



A Presbyterian custom to honor father and mother was to name sons after their grandparents. This custom led to several brothers with contemporaneous nephews with the same names. There were two Captain Moses Shelby's in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War. One Shelby family was in the Charlotte area. The Kings Mountain patriot Moses Shelby's father, Evan Shelby of the Holston was a patriarch of the Southwest Virginia frontier in the 1770s. Evan was a signer of the Fincastle Resolutions in 1775

Shelby family papers are preserved in the Library of Congress.

Most sources include Moses Shelby's brothers Col. Isaac, Major Evan, and James in the rosters of Kings Mountain patriots. KK White also lists John Shelby and his sons David and Thomas as BKM veterans. Bobby Moss shows them as unsubstantiated, but most sources exclude them.

Lake Providence Louisiana formed the Moses Shelby Chapter of DAR. Their statement shows "Moses Shelby, a brother of Colonel Isaac Shelby, was born about 1756. At the battle of King's Mountain he received two wounds. The second disabled him, so he was assisted to a stream of water and left there with his rifle for defense. He also served at the siege of Savannah in 1779, at Cowpens, and at the capture of Augusta in 1781, where he received saber wounds. After the Indian Wars he settled near New Madrid, Missouri, where he died on September 17th, 1828, at age 72."

Moses Shelby married Millicent "Milly" Renfro. They had two known children, Isaac who married Catherine Hart Proctor and Lucy who married Jacob Gooch.

Lewis Preston Summers' *History of Southwest Virginia* states "when he [Patrick Ferguson] arrived at Gilbert town, he paroled a Whig prisoner by the name of Samuel Phillips, a relative of Colonel Isaac Shelby, and sent him to deliver a message to the officers of militia on the waters of the Holston, Watauga and Nolichucky, which message was as follows :

"If they did not desist from their opposition to the British arms he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword." There can be no question that Colonel Ferguson was well informed of the situation of the western settlers and the route by which he could reach their country, for at that time there were in his army a number of Tories from the back waters.

A crisis had been reached in the struggle for liberty, and now at the darkest hour in the struggle of the patriots, the opportunity and the men have met, when a band of western frontiersmen were to strike a telling blow for the cause of liberty and all America. Phillips immediately crossed the mountains and delivered the message to Colonel Shelby as directed, and gave him such information, in addition thereto', as he had in regard to the strength and position of Ferguson and his men. Colonel Shelby immediately addressed a letter to Colonel William Campbell, of Washington County, Virginia, and sent it by express by his brother, **Moses Shelby**, while Colonel Shelby went to the home of Colonel John Sevier

Three pension depositions in revwarapps.org/ name Captain Moses Shelby at Kings Mountain. [W1076 Thomas Price](#)

Battle at **King Mountain** [sic, **King's Mountain**] then had been kicked with ... and after the Battle of **Kings Mountain** they returned home again and ... pursuit of Ferguson to the **King's Mountain** he says he believes his ... further states that after the **Kings Mountain** battle they continued back in ... attached to the company of Captain **Moses Shelby** to which company we continued during revwarapps.org/w1076.pdf

[W1072 William Price](#)

Robinson also was along. The troops then marched against Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] at **King's Mountain**. This he thinks was ... the memorable battle of **King's Mountain**. He could here give ... From the battle of **King's Mountain**, this declarant and his ... arriving there he joined Capt. **Moses Shelby's** company of horse. The ... he was under Capt. **Moses Shelby** as above stated, being revwarapps.org/w1072.pdf

[S31886 Benjamin O'Bannon](#)

Spivey, and was discharged. About first September 1780 he entered again as a private at Camden aforesaid under Captain **Moses Shelby** and was marched to **King's Mountain**, he was in that battle and was marched from thence to Salisbury guarding the prisoners and was discharged at Salisbury having served 2 months. In January 1781 he again entered as a private at

