

Kings Mountain Herald

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Vote, or don't complain

Two weeks from today - on November 4th - Americans from all walks of life will be able to have their say at the polls.

This could be one of the most important elections in history for the American people as a whole.

Those of us who have the privilege of voting next month would do well to study the candidates and issues before entering the voting booth. It would also be well to keep in mind that elections for Congress, state, county, and local positions are probably just as significant as the Presidential race.

Each of us has the obligation to become informed and to support the candidates who share our basic beliefs and vote accordingly. The real test, of

course, comes in determining how each of those candidates stand on the issues of importance to you, your state and nation, and that you support those candidates who best represent your views.

It does not go to complain of the results of the general election if you stay away from the polls on Election Day. A record number of Cleveland County citizens are registered to vote on Nov. 4th at Cleveland County precincts. Kings Mountain citizens are encouraged to go to the polls in record numbers two weeks from today and vote their convictions. Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility we should not take lightly.

Paper represents public

We have just celebrated national newspaper week.

Honest newspapers - and majority are - recognize as their duty the reporting of the news and, particularly on public matters, the duty of interpreting the news via editorial columns.

Once upon a time, many newspapers took the position they were infallible and a retraction of previously published fact was seldom seen. Happily, this situation doesn't exist today, the newspapers

realizing that perfection is yet to be attained by any mortal man.

Newspapering is as simple as this: the reporter is the representative of the public. His chore is to attend the meetings and report the events that the man on the street is prevented, by other duties, from attending himself.

It's the job of the Kings Mountain Herald and all other newspapers worthy of the name.

A great celebration

Kings Mountain has enjoyed one of its greatest celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain and certainly the imprint of the 200th birthday anniversary will remain on the minds of citizens, young and elderly, as well as on the generic face of the area for many years to come.

The sun shone, the queens were beautiful, the Marine Band and Airborne Chorus added pomp and pageantry to an already colorful event, and all the marching units and floats were sharp.

General of the Army William Westmoreland, who was the parade marshal and honorary chairman, echoed some of the same words after the Military Park ceremonies that Governor Jim Hunt,

U.S. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, Congressman Jim Broyhill, and other speakers said during the Oct. 7th Celebration Day events. "We have learned the lessons of war but like Kings Mountain, where we have taken a stand against aggression, peace has been secured and humanity has been restored."

Kings Mountain area citizens today benefitted from last week's celebration. Nothing gives a community an esprit de corps that such an impressive community effort does.

Mayor John Henry Moss, as general chairman of a mammoth five-state committee of nearly 1,500 people, and all participants, whatever their role, are to be congratulated. It was a great celebration.

Support United Fund

The annual Kings Mountain United Fund Campaign is off to a good start and there's not an unworthy appeal among the several included in the 1981 Kings Mountain appeal for funds.

The drive seeks a goal of \$53,500 and continues through November with a checkup luncheon by

committee workers on Oct. 27th, a final reports luncheon on Nov. 10th, and an awards banquet on Nov. 18th.

Give liberally and let's go over the top in collections again this year.

A tribute to fall

Fat, yellow pumpkins around Otis Falls Service Station on King St. call attention to Autumn, that beautiful season of Indian Summer weather for our section of Carolina.

Nowhere was Autumn more apparent than in the gorgeous arrangements of flowers, foliage and crafts on display at Wednesday's Fall Floral Fair (Community Festival) at Kings Mountain Woman's Club. Much credit is due the hardworking club members who brought out outstanding displays.

The Fall color was also evident at the KM National Military Park during the recent drama performances and during the 200th Celebration and its attendant festivities. With good weather, "Then Conquer We Must" played to a packed house at almost all performances. The reaction to the revised drama is further credit to the writer, the producer, the director, and the very large cast of area citizens for their good work and its success. It now appears that public demand will virtually require another and longer run in 1981.

Special To The Herald By Miss Vera Hardin, Historian The Hambright Family

Our family, the descendants of Col. Mark Bird and Mary Ross, planned a tour to Pennsylvania where our ancestors lived before the Revolutionary War. We chartered a Greyhound bus for August 13-17, 1979 and on the morning of the 13th we left the Antioch Baptist Church, Grover, N.C. with 42 passengers from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. One of the most rewarding tours any had ever taken!

The first night we spent at a motel at Independence Mall, Philadelphia. The next day we toured the spots so rich in our family history - Independence Hall, Christ Church, Cemetery at Christ Church, Congress Hall, Quaker Meeting House, Betsy Ross House, etc. We had three uncles who were signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Rachel, a sister of Col. Mark Bird was the first wife of that most distinguished statesman, James Wilson, signer of the Declaration of Independence, a Framers of the Constitution of the United States, and one of the first Trustees of the Supreme Court appointed by General Washington.

