



Lieutenant Richard Vernon
Patriot under Captain Minor Smith,
Major Joseph Winston, and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland
of the Surry County North Carolina militia

Mortally wounded At Kings Mountain 07Oct1780

Died: a day or two after the battle

<http://revwarapps.org/s13795.pdf>

William Lowe under Col Benjamin Cleveland, Captain Minor Smith (Major Winston's Surry County corps) was assigned to duty as nurse or corpsman after the Battle of Kings Mountain. Lowe testified that his Lieutenant Varnil (**Richard Vernon**) was wounded and died in a day or two (probably on or near the battlefield).

Richard Vernon is not included with the heroes on the 1909 plaque.

Per Wm Lowe below:

3rd – He again volunteered from the same County & State under the command of Captain Minor Smith-- his lieutenant was named Varnil [sic, Richard Vernon] – Major Winston [Joseph Winston] & Colonel Benjamin Cleveland. There was a Captain Guess [Moses Guess or Guest] along. The forces rendezvoused at Bethany or Bethlehem, a Moravian town in Surry County – and marched towards the Cowpens and on our route joined the Virginia militia under Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] at the Cowpens we joined Colonel Williams' [James Williams'] Regiment from South Carolina. He started from the Cowpens under the command of Campbell, about sunset marched the whole night and crossed Broad River at the Cherokee Ford about day light – thence on to King's Mountain. Surrounded Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] & killed & took his whole Army. In this

engagement Captain Smith was shot through the head but recovered. His Lieutenant Varnil was wounded & died of his wound a day or two afterwards. He spent a day or two here – and then marched back towards the Moravian towns with the prisoners. He did not continue with the Army but went as a nurse **with William Hana [sic, Hanna or Hannah?] as a nurse who was severely wounded in the battle, to a doctor and remained with said Hannah till he died.** He then returned to Surry County and Captain Smith, not having yet recovered, he marched under a Captain Joel Lewis against some Tories at the head of John's River we followed them to the head of the Watauga River now in the State of Tennessee. Here we overtook them – fired on them, killed one & wounded another – they fled & hid themselves in an adjoining swamp. And we then returned over on John's River again – thence home. There was a Major White in company with us after these tours, but I believe he had no command. He got no discharge. He was out on this tour a little upwards of three months.

He again volunteered from the same County & State under Captain William Bostick, he joined a Regiment commanded by Col. Pickens [Andrew Pickens], a refugee from South Carolina – marched down on Haw River near Trolener's [sic, Trollinger's or Trolinger's] Ford-- and was there waiting to strengthen Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] when he required his services. The British under Lord Cornwallis was then in Hillsborough – While he was yet stationed near Trollinger's Ford the British evacuated Hillsboro & marched on towards Guilford. As they were passing on near where your applicant was stationed in a small skirmish of spies Major M. Lewis was shot through the thighs and died of his wounds. We were beaten back that night from two encampments & were compelled to make a third without fire. The next morning being confined with rheumatism he was compelled to leave the Army. He was engaged on this tour about three weeks. He was not discharged. This was in the winter of 1781, just before the battle of Guilford. He cannot remember precisely the date of his joining & leaving the service. By reference to the fixed dates he has alluded to, he hopes his statement on that subject will be found sufficiently certain. After the war he resided in Surry County six or seven years then moved to South Carolina on Saluda River where he lived 11 years, then to Kentucky where he now lives. He has his birth recorded in his family register, now at home. He can prove a portion of his service by a Mr. Clark but who he has been unable to get to the Court House owing to his advanced age. He forwards to the certificates of Joseph Smith & Zachariah Morris a minister of the gospel. He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to