

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION



March, 2008

www.ovta.org



***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.*

Something a Little Different

Greetings all. Alan here. We're going to start with "something a little different this time". After the March 1st Board meeting at Sycamore Shoals a young man came up to me and introduced himself as Austin. Austin is a history major at one of the local colleges and he told me that his Spring Break was coming up and he wanted to do the driving route of the OVNHT. He asked me for insight on what he needed to see. I talked with him for about 30 minutes about the history and the trail. I gave him several sites he needed to take in and how impressed I was of his interest. Below is his after action report. Read it and give me your thoughts afterward. There are some telling insights that can be taken from this. Thanks, Alan Bowen.

"Alan,

I'm back from my road trip now, it was a lot of fun! I and my friend David left Thursday morning because my car was messed up until Wednesday, so we didn't have a lot of time. We began at Sycamore Shoals and began the drive from there. In order to get to Shelving Rock, we had to leave the motor route, which got us lost because we went through Roan Mtn park. That particular road will take you back onto the trail route, but I wouldn't recommend it because it is very curvy and dangerous.

We got lost at Spruce Pine because the critical junction of 19 and 226 isn't well marked. We wound up going west on 19 and didn't realize our error until we had strayed off of our OVT map. We got ourselves corrected, but we had lost 2 hours of time. I would say we need to look at trying to get a clear sign put up at that intersection so others don't wind up so far off course.

Unfortunately, our little excursion cost us so much time that we had to forego Quaker Meadows. We decided to take 221 straight to Gilbert Town. Again, the markings were not so clear, and we wound up going a way west on 64. We self-corrected again, but this time got back on 221 south, which was a blunder in terms of the trail, but put us in Chesnee. We found our way to Cowpens from there, but didn't stop in our rush to get to King's Mountain. We made it to King's Mountain National Military Park at 3:30 on Thursday.

After leaving King's Mountain and taking a personal trip to see the Carolina Panthers stadium in Greensboro, we found a well populated exit on the north side of Concord with a road named Dale Earnhardt Blvd. We stopped there for the night, but if we had come just two or three exits south, we would have run into Concord Mills. We vowed then that next time, we're staying at Concord Mills.

Friday morning we returned to King's Mountain to see what we hadn't seen Thursday—"the museum." I would assume you have seen it, but it really was an eye opener for me. My friend and I both marveled at the light battle in the center of the open museum. It was raining pretty hard at that point, so we decided not to walk the battlefield trail again, and headed for Cowpens.

I didn't know very much about the battle of Cowpens, but after the visit to the park, I don't think I'll ever forget it. The mile-long loop around the field was shorter than King's Mtn, but I found it just as engaging. The rain had stopped by this point and things were wet: at one point on the trail I put my foot on top of a puddle so deep it would have easily come up to my ankle. After walking the loop we came back inside to see the museum and light battle, but just caught the end, so we didn't really get to see it and we couldn't get anyone to restart it for us. I told David, "Oh well, there's our excuse to come back!" To which, he heartily agreed. We then headed for home

So in retrospect, the driving trail is fun, but not well marked. Don't take 143 out of Roan Mountain, get back on 19. You're closer to the trail, but it's a motorcycle road. Be careful at Spruce Pine junction not to go the wrong way, and recheck yourself at Marion. Yes, I wrote these down on my map so next time should go smoother.

I've enclosed a few pictures of us at different points. I have many more (175 total) that include all the information signs on the trails, place markers, and random objects like squirrels that David took pictures of. I also took video of the trails and museums at Cowpens and King's Mtn. If you would like to see any of those I'll be happy to send them your way.

Thanks for the insight you gave, next time hopefully I won't get lost and will have more time to stop at these places!—Austin."



Austin and best friend at Cowpens.

ALONG THE TRAIL

OVTA News

Member Passings: Jim Dahl of Knoxville passes away on February 15th. Blair Keller reported that Rose Dunn of Abingdon—long-time host at the Muster Grounds—passed away in late March. Russell McNutt of North Cove in McDowell County passed away in February.

Sarah and Lee Yacovett gave birth to a baby girl, Reese Caroline Yacovett, on March 15th. This of course makes OVTA president Alan Bowen—Sarah's daddy—A grandpa!. Congratulations to All.

The following information is provided by Paul Carson and OVTA members along the Trail.

Trail Wide News

Word was received on January 31st that the OVNHT had received a \$100,000.00 increase to its base budget, starting in fiscal year 2008. The additional funds were added through a congressionally authorized base increase for all national historic and scenic trails. A number of trail partners (including OVTA) had been lobbying for the increase through the Partnership for National Historic and Scenic Trails. The increase this year will allow the OVNHT to begin the first phase of the feasibility study for determining the location for a future HQ and visitor center for the trail. The total base is now up to \$265,200.00!!

