left – Shelby Right – Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Flank Column: Led by Sevier, with Winston at front, then Sevier’s men, then McDowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismounted at the ravine just north of KM. Left Column marched around the east Point of the mountain, then southwest-Wardly to designated position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby to attack the eastern extremity of The ridge. Campbell was on Shelby’s Right, along the streambed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond Campbell, on his right, was McDowell, then Sevier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left column, with Winston connecting on The right of Sevier at the hogback. On the Right of Winston was Chronicle, Cleveland, And Williams between Cleveland and Shelby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell &amp; Sevier on the north. Williams, Cleveland, Chronicle, Winston on south.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1995 National Military Park Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About a mile from the mountain, the rank and file dismounted and left their horses with a small guard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers remained on their horses, and divided into two columns of approximate equal numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan was simple – at the base of the ridge, the two columns separated, one went to each side of the mountain to surround it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell &amp; Sevier led the right column, which included Winston &amp; McDowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby &amp; Cleveland led the left column, which included Williams, Lacey, Chronicle, and Hambright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subsequent Histories – The Routes (1 of 2):

Nota Bene – The term “Overmountain Men” was NOT used at that time. This was a term of convenience created by later historians. It also causes considerable confusion now.
Subsequent Histories – The Routes (2 of 2):

“Profile of a Patriot” by Stephen O. Addison (1993)

“Revolutionary War Maps” by John Robertson
Subsequent Histories:

• Many more like the examples on the previous slides can be easily found, either in books or in websites online.

• These are certainly worthwhile, but they are certainly incomplete.

• Acknowledged – Authors used best info available at that time. This presentation is NOT intended to slam any of them.

• But… as time went on and better info became available, newer historians haven’t bothered to look into possible errors and omissions.

• Understandable… until the advent of the Internet and other useful search tools, such as microfilm, digitized books, etc.

• There is now “no excuse” to continue propagating the “old errors.”

• OK, existing books cannot be changed… but, if any authors publish a second edition… or, if new authors begin new books, these should definitely consider using the known “new information.”
The Harmonized Chronology Leading Up to the Battle
August 18, 1780

Col. Thomas Sumter (SC) and his fairly large army is soundly defeated at Fishing Creek in SC by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. He and many others from SC go to Charlotte, NC to recuperate.

Those who don’t follow Sumter to Charlotte go back to their home locations and again call out their men.

Col. Isaac Shelby (NC) leads NC, SC, and GA militia in defeating the Loyalists at Musgrove’s Mill in SC. Maj. Patrick Ferguson is on his way and barely misses them.

Col. James Williams (SC) soon escorts many prisoners to Hillsborough, NC, and since his family had originated in Caswell County, NC, he requests permission to recruit new men from that county.
Hillsborough, September 8, 1780
Nash to Col. James Williams

Sir:

You are desired to go to Caswell County, and to such other counties as you think proper, and use your best endeavors to collect any number of volunteer horsemen, not exceeding one hundred, and proceed with them into such parts you judge proper, to act against the enemy, and in this you are to use your own discretion. You may assure the men who turn out with you that they shall be entitled to all the advantages and privileges of militia in actual service, and that it shall be considered as a tour of duty under the militia law, they serving the time prescribed by law for other militia men. All Commissaries, and other staff-officers, are required to grant you such supplies as may be necessary.

In getting your men, you are to make no distinction between men already drafted and others; and, in case of need, you are to impress horses for expresses, and other cases of absolute necessity.

S/A

Abner Nash, Governor

The NC Legislature also grants Col. James Williams $25,000 to help recruit and pay for these militiamen.
Col. Charles McDowell

The Patriots here decide to go across the Blue Ridge to the Watauga Settlement after this event.

Maj. Patrick Ferguson

Realizing he is too deep into NC without any support, Maj. Ferguson goes back to Gilbert Town.

September 12, 1780
Battle of Cane Creek in Burke County, NC

Col. Charles McDowell

Realizing he is too deep into NC without any support, Maj. Ferguson goes back to Gilbert Town.

The US Revolution in Present-Day Burke County

The Patriots here decide to go across the Blue Ridge to the Watauga Settlement after this event.

Col. Charles McDowell

Realizing he is too deep into NC without any support, Maj. Ferguson goes back to Gilbert Town.

