

Kings Mountain - October 7 The Revolutionary War Trust's (formerly Campaign) map of the Battle of Kings Mountain While General Charles Lord Cornwallis marched his troops into North Carolina, Major Patrick Ferguson gathered Loyalist militia near Gilbert Town.

The battle also effectively ended, at least temporarily, the British advance into North Carolina. Lord Cornwallis was forced to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina to wait for reinforcements. American forces went on to defeat the British at Cowpens. Ferguson would be the only British regular to serve at Kings Mountain. All other soldiers were Americans -- Patriot and Loyalist. Joining the British army at age 15, Ferguson was a well known marksman and the inventor of a breechloading rifle. The son of a Scottish judge, Ferguson had an affable disposition, a gentle face and was slight of build. Nevertheless, his soldiers named him "Bulldog. In , he joined the Seventieth Regiment of Foot in the West Indies, where British troops engaged in guerilla warfare with the native Carib tribes. Ferguson went for garrison duty at Halifax, Nova Scotia in but soon became bored. During one demonstration, Ferguson fired at a rate of shots per minute during pouring rain and high wind. Apparently, Ferguson only missed the target three times while firing from a distance of yards -- this was not possible with the British Brown Bess musket. A patent was issued and a limited number of the breechloading rifles were produced. Ferguson established an elite rifle corps which joined Sir Henry Clinton in America. The Ferguson rifles were removed and very few have been seen since. There is no evidence that the Ferguson rifle was used at the Battle of Kings Mountain. It was at the Battle of Brandywine that Ferguson distinguished himself further though many did not know about it until the 20th century. Ferguson did not pull the trigger, saying that "it is ungentlemanly to shoot a man in the back of the head. During the battle, he did not realize the identity of the American officer. While recuperating in the hospital from his arm injury, he discovered that the American officer in question was George Washington. Ferguson wrote that even if he had known, he would not have pulled the trigger. Ferguson later fought in the battles of Monmouth and Little Egg Harbor. He was also active in many other battles in the New York and Hudson area. Impressing his superiors with his valor, Ferguson was promoted to Major in Late that year, he was selected to command a corps of men, called the American Volunteers. The corps, along with Ferguson, arrived in the South in early February Ferguson, a persuasive individual, immediately gathered support in Savannah and Augusta before Clinton ordered him to Charleston. During the invasion of that city, Ferguson worked with the legendary Banastre Tarleton, who had angered many Patriots after his massacre of soldiers trying to surrender to him at Waxhaw. Author Washington Irving later wrote that Ferguson and Tarleton were "equally intrepid and determined but Ferguson is cooler, and more open to the impulses of humanity. Clinton and Cornwallis gave him the mission to organize a volunteer corps of Loyalists troops. The Scot was known for spending hours in conversations with the ordinary people around the villages and towns in South Carolina. South Carolina remained a Loyalist stronghold until the end of the war, largely due to his influence. While marching through the upcountry of South Carolina, the Loyalists engaged in minor skirmishes with militia regiments. His final objective was to march into Virginia. To protect his troops from guerilla attack, Cornwallis ordered Ferguson to move northward into western North Carolina before joining the main British Army in Charlotte. He sent a message to Colonel Isaac Shelby, whom he considered to be the leader of the "backwater men. The troops marched toward Gilbert Town and Ferguson. Spies told Ferguson the Patriots were on their way. Ferguson had stayed at Gilbert Town hoping to intercept another Patriot force, heading northward. Camping at Kings Mountain, near the North Carolina border, he sent a message to Cornwallis requesting reinforcements. Something must be done soon. He then organized a defense and prepared to meet the enemy. When the Patriots realized that Ferguson was not at Gilbert Town, they became determined to pursue and fight him. The soldiers followed Ferguson, leaving their weak comrades and horses at Gilbert Town. The soldiers learned from spy Joseph Kerr that Ferguson was definitely camped about 30 miles ahead in the vicinity of Kings Mountain. Fearing Ferguson would escape, the colonels selected of their best men to pursue the Loyalists. The Patriots marched through the night and the next day, through pouring rain and intermittent showers. They

reached Kings Mountain the next day, Saturday October 7 just after noon. Kings Mountain is an outlying portion of the Blue Ridge Mountains. A heavily rocky and wooded area, the mountain rises 60 feet above the plain surrounding it. The campsite was supposedly an ideal place for Ferguson to camp because the mountain has a plateau at its summit. The plateau is yards long and 70 feet wide at one end and feet wide at the other. The Scot considered the summit too steep to be scaled. After tying up the horses, the soldiers formed in a horseshoe around the base of the mountain behind their leaders, who remained on horseback. Ferguson was right in believing that his would be attackers would expose themselves to musket fire if they attempted to scale the summit. But Ferguson did not realize his men could only fire if they went out into the open, exposing themselves to musket fire. Most of the Patriot troops were skilled hunters who routinely killed fast moving animals. The fighting began around 3 p. After a brief skirmish, the shooting began in earnest when two of the Patriot regiments opened fire on the Loyalists simultaneously. The Loyalists fired back but the Patriots were protected by the heavily wooded area. But as one regiment was driven back, another would advance. Ferguson had to shift his reserves from one place to another while continuing to take heavy losses from the concealed American sharpshooters in the trees. During the battle, Patrick Ferguson commanded his men with the use of a silver whistle. The whistle and the checkered hunting shirt he wore over his uniform made the Scottish commander quite noticeable on the battlefield. After nearly an hour of fighting, Ferguson suddenly fell from his horse. One foot was hanging in his stirrup -- several, perhaps as many as eight bullets were in his body. Some accounts say he died before he hit the ground. Other accounts say that his men propped him against a tree, where he died. Ferguson was the only British soldier killed in the battle -- all others were Americans, either Loyalist or Patriot. Despite the call for surrender by the Loyalists, the Patriots could not immediately stop their men from shooting. Many Patriots remembered that the infamous Colonel Tarleton had mowed down Patriot troops at Waxhaw despite the fact that the troops were trying to surrender. Eventually, the fighting at Kings Mountain stopped. In all, Loyalists were killed, were wounded, were taken prisoner. Among the Patriot dead: Colonel James Williams of South Carolina. Soon it became dark and the cries of the wounded were heard and often unheeded. The next morning, the sun came out for the first time in days. Fearing that Cornwallis would soon be upon them, many of the Patriot militia left for their homes. A contingent of Patriots took the prisoners northward to the Continental Army jurisdiction in Hillsborough. During the journey, a number of prisoners were brutally beaten and some prisoners were hacked with swords. A number of unjust murders took place -- not the Patriots finest hour. The injustices continued a week later when a committee of Patriots appointed a jury to try some of the so-called "obnoxious" Loyalists. He remained in Charlotte a few days before withdrawing back into South Carolina to the British post at Winnsboro. The British could not count on reinforcements from other South Carolina posts to help them -- the news of victory at Kings Mountain had revived Patriot hopes. The victory triggered bonfires and street dancing in cities held by the Patriots. Patriot sympathizers increased their assaults on Tory neighbors. Wemyss and 25 of his men were captured. Sumter then moved with toward the British fort at Ninety Six. Tarleton stopped his pursuit of Marion and went to Fort Ninety Six. Tarleton lost men while the Americans only lost three. Tarleton then rejoined Cornwallis. Leslie was to be under the direct orders of Cornwallis. Greene saw that Cornwallis, who had left South Carolina, was getting further away from his train of supplies and provisions. Eventually, the two forces met in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Technically, the British won that battle but it was a Pyrrhic victory because British losses were high. One man in four was killed, wounded or captured. Throughout the summer, skirmishes were fought across the Carolinas and Virginia. In September, the army of Cornwallis and the army of Washington met at Yorktown. After a day battle, Cornwallis surrendered.

