



# Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc.

**Our Vision:** *The Overmountain Victory Trail Association shall forever preserve & commemorate the route and the story of the volunteer army whose victory at the Battle of King's Mountain was a turning point in the struggle for America's independence. The OVTA will ensure the trail will provide the opportunity to experience a deep sense of these events, the lands on which they occurred, and of the people who lived them.*

**Our Mission:** *The Overmountain Victory Trail Association will protect, preserve and interpret the route of the Overmountain Men to the Battle of Kings Mountain.*

OVTA, Inc., PO Box 242421, Charlotte, NC 28224

www.OVTA.org

September 2003

## Grab Your Partner

*OVNHT has over 70 partners helping build the Trail*

For some 25 years OVTA was the principal organization that kept alive the story of the Overmountain Men of 1780. Through its annual reenactment march it called attention to The Story and the places along the historic route taken by these Patriot militiamen. OVTA has done its job well. Today, more people than ever know about The Story; and, what is most encouraging, dozens of organizations are working together across four states to build the commemorative Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT). In fact, today the Trail has over 70 partners!

Here are some examples of what is happening all along the OVNHT:

- The Commemorative Motor Route is being properly marked and maintained in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Town of Abingdon through a newly signed (August 2003) Cooperative Agreement between the state and the National Park Service (NPS).

*(Continued on page 4, Column 1)*

## Readin', Writin' and Revolution

*OVTA helps create curricula-based education program*



4th grade teachers from Kings Mountain District Schools with their map of The Story. Photo—Randell Jones

## President Bush may join us at Sycamore Shoals, September 25



White House photo by Eric Draper

As we go to press, OVTA has learned that President Bush may attend ceremonies at Sycamore Shoals on September 25.

Senator Lamar Alexander, R-TN, has already committed. Other national elected officials and members of the Cabinet may attend as well.

OVTA will present a special award to the president to honor his ancestor, James Weir, who mustered at Sycamore Shoals in 1780 and fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. The award will be fashioned from wood collected from the Pemberton Oak which fell August, 2002. Check the OVTA website for later details about this presidential visit to the OVNHT.



Senator Alexander

This fall OVTA will add a curricula-based education program to its efforts to help share The Story of the Overmountain Men of 1780 with students, at least in North Carolina. Using \$6,000 provided by the National Park Service through its Challenge Cost Share Program, OVTA is teaming with four teachers from Kings Mountain District

*(Continued on page 5, Column 2)*

## Heaton Creek Trail to Yellow Mountain Gap

*Trail partners come together to develop a new part of the OVNHT*

by Bob Hardin

**Y**ellow Mountain Gap at 4600 feet above sea level is the highest point on the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. It is a place of pristine, natural beauty and historical significance. This is where the Overmountain Men of 1780 paraded in “snow, shoe-mouth deep.” This is where they learned that two of John Sevier’s men, Chambers and Crawford, were missing and were suspected of going ahead to warn Ferguson of the approaching Patriot militia.

In 2002, the rain was unrelenting as we made our way up Heaton Creek on our way to the Yellow Mountain Gap. On this September 27, I was climbing with Leigh Van Blarcom, Randell Jones, Alan Bowen, Matthew Bailey and Dennis Voelker—all members of OVTA. The spirit of the Overmountain Men was certainly with us. I’m sure at this point on their march in 1780, the Patriot militiamen knew they were leaving the familiar and would soon cross into the unknown that lay on the other side of the mountain. As they glanced back and looked down into the tranquil valley, there must have been an unspoken question as to whether they would ever return to see friends and family.

We left the paved road and found the original trail. For the first time on the reenactment, I felt as if I were there on this date in 1780. Almost immediately I wanted others to be able to feel how special it is to be walking in the footsteps of those who had bravely gone on to determine the future of this great country.

