

26 May 2009

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 the idea of a Revolutionary Heritage Area for parts of North and South Carolina. I am the past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Cleveland County Chamber. I live in Kings Mountain, NC, less than 10 miles north of where 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.

Many residents of Kings Mountain and the surrounding area 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. We celebrate the yearly anniversary of the battle on October 7. Our annual Gateway Festival in October each year has reenactors and a mock battle as well as other period interpreters.

I would like to endorse Cleveland County's inclusion as part of the new US Heritage Area to be called the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area. Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative for the Carolinas!

Sincerely,

Stephen Padgett