

OVTA MISSION STATEMENT

TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND INTERPRET THE ROUTE TO THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

Welcome!

Come Join Us for Adventures in History!

Hello! We have an exciting year ahead! We hope you will join us in learning about the Campaign to Kings Mountain in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolutionary War. There are many rich stories about American heroes and the stories they tell, and their role in the pursuit of freedom and a new nation! So many upcoming events are planned for this year! These include the OVTA annual march along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, Revolutionary War themed museum openings, Community events and much more!



Come Ride with Us into the Pages of History!

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) commemorates the military campaign that led to patriot victory at the battle of King Mountain in the fall of 1780. Authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980, the trail is administered by the National Park Service. Working closely with partners along its corridor, the route is gradually being completed as a non-motorized on-the-ground pathway for public use. Along the 330 miles of the OVNHT, a commemorative motor route, which follows the state highways, is also available.

Side note: An example of a trail that has recently been made available as an on-the-ground section is in Polk County, NC. At this location which is under Overmountain Vineyards, there is a two mile certified protected segment of the Overmountain Victory National Trail, available for the public to hike. Pets are welcome as long as they are on a leash along this section of trail.

O.V.T.A. NEWSLETTER

Individual Highlights:

- The President's Desk 2
- Museum Grand Opening 3
- Hike The Hill, National Park Service 4
- Wolf Creek News! Greenway corridor 5
- OVTA Documentary, Museum Grand Opening at Yorktown 6
- Tanasi 1796 7
- About OVTA 8

JOIN US!



O.V.T.A.

OverMountain VictoryTrail

The President's Desk



R.G. Absher
President

From the Desk of the President

By RG Absher

Greetings to everybody in the OVTA!! I'm happy to report on the amazing Annual March 2016! Last year was a record for us as the story of the Kings Mountain Campaign was told to over 14,000 students, teachers and members of the public during the Annual March. I would like to send a hearty thank you for all the work that so many of our members did this year in making this happen.

For the first time, we began Annual March programming on September 16th at The Home of John Sevier at Marble Springs, Tennessee. The brand new John Sevier Chapter implemented school and public programming this year one week earlier than our past Annual March kickoffs which typically began in Abingdon, VA around September 23rd. The John Sevier Chapter held several "Morn on Arms" ceremonies at several grave sites and did an outstanding job bringing the Tennessee historic march in the fold during this year's Annual March.

The weather really cooperated this year and enabled us to have most of our events move along without weather being a factor. And the communities up and down the trail really stepped up to make the Annual March a success. I would like to express appreciation to all the organizations, towns, state parks, and historic and related organizations who worked hard to assist this year's annual march.

In addition, the funding through the National Park Foundation grant Every Kid In A Park really assisted by helping aid in transportation costs and supplies and materials for the schools. And the National Park Service Cooperative Agreement provided the backbone of support to provide funding support greatly increase our ability to tell the story in the many interpretive programs told up and down the entire 330 mile trail corridor. One thing that many have noticed the last couple years is a strong ranger presence from the NPS staff out on the trail throughout the march.

The Annual March would not be possible if it was not for the many outstanding partnerships and spirit of teamwork that we experienced this year. I would also like to thank our Grand Marshal Ronnie Lail and Trail Marshal Tom Vaughan, and the Annual March Committee for the work they did in planning the 2016 Annual March. And thanks to all who participated on the march and especially to those who made the entire march!

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your membership in the OVTA. I hope that you will be a part of the OVTA and continue to be involved and be a part of the Annual March for many years to come.

See you on the trail!

RG

O.V.T.A. Membership

Our OVTA members are special people and very important to us. The Membership Committee has a goal to reach out to our members this year regularly through emails or the postal service. We have had a few reports from members saying they have not been receiving any information. If you are one of those who do not hear from us, please send an email to info@ovta.org or call our office in Abingdon, VA at 276.525.1050. If you have any questions about the OVTA, programming or inquiries about the Campaign to The Battle of Kings Mountain please contact us. We will gladly assist you in any way possible.

I would like to thank you for your membership in the OVTA. I hope that you will be a part of the OVTA and continue to be involved and be a part of the Annual March for many years to come.



Philadelphia's Revolutionary War Museum

GRAND OPENING!

Opening April 19
101 South Third St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tickets going on sale for Philly's Revolutionary War Museum

As opening day for the Museum of the American Revolution rapidly approaches, more and more of what it will offer to the public is arriving to the new building at Third and Chestnut Streets.



*Images: Museum of the American Revolution
Late last month, Gen. George Washington's field tent, the prize of the collection, was at last installed in its hermetically sealed glass theatrical box, a dramatic display for a history-loving audience.
But the tent is just the start.*



On Wednesday, at 10 A.M., timed tickets will go on sale at the museum. Adult tickets are \$19; children 6 to 18 are \$12; 5 and under - free.

