

MAJOR TEMPLE

Major Temple is believed to be a Revolutionary War Soldier who participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain. No Military records have been found for him; however, the Greene County Historian relays that although Major Temple is not in the index of the Draper book, nor in the book by Mr. Bobby Moss; Major Temple's name does appear in the Kings Mountain book by Pat Alderman. Mr. Massey adds: "None of these works are believed to be complete."

NOVEMBER 1787 LAND GRANT FOR LAND IN TODAY'S GREENE COUNTY

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The State of North Carolina

To all whom these Presents shall come... GREETING:

Know ye, that we, for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty Shillings for every hundred acres hereby granted, paid into our Treasury, By Major Temple

Have given and granted and by these Presents do give and grant unto the said Major Temple a tract of land containing two hundred and forty acres lying & being in our County of Greene on a branch of Richland Creek Beginning at a mulberry tree on the top of a ridge thence north westerly five bush two hundred and eighty four poles to a white oak thence East one hundred & seventy three poles to three white oaks & three black oaks thence along Whitebargers line south thirty four East two hundred & two poles to a Stake thence south westerly nine bush two hundred & thirty four poles to Beginning as by the plat hereto annexed each appears together with all the wood, waters, mines, minerals, hereditaments & appurtenances to the said land belonging & appertaining to hold to the said Major Temple his heirs & assigns forever yielding & paying to our said General assembly from time to time yearly or otherwise as our General assembly shall direct. Provided always that the said Major Temple shall cause this grant to be registered in the Register's office of our County of Greene within twelve months from the date hereof, otherwise the same shall be void of no effect.

BIOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY A DESCENDANT STATES:

Battle of Kings Mtn

Major Temple moved to Mecklenburg County, NC (1766). In 1780, he was with North Carolina forces in the celebrated battle of King's Mountain (also Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse). The family says he carved his initials in the musket he carried in that battle. That weapon has been handed down from generation to generation and was known as "Old Kings Mountain." In 1786, he moved to Green County, Tennessee, where he selected a farm on Richland Creek. Both his farm and that of his neighbor (Rev. Hezekiah Balch, who went on to found Greenville College) were recorded at the same time. They were probably friends and came to Tennessee together. Both were active Presbyterians. Major Temple was an Elder in the Church. In 1797, Major Temple was appointed to lay out and govern the town of Greeneville, Tenn. His son John was also a commissioner. We believe Major Temple had five sons and a daughter. We list only the two sons whose names we know.

Battle of Kings Mountain

October 7, 1780, near the North and South Carolina border

The plateau of the mountain is in Cleveland County, NC

The battlefield and park are in York County, SC

Historians consider the Battle of Kings Mountain to be the "turning point in the South" in America's War for Independence. The victory of Patriots over Loyalist troops destroyed the left wing of Cornwallis' army. The battle also effectively ended, at least temporarily, the British advance into North Carolina. Lord Cornwallis was forced to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina to wait for reinforcements. The victory of the Overmountain Men allowed General Nathaniel Greene the opportunity to reorganize the American Army.

When British General Henry Clinton learned of his men's defeat at Kings Mountain, he is reported to have called it "the first link of a chain of evils" that he feared might lead to the collapse of the British plans to quash the Patriot rebellion. He was right. American forces went on to defeat the British at Cowpens. A little more than a year after Kings Mountain, Washington accepted Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, Virginia.

1767 MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA LAND GRANT

No.	2167
County	Mecklenburg
Name	Temple, John
Acres	150
Grant No.	243
Issued	Oct 20, 1767
Warrant No.	—
Entry No.	—
Entered	Feb. 8, 1766
Book No.	23
Page No.	24

ANOTHER BIOGRAPHY STATES:

Major Temple (1736-1816)

Major TEMPLE^{16259,28251} was born in 1736 in East Brandywine, Chester, PA.^{22965,28251} He Moved about 1766 in Mecklenburg Co., NC.⁵⁶⁹⁹⁷ He served in the military in 1780.²⁸²⁵² Participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Major Moved in 1786 in Greene Co., TN.²⁸²⁵² He died in October 1816 at the age of 80 in Greeneville, Greene, TN.^{5417,12568,17822,28251,56998} Rise of the Temples incorrectly gave death as about 1860, making him 124.

