



## John Nicholas Whisenant

1743-1831

### South Carolina

John Nicholas Whisenant was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1743 to John Adam Whisenant and Anna Barbara Eaker. John Nicholas was the fourth of eight children. The family moved to Lincoln County, North Carolina, in the early 1750s. He married Mary Carpenter at age 19, around 1762.

Around 1770, John Nicholas and Mary moved to York County, South Carolina. John Nicholas and Mary would eventually have nine children. By 1780, the family owned and ran a grist mill.

In October 1780, Loyalist militia, under British Major Patrick Ferguson, were serving as part of Lord Cornwallis's forces attempting an invasion of North Carolina. Ferguson's force was guarding the British Army's left flank.

Patriot militia had been pursuing the Tory militia. The Loyalists were moving through South Carolina into North Carolina. Major Ferguson took a position on top of a ridge known as King's Mountain. He believed the position offered the best protection. It was also a short distance from John Whisenant's grist mill. The Patriot militia's final stop before finding the Tories was at the grist mill where Whisenant provided much-needed supplies to the Patriots in preparation for an expected battle. The next day the Patriots engaged the Tories at King's Mountain and would win a resounding victory on October 7, 1780. Ferguson did not take into account the attacking Patriot militia was made up of frontiersmen experienced in marksmanship and Indian tactics that better fit the terrain.

The Tories lost 157 killed, 163 wounded, and 698 captured. Major Ferguson, the British officer commanding the Loyalist militia, was killed in the battle. The battle ended Cornwallis's invasion of North Carolina, ended the possibility of invading all the way into Virginia, and forced his retreat south. The battle is identified as the turning point in the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the end of British dominance in the colonies.

Conflicting reports indicate Whisenant may have joined the militia and fought in the battle. After the war, John Nicholas Whisenant stayed in South Carolina. He sold the land the grist mill was on in 1805.

He died on April 19, 1831, in York County, South Carolina and is buried in the Antioch Baptist Church in Blacksburg, South Carolina.