The NPS Southeast Regional Office announced the selection of Challenge Cost-Share Program projects for fiscal year 2008 on February 8th. Included were three initiatives related to the OVNHT. They include funding for the annual Call to Arms Celebration at the Muster Ground in Abingdon (organized by the Virginia Chapter of OVTA), the first phase of development of the Muster Ground in Abingdon, and assistance with construction of the first section of the Yadkin River Greenway in Caldwell County (NC). Altogether the funding adds up to \$30,000.00 for the three projects.

Paul traveled to Washington, D.C. in the first and second weeks of February to participate in the annual "Hike the Hill" efforts sponsored by the Partnership for National Historic and Scenic Trails and the National Hiking Society. While there he also attended the monthly Federal Interagency on Trails Council meeting, as well as two federal trail managers meetings, which discussed trail related issues and initiatives. Of special note is that 2008 is the 40th anniversary of the signing of the National Trails System Act, and there are plans to commemorate the event throughout the year.

While in D.C. Paul and OVTA President Alan Bowen met with the Director of the American Battlefield Protection Program, Paul Hawke, as well as ABPP Preservation Planner Tanya Gossett on February 8th. The OVNHT and its resources were discussed, as well as possible grant funding from ABPP for projects along the route.

Paul accompanied OVTA President Alan Bowen to several congressional and senatorial office visits on February 11th, 12th, and 13th. Technical advice and updates on trail activities were provided to a number of elected officials and their aides during the course of the visits.

Virginia and Tennessee

Meetings of the planning committee from Abingdon (VA), which is overseeing the management and preservation of the Muster Ground took place on December 19th, January 23rd, and February 21st. Now that a preliminary Master Plan has been adopted the group is pursuing grants from various sources for an archaeological survey, development of an on-site exhibit shelter, interpretive waysides, and other needed enhancements.

Members of the Sullivan County (TN) Planning Office and Bluff City government met with Paul on December 19th and January 23rd to scout out possible new trail sections, discuss possible programs in Bluff City during the annual OVTA march, and explore the possibility of having Choate's Ford officially certified as a site along the OVNHT later in 2008.

A meeting with Don Palmer, the new Watauga District Ranger for Cherokee NF (TN), took place on the morning of January 11th to orient and brief him about the OVNHT and potential trail sections within his area. OVTA board member Bob Hardin and SAGA Executive Director Dan Reese also participated.

In response to a request for an updated exhibit about the trail Paul erected a temporary OVNHT display at Sycamore Shoals SHA (TN) on January 24th. The park will be developing a new permanent display in the future, but the old exhibits, including the one on the trail, were badly dated and worn.

Paul, along with OVTA board member Bob Hardin and SAGA Executive Director Dan Reese, met with Joe Deloach, President of the Eastman Trail Club in Kingsport (TN) on January 24th. The club is the local ATC affiliate and is interested in possibly assisting with the OVNHT and maintenance of trail segments in the area.

A meeting to discuss possible new trail segment routings within Cherokee NF (TN) lands in the Gap Creek Road area was held on January 31st. This was followed up on February 22nd with an on-site scout of potential trail by Paul, OVTA board member Bob Hardin, and USFS official Mike Rice. The potential segment includes about 1/3 a mile of the original route. Paul will be working with USFS officials to complete required NEPA compliance documentation.

Avery, Mitchell, Northern McDowell & Burke Counties

Burke County hosted a meeting on December 12th to discuss the possible preservation of lands along the Catawba and John's Rivers as a result of the ongoing FERC re-licensing process with Duke Energy. Significant new sections of the OVNHT could be established and opened to the public once the agreement is finalized.

A trail routing scout trip was made on January 30th to determine the best place for a connecting trail segment between existing sections along the North Fork of the Catawba River and on NC Game Commission property along Black Bear Creek. Mark Riter of Trail Designs led the effort and was accompanied by Paul and USFS officials from Pisgah NF. The new section would actually traverse lands administered by Pisgah NF.

Carol Price reports progress on the Joseph McDowell House in Marion and the newly created "McDowell House Committee". The committee is composed of the three fiduciary, local government groups involved with the purchase; the tourism authority/city of Marion/McDowell County plus the McDowell Chamber and members of our historical community. They plan on meeting once each month and are in the process of identifying other local residents that may be qualified and interested in working with us. Certainly, the OVTA is an important component and we would like to include the membership in our activities.