Chapter 2 : October 7, Battle of King's Mountain | Foundation Truths

The battle took place on October 7, , 9 miles (14 km) south of the present-day town of Kings Mountain, North Carolina in what is now rural Cherokee County, South Carolina, where the Patriot militia defeated the Loyalist militia commanded by British Major Patrick Ferguson of the 71st Foot. The battle has been described as "the war's.

Paperback Verified Purchase I purchased this book by J. David Dameron because of my interest in the Revolutionary War. Major Patrick fergusson, who commanded loyalist forces, was the only British soldier present at the engagement. The patriot forces were commanded by William Campbell, although other officers of distinction were there as patriot militia leaders, including Isaac Shelby and John Sevier. This book is divided into an introduction, three chapters, and some appendix type information. In short, the British army under Cornwallis, based in South Carolina, was attempting to take over North Carolina in a drive north to Virginia. Stunningly there were many loyalist who actually volunteered as militiamen for the crown, and joined with Cornwallis. The British thrust had to be stopped, so the Overmountain Men gathered at Sycamore Shoals and proceeded to hunt Fergusson! The patriots fought their way up the mountain, sometimes in small groups fire teams in modern terms. The loyalist countered with the bayonet, but eventually the loyalists fell back to the main camp area. Fergusson as killed, and it is alleged that patriots may have urinated on his dead body. Considering the atrocities carried out by the British army and loyalist militias, this would have been an understandable insult against their fallen foe. The loyalist force took the majority of the casualties. The total casualties for both sides was at least killed and wounded at this engagement, with of the killed being loyalists! One loyalist who survived the battle that day described the patriot militiamen as "tall, raw boned, sinewy, with long matted hair" p On civilian, a woman who tended camp for Fergusson and was probably also his mistress, was killed in the exchange, probably accidentally. Dameron gives some brief information of the subsequent lives of some of the key participants of this battle. Dameron also talks about the history of the battlefield monuments and the park that is there today. In there was a monument erected on the battlefield tot the patriot militia who served there presumable by the state or private donors. Federal government erected a larger monument on the battlefield, dedicated to those who fell on both sides. I cannot imagine the patriots who fell there approving of that. Dameron likewise seemed to morn the loss of loyalist life at the battle. Overall, this was a decent book, which is why I only gave it four stars. I enjoyed Edgars "Partisan and Redcoats" much more than this book. One person found this helpful.

Chapter 3 : Kings Mountain National Military Park (U.S. National Park Service)

The Known Patriots at the Battle of Kings Mountain October 7, Most who study the Battle of Kings Mountain are certainly aware that.

This decisive battle successfully ended the British invasion into North Carolina and forced Lord Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina to wait for reinforcements. I also want to commend Lyman P. Benjamin Lincoln at Charleston in May and then Gen. Horatio Gates at Camden, British Lt. Charles Cornwallis appeared to have a clear path all the way to Virginia. Ferguson paroled a captured rebel and sent him with a message, "that if they did not desist from their opposition to the British arms, and take protection under his standard, he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword. A call to arms went out and they gathered at Sycamore Shoals. David Ramsey, in his history of South Carolina, written in , said, "hitherto these mountaineers had only heard of war at a distance, and had been in peaceable possession of that independence for which their countrymen on the seacoast were contending. They embodied to check the invader of their own volition, without any requisition from the Governments of America or the officers of the Continental Army. Each man set out with a knapsack, blanket, and gun. All who could obtain horses were mounted, the remainder afoot. The thoroughfare of their mission followed the only roadway connecting the backwater country with the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina. Leaving Sycamore Shoals, the column marched up Gap Creek to its headwaters in Gap Creek Mountain, and there turned eastward and then south, following around the base of Fork Mountain to Toe River, and on up that stream to one of its tributaries. Here the route continued in a southerly direction until the top of the mountain was reached, between Roan High Knob and Big Yellow Mountain. It is stated in the diary of Ensign Robert Campbell that "the mountains were crossed and descent to the other side was carted before camp was made for the night. Snow was encountered in the highlands, for an elevation of 5, feet was reached in this march. On the top of the mountain there was found a hundred acres of beautiful tableland, and the troops were paraded, doubtless for the purpose of seeing how they were standing the march, which was about 26 miles to this point". The following day the men who had camped at North Cove marched southeast down Paddy Creek, while those from Turkey Cove marched southerly down the North Fork and then hastily down the Catawba near the mouth of Paddy Creek. They continued down the Catawba to Quaker Meadows, the home place of the McDowells, and promptly made camp. During the five days that had elapsed since leaving Sycamore Flats, about 80 miles had been covered. An additional 30 Georgians, under the command of William Candler, joined the Patriot force at Gilberts Town, making for a combined strength of approximately 1, men. William Campbell to act as overall commander. The Colonels wanted to catch up with Ferguson before he reached Charlotte and Lt. Having little insight into the methods and philosophies of warfare of the southern frontiersmen, Ferguson had chosen the position feeling no enemy could fire upon him without showing themselves. The Patriot force decided to surround the mountain and use continuous fire to slowly close in like an unavoidable noose. The force was divided into four columns. Isaac Shelby and Col. Campbell led the interior columns, with Shelby on the left and Campbell on the right. They moved into their respective positions and began moving toward the summit. Ferguson used Provincial Corps to drive back Colonels Campbell and Shelby with a bayonet charge, but then his troops had to fall back from under sharpshooter fire. Ferguson was right in believing that his attackers would expose themselves to musket fire if they attempted to scale the summit. But he did not realize that his men could only fire if they went into the open, rendering themselves vulnerable to returning rifle fire. Most all of the Patriot troops were skilled hunters, woodsmen and above all, "riflemen" who routinely killed fast moving animals to feed themselves. Most were veterans of many years of frontier Indians war and were experts on "tree to tree" no rules combat. The Overmountain Men gained a foothold on the summit, driving back the staggering Loyalists. The noose was quickly closing in. Some accounts say he died before he hit the ground; others say that his men propped him against a tree, where he died. Ferguson was the only British soldier killed in the battle, all others were Americans, either Loyalist or Patriot. Abraham DePevster, bravely continued to fight for a brief time, but the confusion was so great and his

