

Private [Arthur Patterson](#) is listed among the **killed** on both the 1880 and the 1909 Kings Mountain monuments. The centennial committee organized in 1879 for the 1880 ceremonies had three key members whose correspondence regarding Patterson were key to his name chiseled in marble and set in bronze on the monuments. They were Dr. JR Logan (preparation of grounds) of Shelby NC, Dr. WJT Miller (ways and means) and Emmanuel Patterson (preparation of grounds). Lyman Copeland Draper PhD, used Logan and Miller letters as sources for “*Kings Mountain and its Heroes*” (1881). *Note: for a year or two before and after, the 1880 centennial activities convened neighbors frequently. These were good opportunities to talk and thus opportunities for spreading distortions of fact.*

Dr. Miller letters of 09Apr1881 and **16Apr1881** contained text which Draper used on pages 312-313. A problem is that the 16Apr letter stated that the Arthur Miller about whom they had discussed was **not killed**. Another Draper disappointment was his characterization of Patterson as Irish. That apparent source was a sentence in the 09Apr letter about Captain James Miller of Rutherford County. Work on the 1881 publication by Peter Thomson was in process. Transcription from source to manuscript to typesetting was sloppy, probably rushed by some urgency to publish. Further study of the “Draper papers” might determine more details about the error. Multiple footnotes for the page 312 paragraph also include letters by Col Logan and Abraham Hardin as well as several published sources.

Rumors about the 07Oct1780 battle were rampant the next day and spread through the years to this day. Some were repeated as idle gossip, some as expert eyewitness fact though known otherwise, some as scholarly research which deserve a failing grade and punishment in history classes, and some with official appearance which spread errors as fact.

Four descendants of Arthur Patterson have provided conflicting variations about Patterson and his three sons before, during, and after the battle. They are unanimous in justifiable contempt for the book and the monument. They have both oral family history and documents about actions of Arthur and his family for many years after the war. The court records trump letters written a century later.

The Patterson farm was on Kings Creek about three miles upstream from Kings Mountain, barely into North Carolina. Multiple records show that Arthur continued farming for years after the war.

**Oral family history** (one Lyman Copeland Draper source for his Patterson account at Kings Mountain (p 312) was Abraham Hardin, the father in law of Rufus Urbane Patterson, Arthur junior’s son.) is that Arthur Patterson Senior sent out his sons, Thomas, William, and Arthur Patterson Jr. on Saturday morning 07Oct1780 to retrieve stray cattle. (Other rumors are that they went out Friday evening.) When they did not come back, Arthur went to investigate. He learned that Ferguson’s Tories had taken his cow and were holding his three sons (and neighbor James Lindsay among others) as prisoners. He joined the Whigs that afternoon on the west side of the ridge. When the prisoner guards were called to the battle lines, Patrick Ferguson’s mistresses helped the three Patterson’s escape. Word spread that the Tories killed Arthur Patterson’s cow. British records corroborate that Ferguson appropriated crops and cattle, especially harshly from patriot farms.

The Arthur Patterson sons gained the reputation for being extremely vindictive against the Tories after 07Oct1780 in dealing with Tories. Thomas (and perhaps William) Patterson and their friends hung a Tory forager the day following the battle. They wanted to punish Tories (*maybe for killing Arthur's cow. Tories had deprived them of butter and biscuits. In several surrounding counties rumors spread that the Tories killed Arthur Patterson's cow at Kings Mountain. Along the way, cow was dropped from the line and the monument posted Arthur Patterson killed at Kings Mountain*).

Elizabeth Patterson, Arthur's wife, was at the battlefield on Saturday evening October 7<sup>th</sup> tending to men who were wounded. Let's guess that Arthur was one of them. She returned on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> to help Preston Goforth's widow Nancy retrieve his body for burial at their nearby farm.

Emanuel Arthur Patterson was born in 1840 after all but Arthur Patterson Jr. (d 1854) of the four Patterson eye-witnesses had died. Through his father in-law, Abraham Hardin, EA Patterson spoke of Thomas Patterson hanging a Tory forager.

