

April 29, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Thomas & Ms. Wissinger:

It is my understanding that you are working on a very exciting project in regards to a new US Heritage Area to be called the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area. I also understand that while some counties have already been identified for inclusion in this area, you are still receiving comments as to the appropriateness for other counties to be considered.

I am writing you as a resident of Cleveland County to ask that you strongly consider its inclusion. I will not take too much of your time but would like to offer the following for consideration.

Growing up in Virginia, I often got to visit Yorktown and always came away with the impression that after Concord, Bunker Hill, and the Crossing of the Delaware, there was just a long space of time between the beginning and the ending of the Revolutionary War.

Not until I moved to North Carolina as an adult did I begin to understand the breadth and depth of our War for Independence. Over time, some of my visits to places like Cowpens, Ninety-Six and Kings Mountain were the basis for a new vocation for me--travel writer.

I learned how battles, marches, tactics and time were not mere moments static to a single place. They evolved and one moment, one battle or one march led to another, only culminating in Yorktown.

Cleveland County's proximity to the Kings Mountain Battlefield, its current easy access from Interstate 85 and the county's connection to the battle in terms of historical figures make it, from my admittedly biased viewpoint, a natural choice for inclusion in the area.

The final choice, of course, will be yours, but I am hopeful that you will receive letters of support for its inclusion from many people, each one sharing some personal connection to why this potential inclusion makes sense or is important to them.

For my part, I appreciate the work you are doing in this area and I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my opinion.

Best wishes,

Mark Alan Hudson, FACHE
President