followers in such a vulnerable position that he realized further resistance was suicidal. He quickly raised the white flag of surrender. He surrendered his sword to Major Evan Shelby, Jr. William Campbell was the commanding officer of the day, but it is said that he had removed his tattered coat "and with open collar", not recognized as the commander. Despite the call for surrender by the Loyalists, the Patriot Colonels could not immediately stop their men from shooting. Many Patriots remembered that the notorious "Tarleton" had mowed down Patriot troops at Waxhaws despite the fact they were trying to surrender. Though the number of casualties reported varies from source to source, some of the most commonly reported figures are that Loyalists had been killed, wounded and were captured, while only 28 Patriots were killed, including Colonel James Williams, and 68 wounded. Historians agree that the Battle of Kings Mountain was the "beginning of the end" of British rule in its former colonies. In less than one hour of battle, the Overmountain Men not only captured the day but also undermined the British strategy for keeping America under its control. A defeat so crushing as that suffered by Major Patrick Ferguson is rare in any war. Although skewed, his position on Kings Mountain was thoughtfully selected using much experience and consideration. The plateau of the mountain was just large enough to serve as a battleground for his command and to provide space for his camp and wagon train. Water was near and plentiful. The slopes of the mountain would hinder the advance of the attackers. When attacked he expected that any retreat would be rendered perilous by flanking or encircling detachments, a condition he desired as his militia would be put to the task to stand and fight instead of having the choice to flee. It can be assumed without a shred of doubt that Patrick Ferguson utterly underestimated the courage of the mountain men. Their apparent advantage in numbers did not discourage him from offering battle; otherwise he would have continued his march on October 7th in the direction of Charlotte and Cornwallis.

Chapter 4 : Revolutionary War - Battle of Kings Mountain

After an all-night forced march in pouring rains, at three o'clock the afternoon of the following day, on the 7th of October, the men circled the mountain and charged.

Both were tall, rawboned men, clothed in doeskin, with moccasins covering their feet, long hunting knives belted at the waist. Each wore their hair long, tied back with leather cord. Wild beards grew from their cheeks and chin. They were mountain men, frontiersmen, from the west side of the Appalachians. Darius farmed corn and bean bushes outside the small village of Sycamore Shoals, along the bank of the Watauga River. Jethro trapped in the mountains to the east. The British had trounced Horatio Gates army at Camden, and when Lord Charles Cornwallis sent British Major Patrick Ferguson to clear out the Patriots from the remainder of the Carolinas, Darius, Jethro, and all the others mustered to protect their land, to protect their families, and to put paid to Ferguson and his army of Tory militia and Provincials. Jethro rose from behind the boulder protecting him and aimed down the inch barrel of his long rifle, resting the gun on top of the stone. One heartbeat, two heartbeats, and the rifle boomed, flames shooting at least 18 inches from the tip of the muzzle. The retort was loud, adding to the general cacophony of battle—the shouts, screams, and booming firearms almost deafening. Jethro slid to a sitting position to duck return fire as Darius turned to aim his weapon. Darius caught a glimpse of red cloth through the trees. It was hard to be sure; overgrowth clung thickly to the sloping sides of the hill. But not like us, mused Darius. We are not murderers. All of them heard the news back home. They spoke in hushed tones at muster. Them Continentals asked for quarter. Tarleton and his men slaughtered them. Again, he caught sight of the red cloth on the crest above them, and he squeezed the trigger. His long rifle bucked, spewing smoke and flame. The wind shifted, clearing the air, and the red cloth was gone. Darius put his back to the maple and squinted through the canopy above. He figured it was about 3: They had been fighting a short while. Many Overmountain Men were moving towards the crest, running from tree to rock. The Tories were terrible shots, their muskets inaccurate, but you needed to watch out for their volleys. To their left, Isaac Shelby had a group advancing up the west slope. Darius knew that there were about a thousand Patriots advancing on the hill. His rifle loaded, Darius turned to search for another target. Smoke swirled on the slope, ahead of Darius several of the Overmountain Men writhed on the ground. The Tories had volley fired into the advancing Patriots. The realization no sooner struck Darius, than a war cry rose from the ridge, and British Redcoats charged down the slope, the sun glinting off their lowered bayonets. To his left a pair of men fired their long rifles at the Redcoats. Darius saw a soldier fall, but the formation advanced, a mounted officer at their fore, urging them on, blowing a silver whistle, and pointing his saber directly at Darius. All around him, the Overmountain Men were running down the slope, trying to put as much distance as possible between themselves and those glinting bayonets, and without another thought, Darius ran. Damn them to hell! Ferguson knew he could end this battle here and now if the backwoods colonists would stand and fight, but stand they would not. The sergeants yelled and bullied the Provincials about him into a line. The Provincials responded by shaking powder in their measuring caps and pouring it in their Brown Bess musket barrels. The man next to Ferguson began to push the lead ball with his ramrod when suddenly he collapsed into the soldier behind him. Two more men flopped backward, and a sergeant screamed, a bloody flap of skin all that remained of his right ear. Ferguson could see the woodsmen at the bottom of the slope, reformed, covering behind thick trees, firing their long rifles. Darius slid behind a thick oak and reloaded, glancing at his winded friend as he did so. Jethro was right, the skirmishing seemed futile, a stalemate. Darius drew a long breath, sucking in the smoke-laced air. His legs burned with fatigue, and the burning made him smile. He was in the best of shape, a mountain man and farmer, capable of wringing a living from this hard land. If he was tired, those Redcoats had to be exhausted. One more push might do the trick. He focused his grin on Jethro. Once again the mountain men were coming. Less than of his Provincials stood ready to fight. Those in the ranks leaned on their rifles, those with water pulled heavily from their canteens, others tended to wounds on themselves or their neighbors. Ferguson blew hard on his silver whistle. His gaze swept the redcoats behind him, as proud of the Provincials from New York, as he had been of his Scotsmen in the 71st. Next came the

