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Book Review: Captured at Kings Mountain: The Journal of Uzal Johnson, A Loyalist Surgeo

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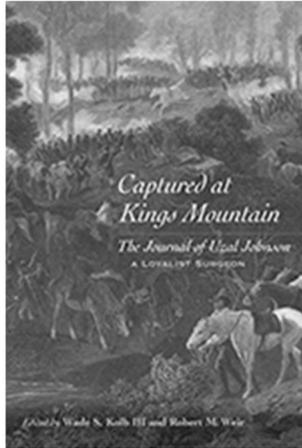
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Captured at Kings Mountain: The Journal of Uzal Johnson, A Loyalist Surgeon
Edited by Wade S. Kolb III and Robert M. Weir. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2011 ISBN 978-1-57003-961-4, \$39.95.

Volunteering to provide a book review of Kolb and Weir's book, *Captured at Kings Mountain: The Journal of Uzal Johnson: A Loyalist Surgeon*, I imagined I might learn some fascinating facts about my hometown, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. I expected I might reflect upon the many summers of my childhood spent visiting, picnicking, and hiking in the woods on the sides of Kings Mountain where the famous battle took place. However, my reading experience was far from a reflection on the memories I held. This highly complex and beautifully compiled book is a complexity of research and artful crafting of factors that surround authenticating journal writing. From the authors, I learned that two individuals were well recognized by historians as having similar journals that at times complimented

each other and at times completely conflicted with each other in describing the events, the leading characters, the battle scenes, the points of view and clear mindedness of days and nights on the fields of the battle and the journeys following. The treks that were a part of the narrative of the diaries lead the reader to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Johnson as he was moved along by his captors. From March 5, 1780 to March 6 of 1781, Johnson describes in somewhat painful and harrowing details the days and nights of his captivity. There are some descriptions that evoke a smile or a moment of beauty from the scenery and personalities of those who marched with him.

For me, who felt a joy and anticipation each time I entered the Kings Mountain State Park and who each year passed by the grassy area where the drama, "The Battle of Kings Mountain" was performed, the diary of Dr. Uzal Johnson lends another dimension to the romantic and colorful patriotic memories of my childhood. To any historian and revolutionary war scholar, I recommend this book, with its maps, drawings, intricate end notes and comparative views.

Once you read it, please visit the Kings Mountain State Park and absorb the beautiful woods and hills that surround you while imagining some of the very vivid scenes described in Dr. Johnson's journal.

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