

Virginia officer

Samuel Newell, himself wounded, saw the list of the Virginia casualties at Kings Mountain. He clearly recalled 15 killed and 20 wounded, among them 13 commissioned officers. James Laird and Thomas McCullough were counted among the wounded and soon after, Laird and McCullough died. Newell recalled only 11 of the 13 officers. That leaves us with two more unnamed.

Newell remembered officers killed:

Beattie, John
Blackburn, William
Bowen, Rees (Reece)
Dryden, Nathaniel
Edmondson, Robert
Edmondson, William
McCullough, Thomas (died with wounds)

Officers wounded:

Dysart, James
Edmondson, Robert (the younger)
Hill, James
Newell, Samuel (himself)

	Col Wm Campbell	Maj Wm Edmondson	
Captain	1 st Lieutenant	2 nd Lieutenant	Ensign
Wm Edmondson	Robert Edmondson Sr	Robert Edmondson Jr	Robert Sinclair
David Beattie	Matthew Willoughby	William Willoughby	Nathaniel Dryden
James Dysart	Andrew Kincannon	Thomas McCullough	Robert Campbell
Andrew Colville	Samuel Newell	William Davidson	John Beattie
Robert Craig	William Blackburn	William Bartlett	Andrew Goff
William Neal	William Russell		
	Rees Bowen	James Moore?	James Hill

(Jacob Crabtree in 1833 recalled James Roberts to be Dysart's ensign.)

Newell named privates killed:

Curry, James (Sgt, plaque says Lt Corry)
Edmondson, Andrew (plaque says Lt.)
Gist, Richard (the monument shows Lt. Nathaniel)
Hinnegar, Henry
Laird James (the plaque says Lt)
Phillips, James (the 1909 plaque lists him as a lieutenant)
4 more

Privates wounded:

Benoni, Benjamin
Bullen, Philip (plaque says William)

Fisher, Frederick
Hayter, Israel
Hice, Leonard
Kilgore, Charles
Moore, William

The 1880 Kings Mountain monument lists Captain David Beattie killed which is untrue.

Sgt [Robert Baker](#) of Dysart's company stated that he was wounded (S16628)

[John Peery](#) was named as wounded and [Thomas Peery](#) as killed under Rees Bowen by DE Johnston in History of Tazewell County, but most accounts show their incidents at Guilford Court House, not Kings Mountain.

Draper (p 304) names [Lt Humberson Lyon](#) killed who was not in Newell's letter. Residing in the Saltville area more distant from Blacks Fort, it is likely that Lyon was one of the privates killed who Newell did not recollect. He was not a lieutenant.

William Watson said he was wounded in r11207

[John Skeggs](#) (Scaggs) of Rees Bowen's company is listed on the 1909 plaque as wounded.

[Jonathan Douglas](#), [William Fowler](#), and [Robert McCullough](#) are in Lewis Preston Summers' *Annals* militia list as wounded.

[Miles Goforth](#) of Dysart's company stated that he was wounded (R8973)

Washington County found homes for the Lusk orphans in Nov 1780 and Summers lists their father [William Lusk](#) at Kings Mountain. Perhaps he was killed.

These numbers get close, but do not crossfoot.

The 35 names, if all are correct, still suggest that another officer or two from the Virginians was wounded and another private or two was killed, but that would make 39 names.

Robert Sinclair testified that he was Lieutenant under Captain Edmondson, perhaps the ensign whose name Newell did not recall. He remained at Yellow Mountain with the sick instead of proceeding to the battle.

Tazewell VA historian DE Johnson names James Moore as lieutenant in Rees Bowen's company.

59

To Col. D^d Campbell, Abingdon Va
Pulaski County KY August 4th 1823

Sir,

Yours of July 12th is received, but I am not able fully to comply with your request. Both my physical and mental powers are much impaired. My memory particularly is very much failed as that in a lapse of forty three years it cannot be expected I can give a very correct detail of particulars. I remember the morning after the battle that the return of the killed and wounded was shown to me and that the number from the Virginia regiment was fifteen killed and twenty wounded. Thomas McCulloch and James Laird did not die until the next Wednesday night, consequently were numbered with the wounded in the return referred to above. The officers killed were Captain Wm Edmondson, Lieut. Commandant Reece Bowen, Lieut. Robert Edmondson, Lieut. Wm Blackburn, and Lieut Thomas McCulloch (died with his wound) Ensigns John Beattie and Nathaniel Dryden. Officers wounded were Capt James Dysart, Samuel

Newell, first lieut, Robert Edmondson Jr 2nd Lieut, Ensign James Hill. There were thirteen commissioned officers killed and wounded from our regiment, but the names of two subalterns (probably from some remote part of the county, and with whom I was not intimate) I can not at this time recollect. Privates killed that I recollect Richard Gist, James Curry, James Laird,

59a

James Phillips, Andrew Edmondson, Henry Hinnegar. Here is lacking four privates killed whose names I cannot recollect. James Laird at the time I saw the return was not dead. Privates wounded and recollect: Wm Moore, Charles Kilgore, Frederick Fisher, Philip Bullen, Leonard Hyce, Israel Hayter, _____ Bannan (first name not recollect). Here is lacking nine privates whose names I do not recollect. They perhaps were but slightly wounded, and not much with the hospital department to which I was confined.

