

Leon Dure. Interconnectedness: A Case Study of Revolutionary War and War of the Regulation Battlefields in North and South Carolina. A Master's Paper for the M.S. in LS degree. May 2020. 120 pages. Advisor: Megan Winget

This paper examines the preservation and interpretation practices of six battlefields in North and South Carolina, all of which occurred during the American Revolution or the War of the Regulation. I not only conducted interviews with personnel at the sites in question, but also examined resources related to each site, as well as the National Park Service in general. I discovered that in multiple locations preservation and interpretation are interconnected, in that each has a broad, rather than narrow focus. Specifically, both concentrate not just on the battlefield itself and what occurred on a specific day, but also contextual information that helps enlighten visitors to the importance of the site.

Headings:

- Battlefield
- Interpretation
- Preservation
- 3D Technology

INTERCONNECTEDNESS: A CASE STUDY OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND  
WAR OF THE REGULATION BATTLEFIELDS IN NORTH AND SOUTH  
CAROLINA AND HOW IT APPLIES TO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

by  
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## 1. Introduction

Lexington and Concord. Yorktown. Antietam. Gettysburg. These are some of the battles that have shaped history in the United States in some form. Yet what these battles also have in common is that their memory lives on in one form or another, often in the minds of those who are passionate about military history, like myself. But, to ensure their memory lives on for society requires preservation. For thousands of years, human beings have waged war with each other, yet few of the locations where these conflicts occurred are preserved. It would not be until the second millennium CE that some form of preservation began, with memorials created at places such as Bunker Hill, Guilford Court House, and Chickamauga.

As for the battlefields themselves, whether on American soil or foreign, sometimes they are featureless, some have only markers that give a basic summary as to what happened, while others have memorials that commemorate specific individuals or military units, such as two statues of Union Major General John Reynolds at Gettysburg, or a monument dedicated to the 99<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regiment at Chickamauga. Yet, these memorials do not sit in isolation from the surroundings, but present information, even if this is only implied. For example, General Reynolds is honored for his actions on the first day of Gettysburg, during which he lost his life; as for the 99<sup>th</sup> Ohio, the monument explicitly mentions, although not in significant detail, what the regiment endured at the battle of Chickamauga.

Admittedly, preservation is about history, in that artifacts undergo preservation for the future, so the past will not be lost. Artifacts range from documents such as the Declaration of Independence and physical items like the Chessmen of Lewes to buildings like Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, or even landscapes themselves, in which category battlefields fall. While one might think of preservation of the above examples as a matter of history and nothing else, preservation is in fact a tenet of information science. Information science is not only about presenting information, but also about ensuring its preservation for future use. The purpose of preservation does not exist only in relation to information science, but instead applies to other fields as well. In turn, the act of preservation shows how information science is interconnected with all fields of study. Rather, preservation covers various fields of study, from underwater archaeology to law. In other words, every subject uses information in one way or another; information does not exist in isolation from anything else. Thus, preservation, like information science, involves connecting information. Like preservation in general, battlefield preservation is about interconnectedness, in that multiple disciplines are utilized, from history to archaeology to architecture to classical studies.

Although battlefield preservation is somewhat known as a topic in history, it receives very little mention in information science literature. However, the act of preservation itself is of relevance to the field of information science; after all, preservation is about preserving information for posterity. In other words, preservation is not just about this generation, but the following ones as well.<sup>1</sup> Artifacts therefore should not be preserved just for the moment, which would render preservation redundant. Also, preservation does not constitute a single occurrence, but it occurs constantly over an

extended period of time. Like digital data, which requires constant maintenance to ensure its lifespan, battlefields and the artifacts located on them need regular upkeep to ensure they will last, if not for eternity, for at least as long as possible.

Essentially, the importance of battlefield preservation is that it is about the retention of information of what happened on these fields of bloodshed so that people can remember what they encounter. By examining battlefield preservation, information scientists will be able to draw upon real-world experiences on how to preserve information, not just of the challenges involved, but of the significance of doing so. Just as important is the ability to present this information to various audiences, whether they are dedicated historians or casual visitors of battlefield sites. Without significant audience appreciation, the act of preservation will become meaningless. For example, locking up the Mona Lisa in a secure vault may ensure its preservation, but what is the point of preserving it if no one can access it?

This paper will address how information is preserved in various American battlefields, and will not just cover preservation of the battlefields themselves, but also preservation of memorials located on the battlefields as well as museums dedicated towards displaying information of the battlefield itself. The concept of interpretation will also be explored, as just presenting the information is not enough, because context is important. Battlefield artifacts, whether memorial or museum artifacts, also play a role in displaying contextual information, or a form of metadata, without which it would be hard for people who have no knowledge of the events in question to grasp the importance of these historical episodes. As for the scope of the paper, it will be limited to battlefields located in the United States, specifically Revolutionary War and War of the Regulation

battlefields within North and South Carolina, but will address a variety of approaches to preservation, whether it is through land purchases or digital preservation.

I obtained data for my project by interviewing personnel involved with the battlefields at Alamance, Cowpens, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek, whereupon I examined the interviews to evaluate the importance of preservation and importance of interpretation. I also conducted research, by examining resources related to each of the abovementioned sites, as, well as the battlefields at Camden and Guilford Courthouse, where I described these sites and how they conducted preservation and interpretation.



## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Preservation Theory**

As battlefield preservation has not been investigated thoroughly as a subject in IS theory, preservation as a theory and concept will be a prime focus. This will not only address the importance of preservation, but also maintain an information science emphasis to this research paper, as otherwise the end result will be more of a history paper.

While the study of battlefields utilizes disparate disciplines such as history and archaeology, library science does not have much of an impact. Admittedly, the issue of preservation itself is a crucial issue with regards for both battlefields and information science, but not much has been written about the dual implementation of these two subjects. However, the possibility of cooperation between information professionals and archaeologists can exist (Williams and Williams, 2019), so there is no reason to assume the same can't be true for information professionals and preservationists.

Although battlefield preservation is not discussed that often with regards to information science, works on preservation in general do exist. In particular, Michele Cloonan has written extensively about preservation, including works where she explains the necessity of preservation (Cloonan, 2007a), as well as some of the paradoxes involved (Cloonan, 2007b). She also discusses the challenges of preservation in times of crisis, (Cloonan, 2018), as well as the responsibility of preservation during this (Cloonan,

2004), and has edited a work about historical perspectives on preservation (Cloonan, 2015).

The only downside to using her works as potential sources is the necessity to include other authors who can provide different perspectives on preservation; as shown below, roughly half of the theoretical preservation sources are by her, which risks potential bias. That being said, Cloonan's experience with preservation should provide valuable insights on this topic, which in turn can hopefully be extrapolated to the concept of battlefield preservation.

Regrettably, besides Cloonan, relevant works on battlefield preservation specific to the information science field proved hard to find. Therefore, the majority of these sources will be used to show how preservation theory can be applied to battlefield preservation. Of use to this paper will be works on historic preservation (Bluestone, 2011; Mason and Page, 2019, Page and Miller, 2016; Stipe, 2003; Tyler, Tyler, and Ligibel, 2018), as battlefield preservation is about preserving historical information. However, some investment must be made to providing resources for preservation, as doing otherwise may have unfortunate implications (Smith, 2007).

What must be remembered is that preservation is not just about preserving the materials themselves, but the information they convey. For example, the preservation of a rifle bullet at Gettysburg with the only metadata available that it was found at Gettysburg will present almost no information. However, a rifle bullet that has been conclusively located behind the stone wall and dates from the time of Gettysburg, can provide the

information it belonged to one of the Union soldiers fighting off Pickett's Charge. Also, as described earlier, the ultimate goal of preservation is to preserve information so others will be able to access it in the future; otherwise, the preservation will have been for nothing.

## **2.2 Types of Preservation (Digital, 3D, etc.)**

Besides physical preservation, other types of preservation exist that can be applied to battlefields. For example, digital preservation, specifically 3D preservation, can be applied through scanning the sites and reproducing them in a digital form. Unfortunately, few 3D preservation sources in the study deal with battlefield preservation itself, so most of the sources consulted instead cover subjects such as historical artifacts, which admittedly is relevant to the historical dimension of this paper.

With battlefields, there are multiple avenues of preservation, one of the more obvious ones being physical preservation; essentially, maintaining the landscape so that it looks the way it did when the battle occurred; other methods include rehabilitation and restoration (Birnbaum, 1994). However, this cannot be kept on indefinitely; time will eventually remodel the battlefields to the extent that physical preservation will no longer be sustainable, the same being true for memorials. Besides the passage of time, manmade and natural processes will only further damage both the landscape and physical objects (Angeloni, Rossi, and Vavassori, 1997).

If physical preservation is not a cure-all, other options exist. For instance, for battlefields where physical preservation is impossible due to urban development, digital

preservation can be made of print and visual records (such as drawings and photographs) to indicate what the battlefield looked like, as well as illustrating the significance of the battle. Of course, physical preservation of these items can be conducted as well, but it would probably work to have the same item preserved in two different mediums, one analog, the other digital, for the sake of redundancy.

However, digital preservation does not just include repositories which store information, but also 3D technology, which can serve as a more informative method of preservation. With 3D scanning technology, people can explore the battlefields, as well as memorials, through audio-visual technology. Fortunately, this is not uncharted territory, as various studies have been published on the topic of 3D preservation for historical purposes, whether on the types of technology used (Darlington, 2012; Nguyen, et al., 2019; Remondino, 2011; Sportun, 2014; Wachowiak and Karas, 2009) or examples of preservation (al-Baghdadi, 2018; Fritsch and Klein, 2018; Wei, Chin, Majid, and Setan, 2010). As for the use of 3D audio-visual technology, it can be used to simulate the battle itself for participants; while people will not be able to experience the battle exactly how it happened, they will be able to gain a sense of what transpired on that bloodstained landscape. At least one source shows that technologies such as LIDAR have been used for the purpose of battlefield preservation for some time (Maio, et al., 2012).

### **2.3 Battlefields, Memorials, and Museums (General)**

Although battlefield preservation, as mentioned below, differs by each site, there is some correlation due to factors such as specific wars and locations where battles were

fought. In line with this, various organizations such as the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program and American Battlefield Trust play a role in ensuring that battlefields will be preserved, but do so under different parameters. While the American Battlefield Trust is a private organization, the American Battlefield Protection Program is associated with the National Park Service.

Relatively speaking, battlefield preservation is not a recent concept. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, preservation efforts were underway in the United States with regards to preserving Civil War battlefields (Smith, 2008; Smith, 2017). However, humans have been waging wars and fighting in battles from the Korean Peninsula to the Andes Mountains of South America for thousands of years, and it is safe to say that not until the second half of the second millennium CE preservation efforts truly began. Fortunately, various organizations, such as the American Battlefield Trust (American Battlefield Trust, 2019a; American Battlefield Trust, 2019b; Zeller, 2017), the American Battlefield Protection Program (American Battlefield Protection Program, 2007; Waters and Dressel, 1993), and The Battlefields Trust (located in the United Kingdom) specifically dedicate themselves towards preserving battlefields, while regional or national organizations like the Virginia Department of Historic Resources or the National Park Service may have a broader range of artifacts to preserve, but include battlefields as among the artifacts in need of preservation (National Park Service, 1997; National Park Service, 2016).

By itself, the concept of battlefield preservation cannot be studied without the necessary historical context; otherwise, there would be no point in preserving the

information, as someone who has no knowledge of these places cannot possibly be expected to grasp the significance of a significant site. After all, preservation must be located in the historical context of the situation, such as the historical significance of the battle in question. Admittedly, preservation efforts may differ from country to country (Blades, 2003), but also are due to factors such as funding and political will to commemorate the events in question (Sellars, 2005). Unfortunately, the results of preservation do not always present a truthful message, as shown by the American Civil War memorials dedicated to the “Lost Cause,” which present a blatantly one-sided perspective (Stone and Graham, 2007). Also, whether a battlefield will undergo preservation or not will depend on a variety of factors, such as danger of encroaching development, as well as the resources available for preservation. There also needs to be a discernment between the battlefield as a landscape, and as a site (Carman 2005), as well as noting how commemoration changes over time (Atherton and Morgan, 2011). How to properly interpret battlefields, as shown by the “Lost Cause” example above, stands as an item of significance, alongside with planning policies on how to conserve the battlefields in question (Bull and Panton, 2000).

Another factor to consider is the similarities between battlefields mentioned above. For example, Scotland witnessed dozens of battles being fought within its borders (Foard and Partida, 2005; Pollard and Banks 2010). It would be expected therefore that a battlefield preservation organization in Scotland would focus its main efforts on battlefields in Scotland, while the American Battlefield Trust would retain a focus on

battles of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and American Civil War, and not expand their activities into Scotland. However, battlefield preservation does not exist in a vacuum from the outside world, with dangers to battlefields from problems such as urban development prevalent (Nash, 2004).

#### **2.4 Battlefields, Memorials, and Museums (Specific case studies of battlefields)**

Of course, no single battlefield undergoes the exact same form of preservation; each site differs from one another in multiple ways, such as the scope of the battle, duration of battle, and the number of casualties inflicted. Also, contextual information should be provided, such as the reasons for war and societal norms of the time, as well as the overall impact of the war upon both soldiers and civilians; this means that different approaches have to be taken. The examples of battlefield preservation mentioned in this project will provide context as to how preservation of these sites is undertaken, as well as context as to why this specific type(s) of preservation was implemented. This also applies to museums that are located on the sites of the battlefields themselves, in particular how they display the information about the battlefields are shown, in that they are presenting preserved information.

Each battlefield represents a unique instance of preservation; the types of preservation undertaken range from land purchases to archaeological excavations. A one-size-fits-all approach is not feasible, given that each battlefield differs from one another. Preserving the battlefield of Gettysburg, where over a hundred thousand men fought for three days,

presents a different situation compared to the battlefield of Cowpens, where a few thousand men, a fraction of the forces that clashed at Gettysburg, fought each other in an engagement that lasted only around an hour. Also, it depends on how preservation policies are enacted, for good or for bad (Murray, 2009; Murray, 2014), as well as what policies exist in the first place.

However, the battlefield itself and the memorials located upon it do not constitute the only instances of preservation. Another aspect of preservation can be shown in museums located on the battlefields themselves. These museums can not only help preserve artifacts, but also communicate information about the battlefield, ranging from contextual information about the circumstances that led to this particular engagement occurring to what happened on the day in question. Interpretation of items of display is necessary to accurately convey information (Brandt, 2004).

After all, preservation is supposed to result in conveying information, whether it is the role of women at the battle of Culloden in 1746 (Deufel, 2011), or the sacrifices of Newfoundlanders during the First World War (Gough, 2004). Also, battlefield memorials can provide information not just about the battlefield but also about the people or organizations that created them, from which additional information can be inferred (McKinnon, 2016). Preservation is not just about preserving for the sake of preserving; it must be undertaken for a specific audience, whether it is the general public or academics. Preservation should not occur just to simply to lock away the items in question, to never be examined.



However, preservation does not remain the same over the time (Black, 2012; Smith, 2009), especially in terms of interpretation (Sirna, 2017). After all, it may be discovered that a previous interpretation of what had happened was incorrect, such as information about the battle of Naseby in 1645 (Marix Evans, 2014), or that something which had been neglected is given more emphasis, such as the role of the Union during the battle of First Bull Run (Burns, 2013).

## **2.5 Resources specific to the sites examined in this study**

Along with the interviews I conducted, I consulted numerous resources related to the specific sites, some resources that contained information specific to the site in question, as well as overall policies for the organization as a whole, pertinent specifically for the NPS (National Park Service). These included administrative histories (which looks over the history of the park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service), foundation documents (explained below), foundation document overviews (explained below), historic resource studies (examines historic properties on NPS grounds), historic structure reports, national resource condition assessments, resource assessments, and state of the park reports. Some locations contained a particular type of resource, such as Camden, which had only a Special Resource Study, and Guilford Courthouse, which besides resources about other parks, had an ethnographic overview. Unfortunately, often only draft versions of paperwork are created, such as cultural landscape reports.<sup>2</sup>

Before an in-depth examination of the resources can be conducted, some explanation of the various resources must be provided. For instance, a cultural landscape

report serves as the “primary report that documents the history, significance and treatment of a cultural landscape. This type of document evaluates the history and integrity of the landscape including any changes to its geographical context, features, materials, and use.”<sup>3</sup> Another type of document is a foundation document, which serves as a descriptor of a park’s resources, provides an overview of its history, and explains why it was created in the first place.<sup>4</sup> From what I gathered from the foundation documents, preservation is emphasized as one of the main purposes of sites such as these, but it is interrelated with educating people about what happened there. Of interest is the fact that while at one of these documents is available for public consumption (Guilford Courthouse), two (Moore’s Creek and Cowpens) are not. This does not mean that they are forbidden to be viewed by the public; rather, one has to ask to view them. Although I was able to get hold of the foundation documents for Guilford Courthouse and Moore’s Creek, I was not successful for Cowpens. However, I did review the foundation document overview for Cowpens that is publicly available (a foundation document overview serves as a summary of a foundation document).

### **2.5.1 Alamance**

At Alamance, there are limited resources, but two statements on the historical significance of the site exist.

### **2.5.2 Camden**

As mentioned above, Camden only had a special resource study created by the National Park Service. Special resource studies are created for potential additions as a

National Park Service site. In this instance, the decision was made to not create a national park at Camden.

### **2.5.3 Cowpens**

Documents specific to Cowpens include an administrative history, foundation document overview, historic resource study, two historic structure reports (both dated November 2018), a natural resource condition assessment, and a resource assessment. Of interest is that Cowpens' historic resource study dates back to 1974, over forty-five years ago. As the natural resource condition assessment for Cowpens states, "the park was established to restore and maintain the battlefield to its condition when the Battle of Cowpens took place in January 1781."<sup>5</sup> Also, Cowpens' mission statement from the foundation document overview is:

"protects and commemorates for inspiration the history and landscape where on January 17, 1781, the American victory at the Battle of Cowpens during the Southern Campaign was crucial to the successful outcome of the American Revolutionary War."<sup>6</sup>

### **2.5.4 Guilford Courthouse**

Among the documents for Guilford Courthouse are an administrative history, cultural landscape report, ethnographic overview, foundation document, foundation document overview, historic resource study, natural resource condition assessment, and state of the park report. In Guilford Courthouse's foundation document, the mission statement

"...is to preserve for historical and professional military study as well as the benefit, education, and inspiration of the public, the battlefield the accounts of the

Battle of Guilford Courthouse during the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.”

This foundation document also contains information on the overall significance of Guilford Courthouse, along with information on park resources.<sup>7</sup> In analyzing the Guilford Courthouse battleground, current conditions are stated from the time of the foundation document’s creation, as well as trends and threats.

### **2.5.5 King’s Mountain**

King’s Mountain in particular has multiple documents that are unique to it: these include a cultural landscape inventory, a fire management plan/environmental assessment, and a general management plan and environmental assessment. Other documents included a historic resource study published in 2003, with one of the recommended points to create “interpretative exhibits” of events related to commemoration of the battle;<sup>8</sup> an administrative history, a cultural landscape report, a historic structure report, a resource assessment, and a state of the park report. At the moment, King’s Mountain does not appear to have a foundation document. Regarding physical landscape preservation and interpretation at King’s Mountain, a balance exists. As for interpretation itself, both the military and general historical context are represented.