### **Taking the Initiative**

Since our crossing the Yellow Mountain Gap I have told numerous

people of this very special place. This is the trail that the very earliest settlers from North Carolina took when they first came into what is today Tennessee. This is a trail that was used by the Cherokee and before them it was a migratory route for elk and buffalo. This trail could well be considered to be the most historically



(l to r) Matthew Bailey, Alan Bowen, Randell Jones, and Bob Hardin enjoy the view from the approach to Yellow Mountain Gap. Photo—Leigh Vanblarcom

significant trail in Tennessee. This is a trail that should be open and accessible to everyone. We shouldn’t have to ask permission to cross private property to walk this portion of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

This past spring Paul Carson, National Park Service Trail Manager for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and I walked toward the top from the North Carolina side of Yellow Mountain; and, then we drove over to the Tennessee side. Coming back down to Hampton Creek, Paul spotted the trailhead for the Hampton Creek Cove area. This is a tract of land that is owned by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and is under the management of Lisa Huff, Stewardship Ecologist for the State of Tennessee. This property was acquired a few years ago by the

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) and was then transferred to State of Tennessee to ensure perpetual protection. The SAHC is dedicated to protecting land around Roan Mountain. Paul and I then started making calls to people such as Judy Murray, Allan Trently, and Denton Birchfield of SAHC to see if it would be possible to develop a trail through the Hampton Creek Cove property that would tie in with the OVNHT at Yellow Mountain Gap.

### **A Meeting of the Minds**

They reacted positively to the idea and a meeting was scheduled on July 22 with these folks as well as Mike Dahl \*, Glen Hatfield from Roan Mountain State Park and Terry Bowerman of the Cherokee National Forest. A couple of days before the meeting, I spent a day with Denton Birchfield exploring the area. Mr. Birchfield has lived in the area all of his life and had already mapped out a trail that would lead from the trailhead on Hampton Creek Rd. across State of Tennessee and Cherokee National Forest land to tie in with the trail going to Yellow Mountain Gap. This could be accomplished without crossing private property.

At our meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, this rough plan was presented and it was decided that the winter be spent defining more exactly where the trail should go and that the group be reconvened early next year to see if the proposed trail would be agreeable to everyone. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as well as the Forrest Service could then conduct a survey in the spring to ensure that no endangered species are in the path of the proposed trail. If all goes well we could potentially begin trail

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Thank you, Bill Stronach, Jr.

*OVTA presents memorial to Caldwell County Historical Society Heritage Museum*

To honor the work of Bill Stronach, Jr. in helping form the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, OVTA has presented a small plaque to the museum in Lenoir that Stronach also helped found. OVTA president Randell Jones presented the plaque to John Hawkins, museum director, in a private ceremony on August 16.

“He was the museum’s first director. He served for ten years until December 31, 2000,” said Hawkins. “Bill was the director of the parks department for years. He was known in the community as quite a character. He was dedicated to whatever he was working on. Some might say he was obstinate; but everyone knew him as somebody who knew how to get what he wanted. He was particularly effective at getting grants to help build this museum.” Since 1990, the Caldwell County His-



Bill Stronach, Jr., Oct. 7, 1999  
Photo—Randell Jones

torical Society Heritage Museum occupies the last remaining building from Davenport College (originally Davenport Female College, a post-Civil War institution that ceased to operate in 1933.) The museum was developed in five phases over 10 years with Bill Stro-

nach acting as the Volunteer Director. The museum has several permanent exhibits about the county’s history as well as cases that host temporary exhibits. One section of the museum tells the story of the Overmountain Men of 1780. Hawkins plans to display OVTA’s memorial plaque in that exhibit.

The plaque reads: “In honor and memory of Bill Stronach, Jr. (1917-2002) one of the founders of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association in 1975, whose pride in heritage, commitment to purpose, and hard work helped preserve forever the legacy of the Campaign to the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780 that helped win America’s independence. - OVTA, 2003” ●



Museum director John Hawkins holds OVTA’s plaque honoring Bill Stronach, Jr. in front of the Overmountain Men display.

Photo—Randell Jones

## Thank you, Bill.



Caldwell County Historical Society Heritage Museum

Photo—Randell Jones

*(Continued from page 2, Heaton Creek)*  
construction be the fall of 2004.

