

Opinions...

Yours, Ours, Others

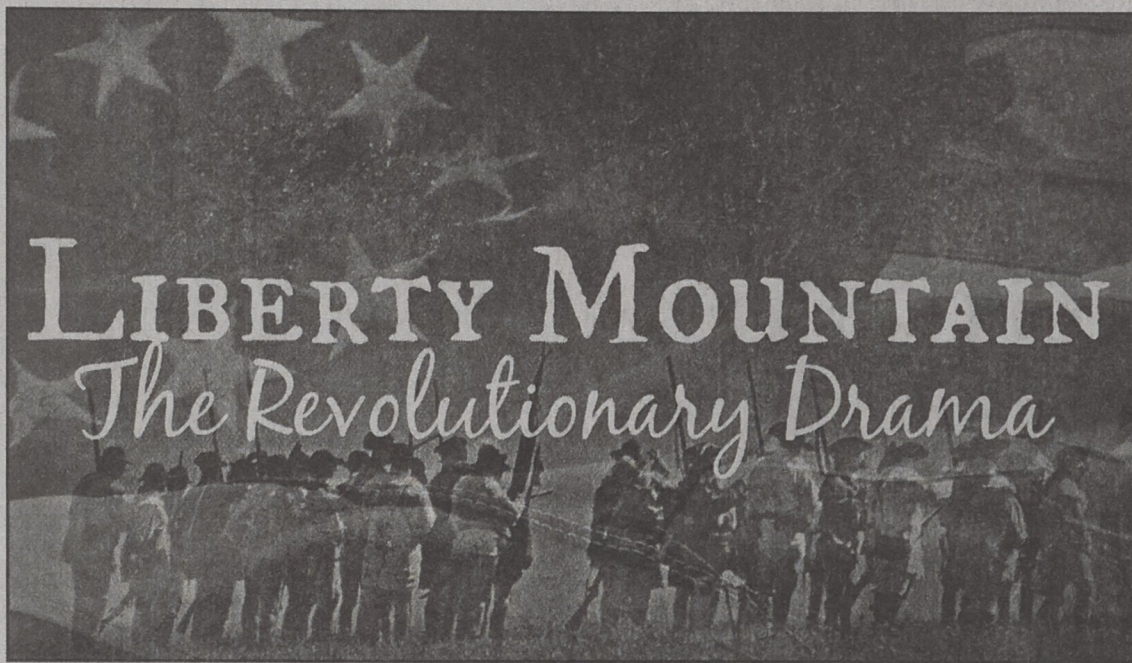


Quote of the week



Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance.

~ Plato



Bob Inman
Guest Editorial

The Patriots are gathering at Liberty Mountain

Rehearsals begin at the Joy Performance Center in Kings Mountain next Monday, August 18, for the new Revolutionary War drama, "Liberty Mountain." Director Caleb Sigmon and Producer Jim Champion have assembled a sterling cast of more than 60 talented actors of all ages, and now the exciting process of bringing my script to life begins. Caleb will guide the cast through seven weeks of rehearsals, culminating with the world premier performances the first two weekends in October.

Equally important will be a host of crew members, led by stage director/costumer Katy Biser, who will build and decorate sets, design lights and sound, craft authentic costumes, and do the myriad other technical jobs that are essential to a quality stage production. At the same time, work continues on an original musical score that will enhance the dramatic impact of the production.

"Liberty Mountain" will tell the story of the settlers who came to the Carolinas in the 18th century, many of them Scots-Irish immigrants who moved to the southern American colonies to build new lives – work, worship, and raise families. They found themselves, often reluctantly, caught up in America's war for independence from Britain.

By 1780, the Revolution had dragged on for five wearying years, with most of the battles in the Northeast, and was now at a stalemate. So the British decided on a southern strategy – in-

vade and conquer South Carolina, then North Carolina and Virginia, and trap George Washington's army between their southern forces and those attacking from the British stronghold in New York.

It almost worked. In May of that year, South Carolina appeared firmly in British hands, and their commander, Lord Cornwallis had captured Charlotte. The left flank of his army was a force of a thousand Americans loyal to King George, led by British Major Patrick Ferguson. But when Ferguson and his force camped atop Kings Mountain, they were attacked by a slightly smaller force of Patriots from both Carolinas. Within an hour, the Loyalist force was destroyed – killed, wounded, captured. The battle turned the tide in the Revolution and led to the British surrender at Yorktown a year later.