Paul Carson sent me a copy of the OVNHT Site Certification application and I'll present it to the committee on April 23rd when we meet at 4:00 pm at the McDowell Chamber. I'm confident the group will agree this important designation is one we should pursue.

Annual Meeting Time

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association will hold it's 2008 annual business and membership meeting at 1PM on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the 1780 Community on Lake James west of Morganton. The meeting will include a membership vote on by-law changes, the election of officers, presentation of any awards and reviewing the accomplishments of the past year and set goals for the coming year.

The ballot for the election of offices and the By-law change is on the following page. Please be sure to return your ballot **BEFORE MAY 15, 2008.**

By-Law Change: The OVTA board of directors approved the following By-law change at the meeting on March 1, 2008. The change you are voting on is bold faced.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION Currently Reads

SECTION V. The term of office of the President shall be two (2) years.

SECTION VI. The term of office of the Vice-President shall be two (2) years and shall be elected on alternating years as the President.

SECTION VII. The term of office of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be two (2) years and shall be elected on alternating years as the President.

Proposed Change:

"The term of office for all officers shall be set by the board of directors, providing no term is set for less than two years or more than six years. The president and secretary will be elected on alternating years as the treasurer and vice president."

ARTICLE X. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Currently Reads

SECTION IV. Directors shall assume their official duties following the close of the annual meeting at which they were elected and shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

Proposed Change:

"Directors shall assume their official duties following the close of the annual meeting at which they were elected and shall serve for a term to be set by the board of directors, providing no term is less than two years or more than six years. Regional board seats will be elected on alternating years."

2007 OVTA Election Ballot

On this page you will find the ballot for OVTA officers and board members for the 2008-2009 year. Your dues **MUST** accompany your ballot unless you've already paid for 2008. Check the mailing label on this newsletter. The status of your membership is at the bottom of the label.

Dues and ballot must be received by OVTA no later than May 15, 2008 to be counted at the annual meeting on June 7th.

**Send this ballot to
OVTA, 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924**

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues: Individual (\$30) _____; Family (\$40) _____; Life (\$500) _____; Supporting (\$100) _____

Slate of Candidates approved by the Board of Directors at the March 1, 2008 meeting

<u>Cast Vote</u>	<u>Office or Seat</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Term</u>
Yes No	President	Alan Bowen	2008—2010
Yes No	Secretary	Fran Dahl	2008—2010
Yes No	Region 1-TN	Dan and Aggie King	2008—2010
Yes No	Region 4 NC	Albert Dale	2008—2010
Yes No	Region 5—SC	Jane Water	2008—2010
Yes No	Region 6 Georgia	Scott Bowen	2008—2010
Yes No	At-Large	Tim Massey	2008—2010

Thanks to all who have agreed to serve!

Yes No **I approve the By-law change regarding office term length as approved by the Board of Directors.**

OVTA Merchandise Order Form

Proceeds from OVTA's merchandise goes to protect the Trail & to tell the story.

Shipping and Handling for pins and patches is \$3.00, for T-Shirts and Videos \$5.00



OVTA Pins are \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00. Number _____ Amount \$_____.



OVTA Patches, \$5.00 each. Number _____ Amount \$_____



The Road to King's Mountain DVD or VHS 28 minute video is \$20 each.

Number _____ Amount \$_____



Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Logo T-shirts,
sized small through XXL,

\$20 each. Number _____ Amount \$_____

What does it mean to be a member of OVTA. Some people join because they had an ancestor in the Battle of King's Mountain. Others join because they want to see the trail protected and preserved. And then there are those who believe that this story is one of the greatest stories in America's history and want to support us in what we do.

Whatever your reason might be, your membership counts by helping us protect and preserve the Trail and tell the story. Whether we are negotiating with landowners, standing in front of school children or meeting with congressmen in Washington, our message is clear; "When we lose a piece of the Trail we can never stand on that spot and tell the story quite as well ever again.

So join us. Be part of Keeping the Story Alive!

Circle Your Membership Choice

Individual Membership = \$30

Family Membership = \$40

Supporting Membership = \$100

Life Membership = \$500

Tax Exempt Donation \$ _____

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Total Amount for Memberships and Merchandise enclosed \$ _____

**Send to:
OVTA, 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924**

In preparing for our next meeting, I am putting together copies of records/information gathered during the past two years when our "original" McDowell House committee worked with the board of the Historic Carson House on the project. We have options from a variety of resources including those from members of the state department of history and archives. We will make those records available to the group. We will be creating a vision for the property, potential use & location of the structure and the sustainability of the site. As you know, when our trails association was working with the city of Marion to develop a feasibility study for the Catawba River Greenway, the McDowell House site is included in Phase II. We also hope to have Dr. David Moore speak to the group regarding an archaeological survey. Dr. Moore has previously excavated other areas of the original McDowell Pleasant Garden tract/acreage.