An additional trip up the mountain was made on August 3 from the Tennessee side of the mountain and further trail markings were made in spite of heavy rain. Lisa, Denton, Alan, Bob Harvey (also of SAHC) and I were present on this hike. By the way, Mr. Harvey has been maintaining the reenactment route

along Sugar Creek for a number of years and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Further hikes through the winter hopefully will lead those involved to a consensus on where the trail should be located. All those interested in building this trail are heartily welcomed to join the effort. ●

**Editor’s note:** Mike Dahl is an independent contractor to OVTA and a member; he is gathering information about possible remnants of the original route of the Overmountain Men of 1780. (See July 2003 newsletter.) Since these initial meetings, Bob Hardin has chosen to disassociate himself from OVTA so that he may continue partnering with all those interested in building this section of the trail (i.e., NPS, National Forest Service, State of Tennessee, SAHC) without the encumbrances of OVTA’s interests.

## What's That?

*Weaving a connection for visitors*

-by Dennis & Lorraine Voelker

One of the things that we enjoy most about re-enacting is making and demonstrating household items from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This activity opens many doors for interpretation:

-It's a great ice-breaker.

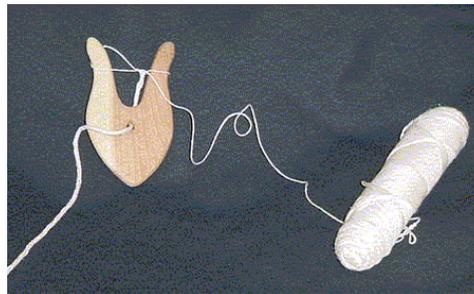
-Visitors get to touch the items, and in some cases, watch them being used.

-They get to ask questions about things that interest them.

-It's a bridge between the tangibles and the intangibles. The re-enactor gets to make the connection to the universal concepts that will stick with the visitor. Historical interpretation takes place when we put the item into context for the visitor.

One of our most popular items is the lucet. This is an ancient weaving device, known to the Vikings. The lucet is a horn-shaped, palm-sized

piece of wood. It's purpose is to weave a string or yarn into a strong cord. This cord has about 7 times the strength of the starting string. The cords are used primarily in clothing. Many women's garments have



Lucets are used to weave cords for many purposes.

drawstrings at the waist, cuffs, or necklines. Men use the cords for neck stocks (forerunner of the bowtie) and to lace up the seat of the breeches. Both sexes can use the cord for shoelaces—yes, shoelaces were in use then, primarily among the

poorer sort, who couldn't afford buckles. I have also used a lucetted cord for the tension rope on a frame saw.

The lucet has been found in many sewing baskets of the time. Children as young as three learned to use the lucet, so that they might contribute to the household. No idle hands in an 18<sup>th</sup> century household! Lorraine has taught scores of visitors as well as re-enactors how to use the lucet, and in-person instructions are part of the package.

The lucet has two forms, with or without a handle. Dennis makes the kind without handles, since Lorraine prefers that kind. Any strong wood capable of taking a smooth finish is suitable. We've used maple, walnut, cedar, oak, poplar, and, our favorite because of the beautiful grain, rhododendron. ●

*(Continued from page 1, Trail Partners)*

• The Sutherland family in Marion, Virginia has agreed to allow year-round public access to William Campbell's grave through NPS Certification of the area as an associated site of the Trail.

• Sycamore Shoals State Park is hosting a daylong celebration of the Trail on September 25th in conjunction with various local supporters, the NPS, and the OVTA which will feature national dignitaries.

• An extension of the Trail through Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area in Tennessee is being coordinated through the work of the NPS, the U.S. Forest Service, various state agencies, the Southern

Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and OVTA.

• Fourteen different landowners in Elkin, North Carolina have agreed to allow year-round public access to a total of 3-1/2 miles of the Trail (all of the eligible mileage in Surry County) through NPS Certification.

• Historic Burke Foundation, Inc. will be overseeing an archaeological survey of the historic McDowell house at Quaker Meadows by Wake Forest University with joint funding by NPS.

