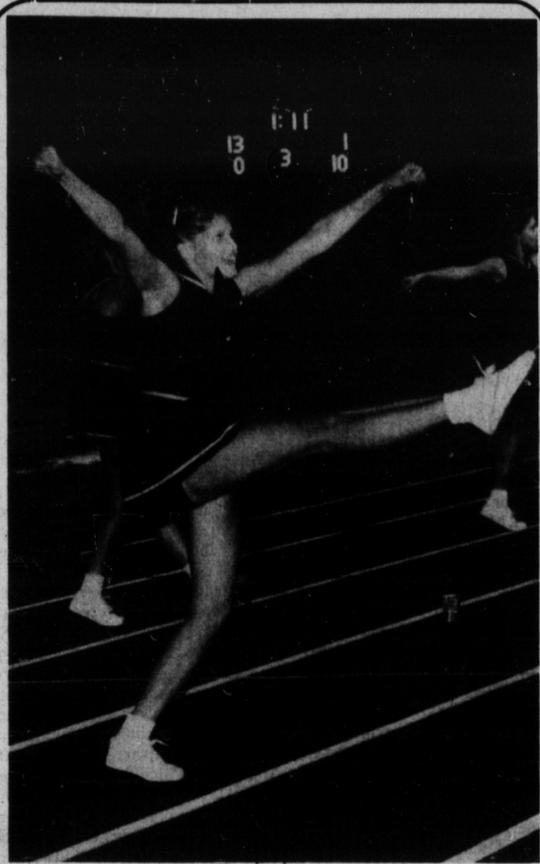


Football Contest Winner:  
Lisa Baity (See Page 4)

# Kings Mountain Herald

VOLUME 91 - NUMBER 70 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1980

20¢



**EXCITING NIGHT** - One needs only to look at the scoreboard in the background to realize why Kings Mountain High cheerleader Elizabeth Borchert is so excited. The Mountaineers, ahead 13-0 in the third period, went on to defeat Ashbrook 19-0 Friday night at Gamble Stadium. Details of the Mountaineer victory are on page 3.

## More Committees Are Announced

Ralph M. Godwin, vice commander of the American Legion, will be in Kings Mountain October 7 for the Bicentennial Celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Godwin will represent National Commander Michael J. Kogutek of Indianapolis, Ind., and will ride in the Bicentennial Parade, as well as take part in other activities of the day.

Meanwhile, Mayor John Moss, general chairman of the event, has announced four new committees to help coordinate the week-long activities.

The military encampment committee, which will work with the re-enactment of the encampment at the new city hall, includes Humes Houston, chairman; James A. Childers, Charlie Wilson, Steve Lang, W.K. Mauney Jr., Glee Bridges, Gary Howard, Robert Wilson, Bob Hayes, L.D. Beattie, Fred Watson, Robert Sellar, John Leach, N.F. McGill, Otis Falls Jr., Clara Rhea and Eugene Lefevers.

### Services Held For Spearman

A 24-year-old Route 2, Kings Mountain drowned Wednesday afternoon in a quarry at Henry's Nob near Clover, S.C.

Danny Earl Spearman was standing on a 75-foot cliff when he lost his footing and fell into the water below.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at 4 p.m. at Oak View Baptist Church by Rev. Raymond Shumperd. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, Earl and Lillian Caveny Spearman of the home; and a sister, Miss Rhonda Spearman of the home.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

The headquarters committee includes W.A. Russell, chairman; Sue Page, Camille Bradshaw, Paulette Phifer, Mary Gilstad, Ann Pouchak, Becky Scism, Emma Blalock, Margaret Plonk, Dorothy Etheridge, Margaret Leach, Myrtle Campbell, Luther Bennett, Ben Brown, Sarah Manning, Sarah Jones, Lou Ballew, Margaret Beam, Rev. Leroy Cox, Louis Hovis, R.G. Franklin, Pat Crosby, George Scharf, Shirley Allen, Wilma Kirby, Lib Mayes, Rev. R.L. Garvin, Ed Hightower, Sandra Neal, C.J. Gault Jr., Nell Gault, Charles Fisher, Louise Fisher, D.E. Take, Margaret Kirk, Nell Biser, Hilda Dixon, Ruth Piper, Hilliard Black, Bernice Glass, Sarah Jones, Luther Bennett, Jessie Collins, Margaret McCarter, Tom Trott, W.S. Biddix, John Reavis, Rev. W.G. Weeks, Sarah Simpson, Fred Wright, Mrs. A.A. Allran, Helen Logan, Lib Arthur, Paul Ham, Susan Goforth, Jane Talbert, Cindy Adams, Crystal Bolin, Victoria Shaw, Julie Yarboro, Carolyn Smith, Leanne Latham, Brenda Martin, Alyce Brown, Sophia Crank, Angel Allen, Lori Davis, Kim Parker, Christi Arrant, Dawn Morris, Lee Ann Wilson, Shelly Belt, Lavonda Grier, Pat Jefferies and Sonya Leach.