The US Revolution in Present-Day Burke County

The Patriots here decide to go across the Blue Ridge to the Watauga Settlement after this event.
September 14, 1780

Brig. Gen. (Pro Tempore) William Lee Davidson (NC) writes from McAlpine’s Creek in Mecklenburg County to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates at Hillsborough, NC

- Davidson’s strength is about 400 men, from the Rowan County Regiment and the Mecklenburg County Regiment (militia) (NC)

- Maj. Patrick Ferguson is back in Gilbert Town after skirmishing with Col. Charles McDowell at Cane Creek. Ferguson has about 800 men. Ferguson has also issued a “proclamation”

- Lord Cornwallis is now at the Waxhaws (SC) with about 1,000 men

- Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) has just now arrived and joins Davidson with his ~1,000 men. Over 1,400 NC Patriot Militiamen gathered.

- Col. John Peasley (NC) will be here tomorrow, with about 400 men

- Davidson orders Col. Francis Locke (NC) to raise the rest of the men from Rowan County and to go join up with Col. Charles McDowell out west
September 15, 1780
Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) is now in Salisbury

September 20, 1780
Col. James Williams (SC) marches into Salisbury. Many accounts indicate that he remains here for “about a week, maybe a little longer.”

September 23, 1780
Col. Francis Locke (NC) is at Sherrill’s Ford
September 23, 1780
Maj. Samuel Hammond (SC) is at Higgins’ Plantation in Rowan County, NC. Today he issues a call for SC & GA militiamen to gather here.

A Call to Arms: Beef, Bread & Potatoes
Higgins’ Plantation, 23 Sept. 1780

The undersigned has just returned from Hillsborough to this neighborhood. While there he obtained an order on the Companies and Quartermasters upon this frontier for supplies of provisions and forage for such of the patriotic Citizens of South Carolina & Georgia as might be embodied for actual services and being informed that there is a number of you, resting with patriotic friends in the Two adjoining Counties no doubt anxiously looking for an opportunity to embody for the performance of duty, but without the power or means of supporting yourselves or your horses from your own resources I have thought your wishes would be forwarded by the Establishing of a Camp at a rallying rendezvous at a convenient place for your assemblage, and to be ready when occasion might offer to give our aid for the recovery of Our Country.

I have with this view formed a Camp at Higgins’ Plantation a few miles from Capt. Brannon’s Tavern, near the road leading westwardly to Torrance’s Crossroads, where we will be supplied with the needful. I am justified in the expectation of the arrival of a powerful support shortly and that we may return toward home with a strong army. Let us be prepared to do out part, our little force will be important if Combined possessing as we do a better knowledge of the Country and its resources. Now is the time to show ourselves and I invite you, both Officers & soldiers to obey the call: I here assure you that I shall cheerfully surrender the Command, and Cooperate fully to and with any Officer of Senior Rank of either State that may think proper to Join; Should an opportunity offer immediately for my advancing toward the enemy with a prospect of doing good an officer will be left at this Camp authorized to obtain Rations for such as may Join there after my departing. I have some other good news. Come and hear it.

S. Hammond, Major
Comdg Refugees Lower Regt.
So. Carolina 96th Brig.  [S21807]
September 25, 1780
Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) is now in Charlotte. Lord Cornwallis is less than 15 miles away.

Per earlier call to arms, NC and VA militia units arrive at the Watauga Settlement at Sycamore Shoals.

September 26, 1780
Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) evacuates Charlotte. Lord Cornwallis enters Charlotte and is immediately attacked by Col. William Richardson Davie (NC)

NC and VA militia leave the Watauga Settlement to go looking for Maj. Patrick Ferguson

September 27, 1780
Col. Philip Taylor (NC) arrives in Salisbury with 60 Light Horse from Granville County, NC

September 28, 1780
Col. James Williams (SC) leaves Salisbury
September 29, 1780
Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) is at Yadkin Ford, NC with Col. Philip Taylor (NC) and others arriving. Many men sent to find Col. Charles McDowell (NC) in the west.

October 1, 1780
Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) is now at McGoon’s Creek in Rowan County. Letter to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates that ~800 of the enemy are spotted west of Charlotte, NC thought to be going to support Maj. Patrick Ferguson. Nope… just foraging.

Col. James Williams and Col. Thomas Brandon, with 450 mounted men, are on the East side of the Catawba River at Tuckaseegee Ford.

Col. Edward Lacey and Col. William Hill had recently left Col. Thomas Sumter’s camp and are actually looking for NC Brig. Gen. (Pro Tempore) William Lee Davidson. After an exchange of Expresses, Davidson’s response is to look for a considerable force in their area that is heading for Maj. Patrick Ferguson. Lacey & Hill run into Williams.
Although the British were in control of Charlestown and many other places, the South Carolina Militia was still gathering strength in their usual regiments, many with new leaders.