Draper's papers 17DD181 and 182 are manuscripts of two Dr. Miller letters of April 1881. Miller recounts his interview with 88 year old G. Dickson who was born in the battlefield neighborhood. Dickson's "opinion", was one source for Draper's statements about Arthur Patterson. Dr. Miller retracted that Arthur was killed in the 19Apr letter.

Patterson's joint purchase of 100 acres with Frederick Hambright for Old Shiloh Presbyterian, his court appearance for the four children of his son William, his 1803 will, and his estate settlement belie the inscription with those killed in the battle. —Now faced with a different question, we might guess that Arthur Patterson was wounded in the battle. Would attention to an Arthur Patterson Saturday wound allow Elizabeth Patterson to help neighbor Nancy Goforth on Sunday?

While taking out Patrick Ferguson's sentries from the flat land around the ridge and the guard post atop Indian Knob, four columns of patriots filed out around Kings Mountain, In the confusion of battle, unit integrity was lost to joining the fight with friends. Oral history is that Arthur Patterson joined the patriot line on the west of the ridge and commenced firing at Ferguson's troops. Let's guess that Arthur Patterson met up with his neighbor Frederick Hambright and Major Chronicle's South Fork Boys at the end of the battle. The Lincoln County troops had joined Major Winston to anchor the northeast end of Kings Mountain where there were guarded wagons down near today's Visitor Center and a few wagons encamped at the top of the northeast end of the ridge above.

Col Campbell's corps began the battle action by rooting the guard post off the Indian Knob and back to the Kings Mountain ridge. As the noose tightened, the Tories gathered ever closer to the wagons. After a few surrenders and unsurrenders, some of the fiercest combat was around the wagons such as the shot which mortally wounded Col James Williams after the main fighting had ended. Though Arthur Patterson was certainly not killed, it is quite reasonable to guess that he was wounded near the wagons where his sons were held prisoner just a few miles south of his farm from which the Tories had stolen his cow.

Arthur Patterson Sr. of Scots-Irish descent, is reputed to have been born in Ireland around 1735. He owned property in Cumberland County Pennsylvania, (Middle Octorora Presbyterian community) then came to NC (Mecklenburg and Rowan counties) with his wife and family by 1768. We know he purchased the 600 acre home

site on both sides of Kings Creek near 1778. From there, three sons were sent to find the cows before the battle.

In **July 1798**, Lincoln County NC, **Arthur Patterson** appeared re/the estate of his deceased son William. The widow had remarried. Arthur represented the interest of their four children to share in the estate. Samuel Espey (wounded veteran of BKM) became guardian of two of William Patterson's sons.

Arthur Patterson's wife was Elizabeth, maiden name unknown.

They had 5 sons and a daughter:

Thomas 1755-13Nov1805,

William 1758- 27Aug1793,

Arthur Jr.1764-03Jun1856

James 1770-02Feb1840,

Robert 1774-1854,

Sarah

Arthur Patterson Sr. and Fredrick Hambright purchased 100 acres of land in 1785 and 1786 for a public meeting house to be named Shiloh. The old Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery at the state line southeast of Grover has graves of the five Arthur and Elizabeth Patterson sons.



2001 picture of the 1790 Patterson cabin



The Patterson farm was just above the state line into North Carolina due north of the Kings Mountain battlefield. A picture of the reassembled Patterson cabin at the Kings Mountain NC museum and the map pinpointing the property are under the OVTA places tab, Kings Mountain link of the BKMNP.com web site.

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ourtexasfamily&id=I39720> has records from several contemporaneous William Patterson's.

William E. Patterson (Gene), a descendant of the patriots, presented his research, expertise, and patriotism when Kings Mountain Chapter NC, SAR marked the William Patterson grave at Old Shiloh in 2014. The 27Aug1793 grave of William Patterson is by oral tradition, the oldest at the Old Shiloh Cemetery. It was originally unmarked. The head stone was obviously added about a century or more later without knowledge of William's personal details.



