

Trail Log

The Newsletter of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association
April 1995



Kings Mountain and the
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
Lock, Stock, and Barrel

Published six times a year at the beginning of the months of February, April, June, August, September, and November.

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Getting in Touch With Your Officers

President

Bob Sweeny
P.O. Box 632
Manassas Park, VA 22111
703-834-4582 (Day)
703-368-9577 (Eve)

Vice President

R.G. Absher, jr.
W. Kerr Scott
Reservoir
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
910-921-3390 (Day)

Secretary

Sallie Miller Weaver
P.O. Box 220
Boone, NC 28607
704-264-2659 (Eve)

Treasurer

John Gray
517 Freeman's Walk
Stone Mtn, GA 30083
404-299-3237 (Eve)

1995 Meetings

1995 OVTA Board Meetings (Saturday, 12 noon to 3 p.m.):

- ♦ April 22nd, Quaker Meadows (McDowell House), Morganton, NC - Encampment, too!
- ♦ June 24th, Whippoorwill Academy, Caldwell County, NC Encampment at Kerr Scott Reservoir, too!
- ♦ August 19th, Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - Encampment, too!
- ♦ November 18th, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area, Elizabethton, TN

1995 OVTA Annual Meeting (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.):

- ♦ Sunday, October 1, Dysartsville Community Club, NC

Notice of Board of Directors' Meeting

When: Saturday, April 22, 1995, 12 to 3 p.m.

Where: Quaker Meadows Plantation (McDowell) House, Morganton, NC

Who: All officers, board members, regular members, and the general public

Agenda:

- ♦ 1995 Reenactment Planning (**Ruth Christian**)
- ♦ OVTA Financial Planning (**Harry Hurst**)
- ♦ Report on School Program (**Orville Clayton**)
- ♦ Report on Curriculum Guide (**Hank Weaver**)
- ♦ Volunteer Reporting Process (**John Gray**)
- ♦ Trail Impact Study Planning (**Roger Moore**)
- ♦ Replacement Director (Region 2)
- ♦ Long Distance Trails Meeting (**Ruth Christian**)
- ♦ National Trails Day & Appalachian Trail Days
- ♦ **Program for Members - 2:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Members' Program for Public - 4 p.m.**

Problems? Contact **Sallie Weaver** at 704-284-2659.

If unable to attend, please discuss your concerns with your regional board representative or an officer.

Stories Inside

- Board Supports Study of OVT Impact
- **Conrad Schliske** Picked Liaison to OVT Impact Study
- **Christians & Grant Hardin** Picked for Trails Meeting
- Director **Millie Fox Harbison** Resigns
- 1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** Chooses Officers
- Peeler Property at Kings Mountain Safe!
- NPS Funds Cherokee County Planning for ISTEAFunds for Trail Between Cowpens and Kings Mountain

Other February Board Actions

- Nominated Former Congressman **Jim Broyhill** and **Borden Mace** for Recognition by NPS at Kings Mountain
- Appointed **R.G. Absher, jr.**, to Work on Getting T-shirts
- Curriculum Guide Committee Encourages Members Help
- No Action Taken on Fees
- Committee Headed by **Harry Hurst** Still Studying Financial Needs, Including Fees and Fund Raising

A Sad Thank You

Soon after the February board meeting, on February 23, the wife of Kings Mountain National Military Park Superintendent Mike Loveless, **Dorothy Jean "Dottie" Loveless**, died after a long illness. OVTA was represented at her funeral by former director **Mae Murph**. 1993 Grand Marshal **Hank Weaver** was a pallbearer. The family sent this note of appreciation to the members of OVTA: "Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and expressions of condolence and support. We were pleased that our friend Hank Weaver could be one of Dottie's pallbearers. She would have loved the tribute to her memory. Best wishes. Sincerely, Mike, Cathy, and Chris."