popping of individual muskets, and then a moment later a ragged volley. Ferguson stood in his stirrups, craning his neck to see. Below him, the Provincials fidgeted uneasily, to their front the loyalist militia cried for help. Hordes of rebel militia swarmed over the crest on three sides, swamping the loyalists. Darius looked away, swallowing the bile in his throat. A group of Patriots fired their rifles in quick succession, and Darius saw several of the Tories crumble. The Overmountain Men were close to the crest now, no more than fifteen feet, and many Tories panicked, throwing down their muskets, running from the howling woodsmen. There, a blond-bearded frontiersman offered his canteen to a wounded Redcoat. Next to him, Jethro fired, the ball catching a green-coated Tory in the side of the head, felling the man like a tree. Darius stopped to reload, his eyes sweeping the chaos in front of him. The smoke parted, revealing a knot of Redcoats and Tory militia who still resisted, led by the sword-bearing British officer. Several Patriot rifles cracked and the officer jumped as if stung by a bee. An instant later he slid from his white stallion, landing hard on his back. Darius aimed at the supine figure, but the smoke hid the officer before he could fire. Everywhere the Overmountain Men poured onto the hilltop. The Tories pleaded for mercy. Sure enough, the toothless man was right. Hundreds stood surrounded by Overmountain Men. Redcoats and Tories alike, their enemy stood with their hands in the air or begged on bended knee for their life. Darius lowered his rifle until the ball sights rested on a pleading Redcoat. Approximately a thousand Overmountain Men from Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina fought a similar number of Tory militia and red-coated Provincials, defeating them in a little over an hour on the afternoon of October 7, Colonel William Campbell led the Overmountain Men, although the men tended to follow the leader that recruited them, be it Campbell, Shelby, McDowell, or whoever, into battle. Ferguson commanded the Tories, the only British soldier on Kings Mountain. Ferguson would organize a charge with the Provincials, and force the woodsmen back down the slope. Brutality characterized the Revolutionary War in the south. In fact, it was a civil war, Tory against Patriot, and bloody reprisals, hangings, rape, and murder were commonplace. I drew the characters from my imagination, loads of research, and thirteen years of experience living among their descendants. Most historians place his wounding and subsequent death at the north end of the mountain. Darius appears to witness it just north of the southern crest. This is the fourth of four articles about Southern battles of the American Revolution written exclusively for ArmchairGeneral. Click here to read Guilford Courthouse , Cowpens , and Camden. About the Author Mark H. Walker is a former US Naval Officer, the author of 41 nonfiction books and three novels. He is a games editor for Armchair General magazine. Carolina Rebels , reviewed by ArmchairGeneral. Walker, Incredibly well written â€” I have thoroughly enjoyed your previous articles, and this one is of the same high quality if not better. Or perhaps you have already written enough books 44! In any case, good job. Looking forward to your future articles, which will be about?

Chapter 5 : Battle of King's Mountain South Carolina: a Virtual Cemetery - Find A Grave

On this day in history, October 7, , the Battle of Kings Mountain turns the tide in the southern campaign of the American Revolution. The patriots in the south had suffered a string of devastating defeats with the fall of Savannah and Charleston, and the capture of two major Continental armies at Charleston and Camden.

Ferguson issued a challenge to the American militias to lay down their arms or suffer the consequences. Achieving a complete surprise, the Patriot militiamen attacked and surrounded the Loyalists, inflicting heavy casualties. After an hour of battle, Ferguson was fatally shot while trying to break the American line, after which his men surrendered. Later they executed nine Loyalist prisoners after a short trial. The battle was a pivotal moment in the Southern campaign. With Ferguson dead and his Loyalist militia destroyed, Cornwallis was forced to abandon his plan to invade North Carolina and retreated into South Carolina. William Campbell and consisted of about Soldiers. British Forces was commanded by Maj. Patrick Ferguson and consisted of about 1, Soldiers. Casualties - American casualties were estimated to 28 killed and 62 wounded. British casualties were estimated to be killed, wounded, and captured. Outcome - The result of the battle was an American victory. The battle was part of the Southern Theater He turned the head of his command southward, making a deliberate hook maneuver onto a ridge line 36 miles west of Charlotte. There, he established his men in a defensive posture atop a ridge known locally as Kings Mountain. Neither men were able to send any men to Ferguson. Ferguson was now isolated on Kings Mountain without any chance for reinforcements. Sentries were placed below the rim of the hilltop to provide early warning of any Patriot attack. They were organized into four main units. With everyone in place, Ferguson waited for the Patriots to come and attack him. Ferguson parked his 17 wagons in a semi-circle on the northeast corner of the plateau. This is also where he established his headquarters and encampment. Outraged by this, the Patriot force set out to destroy the Loyalists. Soon, the Patriot militia was joined by other troops from both Carolinas and Georgia. Campbell was given command of the overall force. Campbell took of the best men and took off for Ferguson. Campbell divided his force into two divisions of nearly equal strength. The divisions were further divided into four linear columns to better maintain unit integrity during their approach to the high ground and to more rapidly reach their respective assault positions. Shelby and Campbell led the interior columns, with Shelby on the left and Campbell on the right. The right flanking column was led by Sevier. The left flanking column was led by Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. The man Left Division was ordered to surround the north side of the mountain while the man Right Division was ordered to surround the south side. Once both divisions were in position to begin, a signal would be given to start the assault. The signal was to be a loud Indian war-whoop. Once the assault began, everyone was to press upward at the same time and overwhelm the Loyalists on the high ground. Major Joseph Winston led his men out first. His mission was to swing his men beyond the southwestern point of the ridge, cutting an arc about one mile beyond the mountain. He would then circle back and approach the objective from the northeast. Parts of the Left Division became bogged down in marshy terrain several hundred yards from their objective. Just behind Campbell was Sevier and McDowell, who were ordered to continue around the southern flank of the high ground to extend their lines northeast. Battle of Kings Mountain At 3: At the same time, other advance elements of other northern militia columns from the Left Division met Loyalist pickets near the base of the northeast sector of the mountain. These two groups opened fire on each other. Ferguson sounded an alert and ordered his Provincial Rangers to rapidly move to the southwest corner of the ridge to counter what he thought to be the most serious threat. Campbell decided to turn around and assault the heights. For the first 20 minutes, the Right Division carried out the assault because the Left Division columns had not yet reached their assigned starting positions. As the Right Division reached the crest, Ferguson ordered his Rangers to make a bayonet charge. The Patriots were sent reeling. Near the bottom of the mountain, Campbell rallied the men and urged them back up the slope. On the northwest slope, Shelby gained the ground. Just as they neared the slope, Ferguson ordered another bayonet charge. The Patriots managed to absorb the charge and scampered part way down the hillside. The Patriots began working their way back up the slope. Near the southwestern tip of the summit, Campbell, Sevier, and Shelby pressed