The inscription is:

*William*

*Patterson*

*North Carolina*

*Pvt. Graham's Co.*

*Shelby's NC Troops*  
*Rev War*  
*Oct. 7, 1780*

The stone identifies a previously unmarked grave site. Being near the state line, it proudly shows Patterson to be from the north side. His sons were raised by Samuel Espey, a wounded veteran of BKM in Graham's militia, on the north side. Family traditions would have been important to William's sons Josiah and Arthur. William's participation in the 07Oct1780 Battle of Kings Mountain after escaping from his Tory captors is an oral tradition enshrined by the inscriber. The dates of birth and death are not shown. The name of William's wife is omitted, probably by intent, in that she remarried and was involved in a bitter dispute with the Patterson's. Naming Graham's Co. lacks the precision of fact that William Graham (fort northwest of Grover) was a colonel, not a company captain, that Graham perhaps served with (presumably Colonel Isaac) Shelby at Thickety Fort, but otherwise had no military rank and unit relationship, nor that Graham went home before the 07Oct1780 battle leaving Frederick Hambright in charge.

The date of the battle is not the date of death, but a date of Rev War service. There was no known William Patterson killed on 07Oct1780. Katherine Keough White's 1924 publication names a William Patterson of Patterson's Mill on the Watauga as a possible Battle of Kings Mountain expedition participant. Colonel John Sevier commanded the Watauga militia. Neither Shelby nor Sevier records name a Patterson casualty at Kings Mountain. No county records for estate settlement, survivor benefits, or property disposition indicate a death of a William Patterson on 07Oct1780.

Arthur Patterson Jr. got a string of beads from Ferguson's mistress, Virginia (Sal?) which stayed in his son Eli's family. They were displayed during a centennial celebration in 1880.

WILL OF ARTHUR PATTERSON, SR. 1803  
(Kings Mountain, N.C.)

In the name of God, Amen. This nineteenth day of December, Eighteen hundred and three. ARTHUR PATTERSON of Lincoln County, North Carolina. Being weak in body but sound in memory or beyond regard for his mercies. Calling to mind the mortality of my body and the uncertainty of death, knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, I do make and do ordain this my last will and testament in the following manner:

First, I recommend my soul in the hand of God that give it. My body to be decently buried.

Second, all my lawful debts to be paid out of my personal estate.

Third, I will and bequeath to my well beloved wife, ELIZABETH PATTERSON, my rone mare and colt, her saddle and bridle, her choice of two cows and calves, all my hogs and all my household furniture to hold and dispose of at her discretion. Also the whole profits arising from my plantation during life.

Fourth, I will and bequeath to my daughter SARAH GORDEN, all my sheep and my big goat to be paid out of my personal estate.

Fifth, I will and bequeath unto my son, ARTHUR PATTERSON, five shillings to be paid out of my personal estate.

Sixth, I will and bequeath and I allow that immediately after my decease that WILLIAM HULLET shall have my young Bay mare to dispose of at his pleasure and as touching my real estate I will and bequeath that after the death of my beloved wife my land yet not laid off supposed to be about one hundred and thirty acres to be divided between my sons JAMES and ROBERT PATTERSON in the following manner:

Namely my son JAMES what is one the east side of Kings Creek crossing, the creek and all that he works over the creek. With an addition of twenty and five rod along the line next my barn and my son ROBERT what is on the west side of So. Creek joing South Line and cross the Creek.

Lastly, I will and bequeath to my son THOMAS PATTERSON the remainder of all my personal estate and also all the profits arising from the place I now live on to my son THOMAS for seven years after the death of my beloved wife and I do hereby constitute and ordain my above mentioned son, THOMAS PATTERSON, and my friend HUGH GORDON to be my whole and sole executors forever and I do hereby utterly revoke and disanul all former wills and testaments, legacies and bequeathments and executors by me heretofore named and mentioned, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

Signed, Sealed and acknowledged the day and year before mentioned in presence of FRED K. HAMBRIGHT, WILLIAM HULET, DAVID WATSON (Esquire?, Seal?)

