



Like the other casualties of McDowell's Burke County militia, Henry Wakefield is omitted from the 1909 Kings Mountain monument. Henry's wound did not require extended treatment or immobilization. He continued to serve with the corps guarding prisoners to Bethabara.

In September 1776, bachelor Henry Wakefield had a Burke County NC homestead on 320 acres on Paddy Creek. It was on the north side of the Catawba River, south of current Lake James (see map link below or in BKMNP.com for thumbtack). Wakefield volunteered to join the Burke County NC militia company of Captain William Penland at a new outpost, William Cathey's Fort on Turkey Creek closer to the Blue Ridge north of current Marion NC. A company from the fort crossed the Blue Ridge to the French Broad River near current Asheville NC. There he was shot by a Cherokee hunter and left for dead by his neighbors. He survived the serious wound and struggled back to Cathey's Fort.

In July 1777, Wakefield joined Captain Thomas Kennedy's company which joined General Griffith Rutherford protecting patriot homesteads against Tories. In October his company returned home in defense against Cherokee raiders. For over a year, the militia remained near home patrolling at times against Tories and Indians.

Now a married man protecting his wife and daughter, in June 1780, Wakefield joined Captain John Russell's company to oppose the Tories at Ramsour's Mill, but they failed to arrive in time

for the battle. Tory militia and Cornwallis' army troops were taking control of the area when Col Joseph McDowell raised a regiment to oppose British Major Patrick Ferguson's regiment. On 07Oct1780 they were in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Wakefield was again wounded, a less serious wound to the mouth. He continued with the patriots marching all that remained of Ferguson's men to prison at Bethabara (Winston Salem NC).

The neighborhood map link below indicates Henry's tract upstream from Doctor Dobson on Paddy Creek. His plantation was 360 acres adjoining Robert Montgomery, John Matthews, and William Rutherford.

Henry Wakefield was born in 1752 to Charles Wakefield & Elisabeth his wife in Albemarle County VA. In 1768, the family moved to the frontier of Rowan County NC. The Rowan County seat was Salisbury, and it extended across the Catawba and Yadkin rivers west to include vague areas of Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1771, six Wakefield men were among the families who petitioned the colonial governor of NC to form a county in the Yadkin and Catawba river watersheds. It was 1777 before the revolutionary state of NC declared Burke County. with its county seat near current Morganton NC on the Catawba River.

Henry married Elizabeth Alexander, daughter of William & Elizabeth Alexander, on 20Mar1778 in Burke County NC. They had eight children. Elizabeth died and on 25Oct1791 widower Henry Wakefield remarried Mary Simpson. Ten of their children are listed in the pension file link below.

About 1796, the Henry Wakefield family moved to Sumner County TN for a season. Then they moved to Gibbs Crossroads in Smith County (now Macon County). Henry and Mary resided there until his death 13Nov1850. Henry was buried in the Wakefield Cemetery at Russell Hill TN.

Link to picture of burial marker for Henry Wakefield - <http://www.geni.com/people/Henry-Wakefield/6000000012108235021>

Link to Smith County Tennessee 28Aug1832 pension application testimony <http://www.revwarapps.org/w35.pdf>

[Wakefield neighborhood map link](#) in Burke County NC.