Col. Thomas Sumter was in NC recuperating and soon meeting with Gov. John Rutledge, Col. Francis Marion was ranging along the Pee Dee River, and most other South Carolina regiments were at home trying to recruit new men and to avoid the British and Loyalists.
With Charles, Lord Cornwallis in Charlotte and Maj. Patrick Ferguson marching from the west to join him, the North Carolina military and civilian leaders were trying to posture themselves to meet these mounting challenges without panicking.

Little did most of them know that one of the most important battles of the entire war was about to happen just across the state line at Kings Mountain.
October 2, 1780

Brig. Gen. (Pro Tempore) William Lee Davidson (NC) informs Brig. Gen. Jethro Sumner (NC) that the rumor of Maj. Ferguson being at Burke Court House (NC) is false.

Col. Benjamin Cleveland (NC) and his men are at that location, and everyone surmises that Maj. Ferguson is heading for Ninety-Six (SC).

Brig. Gen. Davidson (NC) has about 200 men, and is heading west to join the group assembling to go to Kings Mountain. He is way too late and gives up the chase and returns eastward to keep Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis in check in Charlotte.
October 2, 1780

Col. James Williams (SC) writes a letter to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates from Burke County, NC:

- He is about 70 miles west of Salisbury, NC on the Catawba River with about 450 horsemen. His objective is Maj. Patrick Ferguson.
- He has dispatched men “to different quarters” to gather intelligence.
- He reports that Col. Elijah Clarke (GA) has taken Augusta with 800 men, but could not hold it; Clarke has retreated towards Ninety-Six (SC).
- He has learned that Col. Charles McDowell (NC) and Col. Isaac Shelby (NC) arrived at Burke County Court House with about 1,500 horsemen; they joined with Col. Benjamin Cleveland (NC) with about 800 men there.
- He hopes to catch up to them within one day. [That does not happen]
COL. JAMES WILLIAMS TO MAJ. GENERAL GATES.

BURKE COUNTY, Oct, 2d. 1780.

SIR:

I am at present about seventy miles from Salisbury, in the fork of the Catawba, with about four hundred and fifty horsemen, in pursuit of Col. Ferguson. On my crossing the Catawba River, I dispatched to different quarters for intelligence, and this evening I was favoured with this news, which you may depend on: That Col. Clarke, of the State of Georgia, with one hundred riflemen, forced his way from South Carolina to Georgia. On his route thither, being joined by seven hundred men, he proceeded to the town of Augusta, and has taken it with a large quantity of goods; but not finding it prudent to continue there, he has retreated to the upper parts of South Carolina, in Ninety Six district, and made a stand with eight hundred brave men. This moment another of my expresses is arrived from Cols. McDowell and Shelby; they were on their march, near Burke Court House, with fifteen hundred brave mounted men, and Col. Cleveland was within ten miles of them with eight hundred men, and was to form a junction with them this day.

I expect to join them to-morrow, in pursuit of Col. Ferguson, and under the direction of heaven I hope to be able to render your honor a good account of him in a few days.

I am, &c.,

JAMES WILLIAMS.

Major General Gates.
October 2, 1780

Col. James Williams, Col. Thomas Brandon, Col. Edward Lacey, and Col. William Hill cross the Catawba River at Beattie’s Ford and make camp.

Col. William Graham and Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright of the Lincoln County Regiment (NC) with about 100 horsemen ride into the South Carolinians camp at Beattie’s Ford.

October 4, 1780

Patriot leaders at Gilbert Town send a letter, hand-delivered by Col. Charles McDowell (NC), to Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates:

We have now collected at this place about 1,500 good men, drawn from the counties of Surry, Wilkes, Burke, Washington, and Sullivan counties in this state, and Washington County, Virginia, and expect to be joined in a few days by Col. [Elijah] Clarke of Georgia and Col. [James] Williams of South Carolina, with about 1,000 more. As we have at this time called out our Militia without any orders from the Executive of our different states, and with the view of expelling the enemy out of this part of the county, we think such a body of men worthy of your attention, and would request you send a General officer, immediately to take the command of such troops as may embody in this quarter. All our troops being Militia, and but little acquainted with discipline, we could wish him to be a Gentleman of address, and able to keep up a proper discipline, without disgusting the soldiery. Every assistance in our power shall be given the officer you may think proper to take command of us. It is the wish of such of us are acquainted with [Brig.] General [William Lee] Davidson and Col. [Daniel] Morgan [VA] (if in service) that one of these Gentlemen may be appointed to this command. We are in great want of ammunition, and hope you will endeavor to have us properly furnished with article. Col. [Charles] McDowell will wait upon you with this, who can inform you of the present situation of the enemy, and such other particulars respecting our troops as you may think necessary.

