

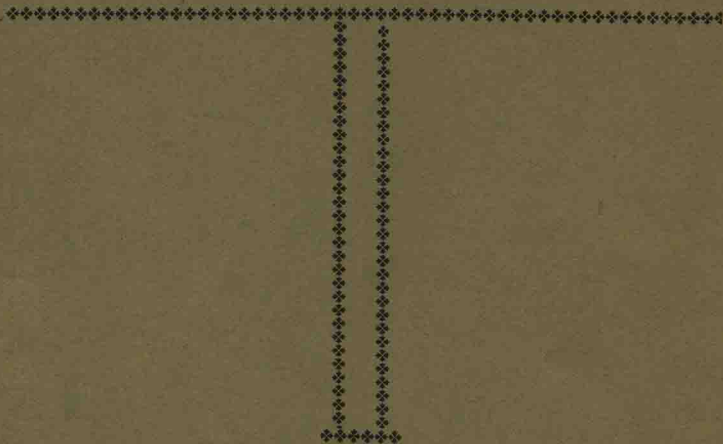
*The BATTLE of KINGS MOUNTAIN*

OCTOBER 7, 1780

*The BATTLE of YORKTOWN*

OCTOBER 18-19, 1781

*By G. G. PAGE*



1929

PRICE 35 CENTS PER COPY



Yours truly,

*W. L. Page*

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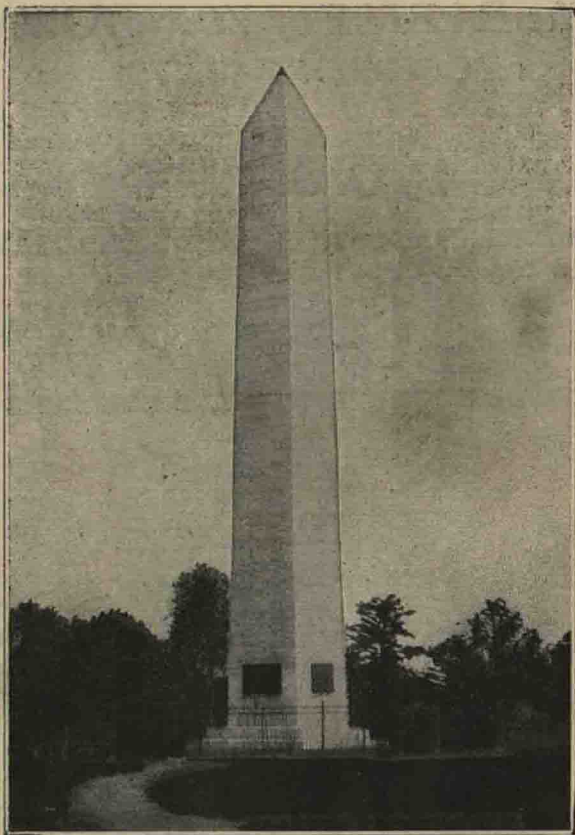
EDITOR THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD  
CHAIRMAN KINGS MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION

THIRD EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED

1929

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PUBLISHED BY  
THE HERALD PUBLISHING HOUSE  
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C.



Erected on the Kings Mountain Battlefield by the Federal Government at a cost of \$30,000. Stands 86 1-2 high. Unveiled October 7, 1909.

OFFICERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE  
BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

American:

Col. Campbell .....	Virginia
Col. Sevier .....	Tennessee
Col. Lacy .....	South Carolina
Col. Williams .....	South Carolina
Col. McDowell .....	North Carolina
Col. Winston .....	North Carolina
Col. Hambright .....	North Carolina
Col. Cleveland .....	North Carolina
Col. Shelby .....	Tennessee
Men .....	1,100

British:

Col. Ferguson  
Col. DePeyster  
Men 1,100

Losses:

American 28  
British 300

Time of Battle, Oct. 7, 1780,  
3 p. m. to 4:15 p. m.

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Cause of war, religious and political oppression.

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"Editor Page is an authority on the battle."—Editor Wade H. Harris in the Charlotte Observer.

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"The Battle of Kings Mountain was the turning point of the war of the American Revolution."—Thomas Jefferson.

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"It is an entertaining narrative of the Battle that put the British on the final run to surrender."—Editor Wade H. Harris in the Charlotte Observer.



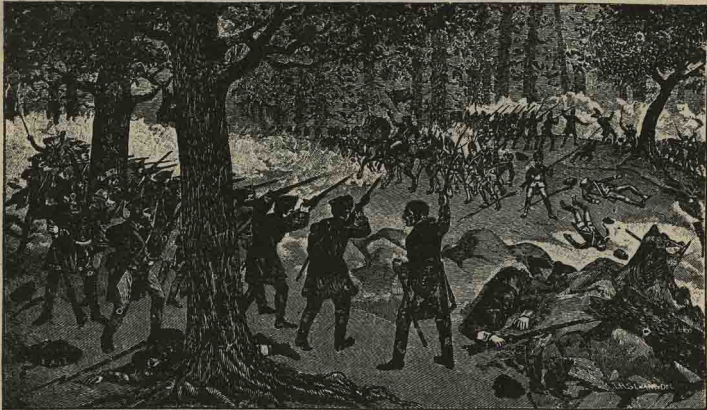
## FOREWORD

This little brochure is the third edition of a brief account of The Battle of Kings Mountain and is issued in response to a continued demand for just such a work. The first edition was issued in 1921 and was only an address delivered by the author before the Western North Carolina Press Association in session on the battlefield. The second edition, 1926, was very much enlarged over the first and carried additional addenda. The third edition has deleted some less important matter from the second edition and has added much more important data. This work undertakes to give the reader the connection between the battle of Kings Mountain and the final surrender at Yorktown and an explicit account of the Battle of Yorktown and the town itself, as it appeared at the time of the battle and now. Also efforts at the establishment of a National Military Park on the Kings Mountain Battlefield are recounted. The author offers this little booklet to the public in the hope that it will help to preserve accurately the history of two of the world's most decisive battles, Kings Mountain and Yorktown, and to inspire their proper recognition.

At the time of this writing, June 1929, a bill looking toward the establishment of a National Military Park on the Kings Mountain Battlefield is pending.

Very respectfully,

G. G. PAGE.



Imaginary view of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

## INTRODUCTION

History is history. It is a heritage that should be preserved and cherished. Time doesn't change established facts. What has been enacted can never be changed and what has been said cannot be taken back.

When Major Patrick Ferguson said that the Almighty could not remove him from Kings Mountain he reckoned without his host. The old Britisher failed to realize that he was in reality pitting himself against the "gods" not only, but against the Almighty being who created the very mountain upon which he stood and blasphemed.