• A trailhead on the eastern end of Cowpens National Battlefield is being designed and constructed through the efforts of NPS staff from that park and the OVNHT, as well as assistance from the Overmountain Victory Trail

Committee of Cherokee County, South Carolina.

• An agreement to allow the use of the easement for the Colonial Pipeline Company for trail-routing purposes has been tentatively reached between that business, the NPS, and the Overmountain Victory Trail Committee.

Each month more communities are becoming aware of the potential for developing the OVNHT in their region and more partners are joining in the collective effort. If you are looking for a way to help build the Trail in your community, consider contacting one of these partners (see list) and asking how you can help. Working together, we'll build the Trail for all to use and learn.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## New Blood, New Life, New Trail

*New Wilkes-Surry Chapter plans big celebration for September*

“I am proud to see such progress on the trail right in my own backyard,” said Randell Jones, OVTA president and a resident of Winston-Salem, NC. The recent interest shown for the ‘eastern leg’ of the OVNHT is noteworthy because some of the early proponents (circa 1975-1980) of a commemorative trail were from this area, including then-Congressman James T. Broyhill of Lenoir.

“Thanks to the efforts of Paul Carson, OVNHT superintendent,” Jones continued, “the community of Elkin has made tremendous strides this year in building more local interest in the story of the Overmountain Men of 1780. They have worked hard to have more walkable trail established with the cooperation of private landowners. This is the type of collaborative and cooperative partnership that OVTA is proud to champion and to support. The National Park Service and the citizens of Wilkes County and Elkin are to be congratulated.” The new section of trail, believed by some to

be a historic remnant, follows the Yadkin River upstream from Elkin to the Wilkes County line. With its certification, Surry County, NC becomes the first county in the four-



Some of the 18 charter members of the new Wilkes-Surry Chapter .  
Photo—Randell Jones

state trail corridor to have certified the entire length of the OVNHT in its jurisdiction.

RG Absher, a past president of OVTA, has been instrumental in organizing the new Wilkes-Surry Chapter. Along with Brent Cornelison, Elkin’s director of Parks and Recreation, Teresa Howell, Elkin’s Main Street Program manager, and others, Absher is helping plan the September 27 celebration and trail certification

ceremony. September 27 is the historic date in 1780 when militiamen from the northern Carolina Piedmont mustered along the Yadkin River and began their trek toward Quaker Meadows. Those 350 militiamen were under the command of Major Joseph Winston and Colonel Benjamin Cleveland.

On August 16, at its regular meeting, OVTA’s Board of Directors received the Wilkes-Surry group’s petition for chapter status. At 3:00 P. M. (the hour at which the Battle of Kings Mountain began), the board voted unanimously to establish and to recognize the new chapter. Chapter members met the following week to elect

officers and to continue planning the Sept. 27 celebration. The all-day event will include a living history encampment and militia muster conducted by the Backcountry Militia, a volunteer group connected with Kings Mountain National Military Park. Absher and Jones will join the recently new OVTA members of the area in representing OVTA during this event which is part of OVTA’s 2003 annual reenactment.

*(Continued from page 1, Trail Remnants)*

Schools (Cleveland County, NC) to create and pilot test an educational program for 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

The teachers met with OVTA president Randell Jones for a three-day workshop in June. Together they reviewed the NC Standard Course of Study and The Story. The teachers suggested activities and exercises that tie in with several elements of North Carolina’s standard curricula. During 11 school days in September and October, these four teachers and others in the Kings Mountain District

Schools will engage their 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the creative exploration of The Story. They will use OVTA’s “Footsteps for Freedom” episodes and some of the exercises they created with Jones during the three-day workshop in a pilot test. Afterwards, at least 16 of the activities will be published jointly by OVTA and NPS to make this curricula-based program available to other teachers for use in other NC communities along the trail. Future efforts in Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina could produce similar education programs tied to a state’s

standard curricula.