Captain Moses Shelby, a brother of the Colonel, received two wounds in the action – the last through his thigh near his body, disabling it, so that he could not stand without help. He was assisted down to a branch, some distance from the foot of the mountain, and was left with his rifle for his defence, should he need it. Seeing one of the soldiers coming down too frequently to

the branch under plea of thirst, Captain Shelby admonished him if he repeated his visit he would shoot him ; that it was no time to shirk duty,

The website:

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

appears to brag too heavily on the Carolina patriots showing so many companies that Cowpens could not have accommodated them all. It places Moses Shelby not in brother Isaac Shelby's command, but Col. Andrew Hampton of Rutherford County. The site shows 1100 patriot soldiers, neither the 925 who went to Kings Mountain nor the two to three thousand who had convened at Cowpens before the Kings Mountain battle.

Col. William Campbell (VA) - Commanding Officer

Washington County Militia (VA) led by Col. William Campbell and Lt. Col. Robert Craig, with 200 men in the following eight (8) known companies, led by:

- Capt. William Bowen's Company
- Capt. David Beatty (from Rutherford County, NC) with 1st Lt. Reece Bowen (from Sullivan County, NC)(killed)
- Capt. Andrew Colville
- Capt. James Dysart
- Capt. William Edmondson
- Capt. Robert Edmondson, Sr.
- Capt. John Hays (from Surry County, NC)
- Lt. Thomas McCullough
- Capt. William Neill's Company - led by 1st Lt. William Russell, Jr.
- Capt. Joshua Nichols (from Rowan County, NC)

Rockbridge (VA) Rifles - Col. William Bowyer

Augusta (VA) Militia - Capt. Samuel McCutcheon

Wilkes County Regiment of Militia (NC), led by Col. Benjamin Cleveland, with the following nineteen (19) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Richard Allen
- Capt. Daniel Bailey
- Capt. John Barton
- Capt. Thomas Biecknell (mortally wounded)
- Capt. John Brown
- Capt. John Cleveland
- Capt. Robert Cleveland
- Capt. Abraham DeMoss
- Capt. Jesse Hardin Franklin
- Lt. Martin Gambill (acting as Captain on behalf of Capt. William Nall who was sick)(wounded)
- Capt. Charles Gordon (wounded)
- Capt. Moses Guest
- Capt. Benjamin Herndon - with 60 men

- Capt. William Jackson
- Capt. John Kees
- Capt. William Lenoir (wounded) - with 6 men
- Capt. Bethuel Riggs
- Capt. Thurman
- Capt. Walton

Surry County Regiment of Militia (NC), led by Maj. Joseph Winston and Maj. Micajah Lewis (wounded), with thirteen (13) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Joseph Cloud
- Capt. James Giddings
- Capt. William Thrift Hughlett
- Capt. Samuel Johnson
- Capt. Joel Lewis
- Capt. William Terrell Lewis
- Capt. Salathiel Martin
- Capt. William Meredith
- Capt. John Morgan
- Capt. Harrison Murray
- Capt. Joseph Phillips
- Capt. James Shepherd
- Capt. Minor Smith

Rutherford County Regiment of Militia (NC), led by Col. Andrew Hampton, Maj. James Gray, Maj. James Porter (wounded), and Maj. Robert Porter, with sixteen (16) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Adam Hampton
- Capt. Benjamin Harden
- Capt. Joseph Harden
- Capt. George Ledbetter
- Capt. John McClain
- Capt. John McClure
- Capt. James McElhaney
- Capt. Charles McLean
- Capt. Ephraim McLean
- Capt. James Miller
- Capt. George Paris
- Capt. William Porter
- Capt. Thomas Price
- Capt. Moses Shelby
- Capt. Richard Singleton
- Capt. James Withrow

Burke County Regiment of Militia (NC), led by Maj. Joseph McDowell and Maj. George Wilfong, with twenty (20) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Robert Ballew