### **2.5.6 Moore’s Creek**

Documents for Moore’s Creek comprise an administrative history, foundation document, and a foundation document overview. As of 2012, needs for Moore’s Creek

included a “long range interpretive plan, a cultural landscape report, and battlefield management plan.”<sup>9</sup> As of this year, it is unclear if any public documentation of these forms had been created. In the Moore’s Creek foundation document, the stakeholders of the various resources are identified. These resources do not include just the battlefield, but also the commemorative atmosphere, museum collections, a tar kiln, and road sign. As for the stakeholders, these include a friends organization, “living history participants,” and the “Revolutionary War Round Table.”

“Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park’s history is relevant to people who are unconnected to an event, time, or place.”<sup>10</sup>

However, it is mentioned later that these themes are not for the public.

Likewise, Moore’s Creek’s purpose statement “...is to commemorate and preserve for education and military study, the sites and stories surrounding the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge, fought February 27, 1776.”<sup>11</sup> The foundation document for Moore’s Creek does not just emphasize the battlefield itself, but also contextual information such as the effects of the battle itself, as well as landscape information.<sup>12</sup> Also, the foundation document discusses essential resources, such as the “historic natural setting” and “commemorative atmosphere.”<sup>13</sup>

## 2.6 General Background of Preservation for Battlefields

Preservation can have multiple uses, from not only making sure the landscape will remain intact for the future, but also providing a background for presenting and interpreting the information on the site in question. However, simply preserving the landscape is not enough. After all, just preserving the land the battle is located on means nothing if no one understands the significance of this hallowed ground, which is where interpretation comes in, as explained below.

Of course, explanation needs to be given on what makes up a cultural landscape and what makes up a historical landscape. The difference between cultural landscape and historic landscape are that the former is "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values."<sup>14</sup> A cultural landscape can be one of four types, two of the types being historic designed landscapes and historic vernacular landscapes. The other two are historic sites, which are "landscapes significant for their association with a historic event, activity, or person,"<sup>15</sup> while the final category is that of ethnographic landscapes. It should be noted that none of the categories are exclusive.<sup>16</sup> Then there is the question of integrity, which "is a property's historic identity evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics from the property's historic or pre-historic period. The seven qualities of integrity are location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship and materials."<sup>17</sup>

One example of physical preservation is prescribed fire. For example, at King's Mountain, a forest technician is on hand to help with prescribed burns. One may wonder, why is prescribed fire necessary? The rationale behind this is to "clear underbrush to prevent larger, more catastrophic fires."<sup>18</sup> However, before procedures such as these can be implemented, a significant amount of planning needs to occur, such as fire management and burn plans, along with vegetative studies, and plans such as these need approval by certain "organizations."

Admittedly, differences exist between physical and cultural landscapes. While preserving the physical landscape may emphasize ensuring that modern development does not ruin the site, cultural resource preservation means that the site's significance to history must be explained. However, for preservation to succeed, the correct method needs to be followed with regards to treatment. Charles Birnbaum categorizes "cultural landscape treatments" into four categories: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.<sup>19</sup> "Treatment extends from preservation, which requires the least amount of work, to reconstruction, which requires the most."<sup>20</sup> To elaborate, the least intensive is preservation, which requires maintaining the site in its original form, while the most intensive, reconstruction, requires physically changing the landscape in order to present the battlefield to its original depiction. Sometimes preservation calls for the destruction of structures that take away from the battlefield, such as modern homes; this is a form of reconstruction.

Besides maintaining the land, battlefield preservation also involves acquiring land, as mentioned by one interview.<sup>21</sup> After all, not all of the landscapes where battles have occurred have been protected in some form or another. Fortunately, organizations exist that work for this purpose. For example, the American Battlefield Trust has accomplished quite a lot with this. Admittedly, for the majority of its existence, the Trust has focused on the preservation of Civil War battlefields such as Franklin (where one of the largest charges in the Civil War occurred) and Brandy Station (the largest Civil War cavalry battle), but recently has taken up work with Revolutionary War battlefields such as Princeton, as well as War of 1812 battlefields.

Besides private organizations, the national government has also played a role. In the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Congress set up the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, to examine the current status of American Civil War battlefields. Following this, in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a similar report was created on Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields. Unfortunately, the results showed that a significant number of American Revolution and War of 1812 sites had either suffered significant damage or had been destroyed beyond recognition. Presumably, in many cases restoration, the preservation option which involves restoring the land to its natural scope, is not a viable option, likely due to the fact that the land belongs to people who for some reason or another are not willing to give up their land. Another issue is that there may be structures that did not exist at the time of battle, but are still historically and/or



historically important. Therefore, preservation may need to be implemented for these structures as well.

Of interest is the fact that each battlefield under the care of the NPS has its own webpage on the NPS website, but have their own unique differences. For example, the Moore's Creek website includes a virtual tour, while the Guilford Courthouse website does not. Similarly, under the "Get Involved" tab for Cowpens, there is a "Work With Us" sub-tab – but this tab does not exist on the King's Mountain website.

## **2.7 A Short History of the Battlefields**

In order to explain the importance of preservation with regards to these battles, a short description must be given of each battle. The battle of Alamance stands out from the rest, as it occurred before the American Revolution in 1771, with the British Colonial government defeating the Regulator movement in the War of the Regulation. With the American Revolution, the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in 1776 resulted in an overwhelming and lopsided victory by the Patriots against the Loyalists. Hostilities did not escalate in the Carolinas until several years later, with the Patriots suffering a defeat at Camden at the hands of the British general Cornwallis in 1780. However, later that same year the tables were turned at King's Mountain, with Patriot militia overwhelming a Loyalist force under the command of British officer Patrick Ferguson. In January of the following year, 1781, Daniel Morgan brought about another Patriot victory at Cowpens, humiliating controversial British commander Banastre Tarleton in the process. The final battle studied, Guilford Courthouse, resulted in the British forcing Patriot forces to

retreat, but Patriot general Nathanael Greene inflicted severe casualties on the British, forcing them to eventually retreat to Virginia.

## **2.8 The history of Battlefield Preservation**

In the 1890s, during what is known as the “Golden Age of Preservation,” five Civil War battlefields were preserved in more or less their original boundaries: Antietam, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. Originally, the War Department (predecessor of the Department of Defense) used to run battlefields, before turning custody over to National Park Service. Therefore, preservation during the War Department’s management was geared towards those with a military background. However, with the National Park Service assuming control over these locations, a new focus was adopted. This included presenting information to those who had no previous experience with the American Civil War.

Another difference between initial preservation of national sites involved the involvement of veterans. For example, people who visited the first battlefield parks could for a time count on veterans to explain to them about the battlefield, and bring about their personal perspectives. However, over time, these veterans passed away, and although they were able to record their memories in various works, people would not be able to interact with them in person. However, this does not apply to the American Revolution battlefields, as by the time of the “Golden Age of Preservation,” there was hardly anyone left alive from the period of the Revolutionary War, and presumably, all veterans from that time were long since deceased.<sup>22</sup> That being said, private organizations and

individuals played a role in setting up commemorative monuments; unfortunately, not all of these attempts met with success. For example, an attempt to commemorate the battle of Bunker Hill had to be significantly downsized from the original plans.<sup>23</sup>

As the years went on, not as much attention was devoted to preserving battlefields in the United States, and often, not everything was preserved. As Genevieve and Timothy Keller point out in their article on “preserving important landscapes,” “while attention was drawn to Civil War battlefields, the sites where the most fighting occurred were focused on to the exclusion of landscape features.”<sup>24</sup> In other words, more attention was drawn towards the historical significance rather than the landscape itself.

In preservation, one of the initial approaches was to preserve as much as possible, shown by sites such as Chickamauga and Gettysburg, during the “Golden Age” of battlefield preservation. However, with the battlefield at Antietam (and other sites) preservation to a lesser extent was adopted, and this “approach remained dominant until relatively recently.”<sup>25</sup> This does make sense, in that while resources may exist to preserve a portion of the site, not enough may be at to preserve the entire site. Under these circumstances, it has to be debated whether to try to preserve the whole site and fail, or succeeding in preserving a smaller site. In the present, a more comprehensive approach, of preserving of as much of the battlefield as possible, has been resurrected.<sup>26</sup>

Historically, different types of organizations have played differing roles at the various sites examined in this paper regarding preservation; often these are private organizations or local non-profits. The National Military Park at King’s Mountain was

founded in 1931, while the National Battlefield Site at Cowpens was created just two years before. However, non-government organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution played a role at both sites before the creation of the national parks.

As for the other sites, “commemoration at Guilford Court House began in 1857, with an organization dedicated towards the memorial of American general Nathanael Greene.”<sup>27</sup> Commemoration occurred in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for Moore’s Creek, but in 1899, a private organization, the Moore’s Creek Monumental Organization was created, and the park itself was established in 1926, “the ninth federal battlefield park created by Congress.”<sup>28</sup> One may wonder why it took so long for sites such as these to be established, compared to the American Civil War. Admittedly, outside of North Carolina, the history of the Regulator movement, and therefore Alamance, may not be that well known, which may explain why a national site at that location has not been created. However, just because parks have not been created does not mean that commemoration has not occurred. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, monuments were enacted at Guilford Court House and other locations where battles of the American Revolution occurred, before the creation of national parks at these locations.

However, it is not just the military aspects that preservation ultimately deals with. For instance, at Alamance, they talk about the effects of the battle, such as “political allegiances.” At Moore’s Creek Bridge, meanwhile, there are discussions on the “history of Scotland, given that North Carolina had the largest settlement of Scottish immigrants

in the colonies, and the role of Scottish settlers at the battle itself.”<sup>29</sup> Likewise, for King’s Mountain, life in the Backcountry is also discussed.

## **2.9 Introduction to Interpretation of Information at Battlefield Sites**

Without conveying information about a specific site, preserving the landscape serves no point. One might not think of interpreting information on battlefields as being related to library science, but in fact it is, as information at the sites is being presented for the visitor. After all, while some people may be fully conversant with the battlefield and know all about it, others may have no knowledge of the site in question.

“Interpretive themes connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive objective of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of park resources. In other words, interpretive themes are the most important messages to be conveyed to the public about the park. Interpretive themes are based on park purpose and significance.”<sup>30</sup>

In terms of resources on historical markers, I was fortunate to locate UNC’s own resource on historical monuments in the state of North Carolina, *Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina*, as well as *The Historical Marker Database*, an online database of historical markers located in the United States, which included interpretive markers for the battlefields I was examining. With one exception (Moore’s Creek), I was able to locate markers for each of the battlefields, which provided information on the sites in question. I cannot assume that I have located all of the markers, as well as whether significant changes have occurred since the marker’s emplacement in the *Historical Marker Database*. However, it should be noted that each marker page

undergoes revision, with one as recent as 2019. It should be noted that historical summaries are provided on the historical markers. This makes sense because information about the battle provides necessary context to fully explain what happened. Without these explanations, people will not be able to understand the significance of these sites.

It should be noted that interpretation evolves over time. For example, interpretation of American Civil War sites used to focus on a narrative that emphasized the valor of both sides, and neglected the role of slavery as the overall context. Recently, this has undergone change, with organizations such as the National Park Service attempting to rectify this. Examples include the battlefield at Corinth, where a camp for “contrabands” that existed for a period of two years is now mentioned.<sup>31</sup> At this site, information was presented on the role of slavery’s involvement in the American Civil War.

Unfortunately, sometimes interpretation takes on a biased form, such as uplifting one perspective at the expense of another. Of course, the interpretation needs to be carried out in an unbiased manner, but always consistent with the truth; unfortunately, for a long time with regard to American Civil War battlefields, this was not carried out. For example, pro-Confederate organizations often set up monuments that promoted white supremacy, and otherwise presented a misleading view of history. In line with this, presenting accurate information is not always welcome (Deufel, 2011). The NPS has appropriately increased emphasizing slavery as the cause of the Civil War, but believers of the pro-Confederate “Lost Cause” frequently vocally oppose these changes, often

because they believe it criticizes their ancestors. Another example is the evolution of the messages presented at Civil War battlefields such as Gettysburg, which previously emphasized the valor of soldiers on both sides, a message that deemphasized important truths as to why the Civil War was fought in the first place, in particular slavery.

Some argue that “neutrality” needs to be emphasized instead of “taking sides.” However, by not taking sides one is making a decision as well. Furthermore, by not taking a stance to stand for the truth, this gives out the message that one does not believe in advocating for the truth, which undermines the field of information science. It is not just a matter of presenting accurate information, but also what information to present. Does all information receive an equal amount attention, or is some emphasized over others? In light of this, most of these sites do not focus on straight-up military history, but also examine the historical and social context of the sites. In talking about subjects beyond the military scope, the potential arises to draw more and more people towards these sites. In doing so, preservation is fulfilling its task, in that people are properly appreciating the site in question.

More of an emphasis at these sites may be given to previously neglected populations, such as ethnic and gender minorities, particularly African-Americans and women. For example, at Cowpens, Dick Pickens, an enslaved African-American, found a British officer who he thought was dead and attempted to take the man’s boots for Andrew Pickens, who led the Patriot militia at Cowpens, and the person who “owned” him. It turned out the British officer was not dead, and allowed Dick Pickens to take

away his boots, but asked for a drink of water, which Pickens gave him. This not only illustrates the participation of African-Americans in the American Revolution, but also underlines the unfortunate fact that all too many African-Americans lived as slaves during this time, even after the conclusion of a war fought for independence.

Interpretation is also shaped by how these engagements turned out in terms of winners and losers, which is sometimes not that clear cut. Cowpens and King's Mountain, as well as Moore's Creek, were resounding victories for the Patriot cause, while Camden was a victory for the British and Loyalists, and Alamance a victory of the colonial government over the Regulators. However, while the British did drive the Americans away at Guilford Courthouse, in the end their objectives were not completed. Overall context here is key, in that just viewing the information without proper context leaves viewers an incomplete picture of the importance of the battlefield.

As far back as the 1960s, the NPS was paying attention to interpretation, by defining "signal" markers as "an interpretative sign or marker is a device or facility situated at a significant point in the park to provide interpretation of the scene or site."<sup>32</sup> A more recent document shows that the NPS has put a great deal of thought into interpretation at markers and signs. Among the guidelines are types of font and font sizes, not using italic too much, and eye levels.<sup>33</sup> Another document states "an effective wayside exhibit enhances a direct and meaningful connection between visitors and the landscape."<sup>34</sup> Four points are emphasized in this document: "a landscape feature with a story, a well-made graphic that explains said story, a place that is accessible for visitors,



and routine maintenance.”<sup>35</sup> The National Park Service has an entire center devoted to interpretive media at the Harper’s Ferry Center. This indicates the importance the NPS devotes towards interpretation. Among the documents produced by this center are ones on planning guidelines for interpretive media. The webpage also talks about the advantages and disadvantages of using various types of interpretive media.<sup>36</sup> Preservation and interpretation therefore can shape perceptions. As mentioned elsewhere, previous interpretations at the NPS on the Civil war were “exclusively” military oriented, ignoring social issues, which has been addressed in recent years.

Generally, at the sites that are the subject of this paper, the interpretations do not appear to be biased. Rather, the perspectives of both factions, whether Regulator or Government, or Patriot or British/Loyalist, are examined. Also, through conducting the interviews, I was informed about how that the interpretation at King’s Mountain and Cowpens also touches on the people who did not join either the Patriots or Loyalists, explaining about why these people made these choices. Likewise, at King’s Mountain, since this was really a civil war the fact it was virtually brother against brother has to be mentioned.<sup>37</sup> After all, people who made these choices often had to live with them.

It should also be mentioned that interpretation does not have to be restricted to the battlefield in question. Websites may also play a role, in that information may not have to be provided in person. Virtual tours may also play a role in informing people on specific sites if they are not able to access the site in person. This does not just apply to people with impairments that prevents them from visiting these locations, but also under

circumstances when people are unable to visit the park, such as the coronavirus pandemic, or financial or geographic reasons.

It appears, based on these interviews and reviewed resources, that the park service attempts to provide a balanced view of history, not just a good guy vs bad guy narrative. Rather, with explanations on Patriots vs Loyalists at engagements such as Cowpens, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek, as well interpreting the Regulator movement that came to a bloody end at Alamance, attempts exist to present a complicated, multifaceted view of history. Originally, this was not the case, as some organizations, particularly those with affinities to the Confederate States of America, tended to create memorials that put forth a rather one-sided view, ignoring unpleasant truths along the way. Fortunately, in recent years this trend has been reversed, with less biased and more accurate information being provided.

### **3. Methods**

I conducted a qualitative study with historical elements, because I examined places where historical events occurred. My chief method was conducting semi-structured interviews, specifically asking variants of my research questions, such as how are battlefields and/or monuments preserved, are there any particular preservation methods that work better than others, and what types of preservation best preserve information. I planned to conduct interviews of individual affiliated with the following battlefields: Alamance, Camden, Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek. In addition to the interviews, I also examined what had already been written on the topic in question, specifically regarding the history and methods of preservation, and consulted multiple sources, specifically field surveys of the respective sites. These range from reports on the current condition of certain sites, to historical overviews of preservation at a specific site.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

For my interviews I planned to ask questions based on my research questions. Specifically, I planned to ask questions in order to understand the importance of preservation and interpretation:

- How is preservation conducted at the site in question?
- Do you use any information science theories to do so?
- If not, what do you draw on to guide your strategy?
- Do you preserve for the sake of preserving, or for educational purposes?

- Do you have to deal with preservation issues such as natural damage or man-made damage?

I recorded all interviews, because otherwise, key pieces of information would probably be overlooked. I conducted all interviews by phone. Ultimately, I was only able to interview people involved with four battlefields: Alamance, Cowpens, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek. I tried multiple times to set up interviews with personnel involved with the Camden and Guilford Courthouse battlefields, but was unsuccessful due to the coronavirus.

The advantage of this technological approach meant I would not have to travel to their workplaces, which in most cases, were several hours away by car. Of course, before deciding on one communication option or the other, I needed to inform the interviewees that they can choose how they want to be interviewed.

The interviewees were told that they had control over the interviews, and at any stage in process, they could request to stop the interview: no one revoked consent. In addition to recording the interviews, I took notes in order to highlight contextual reports that are emphasized. I transcribed all of the interviews by hand so that I could gather contextual information and to help me identify points that I could use.

Of course, the interviews would only be able to occur if I found people to interview in the first place. Before I begin the research process, I needed to identify selected personnel to interview; just choosing people at random would not be conducive to the study, and would likely hinder it. I needed to interview people who fulfill the following characteristics, which were having an in-depth knowledge of the site in question and a significant amount of experience regarding preservation. First, I identified battlefields in

North and South Carolina that I wanted to study. Then, I emailed the various organizations involved with the sites to ask them if I could interview a person on preservation.

Above all else, I had to be adaptable when working on this paper. For example, one person who agreed via email to conduct an interview was not available when I repeatedly called; also, I needed to conduct additional interviews for two of the parks. Also, when I conducted the interviews, I sometimes had to come up with new questions, an example of flexibility which is one of the advantages of semi-structured interviews.

