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Organization: Historic Burke Foundateion

Title: President

Comments: I am the President of Historic Burke Foundation, Inc. (HBF).

HBF is a non-profit agency responsible for the preservation of the Historic Burke County Courthouse as well as the Captain Charles McDowell House here in Burke County. The Foundation offers a number of educational programs and tours throughout the year, including the Annual Revolutionary War Days events that commemorate the Overmountain Men and the victory at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.

In 1780, at the time of the Battle Of Kings Mountain, the site of the "Overmountain Barn" was a part of Burke County, as shown on Page 287 in David Leroy Corbitt's book "The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943" [Sixth Printing] ISBN 0-86526-032-X. We in HBF retain ties with Avery County today. Indeed, our members include direct descendants of Waightstill Avery, the first Attorney General of North Carolina, for whom Avery County is named. Furthermore, "Yellow Mountain Road" from "Yellow Mountain Gap" still connects the site of the "Overmountain Barn" with those descendants in Burke County. Yellow Mountain Road, which once ran between Sycamor e Shoals (now Elizabethton, Tennessee) came through Burke County and went as far as Charleston, SC.

Personally, I feel it would be very helpful to have further discussions about what should happen with and at the "Overmountain Barn" from a historical standpoint before the proposed decisions are made-unilaterally-by USFS. HBF would like to have the option of being involved - formally -- in such USFS discussions along with the leaders of the Avery County Historical Museum and the Mitchell County Historical Society, hopefully.

The fact that the "Overmountain Barn" is not of the Revolutionary Period should not disqualify my request for further formal discussion involving HBF, in my opinion. The barn reached "iconic" status some years ago and is widely recognized as an important landmark on the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Overmountain Victory North Carolina State Trail.

Respectfully submitted. Linda B. Lindsey, Ed.D.