Will was dated 8 Aug 1816 in Greene County, and then proved 29 Oct 1816. Joanne May's research also shows the 1816 date reflects an inventory sale. Also, the will indicates that his sons John, William and Josiah had already died. Josiah had died in April 1816. Not clear if he had any female offspring or not. Also, not clear what his relationship, if any, to the Major Temple who appears in the Revolutionary War Graves Register. This reference lists him as a soldier from North Carolina, and having died in Tennessee, but gives his years as 1763-1820, and his wife's name as Mary Kennedy. If this is the same Major Temple, he moved to Mecklenburg Co., NC about 1766. In 1780, he participated in the battle of King's Mountain with the NC forces. A family tradition says he carved his initials in the musket he carried in that battle. The weapon was handed down from generation to generation and was known as "Old Kings Mountain."

In 1786, he moved to Green County, TN, where he selected a farm on Richland Creek. Both is farm and that of his neighbor (Rev. Hezekiah Balch, the founder of Greeneville College) were recorded at that time. Both were active Presbyterians, and Major was a church elder.

In 1797, Major Temple was appointed to lay out and govern the town of Greeneville, TN. His son John was also a commissioner.

Also, while it is likely that Major is the son of Thomas and Mary Temple, no documentation has been found to date that proves this. Parents: Thomas TEMPLE-4482 and Mary Jane Chandler JEFFERIS-4483.

Spouse: Mary Jane KENNEDY-4488. Mary Jane KENNEDY and Major TEMPLE were married in 1757.^{17822,28251} Children were: John TEMPLE-4489, William TEMPLE-4485, Lt. Thomas Homer TEMPLE-4487, Jenny TEMPLE-21342, Captain James TEMPLE-4492, Josiah TEMPLE-4493.

source: <http://www.temple-genealogy.com/b1811.htm#P4486>

Major Temple was an Elder of the Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church. On November 27, 1792, he was one of the ten Church Elders who signed a Deed for the land upon which this Church [and Cemetery] were built. His son, Thomas Temple (1766-1852) is buried there and it is probable so, too, are Major Temple and his wife, said to be Mary Jane Kennedy who married in 1757, location not known.



WILL OF MAJOR TEMPLE:

MAJOR TEMPLE: dec'd.

Tuesday, 29th October, 1816. Will proven by Christopher Bradshaw and Josiah Clawson and ordered to be recorded and Thomas Temple and James Temple Executors gave bond with Christopher Bradshaw and Samuel Dinsmore, securities, in \$600, and qualified. Min. 8 p. 295

Will " I, Major Temple of the County of Greene and State of Tennessee do declare this my last Will and Testament, revoking all others.

First. All my just debts are to be punctually and speedily paid.

Item. To my beloved Wife Mary Temple I bequeath the prerogative or use of my dwelling house and kitchen during her natural life, two beds, bedsteads and furniture, my household and kitchen furniture, her saddle and bridle, my wearing apparel, One hundred Dollars in Cash, my servants Phebe, Jack and Lydia, one horse beast and three cows of her choice, to be at her disposal at her death except the dwelling house and kitchen.

Item. To my son Thomas Temple, I bequeath my servant boy Ivy should said boy survive me, but should he not, then to my said son Thomas an equal dividend of my estate with my son James and heirs of my son John as hereinafter mentioned.