As this is a LIS paper, I asked the interviewees questions relevant to library and information science, such as whether they apply information science preservation theory to their activities, are there any preservation methods (such as 3D scanning) which work well, and do they see any foreseeable changes in the future in conducting preservation. However, I planned to begin the interviews not by asking questions about different types of preservation immediately, but ask them questions about themselves, in order to put them at ease, as well as making sure they are fine with me recording the interview and that they can revoke consent at any time. The questions are listed below:

1. Ask an open-ended question to the interviewee about education, background.
2. What made you interested in working with battlefields?
3. What is your organization's attitude towards preservation?
4. Do you take care to ensure authenticity at this site? In other words, do you wish to create an atmosphere reminiscent to the time the battle occurred?
5. What specific steps have you taken towards preservation at this site? What methods are most common here?
6. Do you focus preservation towards any particular areas, such as the physical landscape, and/or educating the public?
7. In terms of preservation, do you just focus on the military aspects of the site, or the general historical context? In other words, do you talk about topics such as social history?
8. Are there any specific policies your organization follows or is required to follow with regards to preservation? (Ask about permission on policies)

9. What is your perception how preservation will play out in the future at this site?
  10. If you also address the historical context, are there any factors that you emphasize at this site?
  11. Do you collaborate with any other organizations with regards to preservation at the site in question?
  12. Are you familiar with the field of information science? If so, do you follow the current trends in preservation?
- Upon the completion of the first interview, I added additional questions relevant to information science that I had not asked before.

13. Do you use 3D technology at all at the site with regards to preservation?

### **3.2 Sampling**

The sampling was non-probability sampling, specifically convenience, because of the parameters described below. I limited my sampling to people I could freely interview, and restricted my sampling to battlefields located in the states of North and South Carolina, and battlefields and battlefield museums I would be able to visit. More importantly, the battlefields must have installations available for sightseers, as the presence of these installations indicate a sizeable investment in preservation, as well as a focus in engaging and presenting information to visitors. Specifically I identified six battlefields to seek interviews: Alamance, Guilford Courthouse, and Moore's Creek in North Carolina, and Camden, Cowpens, and King's Mountain in South Carolina.

As for my variables, the independent variables were the battlefields and/or museums in question, while the dependent variables were the types of preservation undertaken. Extraneous variables included factors such as funding and the guiding principles for the organizations responsible for taking care of the locations in question. I originally planned to interview between six to ten people, all of whom hopefully had both significant knowledge of and deeply involved with battlefield preservation, such as conservationists and those who otherwise have a background in preservation, particularly

archaeologists and historians. I did not plan to interview people who have only a layman's knowledge of preservation. Because of circumstances outside my control, as discussed below, I was only able to interview personnel connected with four sites.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Overview

As mentioned above, I originally decided to seek interviews with personnel connected with the six battlefields in North and South Carolina. Four of these sites (Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek) are overseen by the National Park Service, while the battlefield at Alamance is overseen by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, As for the battlefield of Camden, preservation is overseen by an organization dedicated to preserving battlefields in South Carolina, the South Carolina Battleground Trust, while acquisition at Camden in the past was conducted by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, an organization which among its missions, is to "conserve South Carolina's natural and cultural resources, and preserve historic landmarks."<sup>38</sup>

Of these battles, the battles of Camden, Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, King's Mountain, and Moore's Creek Bridge occurred during the American Revolution, while the battle at Alamance occurred during an earlier conflict, the War of the Regulation. Regarding the NPS sites, two of them (Guilford Courthouse and King's Mountain) are labeled "National Military Parks," while the other two (Cowpens and Moore's Creek) are labeled "National Battlefields." (No substantial differences exist as a result of these different names.)



King's Mountain and Cowpens belong to the same group, the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. Other parks in this group include the Overmountain Victory Historic Trail, which traces the routes of Patriot militia to the battle of King's Mountain, as well as Ninety Six National Historic Site, which "marks the location of two American Revolution engagements."<sup>39</sup> The purpose of the Southern Campaign is to illuminate how the war in the southern American colonies had a sizeable impact on the American Revolution as a whole.

## **4.2 Interviews**

I interviewed a total of five people, all of whom were either preservation specialists or worked in interpretation. Regretfully, I was unable to conduct interviews regarding the battlefields at Camden and Guilford Court House. I emailed and called numerous times the organizations connected with these battlefields. I believe because of the outbreak of Covid-19, individuals associated with these sites were not responsive. Fortunately, I was able to locate some information about preservation conducted at Camden, including a master's thesis about previous preservation efforts. As for Guilford Courthouse, I was able to located substantially more information, likely due to the fact that the location in question belongs to the National Park Service.

What I can say about Camden and Guilford Courthouse is that they differ in terms of attention, in that one is under national control, and the other is not. The results of one interview were not as conclusive as I hoped they would be, so I needed to seek further information on the park/s in question. Overall, however, my interviews provided necessary information on how preservation is viewed by the various personnel I interviewed and the organizations they work for.

## 5. Interview Results

Interviews are referred to by their interview number, referenced in Appendix I.

### 5.1 Interviewee Backgrounds

The interviewee backgrounds varied, with Interviewee 1 (Moore's Creek) having earned a Master's in education with a social studies certification in history. Similarly, Interviewee 3 earned a degree in museum studies and had worked at several sites before Alamance over the course of a decade.

“...really the reason I'm here is cause I really enjoy talking about history and doing historical research and doing education with people from all different backgrounds, all different ages when you work at a museum or a historic site, you really get an opportunity to talk to lots of different types of people.”<sup>40</sup>

Interviewee 2, who primarily worked at King's Mountain, but also was involved at Cowpens, specialized in natural resource management, and before their retirement, had worked at King's Mountain for thirty-three years. Interviewee 4, who worked specifically at King's Mountain, had studied history in college, and their first experience at King's Mountain was an internship, sparked an interest in the NPS. They also worked in a program called the STEP program. As for Cowpens, Interviewee 5 had studied history and French in College.

### 5.2 What made them interested in working with battlefields?

In several cases, it had to do with an interest in history, which was the interest of the Interviewee 3.

“...battlefields are really interesting places to work because you have history is all about conflict, and battlefields are like conflict in its purest, most concentrated form, you know actual bloodshed that sort of conflict, and it gives you that

opportunity to talk about how people come to fight against each other, why they do, and if you want to branch out, there is the ability to talk a little bit more about the lives of people outside of military campaigns, either before a battle, afterward, and then how military campaigns really touch the lives of everybody in the community...” (Interviewee 3)

However, this interviewee also stated “they had to find work where the jobs are.”

History also influenced the interviewees for both King’s Mountain interviews.

“I’ve kind of had an interest in history, in particular 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century warfare, revolutionary war and civil war, so that kind of helped push me to want to do the right thing with cultural resource and landscape there at those parks.” (Interviewee 2)

“...the colonial and revolutionary period have always been really interesting to me, well where we were trying to figure out, out what kind of nation we wanted to be, it’s just a really interesting period and this battlefield at King’s Mountain it really exemplifies that question of like who are we gonna be, since it was primarily patriots vs loyalists, so which side are we gonna support.” (Interviewee 4)

As for Interviewee 1, they took an internship for the summer, as they needed to find additional work, and they were offered a position at the end of the summer. They stated they did not initially did not intend to work in the Park Service full time. They have a passion for battlefield preservation and cultural landscape preservation.

Interviewee 5 worked in the youth conservation corps at Cowpens, ended up working seasonally, and after a period away, landed a position at the Park.

### **5.3 Organization’s attitude towards preservation**

All of the interviewees either expressed that their organizations support preservation or their own belief in the importance of preservation. At Alamance, they are interested in preserving as much land as possible, which has been given increased urgency due to increased urban development.

“The goal is to preserve unimpaired these historic sites and return them to what they looked like at the time the battle occurred.” (Interview 1)

“...they’ve always tried to promote preservation where the in the way of preserving a site or preserving a landscape or an artifact so, very preservation minded when it comes to you know to our resources, and want to make sure that as you know, projects and development, things like that come along in the park that doing the right thing in regards to preserving the resources as best they can.”(Interview 2)

“...I think it’s our job to be places for people can ask more difficult questions about who we are as a nation, what our identity looks like, making sure that we’re inclusive of stories that may have gotten left out in the past, I think we’re turning towards that as an agency and I think it, historic places are an important part of that.” (Interview 4)

“Preservation is important to the National Park Service.” (Interview 5)

#### **5.4 The question of authenticity**

The sites do pay attention towards authenticity. At Alamance, they are trying to return the view to what the battle looked like at the time, but this is somewhat difficult with modern impedimenta such as houses, a modern highway, and cars going by. Steps taken include planting cedar trees along one of the roads to block some of the modern objects. Photoshop is also used to cut out features such as power lines. “...there are certain parts of that authentic experience on the landscape that we just can’t really do a whole lot about. What we do instead is try to focus on the things that we can change...”<sup>41</sup>

Care is also taken towards authenticity at Moore’s Creek. At this location, a replica earthwork has been constructed, but it does not look exactly like what the original would have looked like, in that it does not have entrenchments and they are not the same height of the original. Concerns include the fact that the battle occurred on a floodplain, as well as erosion. Other means of physical preservation, in this case at King’s Mountain, include prescribed fire and invasive plant management. Besides physical preservation,

living history events are also conducted at King's Mountain and Cowpens. However, interviewee 5 noted that NPS policy does not allow reenactments.

### **5.5 Steps taken towards preservation: what methods are common?**

It was mentioned by Interviewee Five that there was a class attended by the maintenance staffs at Cowpens, King's Mountain, Fort Ninety-Six, and other sites on historic preservation.

“...we've worked on battlefield restoration, it's been a long, ongoing process and it will continue for quite some time. What we've done is have mechanical fuel reductions where we've taken out some of the, a lot of the undergrowth, so that, to help manage so that we won't have a wildfire but it's also been able to open up the landscape so that you can see what it looked like in 1781. They've taken out some trees, they've prescribed burns, yeah, that's what we've done too, open up, try to get the battlefield to look the way it did in 1781. We don't have the fundage right now, so we haven't had, we haven't had prescribed fire here in several years.” (Interviewee 5)

Similar approaches were taken at King's Mountain, specifically regarding physical restoration. As mentioned above, physical restoration includes prescribed burning, managing invasive species, and physical labor. The prescribed fires are utilized in order to reduce the chance of wildfires. Fortunately, although development has occurred, it is not a pressing issue. Basically, land management is the basis of preservation at King's Mountain. Interviewee 2 mentioned that at Cowpens invasive plant control is very common, and a substantial amount of residential development has occurred, and stated that every park would have invasive issues. They also discussed the use of prescribed fire, which has occurred more at King's Mountain compared to Cowpens. Overall, preservation at both sites is not very different. Individual differences do exist between the two parks, but no different techniques exist.

Other means of preservation are more financial. At Alamance, there is fundraising to raise money, such as crowdfunding to raise money to purchase land, along with writing

for grants. Regarding interpretation, different programs are instituted for different audiences, such as “descendants gatherings”, reenactments of the battle, as well as a broader view of life at the time. Also, trees have been planted at the site to help with authenticity. Meanwhile, for Moore’s Creek, sight surveys are conducted, and ground penetrating radar “similar to metal detecting” is used to “identify existing resources.” Overall, a “minimal sense” is pursued: in other words, a balance is made between preservation and visitor access.

## **5.6 Do you focus preservation towards landscape preservation or educating the public?**

At Moore’s Creek, the main focus is towards educating the public, which is done through a combination, of providing access but not taking away from the resource. Originally, the site was established in order to learn about the military aspects of the site. As for Alamance, the mission statement for this site is to preserve and interpret the story of the Regulator movement, as well as life in the North Carolina Backcountry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At this site, educating the public is a top priority; interpretive programs are conducted frequently, as well as workshops for reenactors. Living history has also been conducted, showing activities such as paint making and blacksmithing, as well as military demonstrations. “As for private organizations, at Alamance interpretation was mentioned as a dominant goal.”<sup>42</sup> At King’s Mountain, a combination of both preservation and education exists. Likewise, Interviewee 2 stated that preservation and interpretation go hand in hand.

“I mean, to educate visitors about you know, the events that happened there, is paramount but to be able to do that effectively, you have to be able to show and try to put those landscapes back in to the proper perspective that would have been there, at the time that event occurred, and you use the interpretation and education part of that to help educate people why you are actually doing those activities,

where that be invasive exotic control or prescribed burning or what have you, anything that you do, you need to support the public, and you need to educate them on why you do that..." (Interviewee 2)

Preservation of the physical landscape and interpretation occurs at Cowpens as well. Preservation does not just extend to the physical features, but also the flora of the site, where endangered plants such as *Hexastylis naniflora* is taken care of. As for interpretation, a visitor's center on the grounds presents a video created by an outside organization, the American Battlefield Trust. Artifacts from the American Revolution, but not the battle itself are located in the visitor's center as well.

Information on the Patriots, such as men who were killed at Cowpens, is also presented at Cowpens. The British side does not have as much representation, given a lack of documentation. Exhibits on the involvement of women and African-Americans at Cowpens also exist. However, no weapon tests are done given that not enough staff are available at the moment at Cowpens. Weapon tests have been done when a larger staff was available, but this currently is not the case.

### **5.7 In terms of preservation, do you focus on the military history of the site, or a more general context?**

This question was answered to an extent regarding Alamance with the previous question, as there is a mixture of the two. For Moore's Creek, a balance exists between the military and social history, with interpretation being conducted. As for physical preservation, restoration of long-leaf pines, which were prominent in the landscape at the time of the battle, has occurred. Long-leaf pines were relevant because they were materials for the shipbuilding industry of North Carolina, which in turn is why the Loyalists were attempting to maintain control of the colony. Also, restoration of a nearby

swamp, which also existed in a greater scale back then, is occurring as well. Therefore, management of both the historical and natural elements of the site occurs.

A combination of preservation and interpretation also exists at King's Mountain. A visitor's center exists at King's Mountain that focuses on telling the story of the battle, but also presents contextual information on the people who lived in the area at the time. Overall, it is not just looking at military history, but also the backgrounds of the people involved in the battle. At King's Mountain, there are exhibits that portray the perspective of the Loyalists fighting for the British, as well as ones for the Patriots, the latter which occurs to a greater extent.

“...we do focus on the battlefield but we also have a lot of programming that focuses on what life was like in the backcountry during the colonial period and the revolutionary period, what, what life was like for a soldier, for a militia...you've got the military aspects but also the social aspects as well.”

Interviewee 2 pointed out that natural resources need attention, as well as endangered species. However, sometimes this that did not become clear until surveys were done. Essentially cultural resource management and natural resource management are two sides of the same coin.

As for Cowpens, a mandate to protect and preserve the battlefield the way it looked in 1781 exists. Also a focus on the military aspects is presented because that is in the mandate. However, the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution is discussed as the battle of Cowpens occurred in this region. Unfortunately, not all of the locations can devote the same amount of resources towards preservation. “Cowpens in particular has a low staff, with only two Rangers.”<sup>43</sup>



## **5.8 Are there any specific policies your organization is supposed to follow with regards to preservation?**

For Moore's Creek, policies to be followed include sections of the Wilderness Act, the Floodplains Act, and Section 106 of the National Preservation Act. Interviewee 1 also mentioned the existence of park policies, such as a cultural landscape report. As of the time of the interview, a cultural landscape report for Moore's Creek was being created. However, a lot of policies often only exist in draft form and are never completed. The Wilderness Act and Floodplains Act are public, as well as compliance requests. NPS does allow some public input, with PEPC (Planning, Environment & Public Comment). Transparency does exist as a result.

Similarly, Interviewee 4 discussed the National Historic Preservation Act, specifically Section 106, which happens whenever projects involving the physical landscape occur. Things that need to be studied include whether the project should be carried out in the first place, or what mitigating steps should be taken if the resource is affected. The interviewee recommended that I look online for policies. Interviewee 5 made the same recommendation, mentioning Section 106 as well. A committee apparently exists that any acts that would lead to disturbances are studied. A draft landscape study was created, but it does not exist. Interviewee 2 informed me that multiple policies exist, such as natural resource management, cultural resource management, and fire management. Also, a lot of planning needs to occur before these are carried out. Policies are online, and both are guided by national policy. They also have resource assessments and inventories of plants, as well as assessments done every 5-10 years.

In contrast, no written policies exist for Alamance Battleground, although an overarching, uncodified strategy does exist. No landscape or cultural resource reports for Alamance Battleground exist. The concept of authenticity is a priority at Alamance battleground. Guidelines on authenticity exist, particularly the costuming of living historians. Likewise, the terms of grants that are applied for are followed.

### **5.9 How do you think preservation will play out in the future at this site?**

Regarding the future, the impression at Cowpens is that they will continue as best they can. A sense of uncertainty exists, according to Interviewee 2. They aren't sure how preservation will play out in the future, depends on different superintendents and managers, who each have their own perspectives on what should be done.

Interviewee 1 explained that a complication with preservation is that management often changes, and different managers have different concerns: for example, one manager may emphasize preserving the natural landscape, but their successor will then focus more on education.

“Tough, because 3-4 500 year floods, therefore they need to be proactive. At the moment, floods have not had much of an impact. After all, water has ended up in front of the earthworks approximately six times a year, and if this trend continues, this may impact how management of the battlefield will occur. Possibilities include setting up a different kind of trail, whether the flooding will impact the earthworks to the extent that erosion will occur; therefore the earthworks may need work to ensure erosion won't happen. Also, activities such as scout camping that have been conducted in the past may need to be halted, as it takes away from the sense of the battlefield.” (Interviewee 1)

Another issue is that of finance, as shown by Alamance. As Alamance Battleground personnel have to raise funds on their own, it will be difficult.

“...it's going to be sort of a hard slog and there are going to be times when we try to raise money to buy land and we're just not going to get it in time and so we, we have to, have to do what we can as best we can.” (Interviewee 3)

However, another view expressed was of the necessity of preservation.

“I mean I think any kind of effort here that we do whether its interpretation or whether it’s actually doing restoration projects or preservation projects everything we do is overall its focused on developing future stewards. When we do an interpretive program, when we’re connecting with the public we want them to connect with the story but we also want them to realize that preserving the park matters, and that’s the overall goal for, so that we do have a park that’s around in a hundred years, or two hundred years, so yeah historic preservation is a part of everything we do even if it’s not overtly referred to, it definitely is a huge part of what we do.” (Interviewee 4)

### **5.10 If you address the historical context, are there any factors that you particularly emphasize?**

At Moore’s Creek, the main story focuses on the battle itself, as well as what happened before and after. Emphasis is also given towards the importance of the naval stores as a reason the battle occurred. However, interpretation has also occurred onto social life of the time, like trades such as blacksmithing, and music, particularly how music was used for war. Weapons testing also occurs, but one of the dominant interpretative themes is the role of the Scots at Moore’s Creek Bridge.

“So we do emphasize how this battle plays into the larger picture of the revolutionary war, and so how we’re connected and interconnected with the other stories, the other battles, how its connected both locally and regionally, so how were connected to Wilmington, how we’re connected to Fayetteville, so we do um preserve those stories, and tell those stories.” (Interviewee 1)

Similarly, Interviewee 2 stated that setting the stage is necessary, as well as discussing the social life of the time.

