

Mural returned to KM Historical Museum

A mural depicting a Revolutionary War scene that for more than a generation was located in the old U.S. Post Office downtown has been returned to its original home, now the site of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

Painted by Verona Burkhard in 1941, the work is thought to exemplify New Deal artwork and has long been a source of pride for the community.

Burkhard was commissioned to do the painting, which is 14 ft. by 5 ft., by the Roosevelt-established Federal Works agency. She was paid \$750 at the time.

When the historic post office was replaced with a modern building on Gold St. in the late 1980s, the painting found a new home in Kings Mountain's City Hall.

But recently city leaders, including Mayor Rick Murphrey and Kings Mountain Historical Museum director Adria Focht, felt that the museum was a more appropriate home for the popular and eye-catching Depression era painting.

The move, carried out by professional art handlers last week, also coincides with the 75th anniversary of the opening of the origi-

nal post office, which itself was a New Deal project.

The former Kings Mountain Post Office building has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

The July 1 anniversary event will include an official presentation of the official entry in the National Register of Historic Places and a tour of the building led by Davyd Foard Hood, architecture and landscape historian who prepared the nomination.

The public is invited.

Robert Henry, a Patriot at the Battle of Kings Mountain

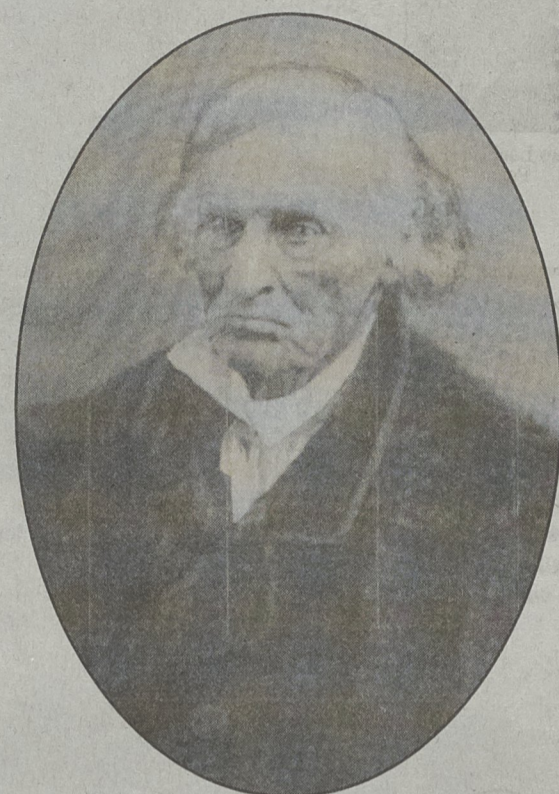
(Ed. note - Clyde Holland has researched information about Robert Henry who fought in the Revolutionary War Battle of 1780 at Kings Mountain. He suggests that those attending Bob Inman's drama, "Liberty Mountain" this summer may recognize some of the characters in the roles of local patriots.)

by CLYDE HOLLAND

Robert Henry was born on Feb. 10, 1765 in Tryon County (now Gaston County), North Carolina along the Catawba River. Robert fought at the battle of Kings Mountain with the Lincoln County Militia.

During the battle Robert laid down behind a log for protection. In this position he had a clear shot at the Loyalists. The Loyalist charged with fixed bayonets. One of the Loyalist charged at Robert, the Loyalist bayonet ran down the barrel of Robert's rifle, piercing Robert's left hand, and pinning the hand to Robert's left thigh. Somehow Robert was able to fire his rifle killing the loyalist attacker instantly.

Robert was left with the dilemma of how to extract himself from the impaling bayonet and its attached rifle with his right hand. No matter how hard he struggled he could not free himself. William Caldwell saw his friends' predicament and rushed to his rescue. Pulling the rifle out of Robert's thigh Caldwell was puzzled as to how to remove the bayonet from Robert's hand. Caldwell did the only thing he could think of and kicked Robert's hand free. After the battle Robert's friends and neighbors Hugh



ROBERT HENRY

Ewing and Andrew Berry helped Robert to his home. The next morning, Isabella Henry, Robert's mother, tenderly applied a poultice of ashes from the fireplace.

