



COL. MATTHEW SINGLETON



Chapter of the SCSSAR, Sumter, SC

# Dispatch

October 2024. Vol. 1-2

**President's Remarks** – Compatriots, we hope this month's "Dispatch" informative and that you will join for our meeting this month at the Restaurant on Second Mill, on **Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, please arrive prior to 6pm.**

Please arrive a bit early as we will start the meeting with this special presentation just after 6pm, then will be follow with our meal service and regular meeting.

Returning this meeting as our guest speaker, author **Aliene Humphries** (inset photo) discusses her book **The French and Indian War** that pitted the colonies of British America against those of New France. Each side supported by military units from their parent country and American Indian allies. Humphries discusses the experiences of this often-forgotten conflict and the outcome that caused the colonists to want to fight for independence from England.



After the guest speaker's presentation, we will start the regular meeting, **it is time to hold the annual election of officers.** Last year, our Treasurer indicated he would like to step down from the position and generously agreed to a one-year extension. The vitality of the chapter rests with the membership and willing volunteers to bring new ideas to help the chapter continue to grow while keeping alive the history of the Patriots who helped create the self-governing nation in the world. This month, we also have an opportunity for a successor for Chapter President and Chaplin. I humbly

ask that everyone consider helping the chapter and donating a bit your time and talent to promote the chapter and the memories of our revolutionary ancestors.

I want to congratulate the Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter's newest Compatriot, **Lawrence "Van" McCoy**, having descended from Patriot Robert Thomas. He will be joining Compatriot **Richard Halferty** for official induction at our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, we want to keep Van in our thoughts as he recovers from a recent vehicle accident, and we are thankful for God's mercy in preventing him from serious injury.

We want to pray for the family of Compatriot **Archibald Chandler**, who recently passed away. He was a long-time member of our chapter and active with the Sumter Shaw Relations group, dedicating much of his time to the service men and women of Shaw AFB.

Finally, chapter member **John Hoyt** of Manning recently lost his wife of many years, so we also want to keep him in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>!

Your Humble Servant,

Thomas Blackmon  
President, Col. Matthew Singleton Chapter  
Vice President, Pee Dee Region

**Following Chapter Meeting:**

**Christmas Gathering  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**The Restaurant at Second Mill @ 6pm**

2390 Broad Steet, Sumter, SC

**Chapter Meeting Begins @ 7pm**

***Secretary's Notes:***

This month's meeting corresponds with the anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina led all the colonies with Revolutionary War battles, skirmishes, and encounters number over 200 engagements. I included a brief of the battle in this issue along with a couple learning events. As they get published, we will post information about the many opportunities to lay wreaths and commemorate the actions on the battle fields by brave men who believed in the cause and that free people have the sense and sensibility to govern themselves.

If you want something included in the newsletter, let me know. I appreciate your feedback and inputs to help generate a better and more interesting product for the chapter.

With two new members and the passing of one member, we are at 73 members strong.

Larry Gamble

Secretary, Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter

Contact me:

WLGamble@icloud.com or (414) 699-9061

***Welcome New Members!***

Richard Halferty

Van McCoy

***Registrar's Notes:***

Our chapter has one new application in the process of gathering information for the documentation that's needed to prove the person's Patriot Lineage.

We also have three supplemental packages submitted from members.

- New applications, once they arrive at National and get marked received, the current approval wait time is 17 weeks.

- Supplemental applications, presently take about 57 weeks after receipt at the national headquarters for approval.

John Holmberg

Registrar, Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter

~~~~

***Colonel Matthew Singleton Chapter  
Meeting Dates & Sponsored Events***

**2024**

|             |                                         |     |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| October 8   | - Chapter Meeting and Officer Elections | 6pm |
| December 10 | - Christmas Gathering                   | 6pm |

**2025**

|            |                                          |      |
|------------|------------------------------------------|------|
| January 14 | - Chapter Meeting                        | 6pm  |
| April 8    | - Chapter Meeting                        | 6pm  |
| April 26   | - Fort Watson Commemoration              | 11am |
| August 2.  | - Gen. Thomas Sumter Commemoration       | 11am |
|            | (pending confirmation with DAR cohost)   |      |
| October 14 | - Chapter Meeting and Officer Elections. | 6pm  |
| December 9 | - Christmas Gathering                    | 6pm  |

~~~~

The banner features a gold background at the top with the American and British flags. Below this is a dark blue section with white text. The title 'The Battle of Kings Mountain' is in a large, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, italicized serif font, is '65 Minutes that Changed the Revolutionary War'. At the bottom, in a small, white, sans-serif font, is 'October 7th, 1780'.

