



Photos by Gary Stewart

HICKORY SMOKED—Bystanders are almost covered by the smoke off the hickory wood as women cook over an open fire at Kings Mountain National Military Park Sunday. It was all part of the 199th celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. The women cooked and talked about dishes of the 1780's while men told stories of the Revolutionary War.



FIRE—Some of the 1,600 people who attended Sunday's Battle of Kings Mountain celebration at the National Military Park watch a firearms display. Visitors from five states took part in the Overmountain Victory Trail march and celebration.



ALMOST OVER—Members of the Overmountain Victory Trail march wind the trails of Kings Mountain National Military Park on the end of their march which began several weeks ago in Tennessee. The marchers arrived at 3 p.m., the exact time their ancestors marched onto the battlefield 199 years ago.

Kings Mountain Herald
 PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS
 Publisher

GARY STEWART
 Co-Editor

LIB STEWART
 Co-Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN
 General Manager

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Herald is published by Herald Publishing House, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at 431 N. Piedmont Ave. Phone 739-7496. Second class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N.C. Single copy 15 cents. Subscription rates: \$10 yearly in-state. \$5 six months. \$11 yearly out-of-state. \$5.50 six months. Student rate for nine months \$7.50. USPS 931-040.

1,600 Attend KM Celebration

A crowd estimated at over 1,600 attended the 199th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain Sunday at Kings Mountain National Military Park. Dr. Bill Briggs, president of Limestone College and a former resident of Kings Mountain, gave the principle address and told the crowd "we face few challenges greater than those who traveled over the mountain on Sept. 28, 1780 to fight at Kings Mountain."

A huge crowd of marchers traveled over the mountain again, retracing the steps their ancestors took from Elizabethton,

Tenn., to Kings Mountain. The marchers arrived at the park amphitheatre at 3 p.m., the exact time their ancestors arrived 199 years ago. The last two miles of their walk followed a picnic lunch at the Houser House.

Dr. Briggs said the problems facing the United States today can be defeated if "we have the same courage as those who fought here."

Several members of the Overmountain Victory Trail marchers took part in the ceremony, along with park superintendent Andrew M. Loveless, South Carolina Congressman Ken Holland, and others. The Blacksburg High School band played the National Anthem and America The Beautiful.

Descendants of battle participants, including many who still live in the area, were introduced. Five states were represented, including the two Carolinas, Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia.

For several hours before the main festivities, visitors wandered around the huge lawn of the new visitor's center, where men and women dressed in 1780 attire relived that day. Women cooked persimmon and hickory nut pudding over an open fire while men sat on the ground and told children stories about the battle of KM and other Revolutionary War stories.

At a special roped-off area near the Amphitheatre, teenagers demonstrated several weapons used for hunting game and fighting during that era.

After the speech by Dr. Briggs, the marchers and hundreds of others walked to the U.S. Monument where Hugh C. Bennett, grand marshal of the Overmountain March, laid a wreath at the base of the monument in memory of the men who fought at Kings Mountain.

BASKETBALL MEETING

All churches interested in having a team in the Kings Mountain Men's Basketball Church League are asked to have a representative at a meeting at Second Baptist Church Monday at 7:30 p.m.

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