Little did he think on that rainy October 7th morning in the historic year of 1780 when he was winding his men around the old quarry road about the cliffs and hollows and finally onto the arm of terra firma which he considered impenetrable by the Almighty himself, that he was drawing up at his final resting place. The Almighty, nor the Devil nor the rebels drove him from his proud eminence, but the sturdy liberty lovers of a virgin country did shoot the life out of him and took him feet first from his high place and buried his bones in a beef skin at the foot of the hill. He was taken down all right and no God-fearing man would doubt but that the Almighty which he defied earlier in the day directed the six bullets which threw him from his gallant gray steed just as the sun dial in the heavens had marked four in the afternoon.

The Kings Mountain Battlefield is situated in York county, South Carolina, nine miles south of the town of Kings Mountain, N. C., and about a mile and a half from the state line. The exact spot where the battle was fought has little or no claim as a mountain. The Kings Mountain range is about sixteen miles in length, extending generally from the northeast in North Carolina in a southwesterly course, sending out lateral spurs in various directions.

The battlefield belongs to the United States government. When preparations began in 1880 for the celebration of the Centennial of the battle the government purchased from Go-forth & Company forty acres, embracing the entire battle area, at a price of \$200. The battle site affords a fine location for a national park.

## THE BIRTHPLACE OF LIBERTY

It was in the Battle of Kings Mountain the liberty which we today enjoy was really born. Long had it slept in the bosoms of those God-fearing men who struck the decisive blow at this point, but on this mountain it leaped from its hiding into a new-found freedom. The battle of Kings Mountain was fought October 7, 1780, and was declared by no less authority than Thomas Jefferson to have been the turning point of the American Revolution. Just at the time when this



Southland was drenched in freedom's blood, commingled with that of tyranny, and the cause of liberty lay prostrate and sweltering in gore, this mighty conflict was staged. Ferguson was slain and his forces slaughtered. Not a man left to tell the story; what were not killed were captured. This broke the backbone of the British and so heartened the brave Americans, who were more in quest of God than gold, that they pressed forward and followed up their victory with continued successes until the surrender of the British at Yorktown, a year and twelve days later.

This battlefield is holy grounds; grounds that were hallowed by the blood of our forebears who bathed this mountainside in freedom's blood that the life blood might be drained from the tyrannical hand of bondage that would hold us in political and religious slavery forever. As the blood of our noble ancestors mixed with that of the tyrant on the summit and flowed together to the levels below, methinks that Heaven rejoiced anew that there had been a nation born where the living Gospel could have right-of-way in the hearts of men and that the tyrant's grip was loosed from the throat of the lovers of liberty. As the result of the conflict on this trysting ground all generations to follow were guaranteed the right to be born free, to worship as they please, with none to molest or cause to fear.

### LEADING UP TO THE BATTLE

In the battle of Kings Mountain the opposing forces were about equally divided, as compiled by Draper, eleven hundred on each side. The British forces, composed of Loyalists and Tories, were under command of Colonel Patrick Ferguson and were stationed along this ridge, or arm, of Kings Mountain. So well pleased was Colonel Ferguson with his situation that he made the boast that "God Almighty and all the rebels out of hell" could not move him. Realizing that he was being pursued by the American forces, collected at Cowpens, and fearing that he might be outnumbered and overpowered, and being desirous of making a clean-up job of the affair, he sent to Cornwallis, who was encamped at Charlotte, asking him to send Tarleton and his forces to his aid. As the American forces learned from stragglers along the way, Ferguson was making every effort to gain reinforcements in order that a glorious victory might be won for His Majesty, the King, and that he might add laurels to his own crown. But Providence, whom he had so recently challenged, took a hand, as He always takes a hand in every war, and the waters of Catawba river were so swollen that Cornwallis could not succor his subordinate.

The American forces were composed of the over-mountain men who had assembled at Sycamore Shoals, on the Watauga



river, and the Whigs of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, who had joined forces at Cowpens for the purpose of pursuing and getting Ferguson. As the Americans pursued the British from Cowpens they found the population of the thinly settled country much divided. Some were pronounced Tories and sided with the British on every occasion. Some were conscientiously opposed to war and followed the lines of least resistance being either Whig or Tory as the exigencies of the occasion might demand. Others were lovers of liberty and shared with Patrick Henry in his noble sentiment to "Give me liberty, or give me death." This class offered every assistance and fell in with the pursuers just as many Tories had joined the forces of Ferguson. Legend tells us that even after the firing began men from the neighborhood gathered their old muskets and hurried to the fray, some on one side, some on the other, neighbor pitted against neighbor, and one case is cited where two brothers went into the battle on the different sides and both were killed.

As Colonel Ferguson strutted about on the ridge and defied the Almighty and most probably ignorant of the nearness of the enemy, and cherished hope that reinforcements would reach him in time for the fight, the Americans were hastening to arrive ahead of Ferguson's reinforcements, and from stragglers along the way gaining information of the British camp and lay of the land. No such word as "fail" entered into the composition or calculations of Campbell and his men. Never was the war-cry of the ancient Romans that "Carthage must be destroyed" more ceaseless and determined than was that of the Americans to catch and destroy Ferguson.

Having secured the exact location of the camp the Americans, when less than a mile away, dismounted and left a few men in charge of the horses, formed two lines of march intending to entirely surround Ferguson. Colonel Cleveland led the line coming up on the west side of the mountain, and Colonel Campbell led the procession across the ridge just south of the old monument and drawing up on the east and north of Ferguson. The British were now in a pocket with the opening entirely too small to admit of retreat.

The American forces were located according to their leaders, as follows: Looking east just north of the old monument we begin with Campbell and follow around with Sevier, McDowell, Winston, Hambright, Cleveland, Lacy, Williams, and back to Shelby, who was facing Campbell.

"Well poys, when you see dot man mit the pig shirt on over his clothes, you know who him is, and mark him mit your rifles."  
—Colonel Hambright.

## THE BATTLE RAGES—FERGUSON FALLS—BATTLE ENDED—AMERICAN VICTORY.

While it is not definitely known just who fired the first shot, it is a generally accepted fact that the Americans began the hostilities. The fighting began about three o'clock and continued for an hour and a quarter. Ferguson began his defense with fixed bayonets, but found the old squirrel guns of the mountaineers too quick and accurate for that method of warfare and soon took up his rifle.

It had already become known to the American forces that Ferguson, himself, wore a checked shirt or duster over his uniform, which distinction, after discovered, made him an easy mark. His death was the main thing the Americans had hoped to accomplish, and Hambright had issued orders as follows in his Pennsylvania German accent: "Well, poys, when you see dot man mit the pig shirt on over his clothes, you know who him is, and mark him mit your rifles."

Ferguson's men, being at a greater elevation, were placed at the disadvantage of having to shoot downward and in grave danger of killing their own men, while the Americans, being at a lower level, were able to shoot over the heads of their comrades and with much better aim. They, too, had huge trees under which to take shelter, two of which now stand on yonder slope.

