

# News Release

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## Battle of Kings Mountain was

## Turning Point in Revolution

(Photo)

This is No. 74 in a series of articles designed to acquaint readers with South Carolina.

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YORK - - It was the darkest period of the Revolutionary War in the South, shortly after the American defeat at Camden. The British overran Georgia and most of South Carolina; the conquest of the South seemed about complete.

Lord Cornwallis marched his Redcoats unopposed into North Carolina and sent Maj. Patrick Ferguson on a scouting expedition to the Allegheny foothills to suppress the American mountaineers. But the mountaineers had other ideas.

They mobilized under Col. Isaac Shelby and Col. John Sevier. Ferguson began to pull back toward the main British forces, and withdrew into South Carolina.

As the pursuing mountaineers advanced, they were joined by patriots under Joseph McDowell and Col. William Campbell, later by Benjamin Cleveland's border fighters. More and more recruits swelled the mountaineers' ranks.

Ferguson camped his 1,125 men atop Kings Mountain just south of the North Carolina line. There on Oct. 7, 1780, the Americans surrounded the mountain and advanced unrelentingly up its sides. Ferguson's entire force was destroyed; its commander killed. The Americans lost 28 killed, 62 wounded.

The victory was, as the historian, Bancroft, wrote: "Like the rising of Concord, and in its effects like the success at Bennington." It fired the distressed Americans with new zeal and enabled them to strike back in the long re-conquest of the South.

The site of this famous battle now is Kings Mountain National Military Park in York County. A state park with all facilities adjoins.