Park Welcome

Meeting at Cowpens National Battlefield, Saturday, February 18, the members, officers, and directors were welcomed by the new superintendent, **Farrel Saunders**, who stuck around after the meeting to watch our typical trail program. The superintendent's message was a simple welcome and a pledge to work with OVTA as much as possible. He specifically asked for suggestions from us on how the park can help.

In light of recent efforts by Congress to limit government, Superintendent Saunders stressed the need that he and his staff see for the park to work with the community. He was pleased to report participation in the annual January program honoring the anniversary of the battle of Cowpens. Despite torrential rains, over 1,000 turned out. In fact, the response was so positive, a similar program will be scheduled in the spring.

The superintendent also reported the park is developing a fundraising campaign to allow improvements that are not in the budget. We'll hear more details later.

Trail Study Support

The board of directors agreed to support a trail economic impact study being performed by N.C. State University under funding from the National Park Service. The study is

a test of study methods developed by **Dr. Roger Moore** to find out how much hard cash a trail puts in the pockets of a trail corridor.

What is a Trail Worth?

One of the criticisms of trails is that only a few trail users benefit. The historic trails, in particular, were thought only to benefit lovers of history, and not the communities. Appearing before the board, National Park Service Long-Distance Trail Coordinator, **Steve Elkinton**, explained that thinking often used against trails.

Some years ago a similar argument was applied to attempts to create trails on the corridors of abandoned railroads. A graduate student at Penn State, **Roger Moore**, developed a method of studying trails to determine the cash value to the community. Specifically, he looked at how much money visitors to a trail spent in the community. The study was so successful in building local support for trails that he was asked to apply the same techniques to other hiking trails. The Appalachian Trail and other scenic trails have been studied in the past, but no historic trails. In this day of tight budgets, the possible hard cash value of trails could make the difference between no funds and funds.

In testing the study method for historic trails, the National Park Service chose the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail because the trail is short, is close to both Washington and Raleigh where Doctor Moore now teaches, and is mostly in North Carolina. Steve Elkinton went on to report on the brief (three-day) trip he and Roger Moore took along the commemorative motor route. To the surprise of the board, he indicated that the problems of the OVNHT are similar to the problems of the lother national historic trails.

Dr. Roger Moore then explained the survey he was plainning:

- ♦ Conduct a literature serach, almost complete
- ♦ Design the research program and questionnaires
- ♦ Submit to Office of Management & Budget

The review by OMB is required by law and is expected to take about 90 days. He plans to submit his proposal to OMB by April 1, so that the survey can begin in July.

- ♦ Conduct the surveys at sites along the trail
- ♦ Analyze the data and prepare his final report

The surveys will be taken from July into the early winter and would be conducted at nine sites along the trail. The locations were picked because each is open regularly and considers the trail a major focus of its efforts:

- ♦ Rocky Mount State Historic Site
- ♦ Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area
- ♦ Blue Ridge Parkway Museum of NC Minerals
- ♦ Historic Burke Foundation in Morganton
- ♦ Fort Defiance/Caldwell Heritage Museum, Lenoir
- ♦ Old Wilkes in Wilkesboro
- ♦ W. Kerr Scott Reservoir at North Wilkesboro
- ♦ Cowpens National Battlefield
- ♦ Kings Mountain National Military Park

Visitors will be given a one-page questionnaire and asked if they would fill out a longer form. Director **Nancy Ferguson** asked why no sites in Rutherford County were included. Dr. Moore explained that only sites with staffs where total visits can be recorded are usable.

1993 Grand Marshal **Hank Weaver** expressed concern that the trail is not recognized as a walking trail. Steve Elkinton reassured the board by explaining that most historic trails have the same problem: a mixture of highway and walking segments linking isolated historic sites.

The board then voted to support the study. Dr. Moore asked for OVTA help, perhaps as volunteers to conduct the surveys. Director **Roger Byers** asked if Dr. Moore or a representative would be on the reenactment. The answer was "yes," either Dr. Moore or a graduate student.