Item. To my son James Temple, I bequeath the whole of my farm and tract of land whereon I now live containing two hundred and forty acres, to be enjoyed by him, his heirs and assigns forever. Also, my farming utensils including geers sufficient to work the plows with a sufficiency of my stock of every description (horses excepted) for the comfortable subsistence of the family he may then have charge of, and also the services of my servants Phebe, Jack and Lydia in assisting to raise and secure the Crops, and any other business tending to the benefit and progress of the farm and his own convenience, yet he is not to command their services unreasonably or at such times as might produce inconvenience to my beloved wife, without her consent. In consideration whereof my said son James Temple shall find and provide for my beloved wife Mary Temple during her natural life, a comfortable living and suitable attention in her infirm and declining state of health. He is likewise to provide a suitable and sufficient subsistence for said Servants and Stock of my Wife during her natural life.

Item. My Horses, wagon, the residue of my beds and furniture with all other property of mine not herein enumerated and bequeathed, shall be sold by my Executors for the best prices that can be had.

Item. To my son in law and Daughter, John and Jinney Berry, I bequeath the sum of twenty dollars, and to the heirs of my son William Temple, twenty dollars jointly, they having already received a reasonable proportion of my Estate.

Item. To my son John Temple's Heirs and James Temple, I bequeath the residue of monies arising from the sale of my Estate, One half to said Heirs and the other half to said James Temple, and the Debts due me to be divided between them in the same manner....first discharging out of said monies, my debts, funeral charges and legacies aforesaid.

Item. To my Daughter in law, Isabella Temple, I allow one half of the grains and crop on hand, she with my two grand Daughters as Heirs of my son Josiah Temple Dec'd. having received of my son James Temple his notes for seven hundred and seventy five dollars in full of all claim they might have in my estate.

Item. I constitute and appoint my sons Thomas and James Temple Executors of this my Will. In Testimony whereof, I, the said Major Temple have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 8th day of August in the year of our Lord, 1816.

Major Temple

SEAL

Mary's Will, probated October 23, 1820 by her son Thomas and contested by his brother, James.

MARY TEMPLE

I, Mary Temple of the County of Greene and State of Tennessee do declare this my Last Will And Testament revoking all others.

First of all, my just Debts (if any) are to punctually and speedily paid.

Item. My Servant Phebe having been a good and faithful Servant to me, therefore I do Will and order that she shall be free and no longer a slave or servant after my decease.

Item. To my son Thomas Temple I bequeath my servant boy Jack, my chest, small box, Shovel and Tongs, Small and Irons, Two chairs, and one Old Cow.

Item. To my son James Temple I give my cupboard, two tables, large And Irons and two Chairs.

Item. To my Daughter in law Jinney Temple Widow of William Temple Dec'd. I give my largest pot, pot rack and Hooks, one churn, one pail, my big and little spinning wheels, my raised lid Trunk, my Cotton Cards, Tin Kettle, Cloak, Black Cow, one pewter Dish, three pewter plates and two Chairs.

Item. To my Daughter in law Isabella Temple widow of Josiah Temple Dec'd. I give my check reel, two Hackles and two Chairs.

Item. To my Grand Daughter Mary K. Robinson daughter of Thomas Temple I give my Servant Girl Lydia, small pot, Six Desert Knives and five forks.

Item. To my Grand Daughter Peggy Temple, daughter of Thomas Temple, I give one feather Bed and furniture, one bedstead and my second largest pot.

Item. To my Grand Daughter, Jenny Temple, daughter of Thomas Temple I give one Dutch Oven.

Item. To my Grand Daughter Sally Temple Daughter of Thomas Temple I give one Smoothing Iron.

Item. To my Grand Son James H. Temple, Son of William Temple Dec'd. I give my riding Horse.

Item. To my Grand Daughter Mary K. Temple, daughter of William Temple Dec'd. I give my bed and it's furniture, bedstead, my saddle and bridle, my newest Habbit, Silk Bonnets, one Dutch Oven and one Smoothing Iron, one large bowl, half dozen Tea Cups and Saucers, half dozen Tea Spoons, one sugar bowl, and one cream Jug.

Item. To my grand Daughter Maria Temple Daughter of Josiah Temple Dec'd. I give my coffee mill.

Item. To each of my deceased Son William Temple's Children (Being Six in number) I give the sum of four Dollars.