As the battle raged Ferguson, mounted on his gallant steed and blowing his shrill silver whistle, ripped and snorted from one point to another and summoned all his powers to encourage and rally his thinning ranks. Finally he was sighted by several Americans, apparently at the same time, and six bullets were fired into his body and he fell to the ground dead. It is said that the mountain was a veritable volcano of smoke and fire while the earth was rapidly being littered with dead bodies and drenched with blood. After Ferguson fell, Colonel DePeyster, the next in rank, assumed command of the British forces, but within about fifteen minutes dispaired and raised the white flag.

When the smoke of battle had cleared away and the dead were numbered it was found that 28 Americans had fallen while 300 British were slain.

What of the British remained alive were taken prisoners and not a man escaped to tell the tale. The prisoners were kept in camp that night on the battlefield and were the next day marched back over Rutherford county and other territory which they had so recently plundered and where many of them had lived prior to their joining themselves to Ferguson a few days before. It is said that many of them were identified by residents as being among the marauders and were handed unceremoniously.



## NOTES

A mound of rocks on the eastern hillside marks the spot where the body of Ferguson was buried. Legend has it that the bodies of the dead soldiers were rolled into holes with great difficulty among the rocks only to be scratched out by wolves and rooted out by wild hogs and devoured.

The battle of Kings Mountain was not only the turning point of the Revolution, but one of the decisive battles of the world.

There were nine colonels representing the American side; Campbell, of Virginia; Shelby and Sevier, from Tennessee; McDowell, Cleveland, Hambright and Winston, from North Carolina; Williams and Lacy, from South Carolina.

About a mile from the battlefield, on the road to the town of Kings Mountain, stands an old house which marks the spot where a widow named Dover, and her daughter, lived at the time of the battle. Colonel Hambright was wounded in the conflict and was taken in by these people and nursed back to health. He afterwards returned and married the younger lady and made his home with them.

Kings Mountain was not so named because the King's troops encamped here, but was known by that name long before. It derived its name from a man named King, who lived down on Kings creek, which also took his name. The possessive form of "King's" was long ago dropped by common consent and the plural form "Kings" adopted instead.

The town of Kings Mountain, N. C., took its name from the mountain. It had its beginning Easter Monday, 1873, when W. A. Mauney and J. S. Mauney came to this community and started up business. It is now a thriving town with about 6,000 population, paved streets, water, sewer, white way, 12 cotton mills, and other industries. Good schools and ten churches. Fine opportunity for investment and congeniality. Good water, N. S.

## COLONEL JOSEPH WINSTON

Among the heroes of the Battle of Kings Mountain is the name of Colonel Joseph Winston. He was born in Louise county, Virginia, June 17, 1746. He received a fair education for that day. He was of Welsh origin and of a family of distinction. He had many clashes with the Indians in Virginia and was a man fearless and aggressive fighter.

About 1769 he migrated to what is now Stokes county, North Carolina, and was a member of the Hillsboro Convention in 1775. In 1776 he was in the engagement against the Scotch Tories at Cross Creek, now Fayetteville. In 1777 he was a member of the House of Commons and a commissioner to treat with the Cherokee Indians. For his valiant service in



the Battle of Kings Mountain he was subsequently voted an elegant sword by the North Carolina legislature. The Battle of Kings Mountain was fought on North Carolina soil, the state line being afterward so changed as to place the battlefield in South Carolina.

Colonel Winston died April 21, 1815, in his 69th year. His home was within view of the lofty mountains of Stokes and Surry counties.

### CAPTAIN EDWARD LACY

Edward Lacy was born in Shippensburg township, Pennsylvania, September 1742. He was of military turn from his youth and ran away from his father at the age of thirteen and joined the Pennsylvania troops, serving in the pack-horse department, and was in Braddock's defeat. After two years absence his father found him and took him back home. When sixteen he again ran away and emigrated to the Chester district of South Carolina. In 1776 he married Jane Harper and settled six miles west of Chester Court House.

On the breaking out of the Revolution he became a Captain and served on Williamson's Cherokee campaign; and when the news reached them of the Declaration of Independence he read that patriotic paper to the army. He led the detachment that defeated the British Captain Huck, and served with Sumter at Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Carey's Fort, and Fishing Creek. At Kings Mountain he led the Chester troops and proved himself a faithful and valiant soldier.

After the war he led an active and important life. In 1797 he migrated to west Tennessee and later into Kentucky. While serving as county judge, he was thrown from his horse in a fit of catalepsy while crossing the swollen waters of Deer Creek in Kentucky and was drowned, March 20, 1813, at the age of 71 years.

### COLONEL JAMES WILLIAMS

Colonel James Williams was mortally wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain October 7, 1780, and died the next day. He was of Welsh descent and was born in Hanover county, Virginia, November, 1740. His education was very limited, and his parents dying, he early emigrated to Granville county, North Carolina. Ten years later he removed to what is now Laurens county, South Carolina, where he engaged in farming, milling and merchandising.

Colonel Williams took a decided stand against the mother country and was soon chosen a representative in the South Carolina Congress. He was very active in the Georgia and Florida activities of the Revolution as well as in his own

state of South Carolina.

At the age of forty years his young and useful life was snuffed out in the Battle of Kings Mountain and another of America's heroes was committed to the dust.

### COLONEL JOHN SEVIER

Colonel John Sevier was born on a farm near New Market, Virginia, September 23, 1745. He was of French, the family name being Xavier and having resided in Paris before moving to London and on to America. After the Indian war of 1755 the family removed for safety to Fredricksburg where John received some schooling.

About 1771 he visited the Holston country, carrying some goods with him for trade, and repeated the visit in 1772. In 1773 he removed his family to this country and located on the North shore of the Holston, six miles from the Shelbys.

John Sevier was among the foremost in the defense of the Watauga and Nolichucky settlements. He was very active against the Indians about his new home over the mountains and when the Revolution came along he was found equal to every occasion.

His gallant services at Kings Mountain cannot be too highly extolled. In this great battle, which was the turning point of the Revolution in favor of religious and political liberty, Colonel Sevier wrote his name indelibly into the hearts of the liberty lovers for all time to come.

Sevier held one important position after another and was the first governor of Tennessee which state was formed sixteen years after the war of the Revolution. He died September 24, 1851, in a camp on the bank of the Tallapoosa river, near Fort Decatur, Ala., while serving on a boundary commission to determine Creek territory.

### COLONEL BENJAMIN CLEVELAND

Boasting direct descent from Oliver Cromwell, Benjamin Cleveland was born in Prince William county, Virginia, May 26, 1738, in the famous Bull Run country. He was a hunter and adventurer and was never afraid to defend himself or his property. In early life Cleveland delighted to hunt in the forests and invited scraps with the Indians. He undertook to farm but made a poor out at it and was not a total abstainer.

In 1769 he removed with his family to what is now Wilkies county, North Carolina, where he opened up a farm, raised stock and hunted extensively. From Daniel Boone he learned of the charms of Kentucky and undertook to make a trip thither and met disaster with the Indians when they robbed his party of their belongings even hats and shoes.