"Liberty Mountain" is the story of the people who lived that crucial piece of American history. The production will bring audiences intimately into their homes and churches, their frontier lands, their joys and sorrows, and ultimately onto the battlefield where Americans fought Americans in a grim, savage battle, with liberty at stake.

October audiences will be the first to enjoy a stage production that promises to have a long and distinguished life. Plans are already in place for a month-long summer production beginning June 26, 2015 – and for every summer thereafter. The producers expect audiences from far and wide to flock to Kings Mountain for performances at the Joy.

Stop the mass school killings

We must change how we are raising our children

I sold Grit newspapers when I nine years old. It was always a great day when I had sold my last Grit for the week. The profit was five cents per paper. Some weeks I made as much as two dollars! I lived in a very rural area so bicycling up and down the road and knocking on doors took time and was a workout. However, it was always a good feeling of accomplishment to sell all my Grits. I had other responsibilities as a kid, such as mowing a huge yard with a push mower or cutting the hillside with a manual mowing side blade. The list is longer but enough of that.



Glenn Mollette
Guest Editorial

Too many of today's kids are missing that feeling of accomplishment from work. Too much is handed to them. Many come in from school, lock themselves up in their rooms and station themselves in front of their hi-speed internet computers while texting, posting on Facebook or doing it all on their expensive cell phones. They come and go from the house in cars provided by mom and dad stopping to converse with them only when they need gas or spending money. Some of these same kids never show their report cards, often lie about their whereabouts and are verbally abusive with their parents when they are questioned about anything.

When asked to do dishes, make their beds, pick up trash or help mow the yard the moaning begins. Whose fault is all of this? It's our fault. We can only blame ourselves. Parents have tried too hard to give their kids what they did not have. We have tried to make life easier for our kids than it was for us. We have tried to save our children from pain and comfort them with extra cash, gadgets and little to no responsibility. The result has been a generational disaster. Today we have kids who have enough time on their hands to sit and hate their classmates while plotting out how they

might destroy them. All of this because their classmates didn't treat them like King Tut, or how mom and Dad treat them at home.

The recent twenty-two year old California kid is a sad example. He was driving around in a BMW with a car full of expensive guns, cash and time to create hate movies and write insane diatribes about killing people. The tragedy is that he followed through. People were killed and a community is now devastated for the ages.

The kid from California needed his butt kicked by his parents, his cash, BMW, and all the gadgets stripped away. We can't lavish the abundance of life on people who are acting like monsters. As parents we make them monsters by continuing to underwrite their smart-mouthed, rebellious and even evil behavior.

I understand he had severe mental issues. We live in a society of mental illness and it's growing. Why is it growing? That's another column. However, we don't like the stigma of mental illness but families must reach out for help. Importantly, we must be very active about implementing strong measures before disaster strikes. Dealing with such an illness requires more than a fifty minute counseling session once a week.

There are a lot of great hard working kids in America. In most cases the kids in America who grow up a little hungry end up on top. Not always, but in most cases. These are the Kids who have responsibility at home. They have to work some in the family unit. They are expected to earn some of their cash. They are expected to do well in school and know that someday they must leave the house and be on their own without the financial backing of mom and dad.

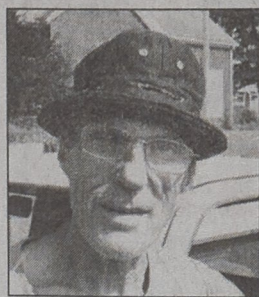
We don't want another Columbine, Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech or Santa Barbara massacre and one of the ways to stop it is to change how we are raising our children.

(Glenn Mollette is an American columnist and author.) Contact him at GMollette@aol.com.

Sidewalk Survey

Folks around Kings Mountain were asked...

Do you think Wal-Mart coming to town will be good for Kings Mountain?



I've been living here 20-some years. It will save people a trip. I think everybody in Kings Mountain will shop there.

Edmund Bukoski



I think it's great but I'm in fear for the locally owned stores. I like the idea of more jobs though.

Jason Burris



I think it's a good idea. I wonder what the hours will be – even though I live in Shelby now.

Melissa McMahan



Honestly, I think it's a good idea. It will save me from going to Shelby or Gastonia.

Erica Wright

We welcome your comments*!

Send your Letter to the Editor to:

The Kings Mountain Herald
P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain NC 28086

* Letters to the Editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Letters are limited to 500 words or less and are subject to Editorial review. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.



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