

Captain Samuel Martin testified in his Federal Pension Application S9003 that from his company of 20 he lost 4 killed on the field and 2 mortally wounded. From these “South Fork Boys” under Colonel William Graham (who was called home to Buffalo Creek for his wife, then returned late in the battle), Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright, and Major William Chronicle, we may guess to name the six.

“in the last of September he with his Company marched a circuitous route to Gilbert Town now Rutherfordton and under & in Company with Col. Graham where he fell in with Colonels Campbell and Shelby then marched to the Battle at Kings Mountain where he commanded about 20 men, 4 of which were killed on the Ground & two died soon after.”

Exactly what Samuel Martin considered his company is unsure. The two mortally wounded could be among Moses Henry, John Henry, and Alexander Caldwell. The four from Lincoln County who are buried on the battlefield were privates John Boyd and William Rabb, Captain John Mattocks, and Major William Chronicle. Preston Goforth and John Henry are the other privates KIA from Col. Graham’s militia. Hugh Allison named Caldwell as mortally wounded from the remnant of Sumter’s militia.

Did Martin mean Chronicle or Mattocks in his company or were there one or two others from Martin’s company KIA?

The soldiers did not have unit insignia on their shoulders or hats. The only means of identification was a piece of paper in the hat band of a patriot to show that he was not a Tory. The Carolina border units had been reduced and shuffled by losses in Charleston and the defeats of Gates’ army and Sumter’s militia. Exactly who was with which captain of Colonel Graham’s 60 to 80 troops at Kings Mountain was unlikely the same as at Ramsour’s Mill or other engagements.

Samuel Martin was almost 100 years of age when he made the declaration stating that he lost six of his twenty. He still lived in Lincoln County in 1833. Neighbors were “Major Lawson Henderson, Colonel Oliver Holland, Andrew Berry, William Hanks, Andrew Hayle, Isaac Holland, Esq. And many others with Captain Samuel Caldwell.” When the northern and western patriots took the prisoners from BKM to the Moravian Towns, it befell the local residents to deal with the carnage and chaos of the battlefield. Wives, children, parents, and neighbors, as well as the soldiers, came to Kings Mountain. Perhaps it was during the week from 07Oct1780 to 14Oct1780 that Samuel Martin’s and Colonel Graham’s men dealt with more bodies. It is not inconceivable that a daughter of a killed loyalist from Martin’s neighborhood placed a paper in his hat band.

S9003 corroborating statement by Andrew Barry
[fn p. 57]

North Carolina Lincoln County this may certify that in the Barry appeared before me Andrew Hoyl one of the Justices of the Peace for & in said County after being sworn according to law on oath saith he this deponent volunteered and served as a private under Capt. Samuel the annexed applicant for a pension the day before the Battle at Ramsour's Mill in Tryon now Lincoln County North Carolina in June and that he was also under said Martin's command the October following of the Battle of King's Mountain where he Martin commanded about 20 men of whom **four fell on the ground & two died of their wounds afterwards** that he has been acquainted with the said Samuel Martin from a youth

and that he is & has been constantly acquainted with until this time both having lived in the aforesaid County. Sworn to & subscribed before me this 25th day of October 1833
S/ And. Hoyl, JP S/ Andy Barry?

W21793 George McLean

that in the next Fall he again volunteered for three months under Samuel Martin with John Berry his Lieutenant and James Glenn the Ensign and John Barber the Colonel; that during this Tour they marched in the direction of King's Mountain to join Campbell against Ferguson; that on the evening before the battle at King's Mountain they were about encamping a short distance from the Mountain when they were routed by some of Ferguson's dragoons and scattered and when they heard the firing on the next day he and five others made towards where it was and joined Campbell just after the battle had closed; that he was left with four others of his company to guard the Tory prisoners and take care of Campbell's wounded; that there were about 20 men for that duty; that the balance of his company went on with the other troops and that he joined them no more during that Tour;

W21837 Benjamin Newton, dispatched w/ message to Gen Rutherford and missed BKM

R157 Hugh Allison “The country being then much overrun with Tories the soldiers were required to change their situations frequently in order to keep them in check. This applicant in company with two others was sent by Col. Moffett on the morning of the Battle of King's Mountain [07Oct1780] to a small mountain near to which belonged to Ferguson. During the day after the Battle this applicant assisted in carrying the wounded of his company to a place of safety and in burying the dead—Wm Watson [William Watson], a brother-in-law of Col. Moffett, was killed—Alexander Caldwell was wounded and died—Maj. Chronicle was shot dead. The officers remembered by this applicant were Col. Cleveland, Col. Campbell, Col. Shelby and Col. Moffett—Major Hannah, who succeeded Major Ross who was killed at the battle of Keowee by the Indians, Major Chronicle who was killed—Capt. James Meek commanded the company of this applicant.”