“You almost have to, because, I mean, it you know, it wasn’t just, the British redcoats against the Continental Army and especially in the Southern Campaign, because you had people who really didn’t want, you know, to get involved with the Revolutionary War at all, and those may be religious reasons, they may be societal reasons, so, you have to talk about those things, I mean especially at King’s Mountain where you had Loyalist forces vs the Patriot forces and most of those guys were either, a lot of them were neighbors, or a lot of them, in some cases they were families fighting on both sides, on both sides of the battle so you

have to be able to enter, untangle those little nuances into the interpretive program.” (Interviewee 2).

Also, Cowpens and King’s Mountain have to be viewed in the context of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, and that the Southern Campaign must be viewed in the events that occurred before. For King’s Mountain, it was stated that historical factors can’t really be separated out from one another, while various factors are discussed regarding Cowpens.

“We talk about the commanders and like why Daniel Morgan chose this area, why, how he chose the tactics, he knew, Daniel Morgan knew his men, he knew how Banastre Tarleton would react to certain things and so he used that to his advantage. Tarleton thought that this was a great place to fight because it was open and ideal for the 18<sup>th</sup> military tactics and he was overconfident and thought that he could beat Morgan. See yeah, we do, we talk about how the landscape played a part in the battle, we talk about the commanders, we have a PowerPoint, we have a TV screen inside the visitor’s center where we show various PowerPoints and one of them is on the commanders at the battle.” (Interviewee 5)

At Alamance, it is emphasized that while the battle of Alamance occurred shortly before the American Revolution, it should not be seen as the beginning of the American Revolution.

### **5.11 Do you collaborate with other organizations with regards to preservation at this site?**

For Moore’s Creek, cooperation does occur within the National Park Service, such as an exotic plant management team, and there is also a friend’s group, the Moore’s Creek Battleground Association. Likewise, the National Park Foundation and National Battlefield Trust cooperate with the King’s Mountain and Cowpens’ sites. As for King’s Mountain itself, cooperation occurs mostly within the NPS as an agency, consultations also occurring with the state historic preservation officer. Other organizations include the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, cooperating with Cowpens on battlefield restoration.

As mentioned above, the American Battlefield Trust has created a short film on the battle of Cowpens. However, cooperation does not exist to the same extent for Alamance battleground, as they are part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the State of North Carolina. They would like to work with the American Battlefield Trust but can't, due to the fact that the Trust's mission only extends as far back as the Revolutionary War.

### **5.12 Are you familiar with the field of information science? If so, do you follow the current trends in preservation?**

Two of the interviewees were not familiar with the field of information science (Interviewees 1, 5). However, the other three interviewees were aware or had some knowledge about information science. For instance, Interviewee 2 knew people who "did information library science at UNC-Chapel Hill." Interviewee 4 knew it somewhat, but not as much as they used to. They used to keep up with public history due to their education background, but not as much recently. As for Interviewee 2, they displayed a substantial amount of knowledge on this topic.

"In regards to information science, I mean, we, archival type material is one of the things that I would consider informational science...you gotta be able to maintain you know those archival records for you know justification for certain things that are done and to create that historic record, an administrative record, on how and why things were done during a certain time period, and to me that's, that's best paramount for a lot of the things that we did with the park services, it's very useful for me to go back, to be able to go back and review you know what had been done, why it had been done, you know, and, and just, and just, help me in my decision-making process."

### **5.13 Do you use 3D technology at all at the site with regards to preservation?**

This question was not asked for the Moore's Creek interview. As for the other four, both Interviewees 4 and 5 mentioned Fort Ninety-Six, another park in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Parks Group. This park had done 3D modelling of

a mine at the site, which was carried out since the mine is not open to the public.

Interviewee 2 mentioned ground penetrating radar, and Interviewee 3 stated that interest for 3D tech does exist at Alamance Battleground, but it depends on funding and staff interest.

“...some people...with our department office came with a 360 camera to try to do an immersive online battlefield tour but the time that they came, it rained, so they weren't really able to do a whole lot with it.” (Interviewee 3)

#### **5.14 Other**

There were other issues mentioned in the process of conducting these interviews. For example, at Moore's Creek, as a result of Hurricane Florence, two-thirds of the park ended up underwater because of Hurricane Florence, and the I-40 inner state signs needed replacement, also because of damage from the hurricane. For King's Mountain and Cowpens, Interviewee 2 stated NPS is more in tune with preserving natural landscape. In the past, particularly the 1930s and 40s, it was all about access, such as a parking lot built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. However, the parking lot was removed in 1975, when a new visitor's center was built. Interviewee 2 also talked about the relevance of the landscape, specifically that those who participated in battles often traveled through various landscapes to get to the battlefield. Differences exist between the two battlefields, such as the impacts they had, tactics used, and personalities involved.

## **6. Analysis**

### **6.1 Analysis of Landscape Preservation (Landscapes) for each site**

#### **6.1.1 Alamance**

Based on my interview, although land preservation is a priority at Alamance Battleground, the main focus is on interpretation. Also, no specific written policies exist; however, according to Interviewee 3, an unwritten strategy exists, but it is not codified, and they know how to engage in land preservation.

As mentioned in the interview results, there are multiple instances where adaptation is necessary. For instance, there is a road that runs through the battlefield that served as one of the reasons for the battle occurring in that location. The road still exists, but not in its original form, as it has been modernized to handle modern forms of transportation, specifically as Highway 62. Although this saves the expense of having to construct from scratch a new road, it interferes with the concept of authenticity, as people may not be able to visualize the battlefield as it appeared in 1771, as cars occasionally drive by, and the existence of power lines poses an issue as well. In order to successfully counter modern intrusions, creative methods need to be thought of. Fortunately, said methods exist, with one example being Photoshop. Even with the issues regarding the landscape, authenticity is a priority at Alamance Battleground.

### **6.1.2 Camden**

Landscape preservation is also an issue at Camden. In contrast to Alamance and the other battlefields examined in this paper, no government organization is responsible for the Camden battlefield. Fortunately, some efforts have been made by local organizations, particularly the South Carolina Battleground Trust, in preserving the site. Of interest is that the site itself is run by a private organization, Historic Camden, but when I contacted Historic Camden, I was told that they do not oversee preservation, but in fact leave it to another organization, the South Carolina Battleground Trust. In the past, Camden did not as much attention due to the unfortunate fact the Patriots lost the battle.

Sometimes, at places like Camden, preservation is up to local groups, and federal organizations do not play as much of a role, with local and/or private organizations acting in their place. Ultimately, from a study conducted in 2015 it was decided against including Camden as a national park, with cost the major factor, given that the National Park Service is already managing a significant number of locations. Overall, there has been a general lack of attention towards Camden, in spite of the historical significance of the site. The possibility of the National Park Service taking custody of Camden in the future may mean that the battlefield will be able to rely upon the resources of this organization. However, it may also be likely that it will not receive much support due to the pressures of funding other sites.

### **6.1.3 Cowpens**

Similarly, at the Cowpens National Battlefield, a lack of funding exists, and difficulties in preservation do not just extend to funding. As mentioned above, there is a severe lack of staff, which means that the number of interpretive activities has been reduced. From the Cowpens interview, it was ascertained that NPS policy prohibits



reenactments. At Cowpens, a lot of the activities carried out involve restoration, such as planting trees and setting prescribed fires, the latter being intended to “restore the battlefield to its historic appearance.”<sup>44</sup> Cooperation also exists between Cowpens and the American Battlefield Trust.

For interpretation, although an emphasis is presented on the overall war, there is less about the social life of the time. As for the museum collection and archives, at the time of a State of the Park Report’s creation, there were exactly 3,217 items.<sup>45</sup> At the time of the report, there was a significant archival backlog.<sup>46</sup> Given the abovementioned staffing issues, if this problem still exists, it appears unlikely that it will be resolved anytime soon.

#### **6.1.4 Guilford Courthouse**

In terms of preservation, the Guilford Courthouse battlefield suffers from multiple inaccuracies. For example, a monument installed in the 1800s significantly embellishes the exploits of a certain Peter Francisco, (a larger than life hero of the American Revolution, both literally and figuratively) even though his own account, which understates the number of casualties he supposedly inflicted, was known of. This has been addressed by the National Park Service in a historical marker which corrects the historical record.

Also, in 1910, a monument was set up by the Guilford Battleground Company, commemorating the final Patriot military position, where the Continental soldiers (Patriot regulars) fought the British. However, it is now believed that the “third line” existed further to the east of the monument. This means that preservation had been conducted in

the wrong area, presenting an incorrect view of history. This is similar to the preservation carried out at the Naseby battlefield (Marix Evans, 2014).

### **6.1.5 King's Mountain**

The King's Mountain landscape has undergone alteration since the battle occurred in 1780. For example, President Herbert Hoover gave a talk at King's Mountain in 1930, an event which helped commemorate the battle, but at the same time, also led to the clearing of a multitude of trees, which harmed the integrity of the site. Also, a monument commemorating the British commander, Patrick Ferguson, has been installed, and directly refers to the relationship between the United States and Great Britain. But as of 2017, issues exist with cultural resources at King's Mountain, such as a "lack of inventories for two of the park's cultural landscapes, and a lack of storage space."<sup>47</sup>

For the museum collection, a firearm invented by Ferguson himself was placed on display in 2005, although there is no evidence that said weapon was used at the battle. However, the item was stolen in 1964, and although the weapon was recovered in 1992, it was not placed on display again until 2005 due to security concerns.<sup>48</sup> Aside from this artifact, at the time of the state of the park resource assessment, over 5,300 items existed in the museum collection, along with almost 38,000 archival materials.<sup>49</sup>

### **6.1.6 Moore's Creek**

Preservation at the Moore's Creek site is complicated by the fact that several supposedly infrequent storms have in fact occurred often over the last decade or so. Also, not all of the preservation can be performed to the extent that everything is 100% historically accurate, such as the bridge, which includes safety features not in use at the

time of the battle. Previous attempts to maintain the bridge have been were foiled by natural forces such as hurricanes.

At Moore's Creek, accessibility is provided, but in a "minimal sense," in the words of the interviewee. In other words, a balance has to be made between preservation and accessibility: the location should be authentic, but at the same time proper precautions need to be taken to ensure visitor safety and accessing the site without too much difficulty. If a site has undergone a significant amount of preservation, but no one can access it, then what is the point of preservation?

In terms of authenticity, as mentioned above, the battlefield also includes a recreated earthwork (a type of military fortification) which played a significant role in the battle. Specifically, the Patriots sheltered behind the earthwork as a means of protection while they decimated the Loyalists. However, this is not an identical reproduction as the earthworks are not the height they were at the time of the battle, possibly due to concerns since the battlefield is located in a floodplain.

## **6.2 Analysis of Preservation of Monuments and Memorials**

Each site contains monuments that honor not just specific people such as commanders or ordinary soldiers, but also organizations involved with the site in question. For example, one of the first commemorations at the battlefield of Camden was of Baron Johann deKalb, a Patriot commander who died of wounds sustained during the battle. However, there was also historical inaccuracy involved in placing a monument dedicated to DeKalb.<sup>50</sup> As for King's Mountain, memorials include ones to Patriot dead, as well as Patrick Ferguson, the British commander. Likewise, Nathanael Greene, the Patriot army commander at Guilford Courthouse, is commemorated with a monument of

his own, along with monuments that commemorate the Guilford Battleground Company (which was instrumental in helping preserving the battlefield),<sup>51</sup> graves of American Revolution veterans and Patriot casualties of Guilford Courthouse, and monuments dedicated to Guilford Courthouse casualties, as well as prominent Americans who supported the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War. A monument also commemorates a certain James Stuart, who was killed on the British side during the battle. “The motives for doing so may not have been for the right reasons, namely the influence of the Lost Cause.”<sup>52</sup> Monuments were also created for two of the leaders of the Guilford Battleground Company.<sup>53</sup>

Initially, monuments were not that fancy, as one of the leaders of the Guilford Battleground Company stated, “Monuments, not costly, but simple, expressive, and durable, mark the consecrated localities, which were fast fading from the memory of man.”<sup>54</sup> Eventually, more elaborate memorials were created. Monuments were also created for women involved in some way for the battle. Oddly, the battle of Alamance was also commemorated at Guilford Court House for a time. This occurred with the installation of a monument to a certain James Hunter. However, this monument is not entirely accurate, in that information from another James Hunter was included. Although originally set up at Guilford Court House, the monument was later moved to Alamance battleground, which one of the Hunter families’ did not approve of.<sup>55</sup>

For the above example, I was able to locate information about it on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s site on historic monuments. This proved a helpful resource, along with the *Historical Marker Database*. For the UNC Site, information is provided on the material used to create the monument, as well as contextual information

as to the monument “unveiling,” the subject of the monument, where the monument is located, where the monument is positioned relative to the landscape, and what is inscribed on the monument. Also, “supporting sources” are located on each monument’s page, which should be useful in checking the reliability of the information provided for each monument. Overall, the site provides useful context information, although it is limited to sites located in North Carolina, in this case Alamance, Guilford Courthouse, and Moore’s Creek.

In contrast, the *Historical Marker Database* operates on a more decentralized level, but a positive is that it provides a substantial amount of information related to this paper. Using this site, I was able to locate images of markers set up by organizations such as the National Park Service, the Palmetto Conservation Fund, and the Alamance County Tourism Development Authority and Convention and Visitor Bureau. Although this site was unable to provide any information on Moore’s Creek Bridge, I was able to locate images for the other five battlefields.

### **6.3 Commemoration as a Means of Preservation at Battlefield Sites**

Besides these physical representations, there are also other method, which consist of memorializing the conflict on the anniversary it occurred, such as when President Herbert Hoover gave a speech at King’s Mountain in 1930, as well as holding events on the anniversary of the battle. This has the effect of keeping the memory of the battle in the public mind for future generations. However, according to the NPS guidelines (referred to above), reenactments are prohibited, on the grounds of both respect and safety. However, living history programs are allowed. In other words, reenactments that

emphasize staged combat between two opposing sides are not allowed, but weapons demonstrations and living historians dressed as soldiers are permitted.

#### **6.4 Accessibility and Landscape Use at Battlefield Sites**

One may think that with historic battlefields, it is all about preserving history. On the contrary, battlefield sites are living and breathing landscapes, as activities unrelated to preservation also occur at these sites. For example, at Moore's Creek recreational activities such as camping and hiking are common. But these activities present the problem of distracting people from conceptualizing the battlefield. At Cowpens, access to a picnic area is provided,<sup>56</sup> and at King's Mountain, hiking trails exist.<sup>57</sup> At the site of Camden, there has been substantial use by the timber industry.<sup>58</sup>

Accessibility also comes into play with providing assistance for those who are visually and/or hearing impaired. For example, at King's Mountain, braille is provided.<sup>59</sup> On the other hand, at Guilford Court house some information is presented in a manner that benefits the hearing impaired, but the same was not true for the visually impaired. It should be noted that in the past, the NPS was all about accessibility, which meant that sometimes preservation took a secondary position. A chief example is that of President Herbert Hoover's speech at King's Mountain, as mentioned above, where trees were cut in order for people to access the site for the speech. The problem with this is that it compromised the integrity of the site. As this shows, access needs to be balanced with preservation.

#### **6.5 The Relationship between Information Science, Interpretation, and Accessibility**

Just as historians and preservations attempt to present accurate depictions of history, information science professionals have a responsibility to preserve information for future

generations, as well being obligated to ensure that the information they convey to their readers is accurate, as well as lacking bias. In the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association, “We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.”<sup>60</sup> After all, if the information is not presented in an unbiased manner, those who absorb the knowledge in question will be left with a distorted and inaccurate perspective. Just as important, without providing opportunities to access information, there is no point in preserving the information if people will not be able to learn from it.

As it stands, accessibility serves as one of the basic principles behind library and information science. But these sites still struggle with accessibility issues, and not just in physical terms. For example, in presenting information to visitors, Guilford Courthouse, as recently as 2015, did not present information in languages other than English, but was at least aware this is an issue that may need to be rectified.<sup>61</sup> As for King’s Mountain, a report from 2017 stated that a Spanish-language version of the “park brochure” had been created, but not enough funds existed to print it.<sup>62</sup> After all, not all visitors to national parks will presumably speak English. Therefore, information about the sites should be provided in multiple languages, in order to facilitate accessibility not just in physical terms, but being able to access the information in the first place. Possibilities include providing multiple language interpretative markers, such as a combination of English and Spanish, although presumably, this would cost a substantial amount of financial resources. Another option would be to create brochures in different languages, such as

Spanish, French, and Chinese, in order to provide the necessary information to people who do not speak English.

The question of accessibility at battlefield site also arises regarding people who also are physically and/or psychologically atypical. These individuals need to be given access as well, but their needs differ from that of other people, whether they are “neurologically atypical,” or have physical handicaps such as blindness, being deaf, or unable to use their legs. While interpretative markers allow people to read into the significance, additional steps are needed for the blind, for which options include braille for interpretation.

As for those who are deaf, captions on audio presentations, as well as possibly sign-language, should allow them to understand the information in question. For the physically impaired, people need to physically access the locations in question to fully comprehend the site; it’s not the same just reading about it in a visitors center. Therefore, sites need to be made physically accessible to accommodate everyone, not just people who have no physical impairments. Issues do arise in terms of integrity, where the creation of trails or other means of accessibility may take away from how the site originally looked like in back when the battle occurred, in other words harming the historical integrity of the site. In light of this, a balance needs to be made between provenance accessibility for all. This can be applied not just to battlefield parks, but parks in general.



## 6.6 Interpretation of Information at Specific Battlefields

### 6.6.1 Alamance

Interpretation is the prime mission at Alamance Battleground. Interviewee 3 informed me that often visitors consider the battle as the “opening shot of the American Revolution,” and there are monuments located on the battleground that explicitly state this. For example, one monument has as part of its inscription “The Battle of the Alamance, the First Battle of the Revolutionary War, was fought in Orange County, North Carolina May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1771.” However, based on the historical evidence, this is not actually the case, for although connections do exist between the War of the Regulation and American Revolution, these are tangential. Therefore, to maintain accuracy, the staff of Alamance strongly emphasize to visitors that Alamance battleground does *not* mark the beginning of the American Revolution, but rather, serves as a standalone event. Essentially, the mission at Alamance battleground is to “preserve and interpret the story of the North Carolina Regulator movement, as well as life in the North Carolina backcountry.”<sup>63</sup>

According to the interviewee, at Alamance, different presentations are given for different groups of people. A possible example would be giving a tour to an elementary school, where basic facts are given about the battlefield in order to make the students think, but not in too much detail so that the students will be overwhelmed by the information. On the other hand, when presenting to a local or state history association, presenters may want to thoroughly discuss all the details and background of the battlefield. (This can be extrapolated to Information Science as well.)

Living history programs are also conducted at Alamance Battleground, in order to educate people about the battle of Alamance, as well as the people affected by this, such

as women. Other programs include “descendants gatherings,” where “people who are doing family research can gather there, and people who are new to the practice of studying their families genealogy can learn from those who are more experienced in this.”<sup>64</sup> Also at Alamance, a visitor’s center exists, “where a video is shown on the War of the Regulation.”<sup>65</sup>

### **6.6.2 Camden**

Interpretation of the battle of Camden has evolved over time, being reinterpreted from “an unmitigated” disaster to a “glorious defeat.”<sup>66</sup> I was able to locate a handout not just on the battle of Camden, but also on the settlement of Camden itself. Also, tours of the Camden battlefield can be reserved, but these are not free, although a free audio tour is presented.