into the Loyalist line. A hand-to-hand fight ensued. During the same time, the arrival of a Patriot column at the heights to the northeast caused Ferguson to leave some militia to defend the southwestern end of the ridge while he took his Rangers down the ridge to face the newly arriving Patriot column. Battle of Kings Mountain map At 3: Winston and Major Chronicle formed their men and assaulted from the northeast while another group attacked along the northern slope. Ferguson had his militia line the the brow of the northern ridge while waiting for the Patriots. The Patriot advance ended up with the men in small pockets, maneuvering up the slope while firing at the Loyalists. On the summit, the Rangers launched yet another bayonet charge against the arriving Patriots on the northeast slope. The Rangers withdrew a few minutes later. Overall, the multiple bayonet charges only delayed the Patriots instead of stopping them as Ferguson had hoped. Heavy pressure against the northeast summit forced Ferguson to shift troops to that sector. In the southwest corner, dozens of Patriots from the Right Division finally reached the summit and began pushing Loyalists from their strongholds along the crest. Parts of the Left Division began mounting the crest in the northern and northeastern sectors about the same time. The tide of the battle began turning decisively in favor of the Patriots. Constrained within his own formations, tents, and wagons, Ferguson had little room left to maneuver. His only option was to stand and die, or assault and try to turn the tide. He ordered his Rangers to assault the Patriots charging up the ridge from the southwest. He also ordered some mounted Loyalists to charge into the approaching Patriots. Before the Loyalists could really do any damage, the Patriots picked them off too quickly. Pressing forward, the swarming patriots gained the upper hand quickly, picking off the Tories who were wandering around on the plateau. The Rangers were finished off as an effective fighting unit. They were now completely surrounded and running out of ammunition. Ferguson finally attempted to cut a path through the Patriot line so that his army could escape, but this failed as Ferguson fell from his horse, riddled with bullets. The Patriots had to move out quickly for fear that Cornwallis would advance to meet them. Loyalist prisoners well enough to walk were herded to camps several miles from the battlefield. The dead were buried in shallow graves and wounded were left on the field to die. Both victors and captives came near to starvation on the march due to a lack of supplies in the hastily organized Patriot army. On October 14, the retreating Patriot force held drumhead courts-martial of Loyalists on various charges treason, desertion from Patriot militias, incitement of Indian rebellion. Passing through the Sunshine community in what is now Rutherford County, N. While stopped on the Biggerstaff land, the rebels convicted 36 Loyalist prisoners. Some were testified against by Patriots who had previously fought alongside them and later changed sides. Nine of the prisoners were hanged before Isaac Shelby brought an end to the proceedings. His decision to halt the executions came after an impassioned plea for mercy from one of the Biggerstaff women. Many of the Patriots dispersed over the next few days, while all but of the Loyalist prisoners escaped while being led in single file through woodlands. The column finally made camp at Salem, North Carolina. Kings Mountain was a pivotal moment in the history of the American Revolution. Coming after a series of disasters and humiliations in the Carolinas—the fall of Charleston and capture of the American army there, the destruction of another American army at the Battle of Camden, the Waxhaws Massacre—the surprising, decisive victory at Kings Mountain was a great boost to Patriot morale. The Tories of the Carolina back country were broken as a military force. He would not return to North Carolina until early , when he was chasing Major General Nathanael Greene after the Americans had dealt British forces another defeat at the Battle of Cowpens. After the battle, Joseph Greer of the Watauga Association at Sycamore Shoals located at what is today the city of Elizabethton, Tennessee set off on a mile, month-long expedition to notify the Continental Congress of the British defeat at the battle. He arrived in Philadelphia on November 7.

Chapter 6 : Battle of King's Mountain - HISTORY

On October 7, , Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton becomes the NFL's all-time rushing leader, breaking the record Cleveland's Jim Brown set in

