

Mr. Thom Thomas & Ms. Patty Wissinger
Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study
US Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway, P. O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Thomas & Ms. Wissinger:

I am writing in support of and on behalf of the wonderful idea of a Revolutionary Heritage Area for parts of North and South Carolina. I am the director of the Chamber of Commerce for Kings Mountain, North Carolina, 6 to 7 miles north from where the actual battle, The Turning Point of The Revolution took place at the Kings Mountain National Military Park. We are experiencing over one million visitors a year to the three area parks and have just opened the Crowders Mountain Boulders Access; a new hiking area. We are also working on the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail; a trailhead with 4 to 7 miles of trails for biking, hiking, etc. ½ mile from the downtown area. We are fast becoming a destination for parks and trails as well as the wonderful Revolutionary history that we so cherish.

A lot of folks in this town and in the region have ancestors that fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. There are numerous cemeteries here with soldiers buried that fought in the battle. We have a large mural on the side of a downtown building that depicts scenes about that period as well. Reenactors play a big part in our local festivals and events. We celebrate the yearly anniversary on October 7 of the Battle by hosting the Overmountain Men that walk and ride here for a luncheon celebration at a local church. Our annual Gateway Festival in October each year has reenactors and a mock battle as well as other period interpreters.

World famous writer, Robert Morgan, has already put together an outdoor or indoor play for the Battle of Kings Mountain that would be the perfect addition to a new Revolutionary Heritage Area. Also, the City of Kings Mountain would be the perfect place to have the Heritage Area office location.

I am the VP for the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc. and on this committee are the heads of 4 area parks, Kings Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain National Military Park, Crowders Mountain State Park, and The Overmountain Victory Trail for the U. S. We are in the process of building trails that will connect all these parks together, another important step to make this region a tourist destination.

Please consider this important initiative for the Carolinas!

Sincerely,

Shirley K. Brutko
Director, Kings Mountain Office, Cleveland County Chamber
VP Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc.

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