

All the King's Horses supporting document:
Alexander Chesney Diary
Transcribed and published at Ohio State University 1921

Note that some of the king's horses were dispatched from Kings Mountain before the afternoon battle with a foraging party. They were captured a few days later down Broad River by patriot militia of the Gaston County area.

Note that a few loyalists put paper in their hats and wandered away from Kings Mountain before the arms were stacked and the capture by the patriots was organized and secured. Without uniforms, these loyalists detected the patriot identifier of a piece of paper in the hat. Unless recognized by a neighbor, they could thus blend in among the patriots.

Chesney's horse, somewhere in the vicinity of the 1909 obelisk, was killed early in the battle. He had spread pickets around the ridge and was returning to the center of the camp in calm and quiet when half a mile away, the firing around Indian Knob began.

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which I attribute to myself, the tumult was happily appeased, and same night we marched with all the horse and some foot past Gilbert's town towards Col Grimes' who was raising a body of rebels to oppose us ; whom we succeeded in dispersing taking many prisoners, and then joined the foot at Gilbert's town and encamped there for some time ; sending away the old men to their houses, and several officers to raise men to supply their places and strengthen us. Col Ferguson soon after got intelligence that Col McDowell was encamped on Cain and Silver Creeks on which we marched towards the enemy, crossed the winding Creek 23 times, found the rebel party strongly posted towards the head of it near the mountains we attacked them instantly and after a determined resistance defeated them and made many prisoners, the rest fled towards Turkey-Cove in order to cross the mountains and get to Holstein; on this occasion I commanded a division, [September, 1780,] and took the person prisoner who was keeper of the records of the county which I sent to my father's as a place of safety. We then fortified Col Walker's house as a protection to the wounded, and

Cane and Silver creeks are in Burke county. North Carolina. Cane creek is so amazingly crooked that Captain Abraham de Peyster and Lieut. Anthony Allaire, with their loyalist force, were obliged to cross it nineteen times in a march of four miles (Allaire, "Diary").

Captain White wounded, and all the American ammunition captured, the British loss being one man killed and two wounded. (AUaire, "Diary.")

Turkey Cove is on the Catawba river, about six miles above the town of Marion, North Carolina.

Colonel Jacob Walker, whose house and plantation were in the forks of Cane creek and Second Broad river in Rutherford county. North Carolina. Lieut. Anthony Allaire was present on this occasion, on 13 September, at Colonel Walker's house, where he met Captain Ryerson, of the New Jersey Volunteers, and Lieut. Duncan Fletcher, of the Loyal American regiment. Allaire also alludes in his "Diary" on the 14th. to the large number of "deluded inhabitants" who were coming in to proclaim their loyalty. Two miles distant from the Walker plantation is Little Britain Church, where several loyalist soldiers are buried.

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proceeded in pursuit of the rebels to the Mountains at the head of Catawba River sending out detachments to scour the country and search the Caves ; A fight happened in the neighborhood between (Lytle?) a detachment of ours and the Americans who were posted on a broken hill not accessible to Cavalry, which obliged us to dismount and leave our horses behind, whilst employed in dislodging the Americans another party of them got round in the rear and took the horses mine amongst the rest; but it was returned by the person who was my prisoner in the last affair; about a week before he had been released as was usual at this time with prisoners. At this period the North Carolina men joined us fast. Our spies returned from beyond the mountains [October] with intelligence that the rebels were embodying rapidly; other spies brought us word that Col' Clark had taken Fort Augusta with its stores &c on which we marched towards white oak and Green River to intercept him on his return from Georgia; Col Ferguson detached the horse in three divisions, one under my command with orders to proceed along the Indian line until I could make out Clarke's route & join Capt Taylor at Bailis Earls fort; I proceeded as far as Tyger river and there learning that Clark was gone up the bushy fork of Seluda river, I took six of the best mounted men and got on his track until I overtook the main body and one of the enemy prisoner within view of it, whom I carried to Col' Ferguson [October 4, 1780,] who thus obtained the information required.

Our spies from Holsteen as well as some left at the Gap of the Mountains brought us word that the Rebel force amounted

Captain John Taylor, of Shrewsbury, New Jersey, son of Thomas Taylor, was born 15 May, 1742, and was appointed lieutenant, 2 July, 1776, and captain, 26 August, 1780, in the New Jersey Volunteers. In July, 1776, he accompanied the British forces south and was in command of a small corps of cavalry until the battle of King's Mountain, where he distinguished himself.