With regards to presenting information at Camden, this too has evolved over time. At Camden, a nonprofit organization, the Palmetto Conservation Fund, set up interpretive markers, which provide rather colorful maps on observation. However, “these signs discuss the battle in a narrative form, not specific places on the battlefield.”<sup>67</sup> Of interest is that compared to the NPS signs, as of the time these signs were set up, these markers are numbered, providing a clear and set narrative to be followed in ascending order. Sellick also mentions that these signs were met with some opposition when they were set up, mainly due to the different style compared to the NPS. Fortunately, some of the artwork was revised upon examination.<sup>68</sup>

### **6.6.3 Cowpens**

At Cowpens, interpretation does not just include information about the battle itself, but also the “efforts to commemorate the battlefield after the Revolutionary War.”<sup>69</sup>

Interpretative themes include Morgan's military tactics, specifically his use of a double envelopment; life in the Carolina backcountry, and "South Carolina's role in the American Revolution."<sup>70</sup> With regards to Cowpens, information is now being presented on the stories of African-Americans who served on the Patriot side, as mentioned above, and not just on the battlefield itself. For instance, according to the interviewee, at the Cowpens visitor's center, a film is presented on the battle; a museum is also located on the premises, where discussion there mainly discusses the battle and campaign, but also talks somewhat about social life of the time.

However, more information exists on the Patriot side compared to the British and Loyalists, according to Interviewee 5. For example, there is a PowerPoint presented in the Visitor's Center on Patriot casualties, specifically those who were killed in the battle or died of their wounds. However, the same is not done for the British, not because of any inherent bias towards the Patriots, but due to the fact that equivalent records for the British and Loyalists do not exist. Interpretation also occurs regarding the commanders at Cowpens, Daniel Morgan for the Patriots and Banastre Tarleton for the British, such as Morgan's use of terrain and Tarleton's (erroneous) assumption that he would win.

#### **6.6.4 Guilford Courthouse**

At Guilford Court House, the interpretation is as a pyrrhic victory for the British, as the Americans managed to withdraw more or less intact, while the British suffered extensive losses, and in the end were forced to withdraw. Themes for Guilford Courthouse include explaining why Nathanael Greene decided to fight at Guilford Courthouse, as well as in spite of never winning a battle, he always fulfill his goals. Throughout his military career, Nathanael Greene had a tendency to lose engagements

yet in the end still achieve his objectives; so just by looking at the results of these engagements, one may have a false impression as to results. Likewise, with information science, one needs to consider all perspectives and outcomes, rather than simply looking at the event/item itself.

Other themes include the brutal clashes between Patriots and Loyalists in the south, the abovementioned Pyrrhic victory won by the British, how Greene's successes proved beneficial to negotiations that ensured American independence, and how Patriot success enabled a restoration of stability in the South. Also, regarding preservation, "the efforts to preserve the battlefield signify the first steps to honor and commemorate the pivotal Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution."<sup>71</sup> On the NPS webpage, various multimedia presentations at Guilford Court House are described, such as a film of a "live action recreation of the battle" and a "film of an animated map of the battle."<sup>72</sup>

### **6.6.5 King's Mountain**

Interpretation at King's Mountain focuses on the complexity of the situation, "brother vs brother," and life in the backcountry. After all, the Patriot force did include a sizeable number of men from this region. Moreover, "King's Mountain draws attention to participation of African-Americans on both sides of the battle, back in 2010."<sup>73</sup> Also, at King's Mountain the perspectives of not just the Patriots, but the Loyalists as well, are explained. This battle is unique in that all of the participants were either Patriots or Loyalists, except for Patrick Ferguson, the British commander.

Presumably, families were split apart by the conflict, especially in the Carolina Backcountry, where the conflict was extremely vicious. It may be assumed that often different family members would fight against one another on the same battlefield, such as

King's Mountain, where locals fought on either the Patriot or Loyalist side. Also, in Interview 2 it was mentioned that not everyone chose sides in the American Revolution, whether for religious reasons/societal reasons.

Other interpretations at King's Mountain include describing Patrick Ferguson's death, as well the different perspectives of the battle, the joy of victory of the Patriots, and the agony of the defeat for the Loyalists, as well as a marker about the forest and battle.

#### **6.6.6 Moore's Creek**

At Moore's Creek, the role of Scots is particularly emphasized, given the large number of Scots who fought at the battle. In line with this, information on Scottish history is presented,"<sup>74</sup> likely to explain why Scots immigrated to the colonies, and particularly settling in North Carolina. After all, why did the Scots take part in this conflict on the side they chose? This shows that the battle cannot be in viewed isolation from other historical facts, but needs context.

Meanwhile, for Moore's Creek, the interpretive themes consist of the role of the community in preserving the battlefield, as well as "Moore's Creek being the first decisive Patriot victory in the American Revolution, the last instance of a Highland Scots charge, the military use of terrain, how ordinary people were affected by the war, what the physical features say about people of the time, and the importance of naval stores as an industry."<sup>75</sup> As for preservation, a theme mentioned by the interviewee is the role of the community in preserving the site; "also, preserving the landscape not only helps with endangered species of plants, but also allows people to fully comprehend the battle

during the time it occurred.”<sup>76</sup> Information on the overall context of the war is also provided at Moore’s Creek.

On the NPS webpage, Moore’s Creek offers a YouTube channel, from a visitor’s center video on the battlefield to one on the longleaf pine. As these videos were uploaded as recently as March of this year, this may be a response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Particularly, a video on social distancing is provided, with a park ranger using his musket to “help demonstrate proper social distancing.”<sup>77</sup>

### **6.7 Use of 3D Technology for Preservation at Battlefield Sites**

At Alamance, an attempt was made once to use a 360° camera for immersive experience, but this ultimately failed due to rain. As this shows, the use of 3D technology depends on staff availability and funding; after all, it represents a sizeable investment which could be spent on other projects. The status of use for 3D technology at Camden and Guilford Courthouse unfortunately remains unknown. As for Cowpens, 3D technology does not really exist there, but Interviewee 5 informed me of another site associated with the American Revolution, Ninety Six National Historic Site, which utilizes 3D technology. Specifically, at Ninety Six a 3D video was created of a “mine” there, as said mine is not open to the public. I was also informed of Ninety Six’s used of 3D technology by Interviewee 4.

The American Battlefield Trust has a 360° virtual tour of the battlefield at King’s Mountain, which allows a panoramic view of the battlefield. They also have created virtual tours for Camden, Cowpens, and Guilford Court House as well. Of course, this requires the use of a virtual reality headset, which people may not be able to afford, as well as an assumption that most people have easy access to a computer, which many

people may not. After all, in times like these, with pandemics and climate change, people probably will not be able to invest the financial resources into this. On a more positive note, people who may not have the time and resources to visit any of the sites in question can not only view the sites from home, but also gain contextual input on various facts.

## **6.8 The Importance of Cooperating Organizations in Battlefield Preservation**

Preservation is not always a solo affair, as organizations often cooperate to preserve battlefields, but these organizations do not provide assistance constantly. For example, the federal government played a significant role in preserving the first five Civil War Battlefield Parks, specifically Antietam, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. However, after these achievements, the government stepped back, and it would be some time before it would provide further aid. Besides government agencies such as the National Park Service, local and national non-profit organizations such as the Conservation Fund and the American Battlefield Trust are also involved with preservation. With regards to the American Revolution, the American Battlefield Trust has played a significant role in preservation. According to the Trust, “the first public preservation of a battlefield was carried out in 1836 in Indiana, at the battlefield of Tippecanoe.”<sup>78</sup>

Although the Trust in its various incarnations initially focused on the American Civil War, in the 2010s it began to preserve American Revolution battlefields such as Princeton, mentioned above, along with other battlefields located in the South such as Eutaw Springs, Ninety Six, and Waxhaws, and War of 1812 battlefields such as New Orleans. Another supporting organization is the National Park Foundation, which helps with grants, serving as “the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service.”<sup>79</sup> The

National Park Foundation was founded in the 1960s, in order for “private individuals to donate financial contributions or land donations.”<sup>80</sup>

Organizations that interact with the institutions managing the sites also play a role. For example, at Moore’s Creek Bridge, cooperation occurs with a “friend’s group,” the Moore’s Creek Battleground Association. Founded in its current incarnation in 1899, this non-profit has its origins back to 1857, and is the “oldest support organization for the National Park Service.”<sup>81</sup> Beside this organization, there are related institutions in the NPS that are also involved. A similar organization is the Guilford Battleground Company, which works with preserving the battlefield at Guilford Court House. At King’s Mountain, a “partner organization” is Carolina Thread Trail. Although not specializing in battlefield preservation, the mission of this organization is “Creating a legacy of conservation and connectivity through a regional network of trails.”<sup>82</sup> Presumably, this will help with access, in that King’s Mountain is located in a rural part of the United States, where trails will help people to access the battlefield.

Unfortunately, sometimes cooperating with qualified organizations is not always an option. This does not always have to do with a matter of no qualified organizations being available, but rather that preserving a specific site may conflict with their mission statement. For example, Alamance cannot cooperate with the American Battlefield Trust, due to the fact the Trust’s mandate only as far back as 1775, which means it cannot deal with conflicts and battles that occurred before, such as the War of the Regulation and the battle of Alamance.



## **6.9 How preservation will play out in the future at these Battlefields**

Future concerns do not just encompass what one may think as typical preservation: this also includes factors such as noise pollution, “dark sky,” and status of wildlife, air quality, and water quality, as shown by the state of the park reports at Guilford Court House and King’s Mountain. Preserving these battlefields means more than conserving just the military aspects of these sites; all aspects must be taken care of because landscapes of battlefields are interconnected.

First, financial considerations are always an issue. At Alamance, the interviewee referred to as a “hard slog”, also “there may be” trouble with finances. For Camden, if the National Park Service obtains more financial resources, it possibly will decide to adopt this as a national park. Given coronavirus, this will likely be delayed. Ultimately, however, future plans for Camden remain unknown, the same being true for Guilford Court House.

Also, management plays a role, as was explained to me by another interviewee. Often, different leaders have different ideas on how to manage the battlefield. “...driven by management, different superintendents have their own perspective...lot of that depends on who the manager is.”<sup>83</sup> Also according to Interviewee 2, “in conducting interpretive programs, the goal is to have audiences connect with the story being presented but also to realize that preserving the park matters, in order for the park exist for the future.”

Sometimes, it is out of anyone’s hands how things will turn out. At Moore’s Creek, natural disasters have happened quite a lot, such as hurricanes and floods. My impression is that climate change will continue to have a major role with preservation at this particular location, with the person I interviewed mentioning the situation of the

Outer Banks. Particularly, if flooding continues at Moore's Creek, "management will be affected, in that attention will need to be paid towards the earthworks, and work on the trails will likely be undertaken."<sup>84</sup> With these disasters, attention needs to be paid towards repairing possible damage.

Of the course, the question remains, how does one know that preservation and interpretation is working? One possibility would be to have visitors fill out visitor surveys, providing one benchmark of measuring success, as well as measuring how many people visit the battlefield in the first place. Of course, while they may indicate that more and more people are being drawn to the site, the question remains whether visitors are being presented the correct information.

A discussion needs to occur about the recent COVID-19 outbreak, and how the various sites are handling it. Although the pandemic has adversely affected this project in terms of interviews, it may serve as an example of how organizations adapt to dire circumstances. At the moment of writing, all four NPS sites examined here have closed their visitors centers, with Guilford Courthouse also having closed facilities such as "parking lots and restrooms."<sup>85</sup> Of interest is that at Guilford Courthouse, while the "tour road" is closed for cars, "outdoor spaces remain open."<sup>86</sup>

## 7. Conclusion

As this paper shows, no universal approach is taken by all sites, even the NPS locations. This can be shown by the documents produced by the NPS sites, which vary by type, not to say the least, date of publication. This shows that the NPS is not a monolithic organization, but that different sites have different priorities, which means they receive different amounts of resources. Likewise, it is useful to examine past records with regards to park/site information, as it would be useful not to repeat the same sort of information, in that doing the same work again would waste valuable time and resources that could have been fruitfully implemented to achieve other goals.

In reflection, preserving battlefields is in turn similar to preserving the accounts of veterans and others who served in wars, in that information may be preserved for future generations. However, once the veterans pass away, although their stories may be preserved, the chance to personally connect with these stories will have been lost forever. In contrast, it is possible to bring back the sense of what the battlefields originally looked like.

While a number of studies have been conducted on preservation and interpretation of Civil War sites, with Robert Zellar's work providing an excellent background history of the operation of the American Battlefield Trust, it appears that little has been written about the preservation of American Revolution sites. Hopefully, this will change in the future. I do not view this paper as the final word on these battlefields, and look forward to further research onto this topic.

## Appendix 1

Moore's Creek – Interview 1  
 King's Mountain/Cowpens – Interview 2  
 Alamance – Interview 3  
 King's Mountain – Interview 4  
 Cowpens – Interview 5

### Interview 1

- How's your day been so far?
  - It's been good, just getting in the office, working on some different administrative tasks relating to managing the park and kind of fixing some things from the Hurricane Florence back in 2018.
- The hurricane did that much damage to the park?
  - Well, two thirds of the park was underwater, and so it takes a while as far as sometimes things are it takes a while to repair and other things the park is back its perfectly fine what I'm working on this morning is actually trying to replace our I-40 large inner state inner state signs, they were damaged during Florence, and it just takes a while to get the federal government, state government, to kinda work out an agreement to build or replace that
- Alrighty, so what did you attempt, what was your major in college
  - I attended the University of North Carolina Wilmington. I received my master's in education with a social studies certification for high school history I also received my bachelors from UNC Wilmington as well.
- What made you interested in working with battlefields?
  - So I was a high school history teacher locally and as a teacher sometimes needs money during the summer when they're not employed, I took an internship here at the battlefield and from there at the end of the summer was offered a position and actually accepted it the following January and that kind of started my career in the park service with the managing historic sites. Initially not the intent it was like as I said started off as just a summer camp, summer job, but then from there turned into a career path
- So, you just interested in working with historic sites in general or is there a specific interest in battlefields?
  - uh, not especially with battlefields I think it turned into an interest with the National Park Service which deals with the preservation of all kinds of historic sites and natural places and so but I do have a passion in essence in trying to I've been here for nine years and learning the processes of battlefield preservation

- cultural landscape preservation and so that's kind of something a little bit now I've moved into park management a little bit more on my mind
- Alright, so, the next question is what's the attitudes of the National Park Service towards preservation?
  - So essentially, the goal is to preserve unimpaired these historic sites such as battlefields and to return them as best as possible to what it would have looked like at the time period of the battle so for instance at Moore's Creek, the battle is 1776 and so the idea is to preserve and restore the landscape as best as you can to the time period what it may have looked like and so obviously some battlefields have a little bit more documentation and so they can understand more of the area for Moore's Creek we don't have a lot of documentation about the battlefield specifically but we have enough documentation about the area at the time to get an understanding of what the area would have or could have looked like
  - In line with that question, do you take care, so you take a lot of care to ensure authenticity at the site
    - Correct. So the idea is that to some extent yes, so when you come to Moore's Creek, you have earthworks, they are the original earthwork location but they're not restored to the actual earthwork height, they don't have the entrenchments around them, that's a management decision made decades ago, and so some parks will try to restore specific entrenchments or fortifications to what it may have looked like. This area, the battlefield is in a floodplain, so we have to be mindful as we manage this we are also managing a battlefield that face erosion, and so we're managing it as a restored landscape but not restored to the capacity of what it probably was at the time of the battle.
    - Alrighty, so, what specific steps have you taken towards preservation at the site, besides the earthworks, what methods are most common at Moore's Creek.
      - Sure. So it kind of starts with the battlefield itself, which is to do sight surveys ground penetrating radar basically like metal detecting to identify what resources exist and then from there, some of those artifacts are removed and to understand where the historic, the actual historic area is that a part of what the site surveys done, so does it expand beyond the actual earthworks and battlefield to what extent so that there's that aspect, then you've got the features of it, features such as the earthworks, you've got the historic causeway which is essentially the dirt road that ran up to the bridge and so we've to tried to maintain that as an accessible path and that faces erosion and over the years they've had to put in substructure under the ground brick walls, retaining walls, rips-raps, rocks to kind of to maintain the shoreline as the creek curves right there. And then you've got the historical bridge, for years they tried to maintain of that of what it would have looked like at the time of the battle when they removed the planks but the bridges tended to get washed away –
      - Why?
      - Hurricanes, and the bridge we currently have right now was constructed in 1999 after hurricane and it is not restored in the manner of how it would have been in 1776, it is somewhat what it may have looked like, but it allows visitor access so then it has safety features such as railings on the bridge that most likely would not have existed at the time. So it's a balance between visitor access and the

preservation of the site. We do have walking trails on the battlefield that allow the visitor to have access, and that's a part of policy in that trails and sites like this should be accessible as much as possible. And so we do have hiking trails, asphalt walking trails to the battlefield that wouldn't have been historical but that more so the accessibility aspect of it. But it's in a minimal sense.

- What do you mean by minimal?
  - You know, so when they take into consideration, say for instance, accessible trails, they don't want to put this huge road in there, they want to make the trails accessible for one-two people to walk side by side, a wheelchair to be safely maneuver through it, and so, to not take away from the landscape have a wide enough trail that can access it, and so having been to several other parks recently it's a very similar management practice in that when you go to a place like Kings Mountain South Carolina they've got trails to take you through where the battle occurred, there would not have been trails there, but just allows the visitor to be able to maneuver around the site without having to go through the woods, you've got an accessible path that all visitors can access and have access to experience the historic sites.
- Ok I think that this might have answered my next question. Do you focus preservation towards any particular areas such as physical landscape and/or educating the public?
  - Yeah, so educating the public is gonna be the primary way that in the Park Service that we do preserve, and so if you have a fortification, a battlefield, historic site, the idea is to provide access to those but not to take away from the resource as best you can and so at Moore's Creek if we were to take it back to a historical period, there would have been a dirt road, potentially a log or plank road that would have run through the battlefield, and that wouldn't have been accessible for visitors, and so, rather than try to restore a dirt road, mud road, plank road, the idea has been to just have a very subdued walking path that traverses through the battlefield, so its catering to the public so that they can come through. Our enabling legislation, meaning what we were approved for to become a national park, was for the military and educational study of the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. and so the primary reason for wasn't necessarily to restore the battlefield to 1776 standards it was to restore and to utilize it for military and educational studies. For alongside that comes the practices of maintaining the landscape to what it would have looked like at the time of the battle.
- Ok in terms of preservation do you focus just on the military aspects of the site or the general historical context? In other words, do you talk about the social history?
  - We do, and there's a balance of it. So I'll kinda break it down in two parts. As far as the battlefield goes, historically when this park was created the battlefield was preserved for specifically the battlefield purposes but along the lines more land was added and so we have a recreational area to the park that has picnic area and camp site and where we do interpretative demonstrations that speak of more the social history surrounding the battle, who the soldiers were, who their family, where they came from, what jobs they had. So we do interpret those aspects of it. Within the battlefield itself its primarily limited to the battle and the soldiers who would have fought here. surrounding the battle though we are restoring the

landscape to what it may have looked like in 1776 to include restoring the long-leaf pines that would have existed throughout this area that's where the tar, pitch, and turpentine the naval store industry existed and that's also, actually why North Carolina was invaded in 1776 was to secure those naval stores and so because the park would have had a lot more long-leaf pine forest we are restoring that area we're also restoring the swampland, for years many parts of the park were being used as just green space but as you fight what naturally will occur which is flooding in certain areas the park is restoring certain areas to take it back to where it would have been in 1776 which is old growth cypress swamp and to have a savannah that would have some native species, that would nestle between the swampy area and the upland pine forest. So it's a management I guess of both sides of it, the historical sense of the battle itself, which is the earthworks, the battlefield, the bridge and the causeway, that's the primary part of it, and then the surrounding aspect is more the natural elements of what it would have looked like and then beyond that is where we begin to tell the stories. The battlefield itself is also restored and you'll see that in many cases it does have two cannons that are situated on it and those were put in place as part of the cultural landscape to again tell the story as you came here at the time of the battle what it may have looked like.