Signed

Benjamin Cleveland, Isaac Shelby, John Sevier, Andrew Hampton, William Campbell [VA], Joseph Winston. [minor edits]

Col. Charles McDowell (NC) is the “senior” Colonel based upon date of rank. But, all others do not want him to lead the group going after Maj. Patrick Ferguson. So, they ask him to go to Hillsborough and find a “general officer” to lead them. As soon as he leaves, the group “elects” Col. William Campbell (VA) to lead them.
October 4, 1780

Col. Thomas Sumter (SC) arrives in Hillsborough, NC and meets with SC Gov. John Rutledge, who gives Sumter a commission as a Brigadier General over SC militia on October 6th.


Meanwhile, that night at Beattie’s Ford, a Council is held that includes Col. James Williams, Col. Thomas Brandon, Col. William Hill, Col. Edward Lacey, Col. Benjamin Roebuck, Col. William Graham, Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright, and Maj. William Chronicle. It is agreed that Col. Edward Lacey will ride to the camp of the other large Patriot group heading southward, and convince them to meet up. He rides late into the night, is not known very well by the others, and has to do some serious ‘splaining to get them on board.
October 5, 1780

Col. Edward Lacey leaves the camp of Col. William Campbell, et.al. and returns to the camp of Col. James Williams et.al. The “plan” is to all meet at the Cowpens asap.

By the end of the day:

▪ Col. William Campbell, et. al. is at Denard’s Ford, south of Gilbert Town. (one source says at Bedford Hill, near Denard’s Ford)

▪ Col. James Williams, et. al. is at Island Ford, just north of the Cowpens.

Both are unaware that they are only a few miles apart.
October 6, 1780

The VA and NC militia from the Watauga Settlement arrive at the Cowpens in northern SC. This group includes the units under Col. Benjamin Cleveland (NC), who has joined at Gilbert Town. Some men are “infantry,” but most are “mounted.” Contemporary accounts do not name all of the NC units that have assembled.

Col. James Williams (SC) arrives with ~450 men, many from NC; some men are “infantry,” but most are “mounted.”

Col. William Graham (NC) arrives with ~150 men from Lincoln County. Again, some men are “infantry,” but most are “mounted.”

Col. William Hill (SC) and Col. Edward Lacey (SC) arrive with ~200 men. There are many SC units from other parts gathered with Hill and Lacey, most contemporary accounts do not name any of them by “unit.” Maj. William Candler (GA) arrives with 30 men along with Hill & Lacey.

The officers convene a Council of War, and all agree with the earlier selection (10/4 – at Gilbert Town) of Col. William Campbell (VA) as the commanding officer. Several reasons have been documented.
October 6, 1780

Based solely on all the info provided on the previous 18 slides herein:

Col. William Campbell – Washington County Regiment (VA) 1,500
Maj. Joseph McDowell – Burke County Regiment (NC) [incl]
Col. Isaac Shelby – Sullivan County Regiment (NC) [incl]
Lt. Col. John Sevier – Washington County Regiment (NC) [incl]
Col. Benjamin Cleveland – Wilkes County Regiment (NC) 800
Col. William Graham – Lincoln County Regiment (NC) 150
Col. James Williams – Little River Regiment (SC) & NC Militiamen 450
Col. William Hill – Hill’s Regiment of Militia (SC) 200
Col. Edward Lacey – Turkey Creek Regiment of Militia (SC) [incl]
Maj. William Candler – Clarke’s Brigade of Militia (GA) 30

[10 identified Regiments]

The Council of War agree to select the best men who have the best horses, and to leave the “infantry” behind to follow as quickly as possible. Many accounts assert that they chose roughly 900 men to ride eastward, beginning immediately (that night).
October 7, 1780

Col. William Hill remains at the Cowpens; he is still recovering from wounds he had received at the battle of Hanging Rock (Aug. 8th). His regiment is turned over to Lt. Col. James Hawthorn.

Col. William Graham is escorted home; over night he had come down with a terrible cold / flu and was in no shape for battle. Another source asserts it was his wife who was sick and he felt compelled to go home. His regiment (Lincoln County Regiment) is turned over to Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright. Incredibly, many subsequent historians claim he turned it over to Maj. William Chronicle, who was killed early in the battle. Not quite the whole story. Hambright was of German descent and admitted that his broken English might be misunderstood, so he acknowledged to have Chronicle relay his orders to the men.

Because Col. Charles McDowell is riding to Hillsborough with a letter for Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, his regiment (Burke County Regiment) is turned over to his brother, Maj. Joseph McDowell. Two other NC regiments are with Maj. Joseph McDowell at Kings Mountain. They joined at Burke C.H.