When colonial taxation became the British law and the



traders who went to Cross Creek, nod Fayetteville, to trade were required to swear allegiance to the king before they could buy or sell, Cleveland quit the chase of wild beasts and interested himself in the king's tyrants.

While Cleveland rendered great service throughout the Revolutionary war in many places and in various ways, his crowning service was rendered in the battle of Kings Mountain. For his exceeding valour in this engagement he was awarded one of Ferguson's war horses and a snare drum as trophies of the battle to which he pointed with pride as long as he lived.

For several summers preceding his death Colonel Cleveland suffered from dropsy and he died sitting at breakfast in October 1806 in his 69th year. His bones now rest in an unmarked grave near the old homestead in the forks of the Tugalo and Chauga. No monument, no no inscription, no memorial stone. His old dwelling and outhouses have disappeared, but the muse of history will keep alive the name of Benjamin Cleveland, the terror of the Tories, the jolly old Round-About of the Yadkin.

### COLONEL JOSEPH McDOWELL

Colonel Joseph McDowell was born in 1756 at Winchester, Virginia. The family afterwards removed to the Catawba valley, settling a beautiful tract, known as Quaker Meadows. In 1776 he went against the Tories and from then on was quite active in the cause of liberty for the colonists. He was in the southern campaigns leading up to the Battle of Kings Mountain and here showed his real fighting spirit. He followed up the fight with the Tories to the last and after the war was held in high esteem by his fellowmen.

He died of apoplexy, at his home August 11, 1807. He was the idol of western North Carolina.

### COLONEL ISAAC SHELBY

Col. Isaac Shelby was born near the North Mountain in Maryland, December 11, 1750. He was the son of General Evan Shelby who was born in Wales in 1720. Isaac Shelby was reared amid the excitements of the Indian wars and obtained only the elements of a plain English education. In 1771 the Shelby connection removed to the Holston country. In the spring of 1779 he was elected a member of the Virginia legislature from Washington county. After the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina had been definitely located it was found that Shelby's residence was in North Carolina. He was then appointed by Governor Caswell a Colonel and Magistrate in Sullivan county.

In the summer of 1780 he was in Kentucky perfecting



claims for lands he had five years previous selected and marked off for himself. Upon hearing of the surrender of Charleston he returned home in July to enter the service. He found a message from Colonel Charles McDowell of Burke county urging him to furnish all the aid he could towards checking the enemy, who were running over the three southern states and had reached the western borders of North Carolina.

In a few days he crossed the mountains with two hundred mounted riflemen. These men showed their valor at Thickety Fort, Cedar Springs and Musgrove's Mill; reassuring the patriots that the British leaders could not ride, rough-shod, over the American people. Shelby's noble efforts in prosecuting the Kings Mountain expedition, his magnanimity in securing the appointment of Col. Campbell the chief command, and his heroic conduct in the battle, all combine to render his services, at that critical period, of the greatest importance to his country.

After the war of the Revolution Colonel Shelby held one important position and commission after another, including four terms as governor of Kentucky, and died of apoplexy in the 76th year of his age. Thus returned to the dust the body of one of America's real heroes and one whose name will be revered as long as religious and political liberty shall live among the sons of men.

### **COLONEL FREDERICK HAMBRIGHT**

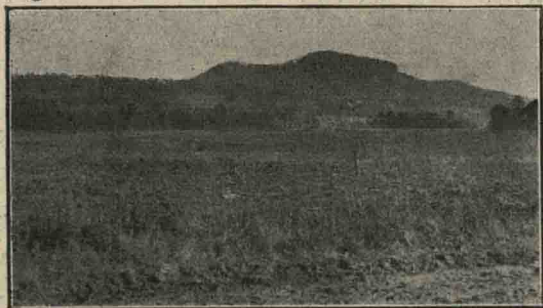
Colonel Frederick Hambright was born in Germany in 1727 and when quite a youth was removed to Pennsylvania by his parents. About 1755 he removed to Virginia and in 1760 migrated to Gaston county North Carolina. He was active in the political life of his county and had strong military inclinations. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Kings Mountain and was taken to the home of a widow Dover and her daughter who resided about a mile from the Battlefield on Kings Creek. He was there nursed back to health and again joined his forces. During the war his wife died and he returned and married the daughter of the widow who had nursed him after the Kings Mountain engagement and lived in their home the balance of his life. He died March 1817 in his 90th year and his bones today rest in old Shiloh Presbyterian cemetery, between the battleground and Grover, and in a most neglected condition.

### **COLONEL WILLIAM CAMPBELL**

Colonel William Campbell was a native of Washington county, Virginia. His services all through the war up to the time of his death August 22, 1781, at the residence of his wife's half brother, Colonel John Syme, at Rocky Mills, Hanover

county, Va., in his 36th year. LaFayette said upon hearing of the death of Colonel Campbell he was "an officer whose services must have endeared him to every citizen, and particularly to every American soldier." The glory which General Campbell (he had become a general before death) acquired in the battle of Kings Mountain and Guilford Courthouse, will do his memory everlasting honor, and insure him a high rank among the defenders of liberty in the American cause."

His remains were buried at Rocky Mills and remained there until 1823 when they were removed to his old homestead, Aspendale, on the Holston.



### **KINGS MOUNTAIN PINNACLE**

Highest point east of the Blue Ridge and seven miles northeast of the Battlefield.

## FROM KINGS MOUNTAIN TO YORKTOWN

The battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780, was the turning point of the war of the Revolution. After that the Americans made steady advance until the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown October 19, 1781.

Morgan, heading the American forces, defeated Tarleton at Cowpens, S. C., January 17, 1781.

The battle of Guilford Courthouse, near Greensboro, N. C., March 15th, 1781, in which General Greene led the Americans against Lord Cornwallis, resulted in a draw. The British claimed the victory but Cornwallis admitted that another such victory and he would be undone.

General Greene next joined battle with Lord Rawdon at Hobkirk's Hill near Camden, S. C., April 25, 1781. General Rawdon was forced to withdraw his British troops and he retired below the Santee.

General Greene next turned his attention to Ninety-Six, in South Carolina, a strongly fortified post commanded by Colonel Cruger. This fort would have yielded to General Greene if Lord Rawdon had not heard of the plight and rushed aid to the British. The Americans stormed the fort June 18, 1781, but were unsuccessful and General Greene withdrew his forces.

Post after post in South Carolina fell into the hands of the Americans. Lord Rawdon withdrew to Charleston and left Stewart in command, near Orangeburg, S. C. What is said to have been the hardest fought battle of the war occurred at Eutaw Springs, S. C., September 8, 1781. The Americans won the victory and the enemy retreated to Charleston.

## THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

Lord Cornwallis had journeyed from North Carolina to the peninsula of Yorktown in Virginia. He did a lot of damage in passing from North Carolina. His cavalry troop destroyed property worth more than ten million dollars. General George Washington was now in New York and was informed of Cornwallis' movements. Washington had been engaging the British under Clinton but he left a force to threaten Clinton and hastened to oppose Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Cornwallis occupied the town with several of his ships anchored above Gloucester Point. The Americans formed a crescent about Yorktown. Washington, with his army, was stationed about three miles out in the country to the south. Nelson had the militia at Wormley's creek to the east, and Rocham-



beau to the west. The French fleet, Comte de Grasse commander, lay off in the river forming a block against the British.