Mary Ross Bird was the daughter of Rev. George Ross, and the sister of George Ross, signer of the Declaration. She was the sister of Gertrude Ross, second wife of George Read, a signer of the Declaration and a Framers of the Constitution. She was the sister of the wife of Col. Edward Biddle, a member of the Continental Congress, and another was the wife of Gen. William Thompson who commanded first troops from many colonies south of New England to join Washington before Boston in 1775. She was also sister of John Ross, one of the leaders of the Colonial Bar and for years Attorney General for the Crown for lower counties on Delaware; and of Rev. Aeneas Ross, whose son John was the husband of Betsy Ross, the flagmaker.

Our next stop was Valley Forge where we had about an hour bus tour. It was here that my ggg grandfather, Col. Mark Bird sent 1,000 barrels of flour to George Washington's starving army.

On our way to Hopewell Village we visited Birdsboro. Here Thomas Adams, Birdsboro borough manager joined in the tour, and Nicholas DeSantis served as the guide for a visit through the William Bird Mansion now the Community Memorial Hall. This was built by William Bird (father of Mark Bird and Rachel Bird Wilson) in 1751 who married

Tribute to the OM Men

First Of Three Parts

(An appraisal made by Sam J. Ervin, Jr. of Morganton, N.C., in honor of those who re-enact annually as a patriotic obligation the over-the-mountain march of the heroes of King's Mountain from Sycamore Shoals to the King's Mountain battlefield.)

For some years my good friend, Colonel Hugh C. Bennett, and other patriots have been re-enacting the over-the-mountain march of the heroes of the Battle of King's Mountain from Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga to the battlefield.

In so doing, they perform a two-fold patriotic service. First, they commemorate one of the most thrilling events in our country's past; and, second, they remind present-day Americans of this everlasting truth which was cherished and exemplified by the heroes of King's Mountain: It is better for men to die on their feet fighting an oppressor for liberty than to live on their knees appeasing him.

Some of those who fought for freedom at King's Mountain were of English or French Huguenot ancestry. The overwhelming majority of them, however, were Scotch Irish.

The Scotch-Irish were the blood descendants of the Lowland Scots whom England induced to migrate from their native Scotland during the 1600's and settle on the confiscated lands of Irish rebels in North Ireland which the King had given to some of his favorites and which were known to history as the Ulster plantations. At the outset those lands were leased to the Lowland Scots at low rents.

The belief underlying the establishment of the Ulster plantations was that the presence of the Lowland Scots in North Ireland would aid the English to retain their dominion over the rebellious Irish whose hatred of English rule knew no limits.

This belief proved valid. The Lowland Scots fought valiantly in the armies of William of Orange in the Irish Wars in which the rebellious Irish and their French allies suffered defeat.

Notwithstanding their reliance upon them, the English King and Parliament and their landlords grossly mistreated the Lowland Scots. Since they were devout Presbyterians rather than members of the established

Church of England, the Lowland Scots and their descendants in North Ireland were barred from holding political office, required by law to pay taxes for the support of the established Church of England whose doctrines they rejected, and denied various religious rights, including that of having their marriages solemnized by ministers of their own faith instead of the clergyman of the established church.

Despite these tyrannies, the Lowland Scots and their descendants in North Ireland were a hard-working folk and achieved a measure of economic well being by raising sheep, growing flax, and other endeavors. As the generations came and went, their prosperity increased, and during the years preceding the American Revolution, the descendants of the Lowland Scots in North Ireland manufactured and exported excellent woollens and linens whose sales encroached severely upon markets previously monopolized by similar English products.

The British Parliament thereupon added economic tyranny to the political and religious tyrannies which had been long visited upon the descendants of the Lowland Scots. It enacted laws imposing oppressive tariffs upon woollens and linens made by them in favor of those of English manufacture. Their landlords augmented the resulting economic woes by raising rents to a confiscatory degree.

The economic, political, and religious tyrannies to which they were subjected in North Ireland engendered an undying hatred of the British government in the hearts of the descendants of the Lowland Scots, and impelled multitudes of them to migrate to America in quest of the economic, political, and religious freedom denied them in North Ireland. Hence, they were ripe for revolt against Britain when their feet touched American soil.

After they reached America, they were called Scotch Irish to distinguish them from both the Highland and Lowland Scots who migrated directly from Scotland to America and the real Irish.

Their hatred of the British government did not diminish after their settlement in America. The head of local government in each colony was a royal governor who responded to the desires of the British

Crown rather than the wishes of the colonists, and they and the other colonists were deprived of much political freedom. Besides, eight of the thirteen colonies robbed them of the religious freedom they craved, and the British Parliament imposed upon all the colonists taxes they deemed unjust.

After the colonies declared themselves to be independent states and united to fight for freedom, they relied on two groups to wage their battles - the Continentals and the militia.