The officers of the Virginia regiment that went on that expedition were Colonel Wm Campbell, Major Wm Edmondson, Captains James Dysart, Wm Edmondson, David Beattie, Andrew Colvill, Robert Craig, and Wm Neal. Capt Neal was left with the foot. Dysart, Edmondson, Beattie, Colvill, and Craig were in the action. I am unable to give a correct detail of the subalterns and their arrangements. Andrew Kinkannon was Captain Dysart's first lieutenant, and perhaps Thomas McCulloch, second, but of this I am not certain. Robert Campbell was Dysart's ensign and could correct this statement if wrong. Robert Edmondson Sr was Captain Edmondson's first lieutenant and Robert Edmondson Jr second. I do not recollect who was Capt. Edmondson's ensign. Nathaniel Dryden I believe was Captain Beattie's ensign. I don't remember his other subalterns. Samuel Newelle was first Lieutenant, Wm Davidson, second, and John Beattie, ensign in Captain Colville's company. In Captain Craig's company, Wm Blackburn was first lieutenant, Wm Bartlett, second,

59b

And Andrew Goff ensign. Lieut. Bowen came in late, was not attached to any company, but commanded the party he brought as captain. Lieutenant James Hill was his ensign. I do not remember what subalterns or if any were left with Captain Neal with the foot. Wm Russell was Neal's Lieutenant, and commanded the horsemen of Neal's company and was in the action.

We were under a forced march from the time we started until the battle, which gave little time for acquaintance in other regiments. I do not know of any field officer in Colonel Shelby's regiment, but himself, unless his brother Evan Shelby acted as major. His Captains that I recollect were John Sawyers, George Maxwell, James Elliot, and Wm Pemberton. In Colonel Sevier's regiment, Colonel Charles Robertson was second in command and the captains I remember were Valentine Sevier, Robert Sevier, Christopher Taylor, and John Paterson. I do not recollect any of the subalterns of either regiments. Colonel William Russell of Fayette County Kentucky I should suppose could give a fuller and more accurate account of the events and arrangements of the army on that expedition than I can possibly do. He escaped without injuries, continued with the army through the whole route, consequently had a better opportunity of knowing and retaining passing events than I had, who was confined after the action and left the army the

59c

sixth day afterwards.

I am sir with the highest respect your &c

Sam'l Newelle

P.S. On casting my eye over what I have written I see it is in very confused order. My age and infirmity must be my apology. I cannot undertake the drudgery of transcribing and correcting.
S.N.

Below is a transcription from Lyman Draper's notes for his *Battle of Kings Mountain and its Heroes*. The manuscripts are among your premium content at SN1754.com.

24Apr1823

238

219.

Colonel Samuel Newell Certificate

I, Samuel Newell, formerly of Washington County, Virginia, but now of Pulaski County, Kentucky, do certify that previous to the expedition to Kings Mountain, the Washington regiment was called on for a hundred and fifty men to suppress the rising of the Tories on New River. I was one of the detachments. We rendezvoused on the waters of Reed Creek. Before my arrival at the place of rendezvous, Colonel William Campbell had started, with troops that had collected over the mountains to the Yadkin, to suppress a rising of Tories heard of in that quarter. The command of the remaining Montgomery and Washington troops devolved on Colonel William Preston. I was ordered with a command of twenty eight men to the Lead Mines to guard them, as it was understood the Tories intended to destroy them. I do not remember the number of days we continued at that station, but recollect I was the last discharged of the detachment, except those who crossed the mountain. On my return, I called at Colonel Campbell's, and inquired if he had got home, and was told that he had not.

As near as I can recollect, it was the fourth day after my return home, that the express from McDowell to Colonel Campbell, informing him of his flight across the mountains from Ferguson,

239

220.

and imploring his assistance, passed, and I also recollect that I then observed that I did not expect that Colonel Campbell had yet returned from the other side of the mountain, but he had. I think it was the second day after after [sic] the express passed, that the troops volunteers of the Washington regiment began to assemble at the first creek below Abingdon, where I then, in the family of my father, resided. The next day, about one o'clock, we marched with Colonel Campbell leading us, and the day following arrived at the rendezvous on Watauga. A second call on the regiment was obeyed with the same alacrity, and was marched to the rendezvous by Colonel Arthur Campbell.

We marched thence across the mountains as soon as possible. On the Catawba we met Colonel Cleveland, where, as I understood, that in a council of field officers Colonel Campbell was unanimously as commander-in-chief, and, it was said, at the time, it was an honor due the Virginia regiment, and their gallant commander, for their turning out, with so much alacrity, to assist a suffering sister state. From the moment that Colonel Campbell was appointed to the command, the whole army appeared to me renovated, discipline was more

240

221.

strict and our troops appeared more like a well organized army, much more fitted than before to meet a successful and tyrannical foe. Our marches were more rapid, and the whole force seemed to gain new animation.