Cornwallis found himself completely hemmed in as did Major Ferguson at Kings Mountain. He undertook to cross over to the Gloucester side where part of his army was stationed. He had prepared battoes in which to escape across the river whenever opportunity would afford. At high noon the movement began. With muffled oars Cornwallis led in an attempt to cross the river in the small boats. When about mid-stream a storm arose and the little craft were not able to withstand the elements. Some were driven ashore, some capsized, and others captured by the French ships. Part of the English fleet was also sunk and some captured by the French. Before the British ships were taken Cornwallis directed that everything of any value be thrown overboard, and it is said that a large and heavy chest filled with money and other valuables was thrown into the river to prevent it falling into the hands of the Americans. It is said that the York river has been dragged many times in the hope of finding the Cornwallis treasure but no trace of it has been reported. This occurred October 18, 1781, and the following day, October 19, 1781, the surrender was made.

Cornwallis resorted to his last strategy by writing to Washington asking that the actual surrender be deferred another day on account of sickness. It is said that he sent to New York for reinforcements and was hoping that the help would arrive in time to save the situation if it could be put off another day. Washington heard of the strategy and hastened to close the transaction. It is well that he did, for at the very time the messages were being exchanged the desired ships were entering the river with reinforcements from the British Army. One was sunk at the mouth of the river by the French, and others were driven back. Washington insisted that the surrender must be made that day, the 19th.

Cornwallis declined to surrender in person but sent his sword by General O'Hara, in retaliation for which General Washington declined to accept it and deputized General Lincoln to receive it. This was a sweet experience for General Lincoln as he had been forced to surrender to an inferior at Charleston the previous year.

Thus ended the great Revolutionary War and America was free.

## **YORKTOWN AND THE BATTLEFIELD**

Being chairman of the Kings Mountain Battlefield Commis-

sion and looking toward the establishment of a National Military Park on the historic spot where American liberty was won I am naturally interested in other battlefields and park developments. With this in mind I visited the Yorktown battlefield July 12th and 13th, 1928, for the purpose of making a study of the place where Cornwallis surrendered to Washington a year and twelve days after the battle of Kings Mountain, thus bringing to formal close the War of the Revolution. There was an incessant downpour of rain both days I was on the grounds which militated to my disadvantage in seeing all the sights and gathering desired data.

Yorktown is situated on the north shore of York river in Virginia. Just across the river over in Gloucester, were pointed out the former abode of Powhatan and the place where Pocahontas interceded for and saved the life of Sir John Smith in the days of the early settlements. It is really a port of entry as the big liners come up to her docks. Five miles away is the railroad station, Lee Hall.

### MANY OLD HOUSES

Upon entering the town of Yorktown one's first impression is the sight of so many empty old houses. This may be accounted for when we learn that the population of the town at the time of the surrender in 1781 was 3,600 while it is now barely 300 and only 125 of these white. While I was unable to talk with many of the natives I did secure a pamphlet written by Mrs. Sidney Smith from which I gained valuable information and from which I shall freely quote. Anything found in this article in quotation marks may be credited to Mrs. Smith.

### THE TOWN ITSELF

"The Town of York (now Yorktown) was laid off in 1691 by Laurence Smith, surveyor. The king issued orders that fifty acres of land should be bought and laid off for a shire town (court-house town), and must be paid for from the king's treasury (which was tobacco.) The land belonged to Benjamin Read, of Gloucester, and the amount paid for it was ten thousand pounds of tobacco. The river on which Yorktown was built was first called the Charles River, and afterwards the York, from York in England, from which the town and river took their name."

"The price paid for each lot (a half acre) was 180 pounds of tobacco."

"Yorktown has been burned three times and very few of the old houses remain. All that is left of the Revolutionary



breastworks are a few mounds which will be seen on the left-hand side of the road as one leaves the monument. All of the forts around Yorktown were products of the Revolution but were reinforced during the War Between the States by Magruder when McClellan came up the Peninsula."

Among the old relics is the Episcopal church, built in 1700, constructed of oyster shells and a formation of rock and sand stuccoed. It is said that General George Washington worshipped in this church. In the yard of the church are many old tombs chief among them being six generations of the Nelson family who figured so largely in the early history of Virginia. The Bank of Yorktown is now housed in the old custom house said to have been built 1715. One old house was pointed out as having been erected in 1699 and said to be the oldest building now standing.

The first bank and first postoffice building in America were pointed out among the relics.

### CORNWALLIS' CAVE

Among the points of interest is Cornwallis' cave. I will let Mrs. Smith tell about this except that I want to say that I found a pint of liquor in it while bruising around. It looked as if it were half hidden and placed there for somebody.

"Cornwallis' cave, down under the hill, is said to have been the hiding place of Cornwallis during the siege of Yorktown. We cannot think this of the brave general at the head of the British Army. Perhaps if he went in the cave it was, just as the sightseer goes, to look at it. It is thought to have been a smuggler's cave. The only way of getting into the cave was through a small hole just where the door now is. By means of a ladder of some make anyone could crawl in and out without being seen. This cave was used during the Civil War as a magazine. A large fort was built around it to protect it. A passageway was constructed which led to the cave, and the holes which are cut in the cave were made to hold the large beam used in making the passageway. Some time after the war all of this gave way and fell in. The owner of the place cleared away the debris, dug out a place of entrance, put up a door, and at the time of the Centennial of 1881 began to charge an admission fee of ten cents. Whatever its history the cave is one of the places of interest of Yorktown and should be seen by all visitors. Upon entering one finds himself in a large room, to the right of which is a smaller room.

### THE POINT OF SURRENDER

A large National cemetery is central of all the relics of the



battle of Yorktown. Just outside this and near a corner is a small monument in the corner of a wood and in somewhat of dilapidated condition. It is at this point that it is claimed that the sword of Cornwallis was delivered to one of Washington's officers. There is some question in the mind of Mrs. Smith and other historians as to whether this is the exact spot of the surrender but in the absence of evidence to the contrary the claim stands unchallenged. The claim is made that Cornwallis did not surrender to Washington but sent General O'Hara to present the sword, and that General Washington refused to receive the sword from an inferior officer but deputized General Lincoln to receive it. This is said to have afforded General Lincoln a thrill for the previous year he had been forced to surrender to an inferior officer at Charleston.

### THE MAIN MARKER

The chief marker on the Yorktown battlefield today is a magnificent monument erected by the Federal government at a cost of \$95,000. \$100,000 was appropriated for this monument and the other \$5,000 was used in improving the premises around the monument and building walks to it. Appropriation was made in 1781 but the monument was not erected until 1880.