## The Battle of Kings Mountain

*65 Minutes that Changed the Revolutionary War*  
October 7th, 1780

The turning point in the Southern Campaign, much is written about tactics, and the soldiers engaged in battle on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780. The Patriot victory was solid, eventually sending Lord Cornwallis back north where 12 months and 12 days later, he would in surrender at Yorktown.

Today, we consider these patriots honor from North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. In 1780, Kings Mountain was a hill on the border of North and South Carolina and the area of modern Tennessee at that time was part of North Carolina. With the Battle of Kings Mountain, the thousand strong forces from across the Appalachian Mountains would earn the name Overmountain Men. Led by Colonels Isaac Shelby, John Sevier, Benjamin Cleveland, and Joseph McDowell, these patriots and their men fought using the chaos generating tactics they successfully learned from the Indians. They used ambush attacks and tactical retreating to force a running skirmish while using cover and concealment to create firing advantages.

Before King's Mountain, British Major Patrick Ferguson chased retreating patriots back across the Blue Ridge mountain in mid-August, near what is now Rutherfordton, NC. Aggravated at their tactics, he sent a message to the militia commanders; "If you do not desist your opposition to British Arms, I shall march this army over the mountains, hang your leaders, and lay waste your country with fire and sword." This threat sparked the men to action.

To prepare for battle, Colonel John Sevier paid visit to John Adair, a land agent for North Carolina, seeking funds for munitions, weapons, sundry goods for resupply and return to the fight. Adair's replied to the request for a loan of \$12,735 from the state, "I have no authority in law to make that disposition of this money. It belongs to the impoverished treasury of North Carolina, and I dare not appropriate a cent of it to any purpose, but if our country is overrun by the British our liberties are gone. Let the money go, too. Take it. If the enemy, by its use, is driven from the country, I can trust that country to justify and vindicate my conduct, so take it."

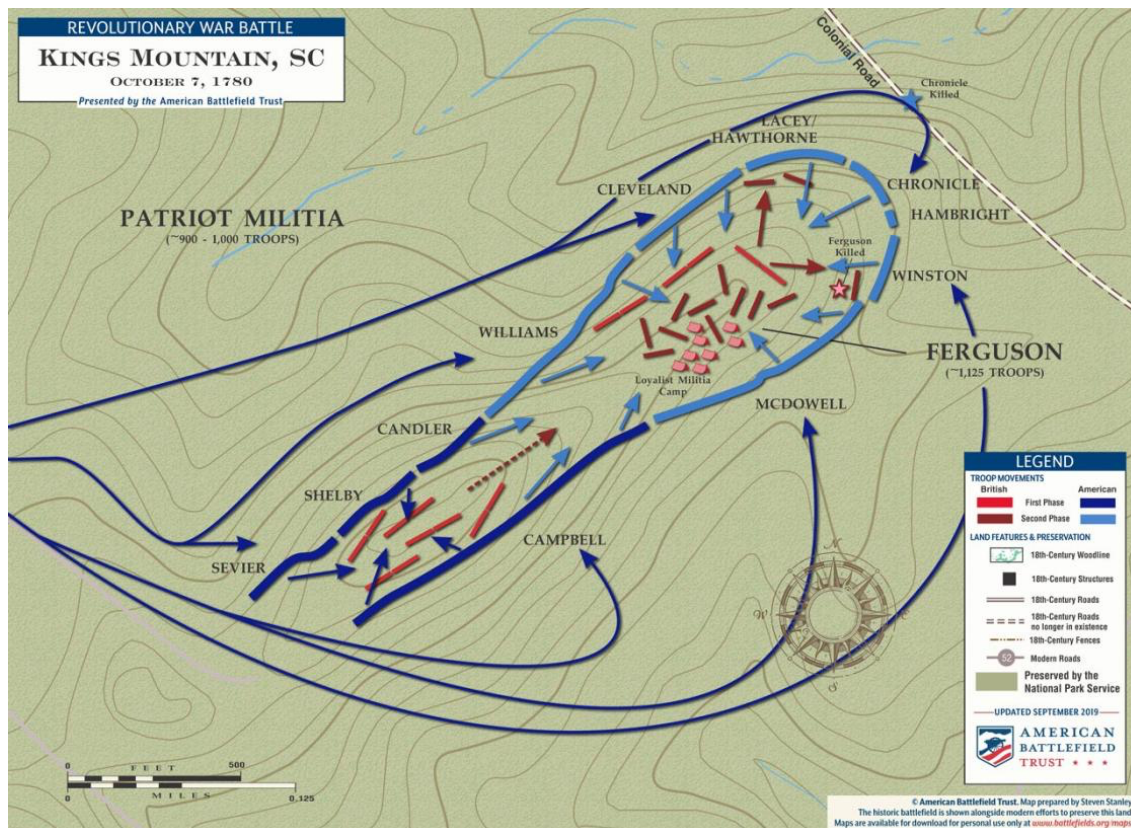
On Sept 26, Col Shelby mustered 240 men, Colonel Sevier about the same, and Colonel William Campbell brought 400 men on a two-day ride from Virginia. Another 160 men arrived under Colonel McDowell's command. With a force of just over 900, this Patriot militia force now made Major Ferguson the hunted. On the morning of Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, the patriots has just finished a 56 mile all day and night ride to close the gap.