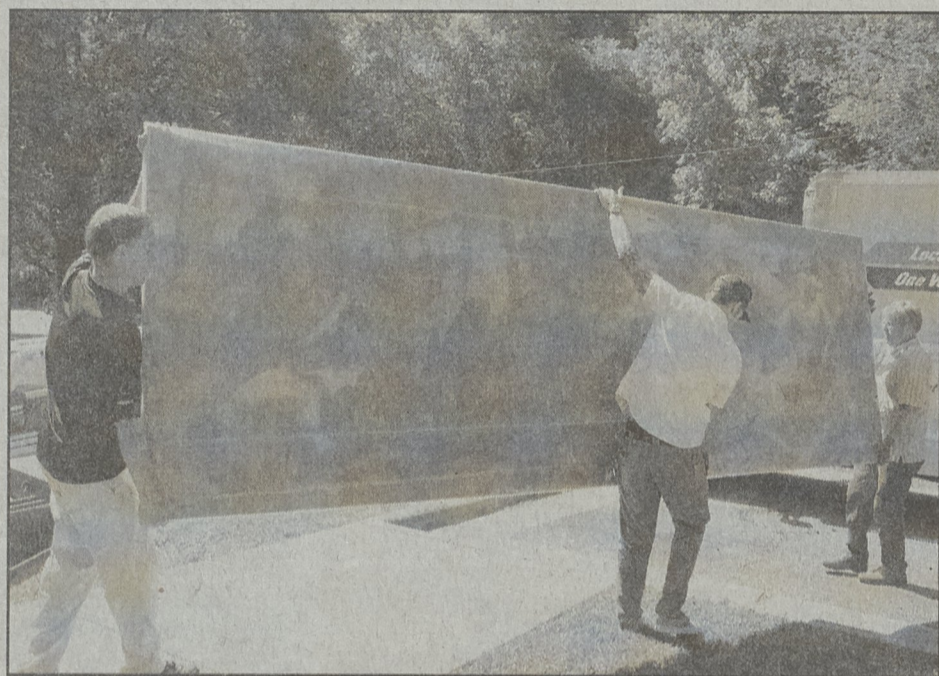
Henry, healed of his wounds, would make a name of himself. He moved to Buncombe County, North Carolina where he became the first teacher, surveyor, lawyer and doctor of the county. He surveyed the Tennessee and North Carolina border. It has been stated that no survey conducted has ever been successfully challenged in court.

In his 94th year he sat for this tin type portrait.

Robert died a magnificent death as well. In January 1863, Robert's grandson was visiting a neighbor who asked him to ask Robert if he could borrow his

slaves the next day. The lad went to Robert to make the request known and Robert replied that the neighbor could not have his slaves tomorrow as the slaves would be busy digging his grave. Upon hearing this reply, the neighbor told his wife he was worried about the old man and insisted they go immediately to see Robert. Robert had just completed his dinner as the neighbors arrived. Robert slept on two bear skins on the floor and lay down.

Upon reclining Robert requested that someone straighten out his legs and the request was completed. Robert requested they cross his arms across his chest and the request was completed. At that moment on 6 January 1863 Robert's life was also completed, just days short of his 98th birthday."



Workmen, above, load the Revolutionary War painting from Kings Mountain City Hall and move it to its former home at the old US Post Office, now the home of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.



BACK HOME - Visitors to the Kings Mountain Historical Museum on July 1 and the 75th anniversary of the opening of the US Post Office on E. Mountain Street can see the handsome painting above the door in the lobby and get a tour of the facility.



Artistic and Fight Director Caleb Sigmon works with actors during a combat rehearsal for "Liberty Mountain," which opens this weekend at Performing Arts Theatre at the Joy. Photo by KATY SIGMON

Facility inspections

Cleveland County Health Department inspected area facilities during the week June 15-19 and included the following in this area: Eaton Corporation Cafeteria, 99, and Washington Outreach Ministry, Stony Point Road, 100.

New exhibit coming to KM

"Kings Mountain's Food History is Pig Pickin' and Finger Lickin'" is the new exhibit which opened on June 20 and will continue through Oct. 17 at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

This exhibit will explore the local farms, restaurants

and grocery stores that fed the people of this region through the generations and look at how food production, storage preparation and consumption have revolved since the first Europeans settled in this area. Admission is free.

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Lib Stewart - Managing Editor
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