

# Despite Wound, Hambright Fought On

One mile southwest of Grover in an ancient and almost forgotten cemetery lies the grave of Col. Frederick Hambright, a Revolutionary War patriot, commander of the Whig forces at Kings Mountain in October 1780, and a statesman.

The cemetery was formerly the burial ground of the Shiloh Presbyterian Church until the church house was sold some years ago to the Shiloh AME Zion Church of Grover and is located about a quarter mile from the present AME Zion Church.

The cemetery contains the bodies of many of those great and near great in the affairs of the counties of old Tryon and later Rutherford, Lincoln, Gaston and Cleveland.

Descendants of Colonel Frederick Hambright are expected to return to this site as they celebrate their reunion on Oct. 7th, coming to Kings Mountain for Celebration activities beginning Oct. 5th when they plan to attend the outdoor drama at the Battleground and reminisce of the history of Hambright.

The old grave markers of a time just previous to and shortly after the Revolutionary War gives an impressive glimpse of the time when the state was young. Aged marked tombstones raise grey heads all through the cemetery, but frequently there are unmarked lonely spots which have sunk into the earth, denoting that he who lies beneath played his little part in life's drama—perhaps marching to martial music, perhaps singing a song of patriotism, perhaps a simple part of being only in the crowd—but having played his part, received a plaudit of flowers, which withered and died and decayed and forgotten, even as he.

Many familiar names appear upon the aging stones. One of the most familiar is that of Colonel Frederick Hambright. Near the center of the cemetery stands an aged stone, the letters almost obliterated by the passing of the seasons of a century or more.

The stone, nearly four feet in height, bears the following inscription:

**In Memory of  
Colonel Frederick Hambright**

**Who departed this life  
March 9, 1817.**

**in the ninetieth year of his  
age.**

**Adieu to all both far and  
near**

**My loving wife and  
children dear.**

**For my immortal soul is fil-  
ed.**

**I must be numbered with  
the dead.**

Col. Hambright was born in Germany in 1727. At age 11 he was brought to Pennsylvania by his parents. Little is known of his early life, but considering the place he made for himself in the political and military affairs of North Carolina in later life, it is presumed that his educational advantages were equal or superior to the average of his day. He moved to Virginia about 1755 where he married Sarah Hardin. He again moved about five years later, settling in old Tryon County in that portion which was later formed into Lincoln County.

He won the esteem of his fellow citizens in Tryon County and was an interested participant in all local affairs. After the intolerant attitude taken by England, North Carolina, along with the other colonies, called the Provincial Congress, or state convention of 1774. At the Third Congress and possibly the most important of the five, each county, where possible was represented by six men. The counties were appealed to send only the most reliable and trustworthy citizens, and of the six who attended from Tryon, Col. Hambright was one, and received the unanimous vote of the county's Committee of Safety.

Hambright's military career began in 1776, when the western frontiers suffered from the Indian raids. In June of that year, he served as captain against the Cherokee, and in the Fall of that

year he was an officer under Griffith Rutherford in his noted campaign against the turbulent Cherokee nation.

In 1779 he was made lieutenant colonel and went to the relief of Charleston with a detachment, serving in Lillington's Brigade, but retired before the surrender of that place. In the summer of the next year his activities were confined to the Broad River under Col. McDowell who was gathering recruits and doing what he could to embarrass the enemy.

In September and October 1780, Major Patrick Ferguson was in the western part of the state, harassing the populace and gathering recruits for his army. His demeanor provoked the ire of the Whigs and a movement was begun to drive him from the country. This resulted in Ferguson abandoning his camp at Gilberttown, near Rutherfordton, and marching to Kings Mountain. The Whigs under Colonels Campbell, Williams, Graham, (Hambright, second in command), Shelby, Cleveland, Sevier, McDowell, Winston and Lacey rendezvoused at Cowpens Oct. 6th.

A night march was begun which brought them within striking distance of their prize on Kings Mountain about 3 p.m. the following afternoon. Col. Graham, who was at the head of the Lincoln County men, was unexpectedly called away an hour before the battle and Maj. William Chronicle was placed in command, through preference of Hambright, although he was second in command. Chronicle, being a young and active officer, was thought to be better fitted for the post than the aging Hambright.