- Capt. Jonathan Camp (or Kemp)
- Capt. Edmund Fear
- Capt. John Harden
- Capt. Thomas Hemphill
- Capt. John Holmes
- Capt. Alexander Irvin
- Capt. Thomas Kennedy
- Capt. Joseph McDowell
- Capt. Samuel Miller
- Capt. William Neill (or Neal)
- Capt. Robert Patton
- Capt. Adam Reep
- Capt. John Russell
- Capt. John Sigman
- Capt. Daniel Smith
- Capt. David Vance
- Capt. Patrick Watson
- Capt. Joseph White
- Capt. Samuel Woods

Lincoln County Regiment Militia (NC), led Lt. Col. Frederick Hambright, Maj. John Barber, Maj. William Chronicle (killed), Maj. John Dickson, Maj. Joseph Dickson, Maj. Francis McCorkle, and Maj Joseph White (from Burke County) (Col. William Graham went home sick just before this battle), with eighteen (18) known companies, led by:

- Capt. William Armstrong
- Capt. James Baird
- Capt. John Baldrige
- Capt. Samuel Caldwell
- Capt. John Philip Dellinger
- Capt. Samuel Espey (wounded)
- Capt. John Hardin Hambright
- Capt. Malcolm Henry
- Capt. John Kincaid
- Capt. James Johnson
- Capt. Samuel Martin
- Capt. Charles Mattocks
- Capt. John Mattocks (killed)
- Capt. John Moore
- Capt. William Moore
- Capt. William Sherrill
- Capt. John Weir
- Capt. Isaac White

Sullivan County Regiment of Militia (NC), led by Col. Isaac Shelby, Lt. Col. Charles Robertson, and Maj. Evan Shelby, Jr., with sixteen (16) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Thomas Caldwell

- Capt. Moses Cavett
- Capt. Gilbert Christian
- Capt. James Duff (from Lincoln County)
- Capt. James Elliott
- Capt. James Johnston
- Capt. William Johnston (from Lincoln County)
- Capt. John Martin (from Surry County)
- Capt. George Maxwell
- Capt. John Pemberton
- Capt. John Sawyer
- Capt. George Taylor
- Capt. Roger Topp
- Capt. Thomas Wallace
- Capt. David Webb
- Capt. Jonathan Webb

Washington County Regiment of Militia (NC) led by Col. John Sevier, Lt. Col. John Lewis, Maj. Isaac Lane, Maj. Benjamin Sharp, Maj. Jonathan Tipton, and Maj. Jesse Walton, with twenty-six (26) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Jesse Bean
- Capt. William Bean (Rifle Company)
- Capt. Jacob Brown
- Capt. Joel Callahan
- Capt. Benjamin Clark
- Capt. William Cox
- Capt. James Crabtree
- Capt. Finley
- Capt. Ning Hawkins (probable)
- Capt. Joseph Lusk (Rifle Company)
- Capt. Alexander Moore
- Capt. George North
- Capt. John Patterson
- Capt. James Pearce
- Capt. Thomas Preston (Rifle Company)
- Capt. George Russell
- Capt. Robert Sevier (mortally wounded)
- Capt. Valentine Sevier, Jr.
- Capt. James Stinson
- Capt. Christopher Taylor
- Capt. Waring
- Capt. Samuel Wear
- Capt. Samuel Williams
- Capt. James Wilson
- Capt. Elijah Witt (probable)
- Capt. Young

Rowan County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment, led by Lt. Col. Matthew Brandon, Lt. Col. John Hampton, Maj. Daniel McKisick, and Maj. George Wilfong, with eight (8) known companies, led by:

- Capt. John Brandon
- Capt. Thomas Cowan
- Capt. John Dickey
- Capt. John Harden
- Capt. James Houston (wounded)
- Capt. Peter Mull
- Capt. Richard Simmons
- Capt. Benjamin Smith