Reenactors will be asked to keep a diary so that the economic impact of the reenactment can be judged. In addition, the audiences at public programs will also be surveyed.

Rich Sussman from the trails office in Atlanta spoke up for Dr. Moore's efforts, indicating they had worked together on a study at Guilford Court House. He also reported the volunteers used were well trained by Dr. Moore's staff and had fun.

Steve Elkinton assured the board the results of the study would be valuable. With the current mood in Congress, he felt that economic data on the value of the trail is a tool to help convince the localities the trail is valuable. If the Federal role in the trail stops - and Congress could abolish the trail system - OVTA will have to rely on local support to perpetuate the trail. The ammunition this study will provide might make the difference.

Dr. Moore will have more specific information at the April board meeting. 1981 Grand Marshal **Conrad Schliske** agreed to act as OVTA liaison to Dr. Moore.

1995 National Conference

The gathering of representatives of national long distance trails takes place this year in the spring - April 8 through 12. In the past this event has been in the fall and far away from us. This time the meeting is scheduled near Washington, D.C. In the past the National Park Service has financed two representatives from OVTA. This year, the meeting is close enough for three members to be supported. The board chose 1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian**, her husband, 1995 Entry Taker **Frank Christian**, and 1988 Grand Marshal **Grant Hardin** to attend. In the unlikely event they could not attend, 1989 Grand Marshal **William Hall** and 1981 Grand Marshal **Conrad Schliske** were chosen as alternates.

In addition to the usual events, OVTA is being asked to help with entertainment at the concluding banquet at Decatur House on Lafayette Square across from the White House. Early suggestions are for some music and some talk about the trail. Needless to say, period dress will be the order of the week!

NPS Recognition

NPS representative **Rich Sussman** asked the board to make an early nomination of candidates for recognition by the park service at the ceremonies at Kings Mountain concluding the reenactment. The board renominated former Congressman **James Broyhill** and former director of the Appalachian Consortium, **Borden Mace**. From our nominations, the Park Service chooses the person or persons actually recognized for contributing to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Borden Mace

Not understood today is that OVTA began on the strong back of the Appalachian Consortium. Part of that strong support existed because of the interest of then-executive director Borden Mace. He put the good name and full faith and credit of the Consortium behind formation of OVTA, operation of the reenactment, and designation of the trail.

An article in the Consortium's magazine in 1974 by Rip Collins on the crossing of Roan Mountain was reprinted later by the Appalachian Trail Conference and reached both regional and national audiences for the trail. The Consortium provided clerical and administrative support for the reenactments and OVTA: publicity, stationery, printing, mailing, recommendations, and introductions. The support was basic and genuine.

The first two reenactments started at Sycamore Shoals. In 1977, Borden assisted Tom Gray and Bill Stronach in expanding the reenactment route to Abingdon by putting them in touch with historians and local leaders in Washington County. At the suggestion of Tom Gray, the

Consortium began an OVT newsletter - The OVT Informer - in 1978, before there was an OVTA! In fact, the Consortium began chartering county chapters in 1977, in anticipation of the formation of OVTA.

Former Congressman Jim Broyhill

The establishment of the national historic trail was a two-step process requiring action by Congress twice. The man within Congress who took the lead was former Representative James T. Broyhill from Lenoir. In 1977 he introduced legislation to authorize a study by the National Park Service of the proposed trail. Specifically, NPS had to determine if the proposed trail was feasible, was of national significance, and was identifiable as a trail. That study was finally authorized in 1978 and began in the spring of 1979.

One major stumbling block existed: There was no such thing as a national historic trail! OVTA desired most of all historic designation, not scenic or recreational. Fortunately, western citizens were also interested in a national historic designation for the Oregon trail. This was an important point, for the feasibility study completed late in 1979 left out the Abingdon-to-Sycamore Shoals and Wilkes-Surry portions of the trail, since no public right-of-way for a walking trail was available. Congress finally created the new category in 1979.