"The sentiment of this monument is intended to convey the idea set forth in the dedicatory inscription that by the victory of Yorktown the independence of America was achieved. The four sides of the base contain, first, an inscription dedicating the monument as a memorial of victory; second, an inscription presenting a succinct narrative of the siege; third, the treaty of alliance with the Kings of France; fourth, the treaty of peace with the King of England.

"In the pediments over these four sides are carved, first, emblems of nationality; second, emblems of war; third, emblems of alliance; and, fourth, emblems of peace.

"The base is devoted to the historical statements. On the circular pediment are thirteen female figures, representing the thirteen original States. On the belt beneath their feet are the words, "One Country, One Destiny, and One Constitution."

The thirty-eight stars on the column represent the thirty-eight States that had been admitted to the Union up to the time that the monument was erected. In the midst of the stars is the shield of Yorktown, "The Branch of Peace." At the top stands the Goddess of Liberty, star-crowned, welcoming the people of all nations to share with us our peace and prosperity. The monument is ninety-five feet six inches in height.

# STEPS TOWARD A NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

## ON KINGS MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

This section of this booklet is given over to the history of actions toward memorializing this great battle and its heroes. A careful study of this data will bring out many historical facts not covered in any other portion of the work. We invite your careful perusal of the report of the commission appointed to investigate the situation and report to Congress upon the feasibility of the establishment of a National Military Park on this historic shrine.

### REPORT

(To accompany H. R. 14449)

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 14449) to provide for the preservation and improvement of the battle field of Kings Mountain, S. C., having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

Your committee feels that it is highly fitting to set aside the ground upon which was fought the great battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. Previously there had been a series of discouraging defeats to American arms, such as Camden, Savannah, and Charleston. The British Government regarded the South as practically subjugated. Lord Cornwallis was moving northward to complete the work in North Carolina and Virginia. Colonel Ferguson, a talented and brave Scotch soldier was in command of one of the three parts into which the British Army had been divided. He had taken up a temporary position on a spur of Kings Mountain, very near to the line between North Carolina and South Carolina, and on October 7, 1780, was completely surprised, himself killed, and his entire force either killed or captured by the patriot bands under Colonels Campbell, Williams, McDowell, Shelby, Sevier, and Cleveland. This notable victory was followed 100 days later by the equally brilliant triumph of American arms under Gen. Daniel Morgan, Gen. Andrew Pickens, Col. William Washington, and others, at Cowpens, about 30 miles to the southwest, in South Carolina, and thereafter victory followed victory until the glorious and final success at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. Thus the casual connection between the victory at Kings Mountain and the final achievement of independence is distinctly and indisputably established. For this reason the battle ground of Kings Mountain should be regard-



ed by American patriots as sacred, and the title to the soil should be in all the people, so that they may go at will and visit under comfortable and attractive conditions and surroundings this cherished shrine of all patriotic hearts.

## REPORT OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION

Charleston, S. C., November 21, 1928.

Subject: Report of proposed Kings Mountain Battle Field Park.  
To: The Secretary of War, through the Quartermaster General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.

The commission, appointed by the Secretary of War to inspect the battle field of Kings Mountain, S. C., and to report on the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study this battle field, has the honor to submit the following report:

1. Law authorizing investigation.—This report is made pursuant to the provisions of the following act of Congress:

(PUBLIC—No. 246—70TH CONGRESS)  
(H. R. 11140)

AN ACT To provide for the inspection of the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled That, to assist in the studies and investigations of battle fields in the United States for commemorative purposes, authorized by an act approved June 11, 1926 (Public, numbered 372, Sixty-ninth Congress), a commission is hereby created, to be composed of the following members, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of War: (1) A commissioned officer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army; (2) a citizen and resident of York County, State of South Carolina; (3) a citizen and resident of Cleveland County, State of North Carolina; (4) a citizen of Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Sec. 2. In appointing the members of the commission created by section 1 of this act the Secretary of War shall, as far as practicable select persons familiar with the terrain of the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, and the historical events associated therewith.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the commission, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to inspect the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such field. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and an itemized statement of its expenses to the Secretary of War not later than December 1, 1928.

Sec. 4. There is authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum



of \$1,000, or such part thereof as may be necessary, in order to carry out the provisions of this act.

Approved, April 9, 1928.

2. Personnel of commission.—In accordance with the act quoted above, the Secretary of War appointed the following commission:

Member from York County, S. C., Mr. A. M. Grist.

Member from Cleveland County, N. C., Mr. G. G. Page.

Member from Cherokee County, S. C., Mr. Jacob F. Ham-bright.

Engineer officer, Maj. N. Y. DuHamel, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, district engineer, Charleston, S. C.

3. Meetings of the commission.—The commission met on the battle field at Kings Mountain, S. C., July 6, 1928, at which time it was organized. All members were present.

Such other meetings and investigations as were necessary have been made by the members of the commission and by those employed by them to secure the necessary information required for this report.

4. Object and character of report.—The commission is directed to report on the feasibility of preserving and marking for professional military study the battle field of Kings Mountain, S. C.

The desirable effects to be expected from the marking and preserving of the battle field are in part briefly as follows:

(1) The marking and preserving of the battle field for historical and professional study.

(2) Preserving and making accessible to the present and future generations the scene of an important historical event.

(3) Commemoration of the action of the armies on these fields.

(4) Aid in the development of patriotism.

(5) The Battle of Kings Mountain has been considered the turning point of the Revolutionary War in so far as the operations in the area included in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia are concerned, but the scene has been somewhat inaccessible and has received but little recognition by the Government. The marking and preserving of the battle field by the making of a park would assist materially in changing this condition and bringing the event properly before the people.

(6) Such a development should have a desirable commercial effect for the adjacent communities.

In the plan proposed the execution will necessitate studies, surveys, detailed plans, and adjustments to make the plan fit unexpected conditions that may arise.

5. Location of battle field.—The battle field is located in York County, S. C., in latitude approximately 35 degrees, 8 minutes north and in longitude approximately 81 degrees 23

minutes west. The nearest rail road station is at Grover, N. C., on the main lines of the Southern Railway. The distance from this station to the battle field is about 4 miles by unimproved road.

6. Summarization of battle.—The battle of Kings Mountain took place on October 7, 1780. The United States forces, between 900 and 1,500 in number, served as units under their individual leaders, the senior of whom was Col. James Williams. The British forces, approximately 1,100 in number, were commanded by Maj. Patrick Ferguson. The engagement lasted about one hour and the total killed and wounded on both sides are believed to amount to 475.

7. Classification of battlefield.—In House Document No. 1071, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, Kings Mountain has been classified as a Class II battle field. However, the importance of this battle field and the Revolutionary struggle in the South has long been felt and was given early recognition by monuments having been erected by local people as early as 1815, by the States of North Carolina and South Carolina in 1880, and the by the United States in 1909. "The battle of Kings Mountain was the turning point of the War of the American Revolution." (Thomas Jefferson.)

