



Scottish~American Military Society



BACKGROUND ON SAMS

The Scottish~American Military Society (SAMS) was founded and chartered in North Carolina in 1981 as a non-profit organization with the following purpose: *To preserve and promote Scottish and American Armed forces customs, traditions, and heritage by:*

- Providing a forum for exchange of military history and genealogical information
- Conducting public education programs
- Presenting military student honor awards
- Supporting Scottish activities at Highland Games
- Making contributions to qualified scholarship funds or institutions
- Making appropriate charitable contributions
- Providing a fraternal atmosphere for members.

As a veterans organization, membership is open to active duty, reserve, or honorably discharged former members of the U.S. and spouses, widows or widowers of same. A limited number of memberships are open to Armed service academy and college-level ROTC and Commonwealth Armed Forces.

All applications must be submitted on the official SAMS Application form accompanied by the required documentation of service. Proof of honorable service, such as a DD-214, or if on active service, any document that shows proof of service.

Members-at Large mail applications to:

SAMS National Adjutant
Jo Lawrence
140 Ghormley Ave
Oakland, CA 94603

THE SAMS EMBLEM



The Scottish belt is a symbol of allegiance to the Chief's Crest which it surrounds.

On the SAMS emblem, it signifies allegiance to the principle that liberty was won and had been preserved by armed force. The centerpiece of the Society Emblem is the back-country rifleman, wearing the hunting shirt, armed with his flintlock rifle and belt axe.

The battle at Kings Mountain, South Carolina, is recognized as one of the decisive battles and a major turning point in the Revolutionary War.

An unusually high percentage of the men who fought on both sides at Kings Mountain were of Scottish and Scots-Irish bloodlines. Scots-Irish Colonel William Campbell was commander of the Patriot forces and the Loyalists were led by LtCol Patrick Ferguson, a Highlander.

As was so often the case in Scottish history, the fight was between those who opposed the crown and those who supported it.

The patriots wore a twist of white paper in their hat bands for 'friend or foe' recognition. The loyalist wore a twig of evergreen (probably of Scottish origins) for the same purpose.

The loyalists used the bayonet as the decisive weapon at Kings Mountain, but it was no match for the rifle, backed by the belt axe and the hunting knife.

In 1644, the MacDonald's, who were supporting Charles I, were sent to '*ravage the territory with fire and sword*'.

These words were used as challenge and response by the patriots before the battle of Cowpens;

challenge: "*with fire*"
response: "*and sword.*"

The battle of Kings Mountain resulted directly from Col. Ferguson's threat to destroy the over-mountain settlements

"with fire and sword."