The Continentals were recruited by the Continental Congress for long periods. They were well trained for combat, and when properly armed were able to confront any enemy in open warfare.

The militia were recruited by the states for short periods. Often they had no uniforms, and furnished their own weapons. Despite their valor, they were not disciplined by adequate training, and found it difficult to stand effectively against a conventionally trained enemy in open combat.

It was decidedly otherwise, however, when the battlefield consisted of rough or forested terrain. Militiamen who lived on the frontier or in sparsely settled areas were great hunters and skilled marksmen, and knew how to maximize the cover from exposure to the enemy afforded by rocks or trees. As a consequence, they were deadly foes to a conventionally trained enemy in rough or forested terrain.

Although some of them were Tories during the Revolution, the Scotch Irish as a whole were numbered among Britain's most formidable foes in that struggle.

In an effort to terrorize them into submitting to the British Crown, some British officials and their Tory allies perpetrated upon the Scotch Irish inhabiting the frontier regions of northwest South Carolina, western North Carolina, southwest Virginia and the over-the-mountain areas in what is now Tennessee, and the Scotch Irish living along the Santee, Black, and Pee Dee Rivers and Lynchess Creek in South Carolina atrocities befitting Attila in Hun. I will indicate briefly the nature of these atrocities and refrain from stating them in detail.

During early Revolutionary days, British agents incited the Cherokees to make surprise at-

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Reader Dialogue

Enjoyed article on Long Creek

Dear Editors,
I really enjoyed the writeup you had in the Herald about Long Creek Presbyterian Church and cemetery.

I was born less than a mile West of the Church near the original old Rohm house on March 4, 1893. The first school I went to in 1900 was a little one room school at the back of the church. The Rohms went to Long Creek Presbyterian Church. My father and mother and his family are buried in the cemetery. I have lived in and around Kings Mountain most of my life. I can remember when there were only a couple of stores in Kings Mountain. I knew a lot of people there. I moved down here in the Chapel Grove Community in 1947, near the South Carolina line. I get my mail in South Carolina. I still have a good memory. I always wished I could do what you are doing.

MRS. LIZZIE ROHM TALBERT
CLOVER, S.C.

Learn from past

Dear Editors,

The great rule of moral conduct is, next to God, to respect time. As a shadow plays with the sunbeam, so no life can be all radiance.

The waves which sorrow lashes around us stand high between us and the world, and make our ship solitary in the midst of a haven full of vessels.

Life is divided into three terms, that which was, which will be.

Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present to live for the future.

EVERETTE PEARSON
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C.

The history of the Hambright family

Bridgette Huling, James Wilson and Rachel Bird were married at the Episcopal Church in Douglasville and the reception was held at the Bird home here. Mrs. DeSantis stated that there was no juvenile delinquency in Birdsboro. This home plays a part in this since it is used for the YMCA and provides wholesome entertainment.

Finally we arrived at Hopewell Village, Mark Bird's ironworks, which is not a National Park. Mark Bird, like many other ironmasters, was an ardent patriot. In 1775, when the Revolutionary War came, he served as Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Battalion, Berks County Militia. Later in August 1776, as Colonel Bird, he outfitted 300 men with uniforms, tents, and provisions - all at his own expense. This force marched under his command to Washington's relief after the Battle of Brandywine late in 1777.

Mark Bird's chief services to the American cause, however, were those of a patriotic philanthropist and munitions maker, rather than a soldier. Many of his ironworks, gristmills, and sawmills supplied the Continental Congress with the sinews of war. The minutes of the Continental Congress for June 24, 1777, March 11, 1778, April 8, 1780 and September 10, 1783, refer to large quantities of iron

supplies received from him. In 1777 eleven men were discharged from the militia to help in the cannon foundry and nail works for the use of the United States. Orders of \$50,000 and \$125,691 were issued in 1778 and 1780 in Birdsboro by the Continental Congress. It is doubtful if he ever collected on the large amounts owed to him by the United States. On September 15, 1783 he asked that the Great Chain which had been stretched across the Hudson River at West Point to keep the British out be delivered to him in part payment of his account. This was denied on the grounds that he was a creditor of the United States along with others.

It was a thrill to tour the Village and see the living history reenacted where our ancestors lived and labored for our freedom. Mark Bird gave his fortune for the cause and then moved to North Carolina where he died a poor person. He is buried at Concord Baptist Church, Bostic. Not a forgotten patriot! He has a number of descendants in this area who gather each year at the Antioch Baptist Church to refresh our memory of the history. Mark Bird's son, Edward was the first clerk of this church - organized 1813. His two grandsons, William and Robert were the architects and carpenters for the present sanctuary erected in 1885.

A visit to anyone's ancestors home is rewarding!