

United States Department of the Interior



REPLY REFER TO:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cowpens National Battlefield	Ninety Six National Historic Site
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Mr. Brian Lamb, Chairman
C-Span
Suite 650
400 N. Capitol Street NW
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*Copies to: P. Kiley
T. Murphy
M. Pierce*

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Of what could they have possibly been thinking, these men of yore? How could they, with their loosely organized alliance of weak colonies, even in their wildest imaginings, expect to win a war against the British, the most powerful nation in the world, whose fleets controlled the seven seas and whose impeccably trained soldiers brought terror to their opponents? And yet, emboldened by their strong belief in the rightness of their cause and their absolute dependence on providential assistance, our forebears literally placed at risk their homes, families, livelihoods and even their very lives. And for what purpose? To create a remarkable new nation based on the untested concept "that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights - the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." All we can do is stand in awe and reverence at their audacity for such an undertaking.

In less than 225 days the new millennium begins and with it the 225th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. This war made it possible that our nation could be created. And its ideals have survived a cruel, but liberating, civil war, two world war conflagrations, numerous internal and external struggles and unrest, and has emerged from its tribulations as the one major power in the world today. These ideas have become passionate anticipations in the hearts of people everywhere - offering at least a modicum of hope for the freedom to which they can aspire.

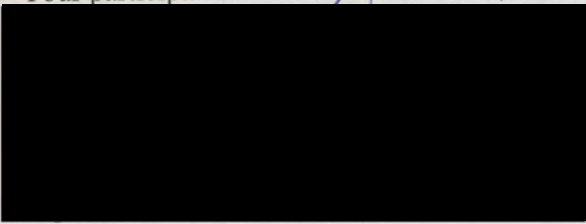
No war in our history has done more to define the character of our nation than the American Revolution. And yet there is little understanding among our citizens of its importance. It is our unknown war. For who has heard of the Cowpens, or Ninety Six, or Kings Mountain, or Guilford Courthouse, or the invasion of Canada? Or who knows of Daniel Morgan or Andrew Pickens or Thaddeus Kosciuszko or William Washington, or Collins?

With this in mind, the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Committee of the National Park Service has asked me to write you suggesting that C-Span to send its Yellow School Bus to the various National Park Service areas in their 225th anniversary year celebrations. Starting in the year 2000 and continuing for seven years, American Revolutionary War parks will celebrate the battles or important events which occurred in them.

A renaissance has occurred in the Park Service in which we are taking a fresh new look at the telling of, not only the events which occurred at the sites, but also the significant impact these events have had on the nation and world. And it is to be inclusive, including with the well known stories, those forgotten or omitted chapters of women and children and of Native Americans, blacks and others who made contributions to the making of this nation into the beacon to mankind that it is today. What more significant stories may we tell than these as we stand on the threshold of a new millennium? For not only do we want to anticipate the promises hoped for in the new era, we also want to ponder the great events and personages of our past who have brought us to where we are.

The C-Span Yellow School Bus would be great value to our citizens and National Park Service sites by visiting these sites during their celebrations, as we attempt to recount the story of the birth of our nation to the children and adults of this country.

Your participation with us in our efforts, should you choose to do so, will be greatly appreciated.



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