Board member and Rutherford County teacher Roger Byers points out, “The new NC standard course of study for American history (11<sup>th</sup> grade) starts with President George Washington. The entire American Revolution is absent from the curricula.” Perhaps OVTA can play a needed role in sharing this important part of American history with today’s students. ●

(Continued from page 4, Trail Partners)

Here are some of the trail's partners:

**Virginia**

Two Private Landowners  
VDOT  
Virginia Department of Tourism  
Virginia Department of Historical Resources (highway markers)  
Town of Abingdon  
Washington County Historical Society  
Washington County

**Tennessee**

One Private Landowner  
TDOT  
Tennessee Department of Tourism  
Roan Mountain State Park  
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area  
Rocky Mount State Historic Site  
Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area  
Cherokee National Forest – U.S. Forest Service  
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy  
Appalachian National Scenic Trail  
Appalachian Trail Club

**North Carolina**

Numerous Private Landowners  
NCDOT  
NC Department of Cultural Resources (highway markers)  
NC Department of Tourism  
Pisgah National Forest – U.S. Forest Service  
Blue Ridge Parkway – NPS  
The Altapass Foundation  
Brittain Church  
McDowell County Historical Society  
Historic Burke Foundation, Inc.  
Wilkes County Historical Society  
Surry County Historical Society  
Rutherford County Historical Society  
Lake James State Park  
Fort Defiance Historic Site  
Yadkin River Greenway  
Catawba River Greenway  
Duke Power Company  
Crescent Land Corp.  
Unimin Corporation  
Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition



City of Morganton  
City of Kings Mountain  
Town of Elkin  
Town of Rutherfordton  
Town of Ruth  
County of Burke  
Old Wilkes  
Piedmont Land Conservancy  
Foothills Land Conservancy  
Mountain to the Sea Trail  
Kings Mountain Gateway Committee  
Betchler Development Corporation (rails to trails)  
Daughters of the American Revolution (various chapters)  
Sons of the American Revolution (various chapters)  
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Foothills Nature Science Society

**South Carolina**

One Private Landowner  
SCDOT  
SC Department of Tourism  
Cowpens National Battlefield – NPS  
Kings Mountain NMP – NPS  
Kings Mountain State Park  
SC Department of Parks (statewide MOU w/NPS)  
Overmountain Victory Trail Committee  
Cherokee County Council

Town of Gaffney  
Carolina Backcountry Alliance  
The Palmetto Conservation Foundation  
Colonial Pipeline Company  
Cherokee County Historical Society

**All States**

Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc.  
Federal Highway Administration  
American Hiking Society  
HistoryAmerica Tours  
American Battlefield Protection Program  
Eastern National Monument Association

With so many interested parties working together on the OVNHT, we should not be surprised to see major elements of the Trail becoming a reality every year. It is indeed an exciting time to be involved with building the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. ●

**2003 CAMPAIGN  
TO KINGS MOUNTAIN  
September 23, through October 7, 2003**

Campaign Commander: Fran Dahl, 2517 Shipe Road Knoxville, TN, (865) 933-0883 home (865) 850-1807 Safety Marshal: Alan Bowen

This is not a backpacking experience. All marchers must be ready to leave at 8:00 each morning. The Safety Marshal must be obeyed at all times as safety is key for getting from point A to point B safely. You will need money and a vehicle. Some meals will be provided but others will need to be bought individually. Everyone will need to carry water while walking. The group will provide interpretative programs during the walk and at campsites most night.

Again this year, there will not be an organized march on the Wilkes-Surry segment of the trail but there will be certification activities and other encampment activities the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

The grand marshal (campaign commander) and safety marshal are in command of the reenactment. Their instructions and directions must be followed. Each evening around 7:00, the next days activities will be announced. Schedule is subject to change due to day to day developments and requests.