The rebels formed eight groups of to men. The Patriots crept up the hill and fired on the Loyalists from behind rocks and trees. With no bayonets of their own, the rebels retreated down the hill and into the woods. Campbell rallied his troops, returned to the base of the hill, and resumed firing. Ferguson launched two more bayonet charges during the course of the battle. However, after each charge the Patriots returned to the base of the hill and resumed firing. It was hard for the Loyalists to find a target because the Patriots were constantly moving using cover and concealment. After an hour of combat, Loyalist casualties were heavy. Ferguson rode back and forth across the hill, blowing a silver whistle he used to signal charges. A soldier on one side or the other saw this and alerted his comrades immediately. At the crest, as the Patriots overran the Loyalist position, Ferguson fell dead from his saddle with eight rifle balls in his body. Seeing their leader fall, the Loyalists began to surrender. Eager to avenge defeats at the Waxhaw Massacre and elsewhere, the rebels did not initially want to take prisoners. After tying up the horses, the soldiers formed in a horseshoe around the base of the mountain behind their leaders, who remained on horseback. Ferguson was right in believing that his would be attackers would expose themselves to musket fire if they attempted to scale the summit. But Ferguson did not realize his men could only fire if they went out into the open, exposing themselves to musket fire. Most of the Patriot troops were skilled hunters who routinely killed fast moving animals. The fighting began around 3 p. After a brief skirmish, the shooting began in earnest when two of the Patriot regiments opened fire on the Loyalists simultaneously. The Loyalists fired back but the Patriots were protected by the heavily wooded area. But as one regiment was driven back, another would advance. Ferguson had to shift his reserves from one place to another while continuing to take heavy losses from the concealed American sharpshooters in the trees. During the battle, Patrick Ferguson commanded his men with the use of a silver whistle. The whistle and the checkered hunting shirt he wore over his uniform made the Scottish commander quite noticeable on the battlefield. After nearly an hour of fighting, Ferguson suddenly fell from his horse. One foot was hanging in his stirrup -- several, perhaps as many as eight bullets were in his body. Some accounts say he died before he hit the ground. Other accounts say that his men propped him against a tree, where he died. Ferguson was the only British soldier killed in the battle -- all others were Americans, either Loyalist or Patriot. Despite the call for surrender by the Loyalists, the Patriots could not immediately stop their men from shooting. Many Patriots remembered that the infamous Colonel Tarleton had mowed down Patriot troops at Waxhaw despite the fact that the troops were trying to surrender. Eventually, the fighting at Kings Mountain stopped. In all, Loyalists were killed, were wounded, were taken prisoner. Among the Patriot dead: Colonel James Williams of South Carolina. After the battle, the victorious Patriots and the captured Loyalists had to camp together. Soon it became dark and the cries of the wounded were heard and often unheeded. The next morning, the sun came out for the first time in days. Fearing that Cornwallis would soon be upon them, many of the Patriot militia left for their homes. A contingent of Patriots took the prisoners northward to the Continental Army jurisdiction in Hillsborough. During the journey, a number of prisoners were brutally beaten and some prisoners were hacked with swords. A number of unjust murders took place -- not the Patriots finest hour. The injustices continued a week later when a committee of Patriots appointed a jury to try some of the so-called "obnoxious" Loyalists. He remained in Charlotte a few days before withdrawing back into South Carolina to the British post at Winnsboro. The British could not count on reinforcements from other South Carolina posts to help them -- the news of victory at Kings Mountain had revived Patriot hopes. The victory triggered bonfires and street dancing in cities held by the Patriots. Patriot sympathizers increased their assaults on Tory neighbors.

Chapter 7 : Battle of Kings Mountain - October 7, (American Revolutionary War) - Video Dailymotion

On October 7, , a small but significant battle took place on a rocky hilltop in western South Carolina known as Kings Mountain. The fierce engagement pitted Loyalist militiamen under the command of British Major Patrick Ferguson against "Over Mountain Men," residents of the Carolina Backcountry and the Appalachian Mountains.

The patriots in the south had suffered a string of devastating defeats with the fall of Savannah and Charleston, and the capture of two major Continental armies at Charleston and Camden. British Major Patrick Ferguson was placed in charge of traveling inland to raise an army of Loyalist citizens from the backcountry population. Ferguson issued an ultimatum that the rebels should lay down their arms or he would destroy their homes and villages. Patriots in the area, however, would have no such thing. By the end of September, Ferguson had gathered Loyalists and his army was growing every day. Ferguson began a retreat back to Cornwallis, however, when he learned of the large patriot army that was gathering against him. In a classic display of underestimating the Americans, Ferguson set up no perimeter and no defenses. He had no idea the patriot militia was even anywhere near. Gathering of the Overmountain Men at Sycamore Shoals by Lloyd Branson On the morning of October 7, the patriots rode the last several miles to Kings Mountain and attacked in the afternoon. The battle was a series of skirmishes where the patriots would run up the hills of the mountain and the British would charge down upon them with their bayonets. The militia would run back down the hill because they had no bayonets, then after the charge stopped, the militia would gather again and run back up the hill. The patriots took the Loyalists completely by surprise. In only an hour of fighting, the Loyalists suffered heavy casualties. As they began to surrender, many militia members killed those who were surrendering in revenge for similar atrocities committed earlier at Waxhaws and other places. Another were taken prisoners. The patriots had only 29 killed and 58 wounded – an astounding and morale boosting victory. The battle forced Cornwallis back to South Carolina for the winter. It discouraged Loyalists from joining the British and greatly encouraged the patriots in the south. The following spring, another series of pivotal battles sent the British running to the coast for reinforcements. Unfortunately for them, the place General Cornwallis chose was Yorktown, Virginia, where his entire army would surrender only a year later.

Chapter 8 : The Battle of Kings Mountain - On This Day in History - October 7,

Battle of Kings Mountain, (October 7,), in the American Revolution, American victory over a loyalist detachment in South Carolina during the British campaign in the South.