- What sort of stories do you tell at the reenactment?
  - So we tell of course the primary story, which is the story of the battle, story of events leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and the story afterwards, also including the naval stores industry, and so speaking of the tarpage and turpentine, we tend to interpret educate and reenact the stories beyond the battlefield, so like I said the trades, so blacksmithing, woodworking, cooking, the clothing and civilians within the community would have worn, the music of the time, and how the music was used both recreational and for military purposes. We do have historic weapons programming to include small arms like the musket and rifle, as well as artillery, like the cannons. then we also interpret somewhat interpret the history surrounding the Loyalists and the Scottish heritage that exists or existed within North Carolina at the time, North Carolina having the largest Scottish settlement of all the colonies, so we do somewhat interpret a little bit more in depth the Scottish history dating back to Scotland in the 1740s and the migration to the Cape Fear area settling up near Fayetteville and then eventually marching this way and serving on both sides of the military engagement.
- Alright are there any specific policies the NPS follows or is required to follow with regards to preservation?
  - So there's a couple of different things so you do have some elements of the Wilderness Act if it applies to a battlefield or an area you do have the floodplains there's specific acts that we're, for a lot of parks that are on the coastline they deal, they tend to be within floodplains, so there's about some ideas with management (unknown word) floodplains, so I'm just learning more about it myself right now but then when we anything we do in and around the battlefield it requires compliance and so NEPA and NHPA Historic Preservation Act 106, so a lot of those policies will guide what we can and can't do or what we should and shouldn't do related to the battlefield historic area, so to some extent that does

guide a lot of what we do but then there's specific park policies created that are kind of tie a lot of this stuff together, such as a cultural landscape report most battlefields and parks will try to get a cultural landscape report we had a draft one years ago we're trying to get one actually done now and within that it would identify any of the federal policies and guidelines that help to manage how we how we manage the battlefield itself the activities that can exist within it and surrounding it accessibility of it and then also the maintenance and preservation of it.

- Are any of these policies public?
  - Well any of the Wilderness Act and Floodplains Act, those things are all public, as far as our specific policies, the unfortunate thing is we do not have a lot of, like I said the cultural landscape report in many cases those end up in draft and then they're never carried on to the next level and so that's our process right now is trying to get the cultural landscape report done. As far as any of the compliance aspects of it, they're all made public, there's opportunities for the public to comment on it through a system called PEPC and so a lot of times when parks are doing something, any kind of maintenance, repairs, new construction, they submit it through the PEPC process and through there that's when a lot of times they're looking at those federal policies to see if there's anything that's going on within the park related to that activity that would violate a specific policy. And so then you have subject matter experts, archaeologists, historians, landscape architects, who will then take the policy that they're aware of and apply it to the activity taking place in the park, and they'll give a go no-go but as far as you know within this park the only thing we would have is a compendium, and a compendium is just the permitted activities they're allowed on site and in general that's talking about you know kayaking walking hiking camping picnicking First Amendment activities, where those occur, and all of it kind of goes back to leaving the site unimpaired for future generations, and so if any of the activities all of the activities that are approved are therefore approved in the sense that they've its believed that they won't have any or will have minimal impact on the park or as the visitation
- So the cultural report is restricted from the public, basically.
  - What's that, the cultural landscape report?
- Landscape report.
  - no it isn't, no those are typically public documents, it's just ours does not exist.
- I see
  - It's just a draft format, and that draft format was created in 2001, and so now we're actually working on that with our new resource manager, I recently became superintendent we have a new resource manager, and that's one of our priorities is to finalize a cultural landscape report
- Ok understood and what is your perception of how preservation will play out in the future at Moore's Creek bridge?
  - It's a little tough, because in the last 3-20 years we've had 3 500 year floods, technically four, had another one right around '04, and so, as we manage this, we're having to kind of be proactive in how we manage it what are some things, what are some activities that we're doing that we maybe we don't need to do



anymore, do we have facilities and flood plains that we don't need to maintain, and then some aspects that use the term "retreat" so when you think about the outer banks right now, the estimates are that in the next 20 to 40 years, many, much of the outer banks of North Carolina is gonna be either underwater or washed out to sea and they've seen a lot of that just recently, and so it's this idea of retreat, either kind of abandon it or relocate it. As far as the battlefield, we don't see much of the impacts of the rising waters but we're just now starting to get into actually scientifically identifying what, part of this is managing and making observations and documenting how often its flooding, the impacts of a flood so that future management practices will be dictated by those, so if we see a trend upwards of more flooding, right, and the battlefield does receive water right in front of the earthworks, about 6 times a year, and so if we see that trend moving upwards that may impact how we manage the battlefield, whether we have to put in a different kind of trail, whether we foresee that its gonna start impacting the earthworks and its eroding and maybe they have to restore the earthworks to a manner that can withstand the erosion a little bit better. So you know, that's a part of it, in looking how flooding is impacting it, but then it's also ensuring that the correct story is being told and preserving the battlefield unimpaired, which means the activities that have been proved in years past we're relooking at those, Boy Scout camping, picnicking, things like that, and identifying whether those activities should still occur in the park, and if they do, how close to the battlefield. So for years they were allowed to be, you know, Scout camping within 75 feet of the battlefield, the battlefield is a campsite, but you're within the battlefield and you look over you can see the scout tents and so that takes away from the battlefield. So it's not necessarily the battlefield itself it is the whole scenery, the cultural landscape that we're trying to preserve as well

- Alright, the question I should have mentioned earlier, if you address the historical context of the site, are there any factors that you particularly emphasize?
  - Such as?
- Such as the historical context, like the effect of the revolutionary war as a whole on North Carolina, like the Patriot and Tory reactions to the war, that sort of thing.
  - Sure. So we do emphasize how this battle plays into the larger picture of the Revolutionary War, and so how we're connected and interconnected with the other stories, the other battles, how its connected both locally and regionally, so how were connected to Wilmington, how we're connected to Fayetteville, so we do um preserve those stories, and tell those stories. There's not a lot of records related to this battle, it's a very short battle, very minimal period of time, but we do preserve a portion of the human story of it, and so identifying as many pension records as possible to keep on site or working with Chapel Hill to ensure that their, which is where the library exists, pension records, that they have as much information as possible, and then, I guess, the unfortunate thing is that management changes here about every 5 years, and so there's not a consistency that you would find at say a larger battlefield like Gettysburg where the management structure even though it may change there's enough substructure that kind of limits the overall focus. Moore's Creek will have a superintendent or a park manager come in and they'll be mostly natural driven and so that's when it's

- trying to preserve the natural elements of the park and at times you have somebody comes in and they want to preserve more of the social element of it, and so that's when it's getting into more of the demonstrations and the reenactments to focus primarily on the educational side of it and not so much on the preservation side of it. And so it's trying to find that balance to where we're the whole story never changes that we're constantly focusing on preservation of the battle, and the kind of substories related to it but then, as new ideas come in, they sit within this realm of the story and they don't detract or take away
- You collaborate with any other organizations with regards to preservation at MC?
    - So there's a couple of organizations within the Park Service, like the exotic plant management team who helps manage the natural side of the park, the, we have a specific collections management program, in the park service that coordinates with SEAC [Southeastern Archaeological Society], who helped to manage the collections side of it, and then we have a park partner, our friends group, who helps, they're the longest serving friends group to any national park they were founded in 1899 and they help to manage more so the commemoration and the educational component of the battlefield
  - What is the friend's name?
    - It is the Moore's Creek Battleground Association.
  - Are you familiar with the field of information science? If so, do you follow current trends in preservation?
    - I am not really aware of information science.

## Interview 2

- What made you want to work at Kings mountain and Cowpens?
  - I was always interested in history, and had a background in natural resource management, and at that time, it felt kind of fit together, I was very fortunate to (unknown word) land at a place like King's Mountain to practice my skills
- How long did you work at the site?
  - I was there for about 33 years
- Very nice. Did you spend most of your time working at King's Mountain or Cowpens?
  - Most of my time on Kings Mountain, we didn't become a park group until around 2015.
- You still have experience at both sites.
  - Yeah
- May be related to my previous question, what made you interested in working with battlefields?
  - I've kind of had an interest in history, in particular 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century warfare, Revolutionary War and Civil War, so that kind of helped push me to want to do the right thing with cultural resource and landscape there at those parks
- When did you retire?
  - In January 2019
- What is the National Park Service's attitude towards preservation as a whole?

- I think it's very positive, they've always tried to promote preservation where in the way of preserving a site or preserving a landscape or an artifact, very preservation minded when it comes to you know to our resources, and want to make sure that as you know, projects and development, things like that come along in the park that doing the right thing in regards to preserving the resources as best they can.
- At your time at King's Mountain and Cowpens, did you have to take care of your authenticity at both sites?
  - I'm sorry, can you repeat that?
- In other words, did you like create an atmosphere sort of like when the battles occurred at both sites, like back in those times.
  - I'm still not hearing the question
- Just like authenticity, having people dress up in period clothing...
  - Like living history type things?
- Yeah, living history.
  - We did some of that at both sites, it's one means of communicating and interacting with visitors, sometimes it's the right medium, sometimes no, it's not, but I think people engage you know, park personnel or volunteers that are in period dress to talk about, you know, events that happened at those respective sites.
- Do you also take care to like make sure there are not too much, modern development occurs?
  - Do we try to ensure that we...?
- So like try to make sure that the natural landscape isn't too affected by manmade development.
  - Right. You know, I think the Park Service has become more in tune with that, you know back in the early days, back in the you know 30s and 40s, I think the mindset was to get visitors as close to the resource as possible and I'll give you an example, the battlefield there at King's Mountain just above the US monument there near the centennial monument there was a parking lot and that was built during CCC times, and that was commonplace early in the park service years, that they wanted to make sure they could get visitors as close as possible, in 1975, when the new visitors center was built, that parking lot was taken out, you know the trail was revamped there's a lot more thought goes into development you know, intruding on a historic or cultural landscape now then I think was done I back in the 30s or 40s.
- For both King's Mountain and Cowpens, what specific steps have you taken towards preservation at both sites? Are there any methods that are particularly common?
  - Well, one thing that really stands out is invasive plant control. Cowpens, a lot of that land was not acquired until the 70s, and there was a lot of residential development in that particular area so invasive plants in that particular part is an issue, has and will continue to be an issue for years to come because it's just the magnitude and the variety of plants that are there, and the amount of staff that is available to treat that.
- Just to clarify, that was Cowpens.

- That was Cowpens, yeah...just about every park you come to has invasive issues, but that particular park in particular has more than its share of invasive plants that we dealt with, and are still dealing with. I think that one of the other issues that helped us move the landscape more toward a resuming a cultural landscape or historic landscape is the use of prescribed fire, we did that more so at King's Mountain, we started that at Cowpens, but we never got as much burning done at Cowpens as we did at King's Mountain, and that's you know, a continual thing, that something you just don't do one time and stop, there has to be some degree of what I call burning maintenance to help you know promote that landscape, get that landscape back to somewhat of a natural appearance that would have been there during the 18<sup>th</sup> century .
- Do you focus preservation towards the landscape or do you also like what approach do you take towards interpretation and educating the public?
  - Can you repeat that?
- Do you emphasize on working with the physical landscape or do you also emphasize well, interpretation and educating the public?
  - I mean, you know, both of those really go hand in hand. I mean, to educate visitors about you know, the events that happened there, is paramount but to be able to do that effectively, you have to be able to show and try to put those landscapes back in to the proper perspective that would have been there, at the time that event occurred, and you use the interpretation and education part of that to help educate people why you are actually doing those activities, where that be invasive exotic control or prescribed burning or what have you, anything that you do, you need to support the public, and you need to educate them on why you do that.
- Is this same for both King's Mountain and Cowpens?
  - Oh yeah, yeah, I'd say it's pretty much the same anywhere.
- In terms of preservation, do you focus on just the military aspects of the site, or like the general historical context, like, (unknown word) history for both King's Mountain and Cowpens?
  - I mean, not necessarily, I mean, there's natural resources that used that when managing you have to take into account as well, that there's you know, species of concern, species that may be threatening/endangered, you have to take into consideration why you are doing any of those activities, and to me, they kind of all, it's like a circle, you know, we didn't know what we didn't, we didn't know what we had until we started doing some of those surveys to get ready for prescribed burning, things like that, and then once you actually start doing those activities, you start seeing that historic landscape start to pop back up because the (unknown word) source is there, 90% of the time, it just needs that little push from that prescribed fire you know taking the heavy fuels and the (unknown word) air off, so it you know, cultural resource management is natural resource management, and natural resource management is cultural resource management, I guess that's the best way to put it. It all goes hand in hand.
- When interpreting both sites, do you just talk about the battlefield itself, or the general context of the battlefield?

- The battlefield itself, an interpretive program, there's certain key features that you always focus on, but, you know, those people just didn't travel and set foot on that battlefield proper, they travelled through various types of landscapes in getting to that location, and they also lived on the land, and so, you know, there's a tie to the historical perspective there whether it's a battle or whether it's you know an old you know historic house or what have you, there's a tie to the landscape and the way the people lived off the land in just about every place you go within the National Park Service.
- Ok , so like there's, so with interpretive programs at both sites, they talk about the historical context of the time, like social history of the colonies of the time and what else do they talk about, do they talk about the Revolutionary War as a whole, do they talk about anything else?
  - At King's Mountain and Cowpens?
- Yes.
  - I mean, you can't talk about King's Mountain or Cowpens without talking about especially the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, and you can't talk about the Southern campaign without talking about the events that occurred before that, so it's not, it's not always a focus, a primary part of it interpretive program, would that, that stage has to be set by talking some, you know, setting the stage for those events to take place.
- Alright. Are there any specific policies that the National park service follows or is required to follow with regards to preservation?
  - Can you repeat that?
- Are there any specific like uh policies that the National Park service follows or is required to follow with regards to preservation at both King's Mountain?
  - Oh yeah, yeah, I mean that our, there's tons of policies out there for, there's natural resource management or cultural resource management museum programs, fire management, I mean, you know, there's no shortage of policy to help uh set the stage and guide you to ensure that we're you know doing preservation the way the national park service expects us to do that
- Could you give more, go into more detail about these policies?
  - In what regard?
- Sort of, specifically how each affects preservation?
  - Well, I mean, I'll just take prescribed fire for an example, before any prescribed fire can be you know put on the ground and practiced there has to be there's a requirement for vegetative studies, there's a requirement for your (unidentified word) requirements and things like that and you have to have certain plans in place uh to even begin to start thinking about, conducting the prescribed fire, there has to be a fire management plan, there has to be a burn plan, there has to be you know review those plans and approval by the SHPPO's office, so there's a ton of things out there that guide us and how we practice you know preservation on the ground
- Ok
  - Those policies are online, you can go, you can go take a look at them, just look up NPS policies, and there's a ton of them

- Ok, I will do so, and are there any like policies specific to both King's Mountain and Cowpens, like general preservation policies?
  - Say again?
- Is there like general preservation policy like specific to uh King's Mountain and Cowpens?
  - I mean, you know, both parks are guided by national policy, and you know, we're so covered up with policy that there's there'd be no reason for any individual park to develop a set of internal policies when they're guided by national policy.
- I see, I mean are there things like resource assessments for each park?
  - Well, I mean, yeah, there's resources assessments, you know, we have an inventory and monitoring network, that conducts you know species inventories, plant inventories, then there's assessments done, on, you know, on a rotational basis, you know, maybe every five years, every 10 years, so there's short-term monitoring, there's long-term monitoring that goes along with, with the programs we have in place.
- What is your, how do you think preservation will play in the future at both King's Mountain and Cowpens?
  - How it will play out?
- Yeah, like how will it turn out in the future, will like there will be any changes, or will things remain the same with regards to preservation or..?
  - Well, I don't know. Personally, I think a lot of that's driven by the management level itself, you know, different managers, different superintendents have their own perspective and what they feel like is the most important thing to be done in a park where that be uh restoring the landscape vs some you know new, newfangled visitor exhibit or newfangled interpretive program, so I think a lot of that depends on the manager themselves and who that manager is
- Ok, I probably should have asked this question earlier but like with regards to like historical context, you talked about like the Southern Campaign and the Revolutionary War as a whole, do you also about talk about the social life of the time like how what society was like at the time of the Revolution?
  - You almost have to, because, I mean, it you know, it wasn't just, the British redcoats against the Continental Army and especially in the Southern Campaign, because you had people who really didn't want to get involved with the Revolutionary War at all, and those may be religious reasons, they may be societal reasons, so you have to talk about those things, I mean especially at King's Mountain where you had loyalist forces vs the patriot forces and most of those guys were either, a lot of them were neighbors, or a lot of them, in some cases they were families fighting on both sides, on both sides of the battle so you have to be able to enter, untangle those little nuances into the interpretive program
- Ok, do you collaborate, collaborate with any other organizations with regarding preservation at both King's Mountain and Cowpens?
  - Oh yeah, naturally, no, there's no way that you know that we operated, operated in a vacuum when I was there there's you had to collaborate, in order to get a lot of the work done, get by in and just overall support.
- Can you give some examples of organizations?

- Well let's see, National Park Foundation would be one, National Battlefield Trust would be one –
- Say again?
  - Battlefield Trust, we work closely with university staff on some projects, we work with other agencies, whether they be federal or state agencies.
- Ok, what are the national park foundation and national battlefield trust?
  - Well, the National Park Foundation, they were more of a monetary support, we could write projects for different things, and they would help provide grants to you know help move those projects forward and the same with the National Battlefield Trust, they work with us, they was, in the, we also did some work with (unknown words) ...it's amazing what a year will do for you...gone that long...the conservation fund, we worked with them in acquiring some property that eventually went into the state park boundary, that lies beside King's Mountain just because it was easier for them to accept the property donation, but it helped preserve you know the buffer around the battlefield.
- Alright, and this was for King's Mountain.
  - Ok.
- Ok, just a few more questions. Are you familiar with the field of information science?
  - Say again?
- Oh, just uh are you familiar with the field of information science?
  - Information science?
- Yeah, it's information and library science, that's the program I am taking.
  - Yeah, yeah, yes, somewhat
- Sorry?
  - I said, yeah, I'm somewhat familiar with that
- Oh, what do you know about information science?
  - Not a whole lot.
- No worries, just curious as to what you do know.
  - In regards to information science, I mean, we, archival type material is one of the things that I would consider informational science you gotta be able to maintain you know those archival records for you know justification for certain things that are done and to create that historic record, an administrative record, on how and why things were done during a certain time period, and to me that's, that's best paramount for a lot of the things that we did with the park services, it's very useful for me to go back, to be able to go back and review you know what had been done, why it had been done, you know, and, and just, and just, help me in my decision-making process.
- Ok, and with the preservation, have you used 3d technology at all?
  - Have I used what know?
- 3d technology at either King's Mountain or Cowpens regarding preservation
  - We used, I would consider 3d technology like ground penetrating radar, things like that.
- Ok. Just a question about both King's Mountain and Cowpens. Besides what happened at each site, like in the size of each site, is there anything that particularly distinguishes each site from one another?