If you have questions and would like to discuss this further, please call us toll free at 888-233-6111. We welcome any suggestions you have and hope you will be able to join us as we go forward with this important project. Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Surry, Wilkes and Caldwell Counties

Planning for new OVNHT exhibits in the Wilkes-Heritage Museum in Wilkesboro has continued over the past few months. Meetings on December 11th and January 22nd included a final review of the draft floor plan, as well as continued editing of the exhibit text. It is hoped that fabrication and installation will be completed by the fall of 2008. The project is being partially funded with an NPS Challenge Cost-Share Project grant.

Southern McDowell, Rutherford, & Polk Counties

Paul participated in a meeting of the Polk County (NC) Heritage Committee on January 10th to review ongoing initiatives within that community involving the OVNHT.

South Carolina

Paul met with the Kings Mountain Gateway Trails Committee (NC) on December 10th. The group is nearing completion of a Master Plan and will be pursuing funding to begin construction of the first non-motorized trail to local parks (including the OVNHT) in 2008.

Paul participated in meetings with the Cherokee County (SC) Overmountain Victory Trail Committee on December 17th, January 28th, and February 25th in Gaffney. Efforts are underway to establish 2 new miles of trail in 2008 and several landowners have been contacted about allowing trail easements on their property.

Paul assisted with the annual anniversary celebration of the Battle of Cowpens (SC) on January 19th. Activities included presenting guided walks and information about the battle and its setting, including the presence and significance of the OVNHT, which has a 2 & ½ mile section through the park.

An OVTA Calendar

OVTA Member Leigh Van Blarcom has offered up the suggestion of developing a calendar. Donna Absher is heading up the work group that will report back to the board with the design specifics. If you have ideas, send them along to Mike at miked@esper.com or 865-933-0883.

OVTA Treasury Report

OVTA's treasury stands at \$22,809.24. The Life Membership fund, \$8,398.72, which is in a CD that matured in late December has been moved into a Vanguard Money Market account to yield higher interest.

Draper 2nd Edition—the 2008 Raffle!

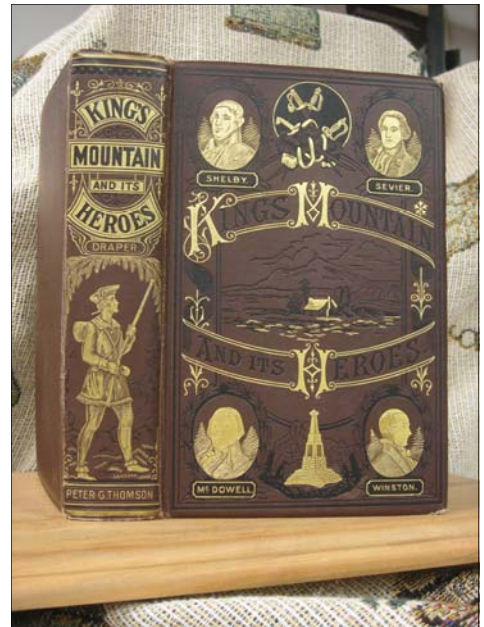
A little background first. Back in January word came from Albert Dale that some King's Mountain material was to be auctioned off. Mike and Fran Dahl headed east to attend the auction. There were two lots.

One lot included three frames display cases of brochures and letters from the 1930 150th anniversary celebration at Kings Mountain National Military Park and a walking stick that is carved to commemorate that event.

The other lot was a 1929 (very rare) second printing of Draper's King's Mountain and it's Heroes. The book is in good condition and boasts a leather cover with gold embossed pictures of four of the battle's commanders (Shelby, Sevier, McDowell and Winston) and a "Rifleman" on the spine.

Both lots—everything they had relating to King's Mountain—were purchased by Fran. OVTA quickly purchased the Draper 2nd edition for the auction price of \$300 to be the 2008 fundraiser.

As in the past, tickets will be \$5 each or three for \$10.00. The drawing will be on October 7th. Mike Dahl is crafting a cherry display case for the book.



King's Mountain and it's heroes, Lyman C. Draper, with steel portraits, maps and plans. Dauber & Pine Bookshops, Inc. New York City, 1929.

An Eye on the Future—A Traveling Exhibit?

Discussions among the board about the potential uses of the 1930 celebration items led R.G. Absher to offer up the intriguing idea the OVTA develop a traveling exhibit on the history of the Trail—not just the history that ended in 1780 when the battle was over, but, the history that began back then and carries all the way through today.