I have done genealogy for one person who did not have a King from that line in their family. Different ones from that family came at different times in early America, they were spread out all up and down the eastern states. Captain William King who was Rear Admiral at the time perished with his ship and all but one crew member on the way back to England as they were approaching the entry to the English Channel. Captain John, would return later to make a place for himself and his offspring. This decisive battle successfully ended the British invasion into North Carolina and forced Lord Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina to wait for reinforcements. Following the defeats of Maj. General Charles Cornwallis appeared to now have a clear path all the way to Virginia. Ferguson provoked the Mountain Men living in the area by sending out a threat. Ferguson and his men found the higher position impossible to defend as they were in the open and the Patriots had cover to protect them. Ferguson and his all Tory force was soon defeated, forcing General Cornwallis to retreat from Charlotte, North Carolina. On July 25, , Maj. The loss at Camden and Lt. General Cornwallis appeared to now have a clear path all the way to Virginia. The mountain men who lived in the Blue Ridge area were mostly isolated and kept to themselves, but a threat to their own moved them to action. A call to arms went out and they gathered at Sycamore Shoals. They embodied to check the invader of their own volition, without any requisition from the Governments of America or the officers of the Continental Army. Each man set out with a knapsack, blanket, and gun. All who could obtain horses were mounted, the remainder afoot. The thoroughfare of their mission followed the only roadway connecting the backwater country with the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina. Leaving Sycamore Shoals, the column marched up Gap Creek to its headwaters in Gap Creek Mountain, and there turned eastward and then south, following around the base of Fork Mountain to Toe River, and on up that stream to one of its tributaries. Here the route continued in a southerly direction until the top of the mountain was reached, between Roan High Knob and Big Yellow Mountain. Snow was encountered in the highlands, for an elevation of 5, feet was reached in this march. The following day the men who had camped at North Cove marched southeast down Paddy Creek, while those from Turkey Cove marched southerly down the North Fork and then hastily down the Catawba near the mouth of Paddy Creek. They continued down the Catawba to Quaker Meadows, the home place of the McDowells, and promptly made camp. During the five days that had elapsed since leaving Sycamore Flats, about 80 miles had been covered. An additional 30 Georgians, under the command of William Candler, joined the Patriot force at Gilberts Town, making for a combined strength of approximately 1, men. The seven Colonels chose Col. William Campbell to act as overall commander. The Colonels wanted to catch up with Ferguson before he reached Charlotte and Lt. Having little insight into the methods and philosophies of warfare of the southern frontiersmen, Ferguson had chosen the position feeling no enemy could fire upon him without showing themselves. The Patriot force decided to surround the mountain and use continuous fire to slowly close in like an unavoidable noose. When the Whig patriots came near the mountain they halted, dismounted, fastened their loose baggage to their saddles, tied their horses and left them under charge of a few men detailed for the purpose, and then prepared for an immediate attack. The army was divided into two wings. The right center and right flank columns, numbering together , were under the direction of Colonel Cleveland. The two wings were thus very nearly equal in strength. The plan of battle was that the two wings should approach upon opposite sides of the mountain and thus encompass the enemy. Colonel Campbell also gave the necessary orders to all the principal officers, and repeated them so as to be heard by a large portion of the line, and then placed himself at the head of his own regiment, as the other officers did at the head of their respective commands. Many of the men threw aside their hats, tying handkerchiefs around their heads so as to be less likely to be retarded by limbs and bushes when dashing up the mountain. From the nature of the ground and thick intervening foliage of the trees, the Whigs were not discovered by Ferguson till within a quarter of a mile, when his drums beat to arms, and his shrill whistle, with

which he was wont to summon his men to battle and inspire them with his own courage, was heard everywhere over the mountain. The right and left wings had been cautioned that the action was not to be commenced until the centre columns were ready for the attack. These were to give the signal by raising a frontier warwhoop, after the manner of the Indians, and then to rush forward to the attack. Upon hearing the battle shout and the reports of the rifles, the right and left wings were to join in the affray. It was galling in its effect, and not a little annoying to the mountaineers, some of whom in their impatience complained that it would never do to be shot down without returning the fire; but Shelby restrained them. The Virginians thus securing the summit of the hill, the battle became general. None of the Whigs were longer under the restraint of military discipline; some were on horseback, some were on foot; some behind trees, others exposed; but all were animated with enthusiasm. The Virginians were the first against whom Ferguson ordered a charge of the bayonets by his Rangers and a part of his Loyalists. Some of them obstinately stood their ground till a few were thrust through the body; but without bayonets themselves, with only their rifles to withstand such a charge, the Virginians broke and fled down the mountain. The mountain was covered with flame and smoke, and seemed to thunder. The Provincial Rangers and the Loyalists, though led by the brave De Peyster, began to grow weary and discouraged, steadily decreasing in numbers and making no permanent impression upon their tireless opponents. Ferguson, by this time, had been wounded in the hand, but he was still in the heat of the battle, and with characteristic coolness and daring he ordered De Peyster to reenforce a position about one hundred yards distant; but before they reached it they were thinned too much by the Whig rifles to render any effectual support. He then ordered his cavalry to mount, with the intention of making a desperate onset at their head. But these only presented a better mark for the rifle, and fell as fast as they could mount their horses. He rode from end to end of his line, encouraging his men to prolong the conflict, and with his silver whistle in his wounded hand, with desperate courage he passed from one exposed point to another of equal danger. But the Whigs were gradually compressing his men, and the Tories began to show signs of yielding. They raised a flag in token of surrender. Ferguson rode up and cut it down. A second flag was raised at the other end of the line. He rode there, too, and cut it down with his sword. When the second flag was cut down De Peyster renewed his advice, but Ferguson declared that he would never surrender to such a dâ€™d set of banditti as the mountain men. At length, satisfied that all was lost, and firmly resolving not to fall into the hands of the despised Backwater men, Ferguson with a few chosen friends made a desperate attempt to break through the Whig lines on the southeastern side of the mountain and escape. With his sword in his left hand, he made a bold dash for freedom, cutting and slashing until he broke it. They all fell and perished in the effort. Captain De Peyster, who had succeeded Ferguson in command, perceiving that further struggle was in vain, raised the white flag and asked for quarter. A general cessation of the American fire followed; but this cessation was not complete. Though the number of casualties reported varies from source to source, some of the most commonly reported figures are that Loyalists had been killed, wounded and were captured, while only 28 Patriots were killed, including Colonel James Williams, and 68 wounded. In less than one hour of battle, the Overmountain Men not only captured the day but also undermined the British strategy for keeping America under its control. A defeat so crushing as that suffered by Major Patrick Ferguson is rare in any war. Although skewed, his position on Kings Mountain was thoughtfully selected using much experience and consideration. The plateau of the mountain was just large enough to serve as a battleground for his command and to provide space for his camp and wagon train. Water was near and plentiful. The slopes of the mountain would hinder the advance of the attackers. When attacked he expected that any retreat would be rendered perilous by flanking or encircling detachments, a condition he desired as his militia would be put to the task to stand and fight instead of having the choice to flee. It can be assumed without a shred of doubt that Patrick Ferguson utterly underestimated the courage of the mountain men. Their apparent advantage in numbers did not discourage him from offering battle; otherwise he would have continued his march on October 7th in the direction of Charlotte and Cornwallis. Arthur and William Campbell, hearing of the advance of Colonel Ferguson along the mountains in the State of North Carolina, and that the Whigs were retreating before him, unable to make any effectual resistance, formed a plan to intercept him, and communicated it to the commanding officers of Sullivan and Washington Counties, in the State of North Carolina. They readily agreed to co-operate in any expedition