- Well, I, yeah, I mean, when you look at the strategies that were used at both of those sites far as the battles themselves, they pretty much distinguish themselves, totally different types of actions, each had its own impact in a certain way that to me helped you know move the southern campaign forward in the success of you know winning the American Revolution so to me, what sets each one of those apart is the different tactics that were used, and the personalities that fought in those particular battles, I mean there was just a different, different personalities altogether.
- This is my last question. Are there differences in preservation used in, between the two sites?
  - Didn't hear you, kinda muffled.
- Differences in preservation at King's Mountain and Cowpens, let me rephrase it, like are there different preservation techniques utilized at King's Mountain and Cowpens
  - I don't think there's any, any specific different techniques, I mean each, each park has its own preservation issues and how you tackle those may, may depend on you know where that particular issue was on the landscape, but as far as the planning, the compliance, things like that, you know, you're pretty much you know tied to certain things that you can and are gonna be allowed to do so I mean both parks use prescribed fire, both parks you know targeted invasive exotic species where there'd be you know mechanical removal or our use of herbicides, the techniques have to fit the site, and that's where the compliance part comes in, so, there's a myriad of techniques in you know cultural resource management and preservation that you know you never limit yourself and you always are trying to find new economic means that have you know the most effect you know on that environment, and your resource.

### Interview 3

- My first question would be, just about your background, like, what led you to this, to here, to working at Alamance?
  - So, like myself professionally....or just as far as like being in this job and choosing this field?
- I think both actually.
  - Ok, so, I have always been interested in history, and uh when I was in college was looking for ways in which I could uh stay in, get gainful employment while being uh in the history field and doing history and when I was getting ready to graduate from my undergrad university, I found out about this thing called public history or museum studies and decided that I wanted to go in that track, working in a museum or a historic site so I went to graduate school for that. I did my undergraduate in California, where I'm from, and then moved to North Carolina to go to UNC-Greensboro, and their museum studies program, that was a two year program, and after I graduated I was lucky enough to get a job with the North Carolina historic sites division and I have worked at three different sites in the 11 or so years that I have been employed with them, I worked at a plantation site for several years and then moved up to take up a management role here at Alamance battleground and I started with that in 2015 and really the reason I'm here is cause



I really enjoy talking about history and doing historical research and doing education with people from all different backgrounds, all different ages when you work at a museum or a historic site, you really get an opportunity to talk to lots of different types of people.

- So this in line with my next question made you interested in working with battlefields?
  - I've been interested in military history, I haven't always worked at military sites, but you sort of have to go where the jobs are, and because in the past there's been a pretty high interest in military sites a lot of the historic sites that do exist have some kind of military background, so, with my first job, that was a Civil War surrender site. Growing up, I always had an interest in the Civil War so it felt like a fun place to work, it was definitely something that I was interested in, and battlefields are really interesting places to work because you have history is all about conflict, and battlefields are like conflict in its purest, most concentrated form, you know actual bloodshed that sort of conflict, and it gives you that opportunity to talk about how people come to fight against each other, why they do, and if you want to branch out, there is the ability to talk a little bit more about the lives of people outside of military campaigns, either before a battle, afterward, and then how military campaigns really touch the lives of everybody in the community. So to use my site as an example, Alamance Battleground, we have one battle that makes up this you know quote unquote War of the Regulation which takes place in 1771 in North Carolina and in working at that site, we're able to talk about what life was like for those people who get on this path toward conflict with each other, and then once the battle happens we're able to talk about the ways in which lives of women are affected by being hired as nurses after the battle to care for the wounded, we're able to talk about the widows of men who are killed in the North Carolina militia at this battle, and we can talk a little bit about how political allegiances are affected by this battle afterwards, so since the battle's in 1771, and the American Revolution starts in 1775 we can talk a little bit about how this affects what allegiances people make during that time period and we're able to tie it in to that larger story of the American Revolution and yeah talking about history on a battlefield allows us to really zero in on conflict and how it affects people.
- So in terms of preservation, you don't just talk about the military aspects of the site, but also the general historical context.
  - Yes, very much so, we have a mission statement for our site, that sort of guides our interpretation, and the mission of Alamance Battleground is to preserve and interpret the story of the North Carolina Regulator movement, but it's also to interpret life in the North Carolina backcountry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, so you know, we have the ability to talk about this battle, the Regulator movement that leads up to it, but then we also have some leeway to talk about what life was like and to give people a sense of how people lived in central North Carolina 250 years ago.
- What is your organizations attitude towards preservation?
  - We try to, when we first started talking I thought that this was mostly about land preservation, I want to make sure that that is sort of what you're looking for.
- Yes.

- Ok, good
- Land preservation and interpretation of the site.
  - OK
- Both of those.
  - So as far as land preservation, our organization is extremely interested in expanding the boundaries of our site and preserving as much land as possible as our resources can allow, because our area, we're in Burlington North Carolina, which is sort of between Greensboro and Raleigh, which are two metropolitan areas that are growing quite a bit, and there's a lot of suburban development and commercial development that is starting to make its way down to our part of Alamance county where we're located and so there, you know, in previous decades was not as much of an urgent need to preserve land around the battlefield because it stayed pretty rural, very agrarian, and there was not a lot of change in this area, but now, as we see more and more subdivisions popping up we see that there is a much more intense need to preserve land when we have the opportunity so since it is opportunity based, we don't start conversations with landowners trying to buy it without it being for sale when we see or hear about somebody who's thinking about putting their land up for sale, then we will try to put our resources together to purchase the land.
- Alright that sort of answers my next question, like focusing preservation towards an (unknown word) area such as physical landscape; what about educating the public?
  - For educating the public that's always our top priority, I would say that land preservation is more of a recent initiative that we are focusing on just because of, that very unique situation where there is more development and we are trying to get out ahead of that, but we exist as a public site to interpret this battle and so as the battle and the Regulator movement that led up to it, and so we are always trying to do several programs a year doing interpretive programs, always trying to expand our daily interpretations, so that walkup visitors will have a good experience when they come up here, and so we have staff that's dedicated to interpretation we all do tours, we all take turns planning special events and activities we do programs specifically for public school students specifically homeschool students and we do workshops for reenactors so that they can better educate the public and improve their material culture, their uniforms and equipment and so interpretation really is our number one priority here.
- Ok, once again that sort of answers my next question, sort of like steps you guys have taken towards preservation at –
  - Yeah.
- – Alamance battleground and what methods are the most common.
  - Yeah, I can speak a little bit more specifically about that –
- Thank you.
  - – As far as preservation and interpretation. So with land preservation, over the past few years we have led some fundraising initiatives, we've tried a crowdsourcing, excuse me, crowdfunding campaign to help raise to purchase a piece of land that was up for purchase and we also have applied for grants, there are a couple of grant opportunities in North Carolina that allow for some matching funds to help make it a little bit easier to purchase land when it comes

up for sale, so we have focused on those two areas, crowdfunding, grant writing, to help with raising money to purchase land and then for interpretation we have tried to do a couple different types of programs to appeal to different audiences, we've got our typical visitors who are very interested in battle reenactments and 18<sup>th</sup> century living history and we do lots of programs for them, in May over the anniversary of the battle we do a program called Fight for the Backcountry, that's strictly a living history program, so everybody's dressed out in 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing doing militia and drill demonstrations, musket and cannon firing demonstrations and then we're trying to expand the interpretation to talk about the other people whose lives are touched by this so we have women who are talking about their role as nurses, women who are contracted to make items for the militia before they march out here to the battle of Alamance, you know paint making, blacksmithing all of these different trades that are sort of pulled in as part of the process of getting an army or a militia ready to march against the Regulators in 1771, we tried to expand that and then because of the documentation that we have with this historical event because it's pretty good and it has a lot of people's names attached to it there's lots of petitions lots of muster rolls and you can find out about individual people. Because of that documentation we have a lot of family researchers and genealogists who find out about this historical event because they have an ancestor who was here. And so we have done programs that we call Descendants Gatherings where anyone who is doing their family research can come to the site and they can share notes about things that they have found out and for people who are more of a novice in family research they can learn some of the tips and tricks to help them in their search for family information.

- Ok, and you may have answered this question earlier but when addressing the whole historical context are there any factors that you particularly emphasize at Alamance?
  - Historical factors that we emphasize? Hmm. So we have to emphasize something, we have to emphasize a particular part of our interpretation because of an emphasis that was placed on interpretation in the past 200 years where this battle because it takes place pretty close to the American revolution but it was not really part of the American Revolution there were people who talk about the battle of Alamance as quote the first battle of the Revolution, they try to say well it didn't start at Lexington and Concord, it actually started, at Alamance in North Carolina. we even have monuments on our site that were placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that say it's the first battle of the Revolution, and looking at the documentation and what people are actually complaining about, fighting about in these petitions, we really can't draw a strong link to it being part of the American Revolution or as part of the Revolutionary War. it is of the Revolutionary time period, and it didn't exist in a vacuum, its being affected by different things that are happening in the colonies at that time but to say that it is the first battle of the Revolution is going too far, so we have tried to really make sure that when people come here they understand that this wasn't the first battle of the Revolutionary War, it's not really related to the war, it's its own thing, and then once we establish that, to tell them a little bit more about what actually happened cause when visitors come in, they do have their own, they have their own ideas of how to place historical events in context, people, people need to have context, they

need to relate it to something else that they do understand so a lot of times they're trying to figure out how this is related to the Revolutionary War, you know are the Regulators upset about taxes or taxation without representation and so we have to talk a little bit about how the Regulator grievances are different from the Sons of Liberty in Boston, and so, that's a big interpretive point that we have to make, that we're always sort of cognizant of because we want to make sure that when people leave here, they don't leave thinking that this was the first battle of the revolution and sort of understanding and appreciating that during that Revolutionary period there were lots of people that were upset for lots of different reasons, and its ok if those reasons aren't related.

- Ok so do you take care to ensure]authenticity at Alamance, like creating an atmosphere of...
  - [Connection Broke – Resumed]
- Ensuring authenticity, like you mentioned earlier with, I believe you mentioned the reenactments, what else do you, else do you do there to ensure authenticity, like reducing you know, modern developments, or –
  - So we try to, as far as authenticity of the landscape, there are certain things that we can do, and there are certain things we can't really get around, so for an example, one of our goals with land preservation is to preserve the viewshed of the site, so how it looks when you're standing on the battlefield or at the visitors center looking out, we want it to look as rural and as untouched as possible, that's difficult to do in certain parts of the battlefield because our neighbors are right next door, so there are houses within view of the battlefield, so you're not gonna to be able to sit at Alamance battleground and really feel like you've gone back in time so to block the views of some of the houses –
- – so you were talking about like authenticity and how like there are houses and sights so it's not –
  - Yes, so we've planted trees at different times in the site's history, most recently, let's see, it was 2015, we planted a row of cedar trees along one of the roads that abuts our site and so over time, it's going to block the road, and some of the buildings that are over there and that are within sight and then there are pine trees all over the site that sort of block the viewshed, but like I was saying, there are certain things that we cannot get around at all, so if you looked at a map of our site, Highway 62 actually runs right through the middle of it, the road is the reason why the battle took place, so it's historically significant, but it's still a modern road and so if we have to, we can't put anything close to the road that is within the Department of Transportation rideaway, we can't really do a program without cars going past, and then all along that road that cuts through our site we have power lines, so you know there have been really good photos taken at our battle reenactments that have power lines that have to be taken out with Photoshop when we're able to even do that, so there are certain parts of that authentic experience on the landscape that we just can't really do a whole lot about. What we do instead is try to focus on the things that we can change and make sure that everybody's costuming is as good as it can be, material culture, you know, the stuff that they carry, their weapons, making sure that's as good as possible, so we've embraced historical authenticity and have a set of guidelines

- that we use with reenactors that basically say what they need to have in order to have an authentic portrayal of either the Regulators or the North Carolina militia at the battle.
- Alright so are there any, with regards to preservation, are there any specific policies that your organization follows or is required to followed?
    - We don't have any specific written policies, we have an overarching strategy but that isn't something that is really codified in any way it's just an agreement among all of the different people associated with the site and how to engage in land preservation. When we apply for and receive a grant we obviously have to abide by those terms, and follow the terms of the grant the way that it's laid out, but that's about it.
  - Ok, are there any like landscape reports or policies that I can, take, or landscape reports or like site reports that I can take a look at.
    - Hmm
  - If not no worries.
    - Yeah, you know, we don't really have any landscape reports, there's never been a cultural resource report done for this site, you know, the only things that we do have that I would probably be able to send you would just be talking about historical significance, where we're trying to make a case for why land around the battlefield needs to be preserved.
  - That sounds pretty good. Do you collaborate with any other organizations with regards to preservation at Alamance?
    - No, we're part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for North Carolina and we work with our home office in Raleigh, we've got a grant writer who has helped us with our fundraising efforts but for land preservation specifically we do not have any formal relationships that we rely on – Can I ask you, do you have any intention of talking to anyone at Bentonville for this?
  - No, it is just the Revolutionary War.
    - Oh, ok.
  - Revolutionary War and War of the Regulation, I might add.
    - Yeah, right, well so, you know, one of the groups that, that we would love to partner with is the American Battlefield Trust, but because that the legislation that they use for funding is for Revolutionary War battlefields starting in 1775. We predate that and so we actually can't get any money from them. Which can be a little frustrating because when we do our fundraising efforts and we say we need to raise money, we need your help, people will chime in and say, "O, you should go to the Battlefield Trust, "and so we have to keep telling them, "Well, we can't actually get anything from them."
    - Ouch.
    - Yeah,. But places like Bentonville, they have a much more well established formal relationship with the Trust because they're able to, and that's really, that's been a game changer for them, you know, they've gone from a site that had about 200 acres to I think over 2000 acres now because of that partnership and being able to use the Trust to raise money.
  - Ok, that makes sense.
    - Yeah.

- How do you think preservation will play out in the future at Alamance battleground?
  - Hmm. I think, because we're always going to have to raise the money ourselves, it's going to be sort of a hard slog and there are going to be times when we try to raise money to buy land and we're just not going to get it in time and so we, we have to, have to do what we can as best we can.
- Are you familiar with the field of information science?
  - Yes.
- If so, do you follow current trends in preservation?
  - No, I can't say that I do, not for information science.
- May I ask, what are you familiar with information science?
  - Well, I've known some people who did library information science at Carolina
- UNC Chapel Hill?
  - [Affirmation].
- That's where I am at the moment. Do you use 3D technology at Alamance at all with regards to preservation?
  - I'm sorry, could you say that one more time?
- Regarding preservation, do you use 3D technology at Alamance?
  - Using technology for preservation?
- Like 3D technology, yeah.
  - Oh, 3D technology.
- Just wondering.
  - Yeah, actually, we had some people with our department office come to one of our events to try and do a...no, not 3D, I'm sorry, they came with a 360° camera to try to do an immersive online battlefield tour but the time that they came, it rained, so they weren't really able to do a whole lot with it.
- At least they tried.
  - Yeah, I think there's definitely an interest, but its subject to staff time and funding.
- Ok.
  - But yeah, there's definitely an interest.

#### **Interview 4**

- So like how did you get involved with the National Park Service?
  - So, I was a history major in college and my junior year I wanted to do an internship at a historic site, and ended up doing one here at King's Mountain and really loved it, decided that what I wanted to do was work for the National Park Service and so I worked through a program called [unknown word], at that time, called the STEP program, it's the Pathways Program now where I was a student hire and I worked seasons through college and grad school and then was lucky enough to get hired on through the Pathways program into a permanent position, so, altogether it took, took about five or six seasons before I got my permanent, so
- Congratulations.
  - Thank you.

- So, in line with that is my next question, what made you interested in working with battlefields?
  - What made me interested in working for a battlefield, well, being a history major definitely and particularly the Colonial and Revolutionary period have always been really interesting to me, well where we were trying to figure out what kind of nation we wanted to be, it's just a really interesting period and this battlefield at King's Mountain it really exemplifies that question of like who are we gonna be, since it was primarily Patriots vs Loyalists, so which side are we gonna support.
- So you spend most of your time up at King's Mountain.
  - Yes, I'm at King's Mountain, when you emailed, I was doing a detail as acting chief of interpretation for our parks group, so I was bouncing back and forth between the parks, but I am primarily at King's Mountain.
- So are you still acting chief of preservation, or...
  - No, I'm just an interpretive park ranger.
- Ok, understood, so let me ask you what is your organizations attitude towards preservation?
  - I think preservation is important as far as being able to remember, who, who we are, where we came from and where we're going, and having places like King's Mountain and other historic sites in the NPS I think it's our job to be places for people can ask more difficult questions about who we are as a nation, what our identity looks like, making sure that we're inclusive of stories that may have gotten left out in the past, I think we're turning towards that as an agency and I think it, historic places are an important part of that
- Ok. Alright, so do you take care to ensure authenticity at King's Mountain do you like, sort of like create an atmosphere like when the battlefield, battle occurred?
  - Uh, yeah, so the preservation on the battlefield, it takes a couple different forms, our resource management division is lucky enough to have a forestry technician, that his primary job is planning for prescribed burns and also doing like physical work on the battlefield to make it look more like it did in 1780 and that's a combination of doing prescribed burns and also using different machines or different ways of working to, to get the battlefield back to the way it would have looked and also like invasive plant management, and that type of thing.
- And also like, like for interpretation do you try to guarantee authenticity as well?
  - Yes, definitely, like anytime a walk or a program I mean you're trying to get people back in that mindset.
- So, so, is the same true for Cowpens, or are there any differences there?
  - I mean they follow kind up the same management practices as we do, their fire program isn't quite as active but they do still do quite a bit of like invasive plant management and that type of thing, and also interpretation, talking about how the battle, battlefield would have looked and our efforts to get it back to the way it would have looked.
- Ok so, it sort of follows my next question, I believe, what specific steps have you taken towards preservation at either, both King's Mountain or Cowpens, are there any methods that are particularly common, particularly common, like with restoration, or reclamation?