At the commencement of the action, Captain Dysart's company in front, filed to the right, and Captain Colvill's company, to which I was attached, advanced right on the spur of the

mountain to Ferguson's main guard, and the first heavy fire exchanged was between our company and his guard, in which our ensign was killed and I was wounded. As I turned back after being wounded, Colonel Campbell passed me engaged in forming his regiment. I spoke to him, and he made me a short reply. I went back some distance, got a horse, and mounted him, and rode back to the lines. In the meantime our regiment had advanced on the main body of the British, when they charged with the bayonet, they had broke and retreated farther than was necessary, having ran across the intervening valley to the top of the next rise, where I met them. I saw Colonel Campbell and Major Edmondson about half distance between their own men and the enemy, calling on them to halt. I used my feeble efforts and with the assistance of others, they halted until the

241

222.

Colonel and Major came up, by whom they were formed, and advanced a second time to the charge. The regiment had two partial checks afterwards, but only partial, as the men had learned not to dread the bayonets as at first.

The last charge the regiment made was the longest and warmest I ever witnessed. A British surgeon stated that he held a watch, and that it lasted twenty minutes. I cannot say what the time was, but during the charge, I do not believe the regiment was more than thirty feet* from the British line. In the very midst of this storm, I saw Colonel Campbell at the head of his regiment, and so much advanced in front as to be in danger of the fire of his own men. As well as I can recollect, his encouraging words were "Come on, come on, my brave fellows, another gun, another gun will do it. Damn them. We must have them out of this." This I saw, and this I heard. Colonel Campbell was at this time on foot, his horse having given out.

Of what took place at the moment of the surrender, I have little knowledge. I had been nearly thirty six hours without any kind of refreshments and marched under an almost constant torrent.

- Governor Campbell adds in explanation: "This I have no doubt, is a mere slip of the pen. Others say thirty yards."
-

242

233.

of rain. I had lost, by my wound, as much blood, perhaps, as anyone could, and retain life, and my wound was them extremely painful. As soon as I began to ground their arms, and believed the danger over, I turned my horse and moved to the top of the ridge, where it took four men to take me off, and lay me down by a fire. After dark that night, Colonel Campbell and Shelby came walking hand in hand to where I lay. I requested the young men who took care of me, to place saddles for them to sit on. This was done. When Colonel Campbell seated himself, he observed- "Now, this is the first time I have seated myself since yesterday morning before day, except on my horse's back."

I was carried from the mountain on a litter to the Catawba, eight or ten miles above Burke Court House, in the neighborhood of Doctor Dobson's who I believe at that time had eighteen wounded under his care. When I got able to ride, I went to see the other wounded, calling at a Mr. Mackey's where Major Micajah Lewis and his brothers Captain Joel Lewis and Lieutenant James M. Lewis, and a Captain Smith were billeted, all wounded. A number of persons came in, making the company consist, perhaps, of twelve or fifteen persons. The conversation turned on the battle, each stating what he or the detachment to which

243

224

he belonged, had performed. I was the only Virginian present, and was silent. Major Lewis was also for some time silent, but at length, addressed the company as near as I can recollect in these

word: “Boys, I believe you all did your duty, and deserve well for it. But let me tell you, had it not been for Campbell and his Virginians, I’ll be damned if Ferguson would not have been on that mountain yet, had he chosen to have stayed there.”

No other particulars occur to my mind at present, worth notice, and I only add, that before god, at whose tribunal I have shortly to appear, and to whom I appeal, I have stated the truth, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, without favor, affection, or partiality.

Given under my hand this twenty fourth day of April 1823.

Samuel Newell

[Ed. Note: This being a transcription from a reprint of a copy edited by Lyman C Draper from a copy of a copy, one might question the accuracy of faint eyes and fumble fingers.

First:

Undeniably, the troops mustered at “Newell’s Improvement” which was in the southwest corner of Uncle Andrew Colville’s farm. Mary Craig Colville sold the farm to her brother, so Craig’s meadow is a stretch for a name. The house built by Craig was not there, and Craig lived across the creek in 1780. The troops could not have been called to muster at a house not yet there, much less at the Dunn’s place of a century later. Further note that the Ebbing Spring muster proceeded south of the knobs while Col Campbell went by Blacks Fort on his way to see Col Evan Shelby. The Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring troops joined up at Choates Ford to proceed to Sycamore Shoals.

Second:

Newell stated that he took six days to get from Kings Mountain to where his troops continued to the Moravian Towns and he remained in the hospitality of a Burke County home under the care of Doctor Joseph Dobson. I’d guess it to be the home of Grizzee Bowman or one of her Greenlee brothers.

Third:

William Willoughby (Draper 580) said he was lieutenant in Beattie’s company, a fact which Samuel Newell did not recall.