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to 3000 men ; on which we retreated along the North side of Broad river and sent the wagons along the South side as far as Cherokee ford where they joined us we marched to King's Mountain and there encamped with a view of approaching Lord Cornwallis' Army and receiving support; by Col Ferguson's orders I sent expresses to the Militia Officers to join us here; but we were attacked before any support arrived by 1500 picked men from Gilbert's-town under the command of Col' Cleveland, Shelby and Campbell all of whom were armed with Rifles, well mounted and of course could move with the utmost celerity; so rapid was their attack that I was in the act of dismounting to report that all was quiet and the pickets on the alert when we heard their firing about half a mile off; I immediately paraded the men and posted the officers, during this short interval I received a wound which however did not prevent my doing duty; and on going towards my horse I found he had been killed by the first discharge. [October 9, 1780]. *(the 1901 publication was two daysoff)*

Kings Mountain from its height would have enabled us to oppose a superior force with advantage, had it not been covered with wood which sheltered the Americans and enabled them to fight in the favorite manner; in fact after driving in our piquets they were able to advance in three divisions under

separate leaders to the crest of the hill in perfect safety until they took post and opened an irregular but destructive fire from behind trees and other cover: Col Cleveland's was first perceived and repulsed by a charge made by Col' Ferguson: Col Shelly's next and met a similar fate being driven down the hill; last the detachment under Col Campbell and by desire of Col Ferguson I presented a new front which opposed it with success; by this time the Americans who had been repulsed had regained their former stations and sheltered be-

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hind trees poured in an irregular destructive fire; in this manner the engagement was maintained near an hour, the mountaineers flying whenever there was danger of being charged by the Bayonet/-- and returning again so soon as the British detachment had faced about to repel another of their parties. Col Ferguson was at last recognized by his gallantry although wearing a hunting shirt and fell pierced by seven balls at the moment he had killed the American Col' Williams with his left hand ; (the right being useless) I had just rallied the troops a second time by Ferguson's orders when Capt De Peyster succeeded to the command but soon after gave up and sent out a flag of truce, but as the Americans resumed their fire afterwards ours was also renewed under the supposition that they would give no quarter ; and a dreadful havoc took place until the flag was sent out a second time, then the work of destruction ceased; the Americans surrounded us with double lines, and we grounded arms with the loss of one third our numbers. [October 9.]

I had been wounded by the first fire but was so much occupied that I scarcely felt it until the action was over. We passed the night on the spot where we surrendered amidst the dead and groans of the dying who had not surgical aid, or water to quench their thirst ; Early next morning [October 10] we marched at a rapid pace towards Gilbert's town between double lines of mounted Americans ; the officers in the rear and obliged to carry two muskets each which was my fate although wounded and stripped of my shoes and silver buckles in an inclement season without covering or provisions until Monday night [October 9] when an ear of Indian corn was served to each ; at Gilbert's town a mock trial was held and 24 sentenced to death 10 of whom suffered before the approach of Tarleton's force obliged them to move towards the Yadkin cutting and

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striking us by the road in a savage manner Col Cleveland then offered to enlarge me on condition that I would teach his Regiment for one month the exercise practiced by Col Ferguson which I refused, although he swore I should suffer death for it at the Moravian town; luckily his threat was not put to the test as I had the good fortune to make my escape one evening when close to that place ; in the hurry to get off I took the wrong road and did not discover my error until I found I was close to the Moravian town: I then retraced my steps until close to the pickets I had left and taking a fresh departure I crossed the Yadkin river before morning, proceeded through the woods toward home, John Weedyman one of my company had supplied me with a pair of shoes, which were of great use on this occasion, but as he remained a prisoner I never had an opportunity of making him a return.

The first night I slept in the woods, next day I was supported by haws grapes &c as I could find them in the woods : The second or third day in pushing through the woods to get to a ford I heard a noise of some people (whom I

knew to be Americans by white paper in their hats) on which I lay down and was so close to them that I could have touched one of their horses in passing; fortunately I was not observed, and soon after crossed the Creek after them : I then made for the Mountains in order to be guided by the Appalachian range and get over the rivers with greater facility. After crossing Broad-river I met one Heron who had been with me in King's Mountain and who had with some others taken flight in the hour of danger,

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early in the action, putting white papers in their hats, by which disgraceful stratagem they got through the American lines: I passed a night at Heron's house and one before at another man's on whom I could depend, from both I took some provisions all the other nights I slept out; I do not remember the number exactly, but must have been nearly a fortnight. I reached home on the 31 October I found the Americans had left me little. My wife had a son on the 20th whom I named William which was all the christening he had.