



Rockefeller speaks in 1975...

VP Rockefeller Substituted For Ford At 1975 Event

The 195th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain remains fresh in the minds of most people who participated in it.

But, someone picking up a stored-away commemorative program a hundred years from now will think the President of the United States was in attendance.

President Gerald R. Ford accepted an invitation to speak at ceremonies at John Gamble Stadium. Before he backed out just a few days before October 7, the city published the commemorative program.

There, on the front cover, is a picture of the President. On page three is a telegram from the President, praising all the participants of the celebration.

And, on the day's agenda, printed on page eight, were all the activities, in this order:

- The President's arrival in Charlotte.
- Presidential Motorcade from Charlotte to Kings Mountain.

- Presidential Parade.
- Presidential review.
- Presidential address.
- President's departure.

The Presidential limousine was listed fifth in the parade lineup.

But, of course, President Ford, after the program had been printed and too late to prepare a new one, changed his mind about coming to Kings Mountain.

Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller substituted for him and spoke to over 10,000 people at John Gamble Stadium. Instead of arriving at Charlotte and riding in a motorcade to Kings Mountain, Rockefeller landed by helicopter at a field adjacent to the stadium. He viewed the parade from the speaker's platform.

His speech was as inspiring, and his presence as exciting, as it would have been had Ford appeared. And Rocky didn't even get his name in the program.

Arthur Patterson Killed In Battle

Cattle Led To Death

By RITAFALLS
(A Kinsman)

In 1780 Arthur Patterson was an elderly Irishman who owned a large farm south of what is now the city of Kings Mountain.

He had three boys, Thomas, William and Arthur, Jr. Arthur, Jr. was a boy of 14 when the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought. He and his brothers and James Lindsey, a neighbor boy, were on Kings Creek hunting their father's cows the morning prior to the battle when some of Ferguson's foragers came upon them and figuring they might tell their location, arrested the boys and carried them to their camp.

The boys were tied to trees, but when the battle began they all managed to free themselves. Thomas, who was 25, snatched up a rifle that had fallen from some wounded soldiers' hands and began firing at the enemy. William, 20, also joined in the battle and the N. C. Historical Society has placed a tombstone at his grave.

Arthur, Jr., bound tighter than the others, was unable to fight but was able to get loose from the trees. With his feet and hands tied, he rolled down the mountainside and thus got into our lines.

When the boys failed to return home, their father, Arthur Patterson, Sr. searched for them and when he was near enough to hear the report of the guns, he discovered what was taking place. He went immediately to the place where the battle was raging and entered into it with all his might. His Irish blood took over and he fought until he died. His body was buried on the western slope of the mountain and a small stone marked

the grave. The stone marker was destroyed before better one could be found and now the burial place is not known.

The old Arthur Patterson Plantation is still in the hands of the Beverly Patterson family, a great grandson. It is just a few miles south of town.

The Battlefield was visited by those who lived near for several weeks after the armies had passed on. Many souvenirs were picked up but most of them have been destroyed. Arthur Patterson, Jr. picked up a nice string of beads which had been taken from the neck of a woman in Ferguson's camp. One of the first to fall, the woman was thrown upon a brush pile and young Patterson found her body. The beads were handed down in the E. A. Patterson family and used in the Celebration of 1880.

Thomas Patterson was born in 1755. He died at age 58 in 1803, No. 13 in the battle.

Arthur Patterson, Jr. was born in 1767. His wife was Ellender. They had at least two sons, Rufus and Armstrong, and a book tells of daughters. The Pattersons are buried in the old Shiloh graveyard in Grover where numbers of the other heroes of the battle are sleeping. The old church was sold to a Negro congregation many years ago and the Negro Presbyterian Church now occupies the spot where the old church stood and where the early heroes worshipped. At that time the church was called Calvary but later named Shiloh. No fence encloses the resting place and few stones mark the graves of the bravest men the earth has ever produced.

THE HANGING

A few days after the battle was over a group of boys, Arthur, Jr., William and

Thomas Patterson, and some friends were walking over the battlefield when they came upon a wounded member of Ferguson's Army. The boys were attempting to capture

him when he got his hands on a gun and fired. No one was hit. They grabbed him, hung him to a tree and left him to die. The body remained there until it decayed and fell to the ground. For many years the rope could be seen still hanging in the tree.

CATTLE STEALING

Around Kings Mountain some were still loyal to the British and didn't want freedom. This resulted in neighbors, friends and even some families fighting against each other. Some stole cattle and food from their neighbors to help feed Maj. Patrick Ferguson's army. It is still possible

Arthur Patterson's cows his sons were looking for the day of the battle had been given to Ferguson or been picked up by his scouts for food.

The Turning Point

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Following it, Cornwallis was compelled to abandon North Carolina and for a time to assume the defensive. It put an end to the possibility of an eventual peace with England under such terms as might have resulted in the retention of the southern provinces under British rule. It is an exemplification of American aspirations for self-government and a display of romantic hardihood and bravery well worthy of the careful study of American youth."

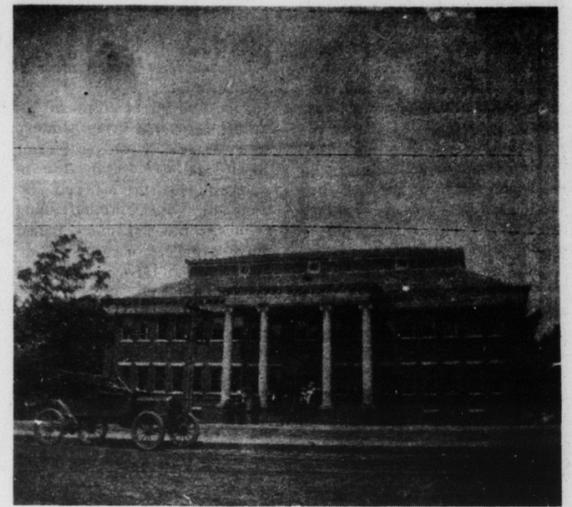


Photo Courtesy Of Philip Baker

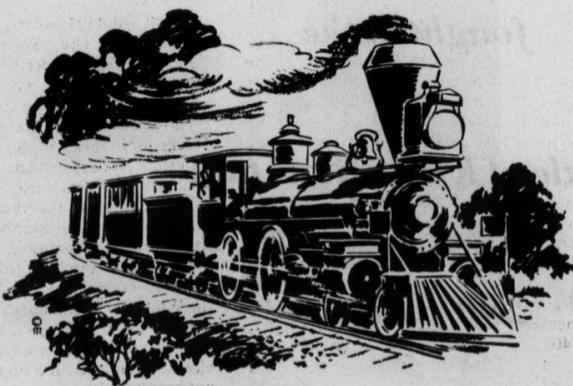
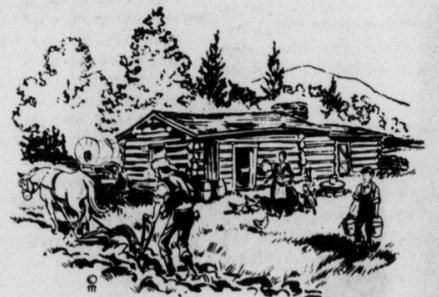
Central School In 1911

PARKDALE MILLS, INC.

Plant No. 5

Kings Mountain,

North Carolina



We are proud to be part of the historical
community of Kings Mountain