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### The Battle of Kings Mountain

The American Revolution stands out in history as a reminder of the people's ability to unite under the threat of tyranny and fight for the prospect of a better future. Displayed in a series of skirmishes and fronts across the foothills and plains of the east coast, the Revolutionary War experienced a great number of promising battles in the Carolinas. The Battle of Kings Mountain is a great example of the undying patriotism that guaranteed the formation of the United States and remains one of the most significant battles in the Revolution. Although the battle lacked the presence of British troops, this feature gave it significance because it represented the divide between patriots and loyalists in the South and how ideologies clashed in such confusing times. The Battle of Kings Mountains concluded in Kings Mountain, South Carolina, but was an important aspect in North Carolina's influence in the Revolution.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was an important battle fought in the York and Cherokee Counties of South Carolina in the fall of 1780; however, the months leading up to the battle took careful precision and planning on the part of Appalachian communities. The Battle of Kings Mountain was supported by the patriot front of soldiers like the Overmountain Men of Appalachia and North Carolina, who were described as "A race of hardy men who were familiar with the use of the horse and the rifle" by American commander Harry Lee ("Kings Mountain"). Their excellent familiarity of the terrain and battle tactics sparked great fears in the loyalist general Patrick Ferguson, who associated the Overmountain Men with extreme savagery. One week from the battle on September 30, 1780, the Overmountain Men gathered at Quaker Meadows near Morganton, Burke County, and "discussed their plans to organize their groups"

before settling closer to the site of the battle (“Quaker Meadows”). The patriots may have assumed their victory in the upcoming scrimmage, but they would not understand the heavy impact of the battle until after their sweeping victory.

The battle took place on a rocky campsite in the afternoon of October 7, 1780, in Kings Mountain, South Carolina, when the patriot front dispersed onto the loyalists headed by Patrick Ferguson. The Overmountain Men and patriots rushed from all sides, with loyalists describing them “like devils from the infernal regions... tall, raw-boned, sinewy with long matted hair,” though their determination shined through any loyalist propaganda (“Kings Mountain”). The battle lasted around one hour, and in this short time the patriots blunted loyalist advancement in the surrounding areas. Thomas Jefferson proudly described the Battle of Kings Mountain as “The turn of the tide of success”, as the event not only delayed future loyalist advancements but also boosted American patriotism and morale for the Revolutionary soldiers (“Tactics”). With this victory in hand, the patriots would go on to win an exponential number of battles to free the nation from the shackles of Great Britain. British General Charles Cornwallis was forced to retreat, and the Overmountain Men of North Carolina and the rest of Appalachia proved that the people were capable of overcoming tyranny.

The Battle of King’s Mountain remains as an important piece of American history for the detrimental outcome it had for the Revolutionary War. The people and soldiers who bravely sacrificed themselves are remembered by the site marker in the current city of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, with the original battle site remaining a peaceful mountain in South Carolina. The plaque is significant to North Carolina’s history because it shows the patriotic step our people once demonstrated in a time of need. As the Revolution carried on, North Carolinian

patriots defeated loyalists one by one, until British influence in the area subsided and the idea of the United States became a reality.

Works Cited

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