

Battle Of King's Mountain Turning Tide Of Revolution

Was The Decisive Victory That Won The Seal Of Independence For The Colonies; Sesquicentennial To Be Celebrated Next October.

(By John A. Lang)

The significance of the Battle of King's Mountain in the winning of the American independence can scarcely be overestimated. In every important sense it was a crisis in the history of the Revolutionary War. Coming at the time when it did, the victory from this battle sent a thrill of new courage throughout the whole country. Thomas Jefferson, in referring to the Battle of King's Mountain, said: "It was the joyful announcement of that turn in the tide of our success that terminated the Revolutionary War with the seal of independence."

A hundred years after Jefferson made this statement, Theodore Roosevelt in his "The Winning of the West," Vol. II, page 286, speaks of the American victory at King's Mountain in the following way: "The victory was of far-reaching importance and ranks among the decisive battles of the Revolution. It was the first great success of the Americans in the South, the turning point in the Southern campaign, and it brought cheer to the patriots throughout the Union."

Similar judgements from able historians could be multiplied by the score, and no competent historian has ventured to express dissent.

The battle of King's Mountain affords a rich and colorful story to the person who seeks to study it from every angle. Most of us today are most particularly interested in studying the activities of the American soldiers in this battle. We are getting ready to celebrate the sesquicentennial date of this great battle. Thousands of people from all over this country, particularly from the southern states, are preparing to meet together on the memorial battleground of King's Mountain in October of this year to do honor and to pay respect to the American heroes who fought and bravely died there that their posterity might forever enjoy the blessings of liberty and self-government. It is therefore only natural that we



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should desire at this time to know more about these American heroes of King's Mountain who commendably bore the brunt of this fierce and bloody struggle. In knowing more about these patriots, we shall be more able to ascertain and appreciate their share in this battle which greatly helped us in our struggle for independence.

Study of Commanders

The most effective way to study the character of the American soldiers at King's Mountain is through the study of their commanders and leaders, and it is to the study of these American commanders and

leaders that this essay is devoted. Before taking up individually each one of the most important American commanders at King's Mountain, it is necessary to point out some characteristics which were generally common to all of the American commanders and soldiers that took part in this battle.

These men, who conceived and set on foot this effective stand against British oppression, were members of a frontier community only a few thousand strong. Their own homes were in constant danger of attack from the Cherokee Indians, a fierce and valorous nation who were in close league with the British and hung like a storm cloud upon the western skirts of the settlements.

These frontiersmen did not wait until the enemy was at their own doors, but they took the offensive and went in search of the enemy, thus making common cause with all the colonies. It seemed as though nothing could overcome their courageous nature and determined will-power. They marched twelve full days over one of the roughest routes ever traveled by a mounted army, right straight across both the Appalachians and the Blue Ridge. For the last two days of their march, these frontiersmen pushed onward through a pouring rain and were out of their saddles only once, and then for but an hour.

Achieved Signal Victory
At the end of this strenuous ride, they, tired almost to exhaustion, threw themselves against a foe numerically as strong as themselves, securely posted, well drilled, and commanded by one of the bravest and most accomplished officers in the British army.

The undaunted driving-power of the American frontiersmen led them to achieve at King's Mountain, within a little more than an hour, one of the most signal victories of the whole Revolution, in which they killed, wounded or captured nearly every one of their British antagonists.

If there be any citizen of the United States whose blood does not flow a little faster at the recital of these courageous accomplishments, he is not to be envied. These accomplishments could never have been brought about by those American frontiersmen had it not been for their fearless, valorous, and liberty-loving characteristics and natures.