Ferguson had camped force of recruited Loyalists regulars and militia troop of 1,125 men on Little Kings Mountain, a small promontory rising 60 feet above the plain. Believing the high ground gave him exceptional lanes of fire and defensive advantage, Ferguson is reported to have declared "he was on King's Mountain, that he was king of that mountain, and God Almighty could not drive him from it." Despite his tactical advantage on the high ground, he failed to fortify his defenses.

The fighting started about 3pm with Ferguson catch unawares that the Patriot forces had caught up with him and his Loyalist Carolina militia. The battle started with the OverMountain

# **The Battle of Kings Mountain** *65 Minutes that Changed the Revolutionary War* *October 7th, 1780*

Men assaulting uphill from multiple lanes with their chaos creating yelling and war whoops which was repelled but the Patriots quickly rallied and counterattacked. Using trees and boulders for cover, the Patriots more accurate riflemen cut down the Loyalists all over the battle field. lasted just over an hour and Ferguson would not live to see the outcome. Seeing his Loyalist force crumbling and starting to surrender, he rallied several officers and charge through the Patriot line to escape. He was wounded, and felled from his horse which dragged him behind Patriot lines. When confronted by a Patriot officer, demanding his surrender,



Ferguson shot and killed the officer. In the return fire from several Patriots, Ferguson died from multiple wounds.

In addition to the loss of Major Patrick Ferguson, the Loyalists force of over 1,100 lost 290 men killed, another 163 wounded, and 668 taken prisoner. For the Patriots, they suffered 28 killed and 60 wounded. Fearing Cornwallis' regulars would pursue them, the Patriot militia retreated not realizing the totality of their victory would cause Lord Cornwallis to cancel his North Carolina plans to focus on South Carolina.



## CAROLINAS REVOLUTIONARY WAR WEEKEND AND BATTLE REENACTMENTS



Location: The Meeting Place; 1208 Keys Lane, Kershaw, SC  
Saturday & Sunday November: 9th & 10th  
Sat: 10am – 5pm | Sun: 10am – 3pm

Join us for two whole days of life in the 18th century. Moving out into the county has provided us a more realistic and primitive event without all the traffic and extra noise associated with an in-town event.

Our annual *Carolinas Revolutionary War Weekend and the Battle Reenactment* events will be held annually on the second weekend of November. As with previous years, the event hosts hundreds of living historians portraying Crown and Patriot Revolutionary War soldiers and distaff (women and children of the soldiers), along with 18th century craftsmen, period craft demonstrations, and merchants with reproduction 18th century wares. Featuring daily mock battles, complete with cavalry, cannons, and cracking muskets. This is over a **Half-Century old Kershaw County tradition** that brings in reenactors and spectators as far away as the Midwest, New England, and the Deep South. Revenue raised by this annual reenactment funds the Liberty Live<sup>SM</sup> educational program.

\*Several food vendors will be onsite.



## LIBERTY LIVE EDUCATION DAY



Location: The Meeting Place; 1208 Keys Lane Kershaw, SC

Date: Friday November: 8th

Fri: 9am - 1pm

Liberty Live will be hosting a special school education presentation. We will have reenactors, demonstrators and merchants alike all set up and ready to create a memorable representation of the 18th century. All public, private and homeschool programs in South Carolina are welcome to register for this event. Let us bring the 18th century alive for your students.

\*Several food vendors will be onsite.