In 1980, Representative Broyhill introduced the legislation which was finally enacted September 8, just in time for the 200th anniversary of the march. It was a close thing. At the last minute, after strenuous efforts by OVTA and the communities involved, the triple-trail corridor with a continuous commemorative motor route was conceived. This allowed designation of the entire trail as we know it today.

Representative Broyhill took the lead in shepherding the necessary legislation. He arranged to bring key members of OVTA to Washington in period dress to show Congress who these people were. He worked through his staff and with his appearances to gain support from local officials and the

Congressional delegations of the other four states associated with the trail. The result was the designation in 1980 of the fifth national historic trail, the first east of the Mississippi, our Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Multipurpose Trail in Cherokee County

Rich Sussman also reported that the next step was underway to establish a multipurpose trail for walkers and bikers between Cowpens National Battlefield and Kings Mountain National Military Park. The National Park Service and the Appalachian Regional Commission have funded Cherokee County, South Carolina, to develop the plans which will allow the county to seek ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act - funds for the actual construction.

National History Guidelines

Rich Sussman also reported that he is still working on getting curriculum guidelines from the various states for use of the committee developing the trail curriculum guide. He brought the North Carolina standards with him. He is still talking to Georgia. He also expects to have the controversial national guidelines.

Protection for Kings Mountain

Superintendent **Mike Loveless** of Kings Mountain National Military Park reported, to the relief of the board, that on December 28 the Conservation Fund took title to the Peeler property adjacent to the park. That was the property within sight of the battle ground which was put on the market last summer, raising the possibility of houses looking down on the battle crest. The purchase was made by the Conservation Fund with money provided by the Mellon Foundation. The Fund will hold the property until Congress authorizes adding the land to the national park. Negotiations for purchase of 171 additional acres from other owners are continuing to protect the national and state parks.

T-Shirts

1992 Grand Marshal **R.G. Absher, jr.**, reported that plans were starting for the bike ride in Wilkes-Surry as part of National Trails Day in June. He was concerned that the t-shirts ordered in the past by **Will Neville** have been sold and none are available. He asked the board to purchase more. President Bob Sweeny reminded the board that OVTA had shirts for a time in the 1980's, but efforts to replace the shirts when the supply was sold fell through. Those shirts were sold at Sycamore Shoals as well as during the reenactment.

When asked if shirts could be sold at the national parks, **Mike Loveless** reported in the negative. The Park Service has put a hold on all such efforts because of concerns about such shirt sales in prominent places like the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The policy is under study, but no sales are possible now.

Steve Elkinton responded to an inquiry about use of the national historic trail logo by saying the trail office in Atlanta could decide. **Rich Sussman** agreed to study such a request from OVTA. The question arose in discussing possible designs for the shirt, allowing a design which could be used at events like National Trails Day and Appalachian Trail Days, at museums such as Sycamore Shoals or Historic Burke or Old Wilkes or Fort Defiance, as well as during the reenactment.

Pick Biggerstaff from Rutherford County suggested that Sara Lee Knitting might donate shirts to OVTA. He agreed to check it out and provide Bob Sweeny with a contact to formally request the donation. **R.G. Absher** agreed to head a committee to make arrangements and bring a proposal to the April board meeting for board action.

1995 Reenactment Planning

1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** reported she has selected many of the supporting officials who will help her plan and conduct the annual reenactment:

- ♦ **Blair Keller** of Virginia is the Trail Marshal in charge of the walkers.
- ♦ **William Hall** of Tennessee is Safety Marshal responsible for ensuring the trail is walked safely.
- ♦ **Harry Hurst** and **Sue Hurst** of Ohio will assist the Safety Marshal. Harry is Guard Marshal in charge of road guards to ensure safe crossing and to control traffic at camp sites. Sue is Road Marshal to also help out with safety and to organize the shuttles.
- ♦ **Grant Hardin** is Militia Captain in command of all musters and demonstrations, as well as training members in proper rifle use.
- ♦ **Frank Christian** is Entry Taker in charge of keeping records.
- ♦ **Bob Sweeny** is School Master in charge of organizing the school visits.