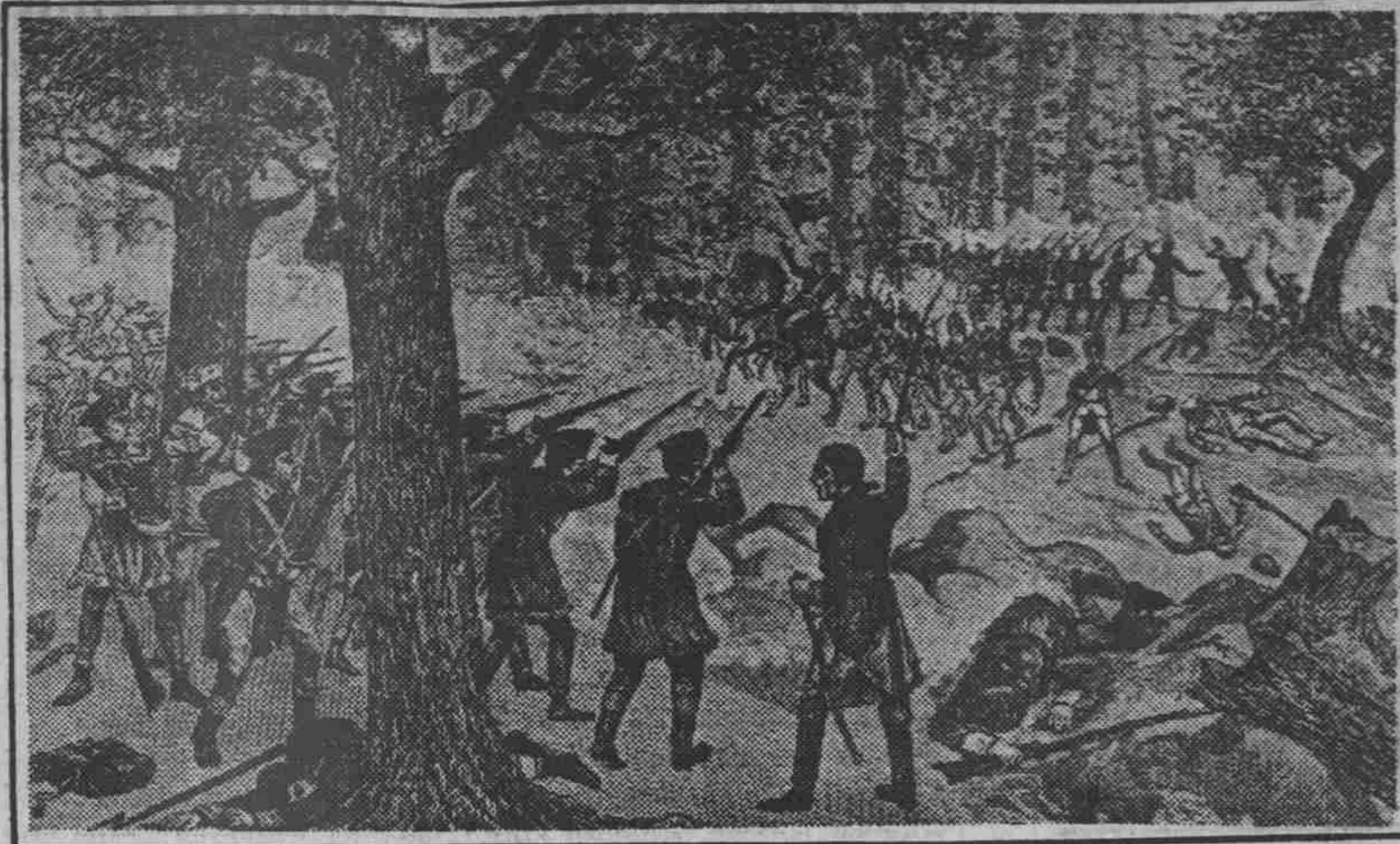
The American commanders at King's Mountain possessed these characteristics to such an extent that they became the means by which the success of the American cause in this battle was insured. These commanders left their families utterly exposed to the ferocious Cherokee Indians and traveled over the frontier regions, summoning the frontiersmen to follow them.

Result of Much Planning

It is about such heroes that we should wish to know more. These men, who made possible this great American victory, are often times permitted to occupy no great place in our store of knowledge. We are too prone to think of this victory at King's Mountain as the product of a military effort that had no previous planning or forethought. Many of us have not yet realized that it was through the effective planning and preparation on the part of the American commanders at King's Mountain that the American victory was won there on October 7, 1780.