**Tuesday, September 23, 2003**

Meet at Dunn's Meadow, Abingdon, VA Washington County, VA Marshal: Blair Keller (276) 628-3070 Light supper will be provided by the county marshal or supper on your own

**Wednesday, September 24, 2003**

Depart Abingdon, VA to encamp at Rocky Mount State Historic Area in Piney Flats Sullivan County, TN marshal: Paige McClelland (423) 538-8486 6:00am Up and breakfast (usually at Dairy Queen) 8:00 Depart Dunn's Meadow for the Water plant for Certification of a segment of the Trail 10:00am Certification of William Campbell's gravesite Noon lunch at Cleveland Presbyterian Church 2:00 Visit Pemberton Home 3:00 Cemetery ceremony at grave of Lester Carrier, Bluff City, TN 4:00 Ceremony at Robert Young Grave site, Johnson City, TN 6:00 Supper and program, city park in Bluff City, TN Camp at Rocky Mount Historic Site. No showers. Restrooms available.

**Thursday, September 25, 2003**

Depart Rocky Mount for Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton, TN Carter County, TN marshal Sam Lloyd (423) 282-5266 6:00 up and breakfast 8:00 Start walking 11:30 lunch at Watauga City Hall and Senior Center. 2:00 Cross the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River Possible gravesite ceremony in Johnson City after the crossing 5:00 Supper 6:00 The Wataugan's play

Showers and restroom available.

**Friday, September 26, 2003**

Depart Sycamore Shoals for Roan Mountain State Park Campsite, Roan Mountain, TN Carter County, TN marshal Sam Lloyd (423) 282-5266 6:00 up and breakfast on your own 8:00 Reverend Doak Sermon; depart immediately following Morning: cemetery ceremonies at William Hall grave site and Mary Patton grave site; Look at trail remnants along Gap Creek Road and the Overmountain Monument. Noon lunch on you own possibly at Bob's Dairyland 1:00 Shuttle and walk Railroad Gage Road 6:00 provided by Roan Mountain Citizens Club Camp in the park campground. Shower and restrooms available.

**Saturday, September 27, 2003**

Depart Roan Mountain for Buck Hill Campground, Plumptree, NC No Avery County, NC Marshal 6:00 wake up 7:00 Breakfast provided by George Shoemaker at the campground shelter 8:00 Gather at OVT monument at park visitor center Walk Historic route up to Yellow Mountain Gap; muster at top 6:00 Supper

**Sunday, September 28, 2003**

Depart Buck Hill Campground for the Mineral Museum on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Spruce Pine, NC Mitchell County, NC marshal Bill Carson (828) 765-9314 6:00 Wake and breakfast on own in Spruce Pine Gather outside Unimin. Possible walk to Sunny Brook Store. 9:00 Walk out to and ceremony at Robert Sevier Grave Continue out behind prison up the Yellow Mountain Road to Spring Maid 6:00 Supper provided by Bill Carson and interpretative program to follow Possible shower and restroom facilities

**Monday, September 29, 2003**

Depart Mineral Museum for North Cove Elementary School campsite, Mitchell County, NC marshal Bill Carson (828) 765-9314 6:00 Wake up call 7:00 Breakfast at Herman Bakers 8:00 Assemble at the monument at the Mineral Museum for walking 10:00 possible programs at The Apple Orchard at Altapass Noon lunch 1:00 on the trail Supper on your own Restroom facilities only

**Tuesday, September 30, 2003**

Depart North Cove Elementary School for McDowell House at Quaker Meadows, Morganton, NC No county marshal 6:00 Wake up; breakfast on your own (possible at Western Sizzlin in Marion) Cars need to be out of the schoolyard before 7:00 when the school buses roll 9:00 School program at North Cove Elementary School 10:00 start walking William Campbell's route; carry your own lunch 6:00 Supper provided by Historic Burke Founda-

tion. Restroom facilities only

**Wednesday, October 1, 2003**

Depart McDowell House for Dysartsville Community Center, Dysartsville, NC Southern McDowell County, NC marshal: Albert Dale (828) 287-4338 6:00 Wake up and breakfast 8:00 Certification at Quaker Meadow Cemetery 9:00 Certification of additional trail Catawba River Greenway 11:00 Ceremony at Hugh Bennett Memorial Noon lunch 6:00 Supper and interpretative program for the Dysartsville Community Club Restroom facilities at the Community Club; Showers and laundry facilities available

**Thursday, October 2, 2003**

Continue stay at Dysartsville Community Center Day of rest and laundry. No official activities planned yet. 7:00 OVTA Annual meeting

