

Kings Mountain Centennial Monument ^[1]

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Old Monument of Kings Mountain Battlefield

^[2]

Kings Mountain Centennial Monument

Kings Mountain National Military Park, Blacksburg (SC)

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<https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/361> ^[3]

Description: Located in Blacksburg, South Carolina just across the border from North Carolina, this 28' high, four-sided granite pylon was erected on October 7, 1880 to celebrate the centennial of the battle of Kings Mountain. Derived from ancient Egyptian architecture, the truncated and tapering pylon originally flanked the entrance to temples, but was reintroduced during the nineteenth-century Egyptian revival. The pylon rests atop five gradating steps comprised of granite blocks. Above the base, the shaft of the monument can be divided into three sections with the middle containing four embedded Vermont marble slabs with inscriptions. The entire shaft tapers to the flat capstone with a slight cornice. When *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly* covered the centennial celebrations, the reporter referred to the monument as "lacking in appropriate ornamentation" (*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, 7). The ornamentation was intended to be a bronze figure of a Revolutionary War soldier in frontier gear and loading a rifle, but funds for the project ran out and this was never completed by future generations.

Historic images: [Historic postcard image](#) ^[4] | [Historic postcard image](#) ^[5] | [Engraving image of Kings Mountain from *Harper's Weekly* \(October 30, 1880\)](#) ^[6]

Contemporary images: [Full view](#) ^[7] | [Closeup view of front face](#) ^[8] | [View of inscription](#) ^[9]

Nickname: The New Monument

Inscription:

Front:

IN / Memory of / the patriotic Americans / who participated in the / Battle of / Kings Mountain. / this Monument is erected / by their grateful / Descendants.

Side:

Fell on this battle ground in / defense of Civil Liberty / COL. JAMES WILLIAMS, / MAJ. WILLIAM CHRONICLE. / CAPTAINS. / JOHN MATTOCKS, DAVID BEATIE, / WILLIAM EDMONSON. / FIRST LIEUTENANTS. / REECE BOWNE, THOMAS MCCULLOGH, / WILLIAM BLACKBURN, / ROBERT EDMONSON. / SECOND LIEUTENANTS. / JOHN BEATIE, ANDREW EDMONSON, / HUMBRESON LYON, JAMES CORRY, / JAMES LAIRD, NATHANIEL GUIST, / NATHANIEL DRYDEN, JAMES PHILLIPS. / PRIVATES. / WILLIAM RABB, JOHN BOYD, DAVID DUFF, / HENRY HEIGER, WILLIAM WATSON, / ARTHUR PATTERSON, PRESTON GOFORTH. Rear: Here on the 7th day of / October A.D. 1780 / the British forces / commanded by / COL. PATRICK FERGUSON / were met and / totally defeated by / CAMPBELL, SHELBY, / WILLIAMS, CLEVELAND, / SEVIER, and their / heroic followers from / Virginia, the Carolinas, / and Tennessee

Side:

Here the tide of the battle / turned in favor of the / AMERICAN COLONIES

Dedication date: October 7, 1880

Creator: F. A. McNinch of Marble Yard in Charlotte, Supplier

Materials & Techniques: Granite, marble

Sponsor: Kings Mountain Centennial Association

Cost: \$2860

Unveiling & Dedication: On June 23, 1880 the South Carolinian Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order laid the cornerstone for the monument after a sixteen mile procession that had begun the previous day. Inside the stone the Masons placed a copper box filled with documents about the Kings Mountain celebrations of the past and present. Around the same time the Kings Mountain Centennial Association (KMCA) arranged for the purchase of 39 1/2 acres of land around the monument and on Battleground Ridge from W.L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F.A. Goforth, and J.W. Wrens for \$197.50. The day for the battle's centennial ushered in a week of celebrations from October 4-9, 2012, with the bulk of the activities focused on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The events were popular enough for Major W. J. Houston of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air-Line Railroad to offer reduced rates of 1 1/2 cents per mile for out-of-town travelers. Tuesday, known as "Reunion Day," began the festivities with the assembling of a crowd of 3,000 at Colonel Ferguson's Grave at 11:30 AM. The festivities started with a prayer by Rev. Ellison Caper, and the following individuals each provided a speech on the stage: Governor Jeter of South Carolina, Judge Daniel G. Fowle of North Carolina, Judge T.N. Van Dyke of Tennessee, Rev. David E. Butler of Georgia, Hon. S.W. Williams of Arkansas, and J.M. McNeal of Mississippi. Colonel Coward concluded the speeches by reminding the audience of the former British tyranny and urged for remembrance of those states that fought in the American Revolution but were not represented at the service. The United States Post Band, which had been playing music most of the afternoon, ended the day with "Yankee Doodle" as the crowd dispersed. Wednesday, or "Military Day," attracted around 10,000 people. Initially, it had been advertised that a mock battle of Kings Mountain would be enacted, but this was changed to a military parade with General Holt in command at 12 PM. The crowd was then encouraged to roam the battlefields and search for relics. A relic house on the site also included weapons and personal mementos from those who fought in the battle. "Centennial Day," Thursday, began with a national salute at sunrise by the Richmond Howitzers and at 10 AM a review of the troops under General Hunt. The 12,000 attendees made their way in a procession to the grandstands at 11:30 AM. Only 500 seats were provided and the rest of the attendees sprawled out on either side of the mountain, forming an amphitheater. The stage was decorated with 100 U.S. flags and additional flags representing the 13 original colonies. Rev. William Martin opened with a prayer before the choir and the 5th US artillery band played "The Kings Mountain Lyric." The song was composed by Mrs. Clara Dargan McLean of Yorkville, South Carolina, and set to music by Professor E.W. Lineback of Salem, North Carolina. The "Kings Mountain Ode" was written by Paul H. Hayne and read by Colonel Charles C. Jones of Augusta, Georgia. The Hon. John W. Daniel of Lynchburg, Virginia gave the oration. Afterwards a procession was formed and marched towards the monument. Four young ladies representing Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee unveiled the monument with assistance from Governors Jarvis of North Carolina, Holliday of Virginia, Jeter of South Carolina, and General Campbell of Tennessee. The day's events were concluded with the audience singing a doxology. On Thursday a competitive prize drill was held, and Friday marked the end of the celebrations with an exhibition of agricultural and mineral resources of the Piedmont Belt.

Post dedication use: Annual Fourth of July celebrations have included eighteenth-century military encampments, musket demonstrations, and fireworks.

Subject notes: The Centennial Monument marks the area where the first shots of the battle occurred and the area of the most intense fighting.

Controversies: The price of the monument changed from estimated \$2,600 to \$2,860 because of a last minute switch of quarries and debate over the length of inscription.

The speech General Campbell (the representative of Tennessee) gave on Thursday upset some in the audience. He talked about the political troubles of his state and then denounced General Sherman and his March to the Sea during the Civil War, but at the same time he proclaimed his allegiance to the flag and the Union.

Location: The monument is located on the east side of the pathway in the park. The pathway is located on the east side of Battleground Drive. It is in the sight line of the U.S. Monument.

Landscape: The monument sits in a grassy area surrounded by trees at the highest point in the battlefield (1,020 feet).

City: Blacksburg, SC

County: York (SC)

Subjects: Revolutionary War

Latitude: 35.14077

Longitude: -81.3835

Subjects:

Monuments ^[10]

Places ^[11]

Authors:

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