The budget and finance committee includes John Hills, chairman; J.H. McDaniel, Gerry Werner, Katie Wilce, Bill Griggs, Andrew Loveless and Gary Everhardt.

The arts and crafts committee includes A.B. Snow, chairman; Bernice Bunch, Diane Harper, Shirley Gossett, Pat Plonk, Al Wausle, Gail Bryant, June Herndon, Evaline Herndon, Lynn Eskridge, Dorothy Shoemaker, Corene Anthony, Nancy Carter, Bonita Lowe, Vangie Westmoreland, Mrs. Bob Maner, Suzanne Brymer, Mrs. Jim Harry and Mrs. Elmer Hardin.

## 'Then Conquer We Must' Tickets On Sale At Chamber

Advance tickets for the outdoor drama "Then Conquer We Must" are on sale at the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce, which is located in the old City Hall on Piedmont Avenue.

The drama will be held Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-7 at the Kings Mountain National Military Park amphitheatre.

Time of each performance is 8:30 p.m., except for the Oct. 7 showing, which will be at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$2.50 for general admission and \$3.50 for reserved for every showing except on Oct. 7. That night, tickets will be \$4.00 for general admission and \$5.00 for reserved.

Tickets are also on sale at the Chamber of Commerce in Gastonia, Shelby, Gaffney and Rock Hill.

## Board Hears ACT Requests

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Co-Editor

The leader of the Cleveland County Association of Taxpayers, Bruce Scism, said Monday after 15 representatives of the newly-formed tax protest group met with county commissioners that ACT's board of directors will meet this week to select three candidates it wants to run against incumbent county commissioners in the November election.

During a two and one-half hour meeting with the five-member board Monday morning at the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Building, the group, led by attorney Jeff Guller, spokesman, presented several suggestions but the commission took action on only one, granting request by Jackie (Mrs. Nolan) Scism that the Oct. 20th meeting of the county board be held in the evening at 7:30 p.m., instead of the regularly scheduled morning session, so that working members of the ACT could attend and present further opinions. The motion was made by L. E. Hinnant of Kings Mountain.

Jeff Guller, Gaston attorney who was hired by ACT, which represents 6,500 taxpayers, was spokesman for the group and presented the petitions protesting higher property bills brought about by recent property reevaluation. "These citizens feel they have been taxed too much and feel they have grounds for complaints", said Guller. "We find it disconcerting", said Guller, "that Cleveland County sits with nearly \$3 million in reserves with a budget that exceeds more than \$2 million over last year and a

tax rate that will allow you to collect substantially more than you figured because of the reevaluation. This is not what taxpayers want."

Guller suggested that the commission offer some relief to the taxpayer by: investigating the possibility of reduction of the tax rate from 60 cents to 48 cents, extend the time for taxpayers to apply for a hearing before the Equalization Review Board, which is made up of county commissioners, issue the same tax form which was issued to all taxpayers several years ago which stipulates that exemptions apply for the elderly, 65 and over, and hold meetings at evening hours and in other locations of the county besides Shelby.

Guller also charged that the county could be in violation of the law, although not intentionally, "in the manner of the way the land was appraised." He said that the general statutes of the state require that an appraiser consider separately each piece of real property, including such matters as soil, mineral rights, water power, etc. and from interviews by citizens in the rural areas, Guller said this was not done. Guller told the group this is one reason that rural people and farmers are bearing a big brunt of the tax load. "Some people who have made appeals to the review board are yet to be heard", he said. Board Chairman Jack Palmer, who presided, disagreed. He said that all persons who had applied for a hearing before the Review Board were heard and that without further applications there was no need to grant an extension." Palmer agreed with Guller that citizens need to be shown how to

fill out forms and how to take advantage of them. Palmer said that the forms were mailed upon call of citizens, noting that the cost of postage had dictated this procedure be stopped several years ago when the board found that citizens were not using them.

Attorney Guller said that random samples show that average increase in property tax was 160 percent, basing those figures from 50 or 60 sample tax bills. Palmer responded that "I can see how you would feel this is correct after seeing only 50 or 60 copies, as compared to 35,00 individuals who pay taxes each year in Cleveland County.

Replying to a question, Comm. L.E. Hinnant said "It's hard to explain to an elderly person who draws \$123 a month and may have to sell property to pay her taxes that there's nothing we can do." Hinnant said he sympathizes with those people who flood his office each day and has helped some of them fill out tax forms. Hinnant said that he has taken some of these problems to local legislators to take to Raleigh.

Guller also suggested that the Commission appoint a committee to work with representatives of ACT and iron out some of the problems. You determine if we have a valid position. We think that we have," he added. "If we're barking up the wrong tree, tell us. But you can help educate us and all the people of Cleveland County. We don't intend to be a thorn in your side but we're taxpayers asking for

information and it's your duty as elected officials to give it to us."