8. Historical places.—The commission inspected the points of historical interest on the battle field. Some of the main historical features are the following:

(a) A monument erected by the United States Government marking the site of the battle of Kings Mountain. This monument was erected in 1909. It is in good condition and is now in the custody of the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina. Photograph of the monument is shown in Appendix C.

(b) A monument erected by the States of North Carolina and South Carolina marking the site of the battle field. This monument was erected in 1880. It is in fair condition and is in the custody of the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina. Photograph of the monument is shown in Appendix D.

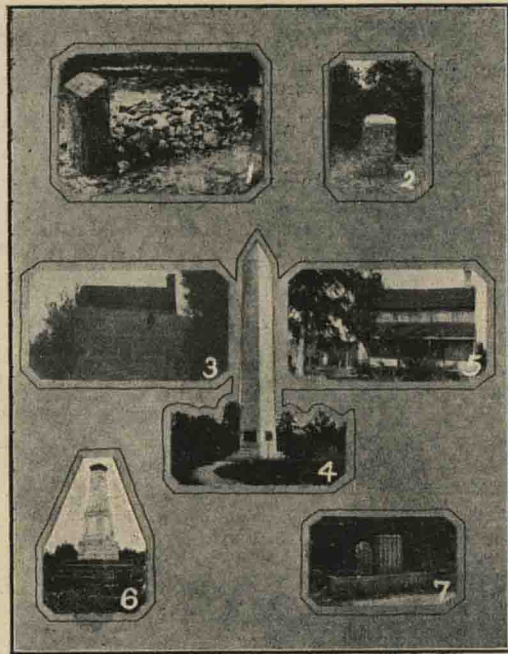
(c) A granite marker indicating the spot upon which Major Ferguson was killed. This was erected by the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina, its present custodian, in 1909. It is in good condition. Photograph of the marker is shown in Appendix E.

(d) A granite marker indicating the spot where Major Ferguson was buried. This was erected by the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina, its present custodian. It is in good condition. Photograph of the marker is shown in Appendix F.

(e) A granite marker indicating the graves of Maj. William Chronicle, Capt. John Mattocks, William Robb, and John Boyd.



## MONUMENTS AND RELICS



1. Grave of Major Patrick Ferguson, leader of British forces, slain in battle.

2. Marking place where Ferguson fell.

3. Capt. John Weer's old home on Highway No. 20 near Buffalo Creek.

4. Monument erected by Federal Government at a cost of \$30,000 marking center of battle operations, unveiled amid patriotic ceremonies October 7, 1909.

5. Col. Frederick Hambright old home near battlefield. Destroyed by fire September 25, 1927.

6. Monument erected on battlefield by N. C. and S. C. and unveiled during Centennial ceremonies Oct. 7, 1880.

7. Monument to battle heroes.



This was erected in 1815 by the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina, its present custodian, and is in poor condition. Photograph of this marker is shown in Appendix G.

(f) A granite marker alongside of the one mentioned in the preceding subparagraph was erected by the Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina, its present custodian, in 1909, to serve for the same purpose as mentioned in subparagraph (e) above. It is in good condition. Photograph of this marker is shown in Appendix G.

(g) A cliff under which the American troops left their horses before engaging in battle.

9. Attitude of the residents.—The residents of Cherokee and York Counties, S. C., and Cleveland county, N. C., are highly enthusiastic over the creation of the battle field park, and have the support of the citizens of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

10. Local cooperation.—The counties of Cherokee, York, and Cleveland have constructed roads leading to the site of the battle field in order that it might be accessible to visitors. York County is planning to improve its road leading to the battle field ground in order to take care of an increasing number of visitors. The Kings Mountain Battle Field Association has offered to give to the Government free of cost a plot containing approximately 40 acres, which includes the most important part of the battle-field area.

11. Land.—The estimated value of the land on the site of the battle field varies from \$20 to \$25 per acre. The investigation shows that not only no difficulty is to be expected in obtaining the necessary land but that a portion of that desired will be donated without cost to the Government. In the estimate of costs the maximum present estimated values of the land have been taken, but for any plan provisioner should be made for accepting a donation of land as well as for condemnation and for purchase by agreement. The details of land values and a description of the plots recommended for inclusion in the proposed park are given in Appendices A and B.

12. Maps.—There is submitted with this report a plot showing on a scale 1 to 5 000 the land recommended by the commission to be acquired by the United States to serve as a park. There is also included a topographical sketch of the immediate vicinity of the proposed battle field park, the topography of which is based upon the United States Geological Survey Quadrangle of Kings Mountain.

13. Parks.—The marking and preserving of a battle field can best be accomplished by creating a park. By doing so such development of the land as will change its topographic features is prevented and vandalism in the destruction of foliage and markers is minimized. The area under discussion is not

extensive and the cost of the land is very small. The site being 4 miles from the Bankhead National Highway, is on the road of dense tourist travel. Anything which is done toward marking and preserving the battle field improves both its historical and recreational value. There are included within the area recommended for acquirement as a park five springs which make the spot attractive to travelers and ideal for social gatherings.

14. Plans for battle fields.—Plan of the battle field is shown on the attached map and is a development based on the Gettysburg system for a memorial park. In this battle the British held a position and surrendered to an American attack. The area recommended to be acquired is shown by a broken line on the map. It includes the British position, the ground on which the actual fighting took place, the spot at which the American forces left their horses, and the area within which was formerly located the major portion of the road followed from that place to the British position. It is proposed to improve the springs on the battle field and to construct paths and a road making them and the historical points more accessible to visitors. It is recommended that the park be inclosed by an ornamental iron fence and that a dwelling house be provided for a caretaker. The monuments referred to in paragraph 8 have all been erected within the boundaries of the proposed park. It contains 201.47 acres.

This plan has the following advantages:

(1) Its area permits a fitting marking and preserving of the battle field.

(2) It includes the localities which were the scenes of important action during the battle.

(3) The cost is moderate.

(4) The roads and paths will render accessible all parts of the area and markers and monuments show the location of important points and events.

(5) It is sufficiently comprehensive in park area to permit its development as a memorial to troops engaged by furnishing a suitable setting for such monuments and memorials as may be desired.

15. Estimate of cost—

Land;

161.58 acres, at \$25 per acre ..... \$4,050

39.89 acres (donated) ..... 0

Roads;

18-foot disintegrated granite, 4 miles, at \$17,000  
per mile ..... 70,400

Paths; 5,000 feet, at \$.50 per foot ..... 2,500

Clearing underbrush ..... 10,000

Improving springs ..... 100

Tablets and markers;



5 tablets, large, at \$200 .....	1,000
20 markers, at \$50 .....	1,000
Fence; 22,704, at \$4 per foot .....	90,816
Dwelling house .....	6,000
Surveys and maps .....	3,200
Studies and planning .....	530
Overhead and contingencies, 10 per cent .....	18,950
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$208,546</b>

16. Estimate of cost of annual maintenance—	
Roads .....	\$400
Ground and paths .....	3,000
House .....	120
Fence .....	900
Caretaker's salary .....	1,200
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5,620</b>

17. Findings.—The commission finds that the marking and preserving for historical and professional military study of the battle field of Kings Mountain is feasible and it recommends that—

(a) The tract of land, including such plots described in Appendix B and comprising 201.47 acres be acquired by the United States.