The position of Maj. Chronicle's South Fork boys was at the northeast end of the mountain. When they marched up the hill for the first charge with Chronicle some ten paces in advance, a ball struck him and he fell mor-

tally wounded, along with one of his privates. Thus, at the very outset of the battle, Hambright was forced into command through Chronicle's death. He was described as a brave officer

Near the close of the conflict the Colonel, while encouraging his men, received a shot through his thigh, cutting one of the arteries, which filled his boot with blood. His men offered to assist him from his horse, but he declined, saying it would divert the attention of the men and that he did not feel faint or sick. He then ordered another charge and pressed forward at the head of his men, shouting in his broken Pennsylvania German: "Hussa, m'brave boys, fight on a few minutes more and battle will be over."

Although Hambright's wound was a serious one, he remained at the head of the command until the conclusion of the battle. Some of the sinews of the thigh were cut and he walked with a limp the remainder of his life.

The Battle of Kings Mountain apparently ended his active military service. A few years later he built a large two story log house on some bottom land near the mountain, which he had acquired before the war.

Col. Hambright was twice married, first to Sarah Hardin, the second a Dover. He was the father of 22 children by his two marriages, 12 by his first wife and 10 by his second. There are hundreds of this intrepid officer's descendants today residing in Cleveland, Lincoln, Cherokee, and York Counties, in addition to other areas of the country.

In recent years, the descendants of Hambright erected a handsome marker at his grave which reads:

**Colonel Frederick Hambright**  
Born 1727 in Germany  
Died 1817 in York County, S.C.

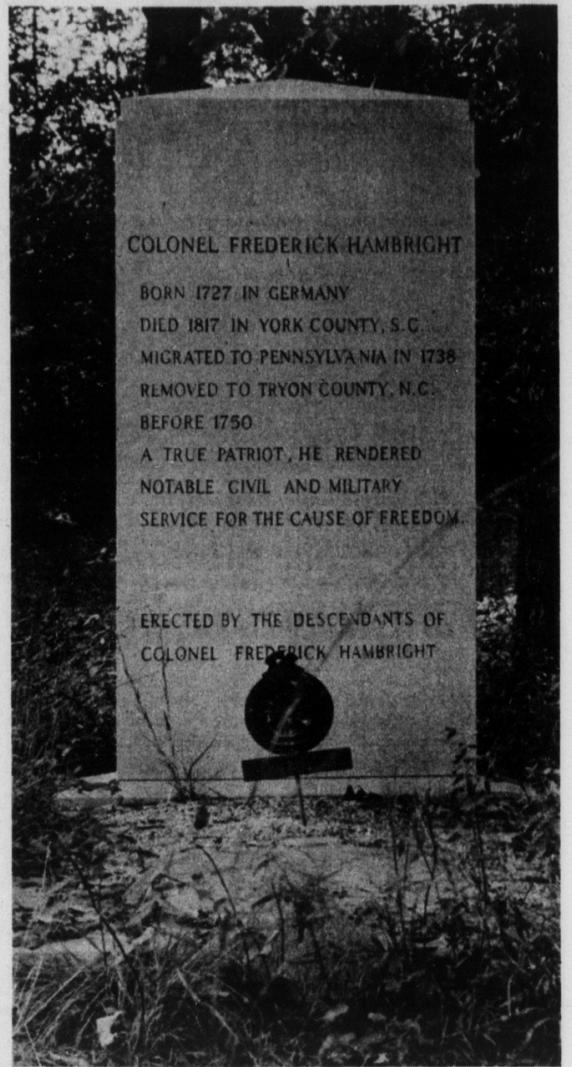


Photo by Gary Stewart

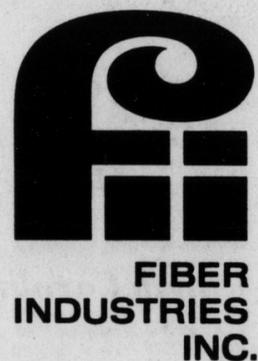
**HAMBRIGHT GRAVE - Col. Frederick Hambright, Kings Mountain Battle hero, is buried at the old Shiloh Presbyterian Church cemetery near Grover. His most recent grave marker was erected by the Kings Mountain Chapter of the DAR.**

Migrated to Pennsylvania in 1738  
Removed to Tryon County, N.C. before 1750

A true patriot he rendered notable civil and military service for the cause of Freedom.



OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET ...  
THE PEOPLE WHO WORK AT



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M F

*Paying tribute to our forefathers who*

*fought at the*

*Battle of Kings Mountain*

*200 years ago.*