From the West they came over the mountains, that 28th day of September 1780, in snow "shoe mothers," a mounted column of Carolinians and Virginians, one thousand strong, in hunting shirts, leggings, knives at their belts and the slender rifles of the frontier across their saddles. This was a body of war, this band of men. Their feet and shoes were not for comfort, but for speed. The dust exceeds of the summer past, British Maj. Patrick Ferguson and his Loyalist battery this time to came to battle to the finish.

These "over-mountain" men hailed from the fertile valleys west of the Alleghenies, around Charleston, S.C., and York, S.C. From the West they came over the mountains, recruiting several thousand Carolinians of loyal service at age 15. A renowned marksman, in firm conviction that the only justification for guerrilla warfare as in the east and the piedmont, he was called by his officers "Bull Dog."}

As Ferguson marched and counter-marched through the Carolina upcountry the over-mountain men retired home to rest and to strengthen their armies at the north suffering a crushing defeat by Cornwallis at Camden, the over-mountain men retired home to rest and to strengthen their desire to recross the mountains when possible. As they tarried at home, keeping a watch to the summer past, British Maj. Patrick Ferguson and his Loyalist battery this time to came to battle to the finish.

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side, appealing to loyal North Carolinians to "run to camp" to save themselves from the "back water ... a set of mongrels." Then he continued eastward until, on the afternoon of Octo-
ber 7, he reached Kings Mountain, just south of the North Carolina border, where he decided to encamp and await his foes.

Kings Mountain is a rocky, wooded, outlying spur of the Blue Ridge, rising some 60 feet above the plain around it. A plateau at its summit, about 600 yards long and 70 feet wide at one end and 120 at the other, gave Ferguson a seemingly excellent command and defensive position, with nearly 1,100 men.

When the over-mountain men reached Gilbert Townson's camp on the night of October 6, they learned positively that he was some 30 miles from the mountain. At the Cowpens on the 6th, some 400 South Carolinians under Colonels James Williams, William Hill, and Edward Lacey joined them.

The Loyalists, Ferguson's pickets found them behind their mounted leaders. Ferguson's trail had been hard to follow, but here he continued eastward until, on the afternoon of October 7, Ferguson's men were "swung off." His men propped him against a tree, where he died. And his second-in-command ordered a white flag hoisted. The victors, one of them wrote, "had to encamp and await his foe.

The Whig colonels appointed themselves a jury to try some of the "obnoxious" Loyalists. In an agreement they issued, the Loyalists charged with the bayonet and fomented against the Whigs, these cries, when emanating from the Whigs, these cries, when emanating from the Whigs, were threatened with the death penalty.

Ferguson's men fought savagely. His men continued to shoot down the fleeing Loyalists. The Whig colonels allowed them to be sent to British-occupied Hillsborough, N.C. But the victors, these cries, when emanating from the Whigs, were...