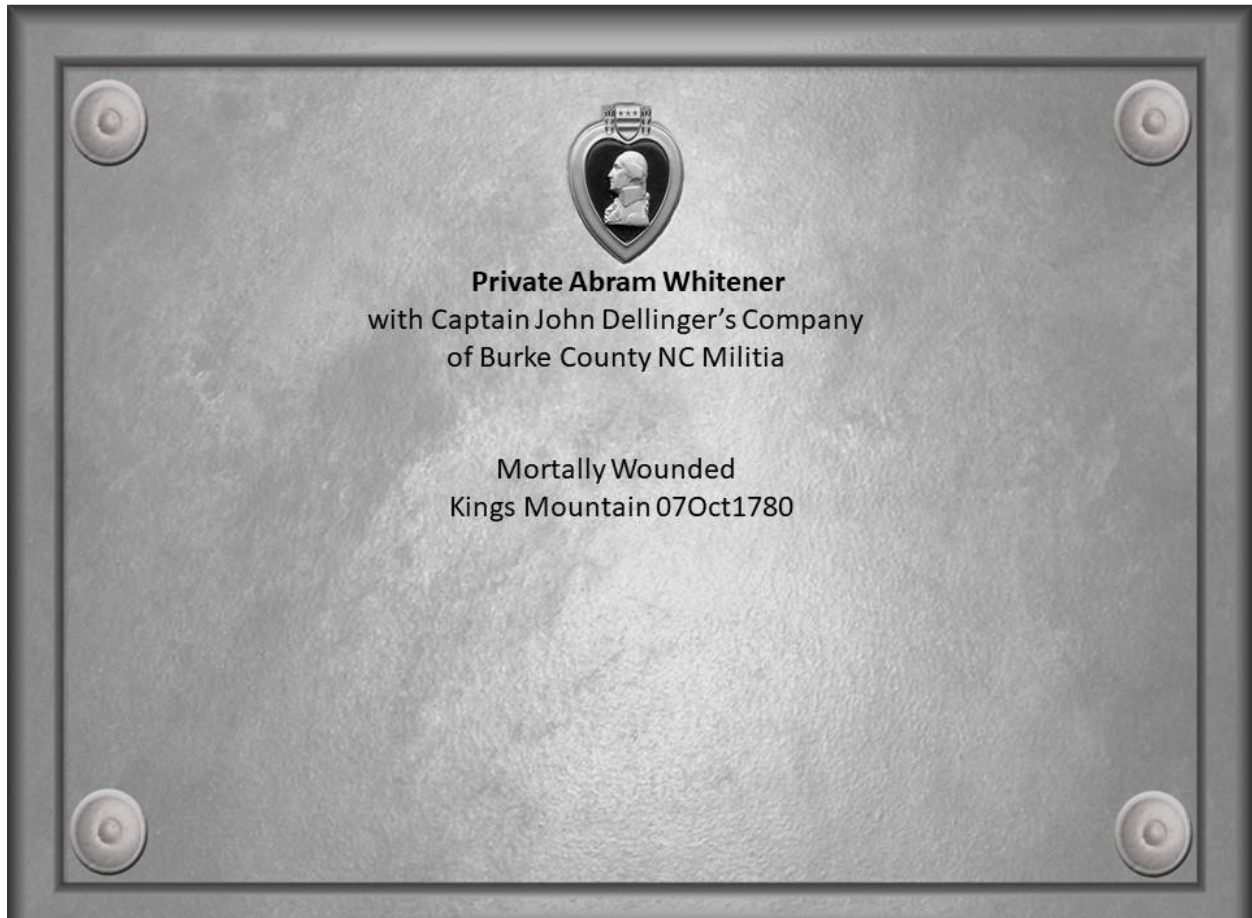


Abram Whitener



None of the Burke County patriots are mentioned on the battlefield monument which names casualties. Abram Whitener is among the neglected militiamen.

Abram was the son of George Heinrich Weidner (1717-1792) and Maria Catharina (Mary) Mull (1733-1804). Whitener was the Anglicized spelling for the German name Weidner. Abram's birth is calculated to be 1759 based on known ages of siblings.

Henry (DAR ancestor A125020) and Jacob Weidner from Lancaster County PA, explored the old Anson County frontier in 1748 and 1749 west of the Catawba River. The Henry River and Jacob Fork were named for them. The confluence of the streams they discovered formed the South Fork of Catawba. They received a royal land grant of 1000 acres on 07 Apr 1750 approved by executive council of the North Carolina colony in New Bern. Family land was in current Catawba County NC.

In 1752, John Ramseur (Ramsauer), kept a diary. In his October 1752 entry, he paid Henry Weidner two shillings five pence, probably for food, lodging, and stable during his trip from PA to Andy Lambert's on Clarks Creek. John would return to build Ramsour's Mill, an early foundation of Lincolnton.

Abram Whitener was a chain carrier of a 400 acre Burke County survey in March 1780.

In *A History of Catawba County* (Charles Preslar, 1954) Preslar lists a number of the men from the Henry River area. Abram Whitener, his brothers Henry and Daniel, Peter Mull, John Setzser, John Dobson, John Wilfong, and other Henry River area neighbors were among the Kings Mountain list. Local tradition is that they mustered at the farm of Henry Weidner to provision for their deployment to Kings Mountain. Henry was an established productive farmer with abundant crops and cattle. The Kings Mountain muster is shown to be a false rumor from pension declarations. There was no muster for Kings Mountain. After the battle at Cane Creek, they retreated up the Catawba River and crossed the mountains to the Watauga. They returned with Colonels Campbell, Shelby, and Sevier's "overmountain men" for the Kings Mountain encounter.

The Whitener family were known Whigs. Abram's father was a provisioner for militia deployments. Abram's older brothers Henry Whitener (S7172) and Daniel Whitener (S6403) were named as captains among sworn testimony of veterans on pension declarations. They were Captains under Col Charles McDowell from Greenlee's Ford of Burke County.

Burial was at the Weidner-Robinson cemetery in Newton NC.



Henry Weidner Memorial Booklet – Fighting alongside his brother Daniel, Abram was mortally wounded at Kings Mountain. (Hilda Whitener Garrou)

Orally repeated among Catawba County residents in the 1800's, Christian Hahn said that he heard Captain John Dellinger, a participant in the Kings Mountain battle, state that Abram was mortally wounded.