R.G. envisions artifacts and exhibits from individuals and other sources be brought together in a world class exhibit that will travel around the trail corridor allowing communities to plan special events when the exhibit is in their town. R.G. is leading the committee to get things moving.

This is an extraordinary concept that can have lasting value and benefit to the entire Trail community. We'll need help raising the funds (as much as \$40,000 for the display) and securing exhibits. Think about what you can do to help us. If you have King's Mountain Memorabilia and artifacts, consider donating to them OVTA for this project.

2007 - 2008 OVTA Officers and Board



President: Alan Bowen 2006 - 2008
(770)-382-2863 abowen@sharptoptree.com
102 Aubrey Rd NE, White Ga. 30184

Vice President: R.G. Absher 2007 - 2009
336-921-3750 absher-r@juno.com
160 Brenhaven Drive, Elkin, NC 28621

Secretary: Fran Dahl 2006 - 2008
(865)-933-0883 fran@esper.com
2517 Shipe Road. Knoxville, TN 37924

Treasurer: Mike Dahl 2007—2009
(865) 850-1797 miked@esper.com
2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924

OVTA Board Members

Region 1 Virginia:

Blair Keller 2007 - 2009
(276) 628-3070
20081 Good Hope Rd, Abingdon, VA 24210

Mike Denton 2006—2008
(276) 356-8243
24058 Berry Creek Drive. Abingdon, VA 24211

Region 1 Tennessee:

Bob Hardin 2007 - 2009
(423) 612-0242 rvhardin@hughes.net
141 Celedon Lane, Elizabethton, TN 37643

Dan and Aggie King 2007—2008
(423) 878-3606 Chiefdan421@hughes.net
415 King Lane, Bristol, TN 37620

Region 2 NC Line to Morganton:

Both Seats Vacant

Region 3 Wilkes-Surry:

Charles Gilreath 2006 - 2008
336-835-5624. PO Box 650, Elkin, NC 28621

Donna Absher 2007—2009
336-921-3750 donnaaa@embarqmail.com
160 Brenhaven Drive, Elkin, NC 28621

Region 4 Morganton to SC Line:

Albert Dale 2006 - 2008
(828) 287-4338
Rt. 1 56-7A Victory Trail, Union Mills, NC 28287

Region 5: South Carolina:

Jane Waters 2006—2008
(864) 489-7043 jandpwaters@charter.net
1555 Overbrook Drive, Gaffney, SC 29341.

Other seat vacant

Region 6, Georgia

Tom Holmes 2007 - 2009
tc_holmes@bellsouth.net
6810 Stringer Lane. Flowery Branch, GA. 30542

Scott Bowen 2006—2008
770-317-3674 sbowen@sharptoptree.com
39 Saratoga Drive, Rydal, GA 30171

At-Large BOD Seats

Evelyn Carswell 2006 - 2008
(828) 245-4708.
162 Flack Rd. Forest City, NC 28043

Tim Massey 2007- 2008
(423) 798-0525 horses319@comcast.net
19 Pine Ridge Drive, Afton, TN 37616-5156

2008 Reenactment Campaign Commander:

Mike Dahl (865)-850-1797
miked@esper.com

OVTA Activities and Support Contacts

Newsletter Editors: Mike & Fran Dahl
(Home) (865) 933-0883 Email: miked@esper.com

Ancestral Research: Karla Zimmerman
(909)-592-5505 Karlaz@msn.com
2326 Calle Petula, San Dimas, CA. 91773-3981

National Park Service OVNHT Superintendent:
Paul Carson, Superintendent OVNHT ,
(864) 936-3477 paul_carson@nps.gov
2635 Park Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina 29702.

**Overmountain
Victory Trail
Association
Newsletter**

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March, 2008 Issue

Protect, Preserve & Interpret the Overmountain Victory Trail

*The Road to Kings Mountain
Video. \$20 plus \$5 shipping
Order yours Today!*

***Please pay your
2007--2007
Dues!***

Individual Dues are \$30

Family Dues are \$40

Supporting Dues are \$150

Life Dues are \$500

Upcoming Events

BOD Meetings and Activities

Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome to participate. All BOD meeting begin at noon.

April 26, 2008: Greene County, TN 225th Anniversary.

June 7, 2008: BOD meeting, 9AM, OVTA Annual meeting 1PM. Morganton.

August 16, 2008: BOD meeting, 12 Noon, Rutherfordton

2008 Campaign Reenactment: September 20—October 7, 2008.

November 1, 2008: BOD Meeting, 12 Noon, Cowpens.