Safety During the Reenactment

Ruth stressed that safety was an important consideration in this year's plans. She wants to keep our excellent safety record. **Frank Christian** has gotten his amateur radio license and will have a handheld unit which can reach other amateur operators through a series of repeater stations already operated in the mountains along the route.

Campfires

Ruth also reported she is planning campfire programs, a popular feature of last year's 20th reenactment when grand marshals talked about earlier reenactments. She is planning to have similar talks on things about the trail.

Pictures Found

Ruth reported that Lynn Fox probably took the pictures of the Boy Scouts.

Financial Planning

Committee member **Ruth Christian** reported to the board for absent chairman **Harry Hurst** that their studies are not complete. Harry expects to have a report for the April meeting.

Replacement for 4th Grade Award Program

Following up on discussions with the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton, President Bob Sweeny reported scholarship committee chairman **Orville Clayton** contacted the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton. The school was very enthusiastic and agreed to rename their scholarship the OVTA-Charles McDowell Scholarship to allow OVTA participation. In November, the board voted to provide \$500. The school also asked OVTA to propose details of an eighth grade program. The committee consists of 1983 Grand Marshal **Orville Clayton** and Region 3 Director **Joe Story**, who represents the Morganton area.

Curriculum Guide

Hank Weaver also reported on the work on the curriculum guide. He reiterated the need for members to help out by developing material for the guide. Members do not have to worry about putting their material into final form. Handwritten, hand sketched, typewritten, any old way is good, for the committee will prepare the final, computerized version. Of course, anyone who has a computer and would like to help out, please get in touch with Hank at Sallie Weaver's address or number listed up front.

Topics You Might Consider

The basic history of the march is easy. The committee needs additional information and interesting ways to present the basic information. Hank has a long list of possible topics, so contact him if you can help out. Of course, you can also come up with a topic on your own!

Putting it on Paper

You don't need a computer or word processor. Just write it all down. Handwritten material is usable, but print or write carefully. Typewritten is even better. We'll get the typing/word processing done. If you submit questions, be sure to include the answers, if you can.

Helping Put Stuff on Paper

If you have a computer and want to help with word processing, let **Hank Weaver** know. We'll need to do lots of word processing. You don't need a fancy printer, but let Hank know what software and hardware you've got. We may even have to buy software to have what we need to get the job done.

The Professional's View

Superintendent **Mike Loveless** of Kings Mountain National Military Park spoke up to praise the efforts in developing the curriculum guide for the trail. He particularly singled out the creative materials proposed, and developed earlier by Dr. Davis, to bring imagination to a subject often considered dry. He offered the help of his staff in reviewing the material. He also offered help in the preparation, saying his staff would prepare a one-page summary of the significance of Kings Mountain. He then offered a quick summary:

- ♦ King's Mountain prevented gaining the support of large numbers of Loyalists, the objective of the British campaign in the south.
- ♦ King's Mountain forced Cornwallis to pull back from his intended campaign and reorganize.
- ♦ The stunning Patriot victory at King's Mountain overshadowed the disaster at Camdem, minimizing the effects of the British summer campaign.
- ♦ King's Mountain provided time for reorganization of the Patriot cause while Cornwallis was reorganizing at Winnsboro, South Carolina. The coming south of Nathanael Greene and Daniel Morgan, along with additional Continental troops, provided the vital generalship and veteran soldiers to form the core of a new Patriot presence to replace that destroyed over the summer.
- ♦ King's Mountain provided the time that allowed the stage to be set for the battle of Cowpens, a brilliant tactical victory over the British best.
- ♦ King's Mountain began the series of battles which brought horrendous British losses without destroying the Patriot cause in the south.