against Col. Arthur Campbell immediately ordered the militia of Washington Co. Campbell, who was known to be an enterprising and active officer. Shelby and Sevier raised a party of three hundred, joined him on his march, and moved with forced marches toward Col. At the same time Cols. Williams, Cleveland, Lacey, and Brandon, of the States of North and South Carolina, each conducted a small party toward the same point, amounting to near three hundred. Ferguson had notice of their approach by a deserter that left the army on the Yellow Mountain, and immediately commenced his march for Charlotte, dispatching at the same time different messengers to Lord Cornwallis with information of his danger. These messengers being intercepted on their way, no movement was made to favor his retreat. These several corps of American volunteers, amounting to near one thousand men, met at Gilbert Town, and the officers unanimously chose Colonel Campbell to the command. About seven hundred choice riflemen mounted their horses for the purpose of following the retreating army. The balance being chiefly footmen, were left to follow on and come up as soon as they could. The pursuit was too rapid to render an escape. On the 7th of October, in the afternoon, after a forced march of forty-five miles on that day and the night before; the volunteers came up with him. The forenoon of the day was wet, but they were fortunate enough to come on him undiscovered, and took his pickets, they not having it in their power to give an alarm. They were soon formed in such order as to attack the enemy on all sides. The Washington and Sullivan regiments were formed in the front and on the right flank; the North and South Carolina troops, under Cols. Williams, Sevier, Cleveland, Lacey, and Brandon, on the left. The two armies being in full view, the center of the one nearly opposite the center of the other-the British main guard posted nearly half way down the mountain-the commanding officer gave the word of command to raise the Indian war-whoop and charge. The British beat to arms, and immediately formed on the top of the mountain, behind a chain of rocks that appeared impregnable, and had their wagons drawn up on their flank across the end of the mountain, by which they made a strong breast-work. Thus concealed, the American army advanced to the charge. In ten or fifteen minutes the wings came round, and the action became general. The enemy annoyed our troops very much from their advantageous position. Shelby, being previously ordered to reconnoitre their position, observing their situation, and what a destructive fire was kept up from behind those rocks, ordered Robert Campbell, one of the officers of the Virginia Line, to move to the right with a small company to endeavor to dislodge them, and lead them on. These orders were punctually obeyed, and they kept up such a galling fire as to compel Ferguson to order a company of regulars to face them, with a view to cover his men that were posted behind the rocks.

Chapter 9 : Battle of Kings Mountain

The Battle of Kings Mountain was fought October 7, , during the American Revolution (). Having shifted their focus south, the British achieved a decisive victory in May when they captured Charleston, SC.

Waiting three days for reasons that are still unclear, Ferguson ordered a retreat to Lord Cornwallis and the British main forces in Charlotte, sending a message to Cornwallis requesting reinforcements. The request did not reach Cornwallis until one day after the battle. They hurried to catch him. It is shaped like a footprint with the highest point at the heel, a narrow instep, and a broad rounded toe. Needing to hurry, the Patriot militia put men on horseback and rode for Kings Mountain. By sunrise of the 7th, they forded the Broad River, fifteen miles from Kings Mountain. The patriots took home drums, weapons and clothes. The battle opened about 3 p. They formed eight detachments of to men each. Ferguson was unaware that the Patriots had caught up to him and his 1, men. He was the only regular British soldier in the command, [32] composed entirely of Loyalist Carolina militia, except for the or so red-uniformed Provincials enlisted colonials [33] from New York. He had not thought it necessary to fortify his camp. The other detachments, led by Colonels Shelby, Williams, Lacey, Cleveland, Hambright, Winston and McDowell, attacked the main Loyalist position, surrounding the "ball" base beside the "heel" crest of the mountain. Each detachment fought independently under the previously agreed to plan to surround and destroy the Loyalists. Ferguson rallied his troops and launched a desperate bayonet -charge against Campbell and Sevier. Lacking bayonets, the Patriots ran down the hill and into the woods. Campbell soon rallied his troops, returned to the hill, and resumed firing. Ferguson ordered two more bayonet charges during the battle. This became the pattern of the battle; the Patriots would charge up the hill, then the Tories would charge down the hill with fixed bayonets, driving the Patriots off the slopes and into the woods. Once the charge was spent and the Tories returned to their positions, the Patriots would reform in the woods, return to the base of the hill, and charge up the hill again. Firing was difficult for the Loyalists, since the Patriots constantly moved using cover and concealment to their advantage. Furthermore, the downhill angle of the hill contributed to the Loyalists overshooting their marks. Ferguson rode back and forth across the hill, blowing a silver whistle he used to signal charges. The Loyalists were driven back into their camp, where they began to surrender. Ferguson drew his sword and hacked down any small white flags that he saw popping up, but he appeared to know that the end was near. In an attempt to rally his faltering men, Ferguson shouted out "Hurrah, brave boys, the day is ours! Ferguson shot and killed the man with his pistol in a final act of defiance, but was immediately shot dead by multiple Patriots on the spot. When the Patriots recovered his corpse, they counted seven bullet wounds. The Patriot militia suffered 28 killed and 60 wounded. The dead were buried in shallow graves and wounded were left on the field to die. Aaron Biggerstaff, a Loyalist, had fought in the battle and been mortally wounded. His brother Benjamin was a Patriot and was being held as a prisoner-of-war on a British ship docked at Charleston, S. Some were testified against by Patriots who had previously fought alongside them and later changed sides. Nine of the prisoners were hanged before Isaac Shelby brought an end to the proceedings. The column finally made camp at Salem, North Carolina. Coming after a series of disasters and humiliations in the Carolinasâ€”the fall of Charleston and capture of the American army there, the destruction of another American army at the Battle of Camden , the Waxhaws Massacre â€”the surprising decisive victory at Kings Mountain was a great boost to Patriot morale. The Tories of the Carolina back country were broken as a military force. Here less than a thousand men, inspired by the urge of freedom, defeated a superior force entrenched in this strategic position. This small band of Patriots turned back a dangerous invasion well designed to separate and dismember the united Colonies. It was a little army and a little battle, but it was of mighty portent. History has done scant justice to its significance, which rightly should place it beside Lexington , Bunker Hill , Trenton and Yorktown.