ARTHUR PATTERSON

Draper papers, 7DD81

Shelby NC Apr 6<sup>th</sup> 1881

Lyman C Draper Esq

My dear friend,

\_\_\_\_\_ just around making further enquiries as regards to the Kings Mtn battle. I have this morning had an \_\_\_\_\_ with Mr. G. Dickson very old man (88 years old) who was born and raised near the battleground. His opinion is Arthur Patterson who you have reference to was killed under the following circumstances. His two sons Tom & Wm with a neighbor by the name of Lindsey was on a search fish (?) before the battle came & was taken prisoners. The old man Arthur P then \_\_\_\_\_ went up the mountain in search for them was taken himself by Ferguson and when the battle was over he was found dead, shot through the head by a ball. The boys & Lindsey made their escape I learn that there was no other Arthur Patterson old enough to be in the army. He lived in Lincoln County. D Duff & Wm Watson I can't learn anything about. As regards Captain Miller (who was a cousin to my father of Rutherford County)

7dd81a

I have understood was a captain at Kings Mtn. He died when I was quite young. I think he was probably born in Ireland, came to Rutherford County NC quite young. Though he may have been born in Ruth'd. He was I suppose some 40 years old at his death. He died between Columbia and Charleston SC. This is about all I know of Capt Miller.

Thank you for the pumpkin wine (?). I had it last night with much pleasure. I think Col. Logan is doing well the \_\_\_\_\_. I hope this will reach you in time..

Your friend truly,

W J T Miller

p.s.

Dickson thinks Duff & Watson lived in Lincoln County.

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Shelby Nov 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1881

Lyman C. Keiper Esq.

My dear friend

Your favor just recd. making  
further enquiry in regard to the things  
Mr. Waddy. I have this morning had an  
interview with Wm. G. Kirkman an old man  
(88 years old) who was born & raised near  
the battle ground; his opinion is Ashmun  
Peterson who you have referred to  
was killed ~~at~~ the following circum-  
stances. - His two sons, Tom & Wm with  
a neighbor by the name of Lindsey  
was on a scout just before the battle  
came on & was taken prisoner. The old  
man saw Ashmun & Thom Waddy went up  
the mountain in search for them was taken  
prisoner by Kirkman and when the battle  
was over he was found dead, shot through  
the head by a ball. The boys & Lindsey made their  
escape. I learn there was no other Peterson  
old enough to be in the army. He lived in Decker  
County. I don't know of Waddy & Waddy I can't learn any  
thing about. As regards Capt. James Miller (who  
was a cousin to my father of Rockingham County)

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Logan is doing well with the prospects  
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Your friend  
 July

W. J. Tallent

DeKear thinks Druff  
 Wolson lived in  
 Lincoln County

Shelby NC, April 19, 1881

Lyman C Draper Esq

My dear sir, I am just in receipt of your favor making further enquiries in regard to certain persons. Since I wrote you I have recv'd further information in regard to Arthur Patterson who I stated to you from the information I \_\_\_\_ of old Wm Dickson say (torn margin) Patterson was killed at Kings Mtn after he had been taken prisoner while a prisoner of Ferguson. That is him, but this is not the Arthur Patterson you have reference to. He was another Arthur Patterson, a younger man. This corroborates with the statement (?) Emanuel Patterson & Col. Logan gave you some time ago. So the old man who was \_\_\_\_ to be in \_\_\_\_ was taken prisoner while looking after his two or three boys & a Mr (Wm?) Linsey in the mountains just before the battle commenced. I think Capn James Miller of Rutherford died in the year 1812 or 13 while he was on his way to Charleston SC with a large lot of beef cattle. His residence was at Rutherfordton NC.

Yours respectfully,  
W J T Miller

P s

I can't learn anything about Williams.

Shelby N.C.  
 2 ym 6 2 a p m Eyr April 19. 1881

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 in receipt of your favor making further enquiry  
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 That is true but this is not the Arthur Patterson  
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erson a younger man. This connects with  
 the statement Emmel Patterson & Ced Logan & in  
 your own time ago. So the old man who was  
 lost get them to be in same was taken prisoner while  
 looking after his two other young boys & a Mr. Loring  
 in the mountain fish before the battle comm'd  
 I think Ced Logan Muller of Nashport  
 died in the year 1812 or 13 while he was  
 on his way to Charleston he with a large lot  
 of beef cattle; his residence was at Nashport  
 N.C.

Yours Respectfully  
 W. J. Stillwell

P.S.

I can't learn anything about Williams