- ♦ King's Mountain continued the turning of the tide first seen at Saratoga.

Hank Weaver reported that the schedule calls for finishing the draft in the next year. Copies will then be available for review by OVTA, the National Park Service, the parks at Cowpens and Kings Mountain, and the teachers we have worked with from the start.

One Member's Efforts

Region Four Director, **Nancy Ferguson**, reported she was developing material on daily life and religion in the colonial period.

Reenactment Highlights

The trip across Roan Mountain was notable for two missed events. The reenactors were shocked to find only a post at Yellow Mountain Gap where they had helped the Forest Service dedicate a marker to the trail the year before.

What they did not know was that someone was also missing. **Don Pauley** from Indiana, who marched in 1992 and 1993, was hiking the Appalachian Trail and planned to meet the marchers in Yellow Mountain Gap. Tornadoes in Georgia early in the trip delayed Don, however, and he did not arrive until the next day when the reenactment was farther east in Avery and Mitchell, headed for the Mineral Museum.

His disappointment in not finding the marker was just as strong, for he had been telling hikers all the way from Georgia to look for the display about his other trail. The Forest Service's **Pat Momich** reports that the temporary display installed for the dedication was stolen, not the permanent display. The permanent display was delayed last year, but it should be in place by this summer.

Better, But Not Enough

Region 2 (Burke County, North Carolina) Director **Millie Fox Harbison**, who has missed most board meetings over the last year with difficult health problems, reported in early March that, "Finally, it has become clear to me ... that I am unable to carry out my duties as a board

member...Therefore, I reluctantly resign. The strength and stamina to actively participate in the organization will probably not return to this 68 year old. But I wish to remain a member. Burke County has a remarkable history."

The Picture Mystery

Director **Lynn Fox** may have solved the mystery of the pictures taken along the Blue Ridge Parkway of the Boy Scouts. Thanks, Carty! National Park Service Maintenance Supervisor **Frank Byrd** wanted copies for the troop scrap book.

Appalachian Trail Conference

The Appalachian Trail Conference convention is also close this year, being held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in late June. Put that on your calendar, too, because a big contingent in period dress is always welcome among the folks who love trails and walking.

Members' Program at Cowpens

Program Chair **Conrad Schliske** started the new year with a presentation on period dress, specifically asking the question, "What is period dress?" His definition was simple: any clothing authentic to the colonial period. He contrasted period dress to costumes. His intent was to encourage members to make up an ensemble on their own. He also encouraged members to make choices based on what they felt comfortable with. He found that linen pants, for instance, were not comfortable, so he wears only buckskin breeches. His tests for clothing are two: Is it authentic to the period and is he comfortable in it?

Conrad began by explaining how he and his family researched and then made their own clothing. He showed his period wardrobe, explaining how each item was made. He prepared a handout listing source materials, including companies offering patterns and materials, as well as complete items. Copies are available for members who missed the meeting. Ask Conrad or Sallie Weaver. A pattern for woodland mocassins is also included.

Conrad believes the greatest failure in OVTA is footwear. The most common shoe was the eastern or woodland mocassin, which is different from the common plains pattern used for mocassins today. Of course, the settlers did not walk on paved roads as we do. Our road surfaces can wear out the sole in a day or two. In 1980, a mountain group from Boone attempted to go all the way to Kings Mountain in mocassins. To protect the feet, Conrad includes the leather insole from an old pair of shoes in his mocassins. 1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** had **Frank** put cowhide on the bottom to increase the ruggedness. The settlers often did not wear socks, stuffing their mocassins with straw or moss to keep warm.

The key fact of colonial clothing was that all was handmade, usually by family members. Similarly, they did not have patterns, so construction was simple and as durable as possible. Seams were doubled, and gussets were used at stress points. The designs were practical. For example, underearms of shirts are replaceable, since movement of the arm stresses the cloth and the salt of perspiration quickly weakens the cloth.