(b) That the battle field be marked in a manner similar to the battle field of Gettysburg by placing markers where necessary to mark the important points.

(c) By the construction of roads and paths so that the more important points be made reasonably accessible.

(d) That by the improvement of existing springs and clearing of underbrush, the natural attractiveness of the area be increased.

(e) That by the construction of a fence and caretaker's dwelling that provision be made for its protection and maintenance.

(f) The estimated cost is \$208,546, with an estimated yearly maintenance cost when completed of \$5,620.

(g) That an allotment of \$208,546 be made in a lump sum.

Respectfully submitted.

G. G. Page, Chairman  
A. M. Grist  
Jacob F. Hambright  
N. Y. Du Hamel, Major, Corps of Engineers.

#### APPENDIX A.—Details of Estimate of Cost.

1. Land.—An investigation showed that \$15 to \$25 per acre is a fair value of the land desired. The estimate of cost is based on \$25 per acre, as the plots in some cases were only



parts of holdings and, bordering on the road, are worth more than the average run of land.

2. Roads.—The estimate of the cost of road is based upon cost of similar work undertaken by the county of York, S. C., and if for an 18-foot disintegrated granite road; thickness of stone at crown 10 inches, distance, center to center, of side ditches, 26 feet.

Cost estimates are based on the following: Clearing and grubbing through woods, \$200 per acre; grading, \$4,000 per mile; surfacing, including disintegrated granite obtained locally, \$8,800 per mile; culvert pipe 24 inches in diameter, \$4 per foot; guard rail, 75 cents per foot.

Based on these figures the average estimated cost of road complete but not including land, is \$17,600 per mile. Road maintenance is estimated at \$100 per mile a year.

3. Paths.—Cost estimates are based on a path 5 feet wide including grading and surfacing of crushed stone obtained locally. The average cost is placed at 50 cents per foot.

4. Clearing of underbrush.—It is estimated that to clear out underbrush and dead timber will cost \$50 per acre. The annual maintenance of paths and the keeping down of weeds will cost \$15 per acre.

5. Improving springs.—It is estimated the clearing out of five springs and building of catch basins will cost \$100.

6. Tablet and markers.—The estimate is based upon those used at Antietam.

General type of large tablet (size, 47 by 25 inches).

“U. S. A.

“Second Army Corps

“Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, commanding

“September 15 and 16, 1862

“Richard’s Division of the Second Corps, preceded by the Fifth New Hampshire as skirmishers led the Infantry advance from South Mountain on the morning of September 15 and reached this point early in the afternoon, the skirmishers engaging those of the enemy beyond the Antietam. Sedwick’s and French’s divisions passed through Keedysville late in the day and bivouacked in the fields west of that place.”

General type of marker (size, 8 by 23 inches);

“Burnside’s Bridge

“1,000 yards”

The commission is of the opinion that a satisfactory marking of the battle field can be obtained by the following average number for each battle field and have made the esti-

mates on this basis. Large tablets, 5; markers, 20.

Estimated cost to include transportation, building bases, setting up, and preparing ground.

Large tablets, each ..... \$200  
Markers, each ..... 50

7. Fence.—The estimate of cost of a fence is based on a wrought-iron picket fence at \$3 per foot; footings and erections \$1 per foot; making the complete cost \$4 per foot. The annual maintenance is estimated to average \$900 per year.

8. Dwelling house.—A substantial frame dwelling house for a caretaker erected within the park, is estimated to cost \$6,000. The annual maintenance is estimated to be \$60.

9.—Surveys and maps.—For detailed and accurate marking of the battle field a topographic map will be required. The cost of this map, covering an area of 2 square miles is estimated at \$2.50 per acre, or \$3,200.

10. Studies and planning.—To make the studies and research necessary to assure an accurate and detailed marking plan, it is estimated will take the following group one week:

Military historian ..... \$80  
Assistant and clerk ..... 40  
Draftsman ..... 40  
Books, stationery, and supplies ..... 40  
Rent and travel ..... 330

Total ..... 530

APPENDIX B.—Description of Land Recommended For Acquisition By The Government For Proposed Kings Mountain Battle Field Park.

(Metes and Bounds deleted)

Plot A.—Owner: Mr. Martin Hambright, 21.45 acres.

Plot B.—Owner: Mr. J. M. Rhea, 4.62 acres.

Plot C.—Owner: Mr. R. L. Short, 72.42 acres.

Plot D.—Owner: Mr. J. B. Ellis, 4.89 acres.

Plot E.—Owners: G. F., J. B., W. R., and R. E. Hambright, 22.21 acres.

Plot F.—Owners: Kings Mountain Battle Field Association of South Carolina; also known as the D. A. R. tract, 39.89 acres, (Donated.)

Plot G.—Owners: G. F., J. B., W. R., and R. E. Hambright 29.99 acres.

IN CONGRESS

December 6, 1928.

HON. JOHN M. MORIN,

Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,  
House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. Morin: I am forwarding to you today the report



of the commission created by and act of Congress (Public, No. 246, 70th Cong.), to assist in the studies and investigation of battle fields in the United States for commemorative purposes, authorized by an act approved June 11, 1926, (Public No. 372, 69th Cong.). It was the duty of the commission, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to inspect the battle field of Kings Mountain, S. C., in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such field. This report covers the ground very thoroughly and will, I hope, furnish your committee the information desired.

In considering the advisability of establishing a national military park at Kings Mountain, as recommended by the commission, I desire to invite your attention to the study made by the historical section of the Army War College by my direction and at the suggestion of the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate. In preparing this study the historical section took into consideration the fact that Congress has by various acts provided for the commemoration of battles in one of three ways; (1) By establishment of national military parks; (2) by indicating the lines of battles by markers or monuments, or both, without establishing parks; (3) by single monuments without otherwise marking the field. In recognition of these precedents the historical section divided battles within the United States into three classes, which are described in report No. 1071, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session. This report was approved by me on June 16, 1925, and adopted as a War Department policy. Under this policy the Battle of Kings Mountain was classified as one of those engagements which would be suitably commemorated by a single monument, tablet, or marker indicating the location of the battle field.

The Congress, by a bill approved June 16, 1906, appropriated the sum of \$30,000 for the erection of a monument on the battle field of Kings Mountain. This monument was completed in 1910 and in accordance with the above law, the responsibility for the care and custody of the same was transferred to the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Association of South Carolina.

In view of the fact that the battle field of Kings Mountain has been properly memorialized according to its classification through the erection by the Federal Government of a monument thereon, I can not concur in the recommendation of the commission that a national military park be established in commemoration of this battle.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS, Secretary of War.