Guller said that the county has been cooperative with his group in supplying information requested and noted that his group was concerned with receiving both copies of the 1979 and 1980 budget audit. Responding, County Manager Joe Hendrick said his office is open to all citizens, that he encourages citizens who can produce evidence that their property evaluation is incorrect to "know that this can be changed." "We want you to see where your money goes and we object to many things, like you, but the county must participate as the statutes require and under state law."

Jim McIntyre drew a round of applause when he remarked, "My concern is what I pay and what my kids will be paying in the future. My pay hasn't gone up according to my taxes. Most of you commissioners are pretty well off. Property tax is the most asinine thing there ever was and I think it's high time that the working people stand up and object to paying for everything. Tax everyone who has income, not just 40 percent of us."

Sally Jones asked where did her tax dollars go and Comm. Palmer noted that few people are unable to see those results unless they use the services of the sheriff's department, rescue squads, social services, welfare, etc. and Ms. Jones wanted to know why the county doesn't furnish water and sewer and other services such as trash pickups.



Photo by Lib Stewart

**DESCENDANT** - R.D. Hambright, left, is one of, if not the oldest, living descendants of Kings Mountain Battle hero Col. Frederick Hambright. He's shown here being presented a number of Bicentennial souvenirs from Mayor John Moss.

## Hambright One Of Oldest Descendants Of Battle Hero

R. Dewitt Hambright, 86, is one of the city's oldest living direct descendants of the Revolutionary War hero, Colonel Frederick Hambright.

The Dixon community farmer has resided all his life on a farm about a half mile from the old Colonel Hambright homestead and a short distance from the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Mr. Hambright, son of the late David Robert and Mary Anne Dixon Hambright, looks forward to the October celebration of the 200th anniversary of the famous Battle but admits that he was most excited in 1930 when President Herbert Hoover

spoke at the Sesqui Centennial Celebration at the at the Battleground. Hambright was 36 years old at the time and recalled that the whole county was caught up in the excitement at seeing a U. S. President in Kings Mountain.

Hambright, his daughter, Aileen, and her husband, Ralph Cline, of Charlotte, plan to attend the October 3-7 events and Mr. Hambright received a complimentary cap from the Bicentennial Chairman John Moss this week.

The well known farmer has

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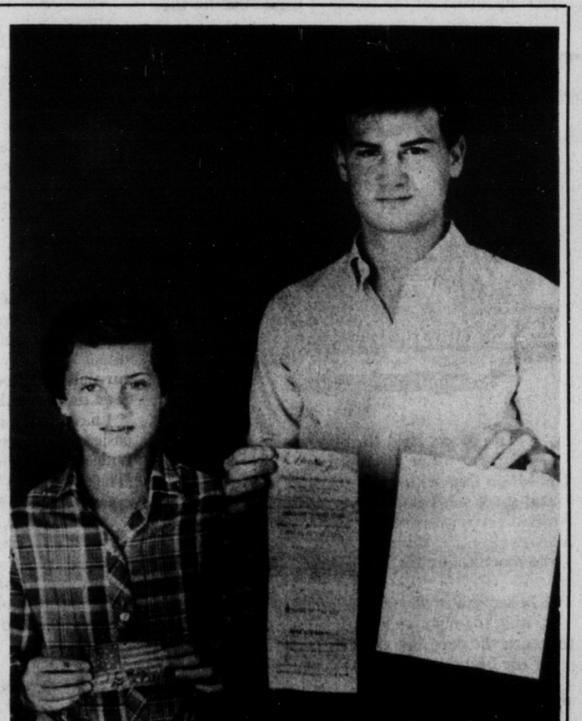


Photo by Gary Stewart

**SOUVENIRS** - Dean Costas, right, and his sister, Tika, show off some souvenirs their great-great grandfather, J.L. Hicks, collected at the 1880 Battle of Kings Mountain celebration.

## Dean Costas To Fulfill His Great-Great Granddad's Wish

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

On October 7, 1880, J.L. Hicks was a Gastonia policeman, and one of an estimated 12,000 people who attended the Centennial celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain at what is now Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Several weeks ago, Laura Costas of Gastonia, her 17-year-old son, Dean, and other members of the family of Mrs. Costas's mother, Barbara Summitt Barnes, were going through some of the papers of the late Mrs. Barnes, who died July 5. They came across a letter writ-

ten by Hicks, a program from the Centennial celebration, and a small flag he received as one of the participants of that day almost 100 years ago.

The letter, dated Oct. 7, 1880, stated:

"I was a witness of this occasion. Every thing on this program for Centennial day, Oct. 7, 1880, was preformed according to program sheet which was preformed for that day. This sheet will be reserved for some of people to take to next centennial with this sheet and flag which I got there that day. I was at that

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