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Gateway Festival attracts people from across the country

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October 11, 2008 6:21 PM

David Allen

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Shaken by thunderous cannon fire, a smoky field remained quiet for just a moment.

A child laughed in the distance.

It was something that Verlin Judd traveled across the country to see.

"This is kind of something I've been wanting to do," Judd, a Seattle resident, said Saturday. "Finally, I'm here."

For Judd, history came to life at the Kings Mountain Gateway Festival. His ancestral relatives fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

As part of the festival, Revolutionary War re-enactors gave Judd and a sizeable audience a glimpse into combat circa 1780.

Nearly every gunshot sent onlookers reeling back. The fight culminated with members of the backcountry militia running redcoats into nearby woods.

But a battle re-enactment wasn't all the festival had to offer.

For children and pet lovers? A "cute critters" competition. And gearheads had toys to look over at a car show.

"The bane of every special events planner is the weather," said Ellis Noell, the city's special events director. "We were fortunate. We got the rain in earlier this part of the week. Skies are cleared by now. Beautiful blue skies."

The event was a celebration of Kings Mountain's designation as the "Gateway City" to three area parks, Noell noted.

He estimated there would be a few thousand attendees throughout the day.

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Freedom News photos by Brittany Randolph A cannon is prepared for fire during a battle re-enactment at the Kings Mountain Gateway Festival on Saturday.

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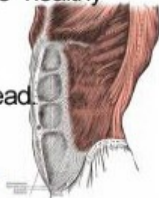
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