A typical man owned two pairs of pants, three shirts, and one coat. A shirt lasted two years. Monograms were used on clothing to identify the owner. Men wore their best clothes when going to battle.

Director **Joe Story** offered a solution to one problem Conrad reported when working with animal skins: stretching. Joe recommends wetting the leather and stretching it on a board to dry. One direction will stretch and the other will not.

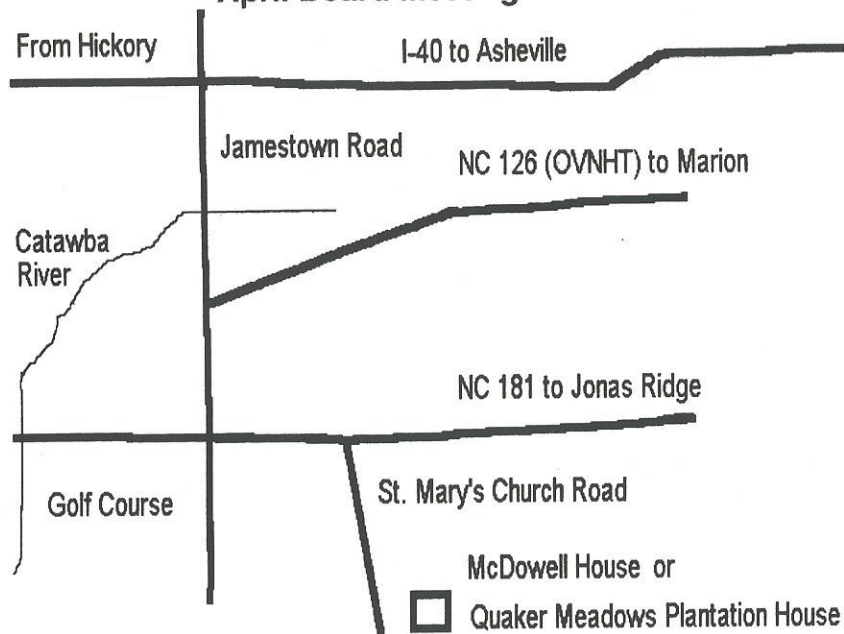
Public Programs at McDowell House

Members are asked to wear period dress and bring their flintlocks to Morganton for the board meeting. We will present a program for the public after the meeting at 4 p.m. at the Quaker Meadows Plantation (McDowell) House. Saturday night camping will also be available at McDowell House, with a stop at the sewer plant for showers.

OVTA Volunteers at Kings Mountain

Kings Mountain National Military Park needs volunteers to man the desk in the visitors' center. OVTA members with their interest in and understanding of Kings Mountain are especially welcome. While the park is not close to all the members, anyone who could volunteer on a regular basis, even if just once a month, would help the park. Not sure your schedule would fit into the park's need? Interested? Want to have a chance to have some fun and do some good? Contact Chief Ranger **Chris Revels** at 803-936-7921.

April Board Meeting Location



On the Cover

This issue shows Jessica Stott ready for the trail. The artwork is a pencil sketch drawn by Bryan Richardson from a photo taken by Sam LLOYD at Linville Mountain

Drawings and pictures for the cover are welcome!

Future Activities

Fourth National Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails, April 8-12, 1995, Chevy Chase, MD
Appalachian Trail Days, May, 1995, Damascus, VA
National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, 1995
Appalachian Trail Conference Convention, June, 1995, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
John Sevier Family Reunion, July, 1995, Gatlinburg, TN
21st Annual Reenactment, Saturday, September 23, to Saturday, October 7, 1995

This newsletter was printed on recycled paper.

OVTA Newsletter
991 Humphries Road,
Cowpens, SC 29330-9308

Address Correction Requested

First Class