It is, therefore, entirely befitting at this time upon the eve of our great celebration at King's Mountain that we should

Reproduction Of Famous Battle



Shown above is an excellent conception of the Battle of King's Mountain, as portrayed by an artist. In the foreground is pictured General Ferguson falling from his horse after being mortally wounded.

look into the story of the lives of these commanders. In doing this, we shall get the proper perspective upon their lives and be better able to ascertain the various movements and forces that accentuated their actions and influenced their characters. We shall take up each one of these commanders individually in order that we may be able to acquaint ourselves better with their personalities.

Isaac Shelby

Probably no one commander had any more to do with the success of the American cause at King's Mountain than did Isaac Shelby. Shelby's persistent courage and great influence over men contributed largely to this American victory. Born December 11, 1750, in Frederick County, Maryland, Isaac Shelby was employed until 21 years of age farming and herding for his father, Captain Evan Shelby.

In 1771 Isaac removed with other members of his family to the Holston region in southwestern Virginia. It was in this region that Isaac Shelby shared the customary experiences and adventures of a pioneer and frontiersman. He served as a lieutenant in a company of Fincastle troops, of which his father was captain, in Lord Dunmore's War and fought valiantly in the Battle of Point Pleasant in this war.

For nearly a year following this war, Shelby explored, located, and surveyed lands in Kentucky. In July, 1776, while yet in Kentucky, he was appointed captain of a company of minute men by the committee of safety in Virginia. Shelby discharged his duties so effectively that Governor Patrick Henry, of Virginia, appointed him in 1777 as a commissary of supplies for an extensive body of militia guarding the frontier posts.

Finds Himself a Tar Heel

In 1778 Shelby was engaged in the commissary department, providing supplies for the Continental army and for an expedition, by way of Pittsburgh, against northwestern Indians. He rendered similar service in 1779.

In the fall of the same year, Shelby was commissioned a major by Governor Thomas Jefferson, in the escort of guards to the commissioners for establishing the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina. By the extension of this line Shelby's residence was found to be in North Carolina, and shortly afterwards he was appointed by Governor Caswell, of North Carolina, a colonel of the new county of Sullivan which is now in the state of Tennessee.

Isaac Shelby was largely responsible for the American victory in the Battle of Musgrove's Mills, August 18, 1780, and dur-

ing this same summer captured a formidable Tory stronghold on the Pacolet River.

Played Important Role

Colonel Isaac Shelby's part in the Battle of King's Mountain was a most important one. In his home on the frontier of North Carolina, Shelby had received a message from Colonel Charles McDowell, of Burke County, begging him to furnish all the aid he could towards checking the British who were over-running the three southern states. In a few days, Shelby crossed the Alleghanies with two hundred mounted riflemen. On came Shelby with his men, and their valor and patriotism were shown in every encounter with the enemy on the way to King's Mountain. By their actions, Shelby and his men reassured the struggling patriots

that the British leaders could not ride roughshod over the American people.

Shelby's efforts in prosecuting the King's Mountain expedition, his magnanimity in securing the appointment of Colonel Campbell to the chief command, and his heroic work at that critical period were of the greatest importance to his country.

The Legislature of North Carolina passed a vote of thanks to Colonel Shelby and his good services and directed that an elegant sword should be presented to him. Afterwards, Shelby joined his forces with those of General Greene and continued to contribute valuable service to the American cause until the end of the war. In 1783 he moved to Kentucky where he had a long and distinguished career

serving as a legislator, governor and military leader. Isaac Shelby's eventful career came to a close on July 18, 1826, at his Kentucky home, "Traveler's Rest," in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

It won't help the world's mortality statistics much to scrap battle-ships and make automobiles out of them. —Brunswick (Ga.) Pilot.

SUNDAY DINNER—\$1.50

Carolina Inn

April 6th

12:30 P. M. to 2:30 P. M.

M-E-N-U

Fresh Fruit Cocktail
Celery Hearts & Queen Olives

Cream of Tomato
or
Chicken Broth au Riz

Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus
Half Broiled Chicken a la
Maryland
Lamb Chops Albarmarle With
Bacon

Mashed Potatoes, or Marshmal-
low Sweets
Buttered New Green Beans
Creamed Onions

Stuffed Tomato Salad
Saltines

Fresh Fruit Parfait
Maple Nut Layer Cake
Ice Cream or Raspberry Ice
Coffee Tea Milk
Assorted Bread, Hot Rolls

Candied Grapefruit

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