- I think primarily I've touched on already the restoration efforts, are you know prescribed burning, managing invasive species, physical work like actually you know getting in and cutting down stuff that doesn't belong there that type of thing, to restore back to the way it would have looked.
- So that's the case for both locations?
  - Yes.
- So, that sort of answers my next question, like do you focus preservation towards like physical landscape or interpretation, like educating the public, or do you provide equal weight to both, for both locations?
  - Say that again, I'm sorry, I'm having a hard time hearing you
- Essentially [unknown word] you focus preservation like toward the physical landscape itself, or do you like focus toward, focus more on like, interpretation, like educating the public, or like do you provide an equal weight to both.
  - I think it's a combination of both, that we do the effort for ourselves as far as physical restoration, but making the public aware of what we do and why we do it is important too, as a federal agency we definitely need the public's support, so that they're supportive of you know if there's any kind of acts in Congress or anything like that any kind of funding, that they understand why we're taking the actions that we are, so yeah, I think it's a combination of both
- Alright, and for both, in terms of interpretation, do you focus on the military aspects of the site or the general historical context?
  - It's a combination of both, I mean, we do focus on the battlefield but we also have a lot of programming that focuses on what life was like in the backcountry during the Colonial period and the Revolutionary period, what, what life was like for a soldier, for a militia, trying to get, so, you've got the military aspects but also the social aspects as well.
- Could you into more detail about, do you have like a museum center with exhibits or do you just do walkthrough interpretations?
  - So we have a visitors center with a film that talks about the battle and a museum as well, and the museum, it focuses on primarily the campaign and the battle but it does also have exhibits on the people that have settled out here and why they had settled out here, like, their motivations, and the battlefield trail interpretative signage goes into that as well, and the, the programs that we do as rangers, like the in-person interpretive program.
- So this is for King's Mountain.
  - Yes, well, it's both, King's Mountain and Cowpens.
- Oh, so there's one visitor center for both locations?
  - No there's a visitor center at each place.
- Ok, so, do they both, take generally like the same tack towards interpretation or do differences besides, you know, like the fact they were different battles?
  - I mean it's gonna look a little bit different since the battles were different, but there is still a focus on looking not just at battles or weapons or tactics but also who these people are and what was motivating them to be in a battle.
- So this is focused just on the Patriot side, or is there like also mention of like the British/Loyalist side?



- Oh yeah, there's definitely an effort to portray both sides, that's been the focus of both King's Mountain and Cowpens, to show both sides.
- Like their perspectives of what was going on?
  - (Affirmation).
- Ok, could you give examples of both?
  - So at King's Mountain, back in the museum, there are a couple of different exhibits about the Loyalists that fought here, of their motivations for being here and like what actions they took place in, and that's also the case out on the battlefield trail, there's a couple different signs pointing out most of the men that fought on the Loyalist side were from the Carolina's and some of their motivations for being here and when we do programming that's one of our big focuses is on Patriot vs Loyalists, that the choice was difficult and people had reasons for choosing one side or the other
- And, so do you have exhibits on the Patriot side too, I presume?
  - Yes, yes, we do, oh yeah, I mean, that's more-heavy focused since it was a Patriot victory but – we include both sides.
- Makes sense. Is the same true for the Cowpens location?
  - Yes, they have exhibits as well, about the British and Loyalists that were involved
- Right. Just a little bit curious, like, for the Cowpens location, like do they, talk about like British Legion or Daniel Morgan.
- Yes, oh yeah, definitely
- How exactly do they portray Banastre Tarleton at the Cowpens location?
  - I would recommend, just because, I mean I've been there a few times, and I was there as the acting chief, but if you want to get a more in-depth perspective on Cowpens, I can give you a different Ranger's name.
- I would like that, if that's alright with you.
  - Yeah.
- Thank you – I will focus more on the King's Mountain for this one, if that's alright.
  - Ok
- Thank you, for letting me know
  - Sure.
- So for King's Mountain, so like in general, for the NPS are there any specific policies that need, the NPS is required to follow or follows with regards to preservation?
  - Say that again, I'm sorry.
- Any specific policies that the NPS follows with regards to preservation.
  - Oh yeah, definitely, we are required by federal law whenever we do any kind of projects, any kind of, any kind of project that's gonna effect the physical landscape we have to follow the National Historic Preservation Act, which the section that we have to follow is called Section 106, so basically that kicks in any time we're gonna have a project affecting the physical landscape and that's specifically to make sure that the resource, are we affecting resources and if we are, what mitigating steps are we gonna take, or should we do the project at all.
- Ok is it possible to, could you forward me a policy specific to the King's Mountain location itself?

- I mean, there's, there's not one specific since we're a federal entity that's what we have to follow, and you can, you can Google and find the National Historic Preservation Act and find out more information on that.
- I was just wondering, are there any specific site reports for like, for King's Mountain, like reports for current preservation activities, or like resource management?
  - I'm sure that there is, I don't have access to them up here at the visitors center, but I can try to find some, but I don't have them right here with me.
- Understood. How do you think preservation will play out in the future at King's Mountain?
  - I'm sorry, did you say how it applies in the future?
- How will it play out in the future.
  - How will it play out in the future. I mean I think any kind of effort here that we do whether its interpretation or whether it's actually doing restoration projects or preservation projects everything we do is overall it's focused on developing future stewards. When we do an interpretive program, when we're connecting with the public we want them to connect with the story but we also want them to realize that preserving the park matters, and that's the overall goal for, so that we do have a park that's around in a hundred years, or two hundred years, so yeah historic preservation is a part of everything we do even if it's not overtly referred to, it definitely is a huge part of what we do.
- So, you may have already answered this question, but like do you also address the historical context, or like, are there any factors that you emphasize at King's Mountain?
  - Any factors that we emphasize for historic preservation?
- Yeah.
  - I mean just, I think it's just a practice as a whole, I don't think you can pick it apart to where one is better than the other, I think it's a whole thing.
- Do you collaborate with any other organizations with regards to preservation at King's Mountain?
  - As far as like, taking on projects, or just in general?
- Uh, both.
  - As far as preservation efforts, I mean, its, we normally work within our agency, we work within the National Park Service and our regional office. If we need to consult with anybody about that, we do also have to consult with the state historic preservation officer on any kind of project that we're doing, yeah, those are primarily who we work with in efforts at historic preservation
- Just wondering, I'm like doing an information science paper and well, are you familiar with the field of information science?
  - Like, library and information science?
- Yeah
  - Yes.
- So, do you follow current trends in preservation?
  - Not as much as I used to. I was a public history grad student, so I have a master's degree in public history, but I haven't kept up with stuff in recent years since I've been here.

- No worries, so I'm wondering do you use 3D technology at all at King's Mountain with regards to preservation or interpretation.
  - Did you say that do we use technology at all?
- 3D technology or –
- Oh, 3D technology? We haven't here at King's Mountain, I know one of our sister parks in our parks group, Ninety-Six National Historic Site has done stuff with 3D modeling, of a tunnel that was dug for a mine. If you checked with them, they could probably give you more information about that. I know Ninety-Six isn't one of your focuses, but they are part of our parks group.
- Ok, well, thank you for informing me about that, I completely forgotten about Fort Ninety-Six.
  - (Affirmation)
- So you were mentioning earlier about steps taken towards preservation used like fire management.
  - (Affirmation)
- (Unknown Word] Like that.
  - Yup.
- Did you ever clear underbrush or (unknown words).
  - It was a combination of a couple different things, it helps to clear out underbrush to prevent larger, more catastrophic wildfires, but it's also restoring the landscape back to what it would have looked like, at the time of the battle, you know this was old growth forest, not a lot of undergrowth, kind of a grassland savannah because it was regularly burned, first by the Native American tribes that lived here and then afterwards, by, it was continued to be practiced by white settlers afterwards, cause it was good for hunting but it also was good for the landscape and once we realized that as an agency and as a park we started to practice it again.
- Are there any other, landscape concerns beside the wildfires at King's Mountain that you guys have to be concerned about?
  - We're relatively low risk, because we are actively managed, you know, since we have the forestry tech here, and we also have fire [unknown word] each year, it is a focus, so yeah, they do a pretty good job of managing the landscape.
- Has there been forced to be any, I think the term is either restoration or recreation, like, so has there been any development in the area or has that not been a concern?
  - Has been there any development in the area?
- Yeah.
  - Is that what you're asking?
- Yeah.
  - We're in a relatively rural area although there in recent years there have been more homes built around the park but its development is not an imminent threat right now.
- In terms of preservation, it's basically like land management?
  - Yeah, lot of land management and yeah, combination of that with interpretation and that's what we do.

## Interview 5

- What made you, get into the NPS, sorry, what's your educational background?
  - I'm a double major in history and French
- Like, which college did you go to?
  - I beg your pardon?
- Which college did you go to?
  - I went to Wofford college in Spartanburg.
- Cool, I've never been there myself.
  - It's a great little school.
- Sounds awesome. So what led you to working with the National Park Service and battlefields in general?
  - When I was a teenager, they were just expanding the park, they started that in the mid 70s, getting ready for the bicentennial and so the park was then expanded from a 1½ acre site to 842 acres and they moved out a lot of the families that lived in the area and they needed a lot of labor and they advertised for youth conservation corps member, and so we had a crew of 24 high school students and I applied for that, and got that, and did that for one summer and then came back the next year and worked as a seasonal because I had enjoyed the summer before so much and I've been in the office since then. I then got married and moved away, came back and just happened to luck into a position being open.
- So, how long have you worked at Cowpens?
  - This time I've been here 30 years.
- Nice, that's a lot of dedication.
  - Right.
- So, what is the National Park Service's attitude towards preservation?
  - Preservation is important to the National Park Service.
- Ok, you focus more on towards preservation of the landscape at Cowpens or more along the lines of interpreting like the historical background, or is it a mixture of the two?
  - It's a mixture, it's a battlefield, so it's the cultural landscape that we preserve. Well we have some cultural objects as well, there are a few natural things like the hexastylis naniflora is on the threatened and endangered list but this is a cultural park so we focus on cultural resources mostly.
- Alright so you take a lot of care to ensuring authenticity at Cowpens, like keep the landscape the way it was back in the 1780s.
  - Yes, 1781. Right, we are mandated to protect and preserve the battlefield the way it looked in 1781.
- Alrighty, so do you have a visitor's center on the grounds?
  - We do.
- Do you do any interpretation in the visitor's center itself, like exhibits or –
  - We have an 18 minute video on the battle that we show on the hour. We also have an 18 minute video that the National American Battlefield Trust put out, it's on the American Revolution. We have artifacts that are not necessarily from the battle of Cowpens but they are from the American Revolution in the visitors

- center. We have an extremely small staff, and don't get to do as much interpretation as we used to.
- Ok, but so what interpretation do you focus on?
    - If we have a school group, and if we have more than one ranger, then we can give a short battle story or possibly a tour of the battlefield or possibly weapons talk.
  - Like a live-fire –
    - No.
  - Blank rounds.
    - No, we, it's totally dry, we don't fire because we don't have time to clean the weapons.
  - That is a very good call.
    - Yeah, when our staff was larger we did one walk and two talks a day which included firing the weapons, but right now we have two rangers and so, we can't.
  - So the level of interpretation has changed over the years.
    - Yes it has.
  - Would it possible to clarify when the most recent change occurred?
    - The most recent change occurred within the last year when we lost so many positions that have not been filled.
  - Ok, you may have answered this part already, but do you have, with regards to authenticity at Cowpens do you create an atmosphere reminiscent to the time the battle occurred, the landscape, and also, do you have reenactments there, or...
    - No, it's against NPS policy to have reenactments where they have opposing forces. What we have several times throughout the summer and our anniversary in January we have living history encampments, and reenactors come out and show what life was like for soldiers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and we give the reenactors will do some firing demonstrations but we do not have a battle.
  - Ok, so, my next question would be, what specific steps have you taken towards preservation at Cowpens with regards to landscape, are there any methods that are most common, like restoration, or...
    - Yeah, we've worked on battlefield restoration, it's been a long, ongoing process and it will continue for quite some time. What we've done is have mechanical fuel reductions where we've taken out a lot of the undergrowth, to help manage so that we won't have a wildfire but it's also been able to open up the landscape so that you can see what it looked like in 1781. They've taken out some trees, they've prescribed burns, yeah, that's what we've done too, open up, try to get the battlefield to look the way it did in 1781. We don't have the fundage right now, so we haven't had prescribed fire here in several years.
  - Ok has anything else occurred besides restoration?
    - What are you asking?
  - Like, policies, there's restoration, or I'm trying to recall it off the top of my head, but there's restoration, there sort of...do you do any other maintenance, physical maintenance, is what...?
    - We have a small maintenance staff of 2.
  - Ok
    - They mow, is that what you're asking?
  - I think so.

- Yeah, and they just, there was a class, I think it was last week at King's Mountain where the maintenance staff from Cowpens, King's Mountain, and Ninety-Six and I believe some other sites around the state got together and they had a class on historic preservation, I wasn't involved in that class, I can't tell you exactly, but I think basically it was to help them see and recognize things that they would need to take care of when they're out doing their job.
- So, do you collaborate a lot with other organizations with regards to preservation at Cowpens?
  - Let's see, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, we worked with them for a while on the battlefield restoration. I'm sure there are more, but right now I cannot think.
- Like, did you cooperate a lot with organizations like the American Trust, or...
  - We do, actually, they, we are working on them for a new video for the park. As I said we have an 18-minute video of theirs on the American Revolution and we are working with them for one on the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.
- I remembered have you had to do any rehabilitation of the Cowpens site?
  - Just, no, just the battlefield restoration.
- Ok. I think you answered my question focusing preservation towards the physical landscape and educating the public. I think you may have answered that one.
  - One.
- And in terms of preservation, do you focus just on military aspects of the site or the general historical context of the American Revolution or society in general?
  - We focus on the military aspects because that's what our enabling legislation says to do.
- Ok so do you mention anything about society at the time, like the general scope of the conflict, like between the Patriots and the British?
  - You mean like in our talks?
- Uh, yeah.
  - Yeah, it depends on who's giving the talks, but there's usually a little bit about that, it's hard to talk about the American Revolution without putting everything into context.
- So, do you talk about why the Patriots are fighting, why the British were fighting, why the Loyalists were fighting with the British, that sort of thing?
  - Mostly about why the war was this far south and why it was this far from the coast
- Ok, ok
  - People seem to think that the American Revolution took place in 1776, period, and that it took place up north, because that's what the history books focus on, and so we are focusing on not just the battle of Cowpens but the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.
- Like the war in the backcountry.
  - Right.
- Ok alright so you don't really talk about the society at the time in the backcountry.
  - I personally do not. Like I said, we, when we have groups come out they're wanting to learn about the battle, and we have a very limited time. When we had

more staff and did the two talks and a walk every day, then we did do things like that, but we don't right now.

- Are there any specific policies that the NPS follows or is required to follow with regards to preservation at Cowpens?
  - Um, Section 106, is that what you're asking?
- I think so.
- Yeah, we're mandated to follow that, the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution parks group has people on a committee to make sure that anything that would require any sort of disturbance is studied before we take any action.
- Yeah, so, that's what Section 106 says.
  - Basically.
- And do you have anything like landscape studies of like the Cowpens battlefield?
  - I think there was a draft, I don't think that it was ever completed.
- A draft, ok. I was wondering if it was possible for you to, if that's ok for you to send information on landscape studies or policies, if that's alright and if they exist, just wondering.
  - Oh, you're asking what?
- Asking about if it would be possible, if you have permission to send me information on the policies/landscape treatments if they exist.
  - Well, you should be able to find them online if they exist.
- Ok, find online, got it. What is your perception of how preservation will play out in the future at Cowpens?
  - Well, like I said, we're mandated to return the battlefield to the way it looked in 1781. Preservation is crucial to the way that we operate, we cannot just do anything here at the park, that we take a notion to do, because we are preserving it, so, I think it's going to continue as best that we can, make it happen.
- Ok. Are you familiar with the field of information science, because I am doing this as part of a library and information science paper.
  - No, I'm not.
- Ok. No worries. Do you use 3D technology at all at this site with regards to preservation or interpretation?
  - No, we don't, they do down at Ninety-Six, but we do not.
- What exactly do they do at Fort Ninety-Six.
  - As far as the 3d stuff? They had someone come out and study the mine and they did, what is it, (unknown word)? But they've got a little 3D video that they were able to take, so they can show it to the visitors since the mine is not open to the public.
- Ok. So do you cooperate a lot with, you're technically a part of the same park as King's Mountain, is there any cooperation between you guys?
  - Yeah, we're part of the same group, and so we help each other out when, ordinarily, there's only me on Wednesday, and ordinarily someone from KM will come down to help, right now they are unable to.
- Bummer.
  - They're not here today, yeah.
- So, you do a lot of the work yourself at the moment.

- Right like I said we only have two rangers fulltime. Yeah, we're a seven-day operation.
- And, you probably have answered this question already, but when you addressed the historical context are there any factors you emphasize, like with Banastre Tarleton or Daniel Morgan?
  - What about them, I'm sorry?
- Sorry, let me rephrase that. Addressing historical context, are there any factors you emphasize at Cowpens?
  - Like do we emphasize the – yes, we do, we talk about the commanders and like why Daniel Morgan chose this area, how he chose the tactics, Daniel Morgan knew his men, he knew how Banastre Tarleton would react to certain things and so he used that to his advantage. Tarleton thought that this was a great place to fight because it was open and ideal for the 18<sup>th</sup> military tactics and he was overconfident and thought that he could beat Morgan. See yeah, we talk about how the landscape played a part in the battle, we talk about the commanders, we have a PowerPoint, we have a TV screen inside the visitor's center where we show various PowerPoints and one of them is on the commanders at the battle. We have one on the Southern Campaign, lots of little things like that we think would be educational to the public if they can stop and watch or they can just catch a little bit of it while they're at the cash register.
- Ok. Let me see, also to clarify about the visitor's center you have like the video you were mentioning, the historical artifacts, anything else there.
  - Bookstore.
- Ok.
  - Exhibits.
- Like, what kind of exhibits?
  - We have audio exhibits that tell about, let's see, women, minorities, the battlefield in general, a little bit about the battle, let's see, and then the TVs with the PowerPoints you can read.
- PowerPoints of the battlefield itself?
  - Oh, well, the PowerPoint that's on right now is on the men who were killed or died from their wounds in the battle.
- On just the Patriot side, or both sides?
  - Just the Patriot side, because we don't have much information on the British.
- And so, could you go into more detail about like the women and minorities specifically?
  - Let's see, there's uh, Don Troiani did some paintings and one of them shows a woman and I mean while there weren't women here in the battle, they did come out, they did support getting people here to the battle, they came out, there's stories that they came out afterwards and helped the wounded, but, actually, that one focuses on how women, camp followers, how they would have participated in various battles as washerwoman and such as that, even though there's none documented here at Cowpens. Minorities, there were several minorities here in the battle, and we have something that talks about trying to get them to join the different sides and how the British wanted them on their side and the Americans



- wanted them on their side and the different opportunities, well actually, that, part of that focused to anybody, but how they focused that on the African-Americans.
- So, what exactly do they mention about the African-Americans at Cowpens?
    - Trying to remember what the exhibit said. I think it's just, well as far as specific individuals it does not, it just talks about African-Americans in general in the American Revolution
  - Alright.
    - Now we do have a little handout that we have that tells about some of the individuals, but it's not all of them, it's just a representative few; like Dick Pickens, his master was Andrew Pickens, who was the militia commander here in the battle and how he was going around on the battlefield after the battle ended, found a British officer who was dying and was taking off the man's boots to take to Andrew Pickens because he said his master needed the boots, and the man says "Well look, I, I know I'm not going to need them here in a little bit, but could you at least get me a drink of water before you take my boots?", you know, that type of thing.

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