Mecklenburg County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment of six (6) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Conrad Hise
- Capt. James Ligert
- Capt. Magrath
- Capt. James Reese
- Capt. Thomas Shelby
- Capt. Zaccheus Wilson

Chatham County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment of two (3) known companies, led by:

- Capt. William Gholson
- Capt. William Griffin
- Capt. John Hudgins

Guilford County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment of one (1) known company, led by:

- Capt. Hugh Fabush

Granville County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment of one (1) known company, led by:

- Capt. William Bennett

Onslow County Regiment of Militia (NC) detachment of one (1) known company, led by:

- Capt. John Barton

Little River District Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Col. James Williams (Killed), Lt. Col. Joseph Hayes, and Maj. George Anderson (wounded), with eleven (11) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Mordecai Clark (Burke County, NC)
- Capt. James Dillard
- Capt. John Douglas (Caswell County, NC)
- Capt. William Douglas (Caswell County, NC)
- Capt. Thomas Duggin
- Capt. William Graham (Lincoln County, NC)
- Capt. Pendleton Isbell (Wilkes County, NC)
- Capt. John McMullen (Caswell County, NC)
- Capt. John Smith (Burke County, NC)

- Capt. Isaac White (Lincoln County, NC)
- Capt. Daniel Williams

2nd Spartan Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Col. Thomas Brandon, Lt. Col. James Steen, Maj. John Moore, and Maj. Thomas Young, with five (5) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Gabriel Brown
- Capt. Benjamin Jolly
- Capt. John Putman
- Capt. Moses White
- Capt. William Young

1st Spartan Regiment (SC) detachment of two (2) known companies, led by:

- Capt. John Boyer
- Capt. William Taylor

Roebuck's Battalion of Spartan Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Col. Benjamin Roebuck, with eight (8) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Andrew Barry
- Capt. Vardry McBee
- Capt. Major Parson
- Capt. George Roebuck
- Capt. James Smith
- Capt. George Taylor
- Capt. Robert Thomas
- Capt. Moses Wood

New Acquisition District Regiment (SC), led by Col. Samuel Watson, Lt. Col. Andrew Love (wounded), and Maj. John Wallace, with seven (7) known companies, led by:

- Capt. John Cunningham
- Capt. Robert Hanna
- Capt. John Hamilton
- Capt. John Henderson
- Capt. Joseph Howe
- Capt. James Meek
- Capt. Joseph Smith

Turkey Creek Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Col. Edward Lacey and Lt. Col. John Nixon, with six (6) known companies, led by:

- Capt. James Johnson
- Capt. John Mills
- Capt. John Moffett
- Capt. James Ramsey
- Capt. James Syles
- Capt. John Thompson

Hill's Regiment of Light Dragoons (SC) detachment, led by Col. William Hill (some claim he left before the battle started), Lt. Col. James Hawthorn, and Maj. Samuel Tate, with four (4) known companies led by:

- Capt. Jacob Barnett
- Capt. James Giles
- Capt. John Hollis
- Capt. William McKenzie

Fairfield Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Col. Richard Winn, with three (3) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Samuel Lacey
- Capt. Edward Martin
- Capt. John Turner

Camden District Regiment (SC) detachment of three (3) known companies, led by:

- Capt. James Coiel
- Capt. William Goodwyn
- Capt. John Weathers

Upper Ninety-Six District Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Lt. Col. Robert Anderson, with two (2) known companies, led by:

- Capt. John Irwin
- Capt. Thomas Winn

Lower District Regiment (SC) detachment of one (1) known company, led by:

- Capt. John Walters

Lower Ninety-Six District Regiment (SC) detachment, led by Maj. Samuel Hammond with unknown number of men

Clarke's Brigade of Militia (GA) led by Maj. William Candler, with 30 men in three (3) known companies, led by:

- Capt. Patrick Carr
- Capt. John Clark
- Capt. Stephen Johnson

Total Patriot Forces - 1,100