**Friday, October 3, 2003**

Depart Dystarsville Community Club for Cane Creek Community Club Rutherfordton, NC county marshal: Roger Byers (828) 425-4369 6:00 Wake up; breakfast on your own 8:00 Trail through Boy Scout camp Lunch at house in the woods Pot luck supper or on your own Restroom facilities only; possible showers

**Saturday, October 4, 2003**

Depart Cane Creek for Gilbertown Rutherfordton, NC county marshal: Roger Byers (828) 425-4369 6:00 Wake up; breakfast on your own or in Rutherfordton 8:00 Walk to Centennial Church for lunch 6:00 Supper and interpretative program Possible restroom facilities; showers will be made available

**Sunday, October 5, 2003**

Depart Gilbertown for Gray's Chapel No county marshal 6:00 Wake up and breakfast on your own 8:00 Walk the railroad Supper on your own

**Monday, October 6, 2003**

Depart Gray's Chapel for Cowpen's Cherokee County, SC: Jane Waters (864) 489-7043 6:00 Wake up and breakfast conference. 8:00 Motor to Cowpens Motor back to the Water Tower for walking back to Cowpens 6:00 Supper and interpretative program Restroom and showers facilities available

**Tuesday, October 7, 2003**

Depart Cowpens for Kings Mountain Cherokee County, SC marshal: Jane Waters (864) 489-7043 6:00 Wake and breakfast 8:00 Motor to Gaffney 9:00 Certification of Col Williams Grave site 10:00 Tour of Knuckles Plantation, Pacolet, SC Lunch at Antioch Church 3:00 Enter Kings Mountain Amphitheater Supper at Town & Country BBQ Restaurant, Kings Mountain, NC ●

## Parting Words

It has been an honor to serve as president of OVTA for the last 16 months. I took over when president Allen Ray was no longer able to serve. I wrote "Footsteps for Freedom," the 12-episode serial for classroom use. I am still working with teachers to develop a curricula-based education program for NC. I have written, edited, and published the last five issues of this newsletter which many people have been kind enough to applaud. In April, I applied for a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to jump-start several projects to help celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kings Mountain in 2005. OVTA did not get the grant to write a guide to the trail and to pursue other educational projects. That hurt our cause, but not our spirit.

I am sure the next administration will introduce itself and its focus for OVTA in future newsletters it may produce. I wish you all the very best. Good luck and God-speed.

Your most humble and obedient servant,  
Randell Jones, president ●

## Ballot for Election of Officers and Directors

It is **time to pay your dues** and to vote. Ballots returned with dues payment for FY2004 by Sept 22 will be counted in the election. Those members who have joined since May 31, 2003, are already paid for FY 2004 (i.e., Oct. 2003-Sept. 2004).

Vote for these 2-year positions. (Only Region 4 is contested.) The Board will fill 1-year slots created by vacancies and resignations.)

- President – Alan Bowen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Randell Jones (withdrawn)  
 Region 1 VA – Ina Stephenson (withdrawn)  
 Region 1 TN – Charlie Zwergel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bob Hardin (withdrawn)  
 Region 2 NC – Beth Silvers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region 3 NC – R.G. Absher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region 4 NC – Albert Dale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evelyn Carswell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region 5 SC – Jane Waters (withdrawn)  
 Buck Jolley (withdrawn)  
 Region 6 GA— (no candidate)

Each candidate was invited to submit a statement. Only one responded. That seat is uncontested so no information to differentiate is needed.

Amend the bylaws so that the annual membership meeting can be scheduled by the Board of Directors "during September, October but no later than the third Saturday of November." Only the timing is a change. This will enable an annual meeting to be scheduled other than during the reenactment march.

\_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No ●

### Schedule of Dues

through 10/2/2003

Individual—\$20

Family—\$25

For those joining or renewing after October 2, 2003:

Individual—\$30

Family—\$40

Sustaining—\$150

Life—\$500.

OVRTA Newsletter  
 Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc.  
 PO Box 242421  
 Charlotte, NC 28224