O.V.T.A. Chapter to participate in Parade and Festivities Prior to Grand Opening!

The John Sevier Chapter-OVTA has been invited to represent the "Overmountain Men" in the Philadelphia, PA parade for the Museum of the American Revolution's grand opening festivities on Wednesday, April 19, the 242nd anniversary of the 'shot heard round the world' that ignited the Revolutionary War. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in Washington Square. The U.S. Army

Old guard will lay a wreath on the tomb; the Oneida Indian Nation will offer a blessing, and a prayer will be offered from representatives of regional congregations. The program will continue at 9:30 a.m. with pageantry and patriotic fanfare at Independence Hall, including performances by the U.S. Army Old Guard color guards and fife and drum corps. The parade will then march down Chestnut Street to the new museum. At 10:30

A.M., an official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Museum's outdoor plaza will open the Museum to the public. Tickets are required for the ceremony as space is extremely limited. Details of the opening program as well as information on how to purchase tickets will be announced in March.

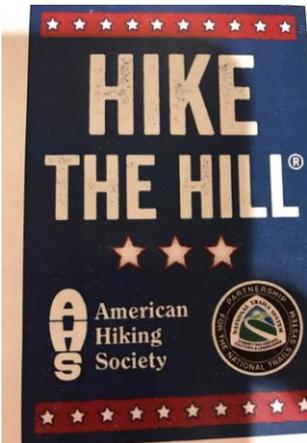


Members
Of

**The Overmountain Victory trail
Association**

Overmountain Victory Trail

Hike the Hill



RG Absher, President along with Secretary Leigh Anne Surber, Treasurer Tom Vaughan, board member Bryant Lindsey and OVTA member Linda Lindsey were at Hike the Hill in Washington, DC, Making Congressional and Senatorial office visits urging Congress to support the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. Hike the Hill is Trail Advocacy Week and trail supporters from around the nation meet in Washington in support of our National Trails System.



Tom Vaughan, RG Absher and Leigh Anne Surber are shown in photo representing the OVTA at Hike The Hill in Washington, D.C.

Staff from the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails and board representatives of their respective partner associations meets in Washington for the annual Hike the Hill National Trails Leadership Council Briefings. The partner associations also physically "hiked the hill", meeting with their respective Congress representatives on trail related policies and issues.

Ben Richardson is the Chief of Planning and Partnerships with the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Parks group, and is site manager for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. He is based out of Cowpens National Battlefield in Gaffney, South Carolina. Ben has been in this position since July of 2016. Before this, Ben worked in recreation management with the US Forest Service and West Virginia University.

He is thrilled to be working at this group of parks alongside such incredible partners such as the Overmountain Victory Trail Association and other collaborators. He feels truly blessed to be involved with a group of parks dedicated to preserving our nation's patriotic history for generations to come.

--

Ben Richardson
Chief of Planning and Partnerships
Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Parks Group
Cowpens National Battlefield,
Kings Mountain National Military Park,
Ninety Six National Historic Site &
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
338 New Pleasant Road
Gaffney, SC 29341
Phone: 864-461-2828
Gov't Cell: 864-490-0865
"If the Service is to fulfill its mission of preserving the nation's natural and cultural heritage...we must do so by creating strategic alliances with others." -Stephen T. Mather



National Park Service

Ben Richardson

Wolf Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project Abingdon Virginia

Phase II of the Wolf Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project at the Abingdon Muster Grounds is scheduled to take place in 2017!

The Wolf Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project at the Abingdon Muster Grounds is a two phase project. In 2016, riffles, lunkers, log veins and boulders were installed in the 900' of creek which runs through the meadow at the northern trail head of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. This work was done to help stabilize the banks, control the water flow, create habitat and add water features. The second phase of the project is scheduled to take place in 2017 and will consist of planting a riparian buffer. The plantings, which will help with habitat and water management, will consist of native species which will be utilized in backcountry colonial educational programs. In the future, Wolf Creek will be stocked with trout. The Abingdon Muster Grounds is a great outdoor classroom venue! In addition to the backcountry colonial educational programs, there is potential to extend the educational programs to include ecological studies. The Wolf Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project has been made possible by the partnership of the Mountain Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Town of Abingdon, VA. For more information: <https://www.wolfcreekrestoration.com/>



Colonial Recipe	COLONIAL STEW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 lb beef 6 carrots 2 potatoes 5 celery stalks 1 cup of peas 1 cup of beans 1 cup of corn 10 tomatoes Salt pepper 5 cloves garlic, minced 5 cups water Brown meat, Mix vegetables and seasoning in soup pot. Add vegetables and water to taste. Stir in meat, reduce heat and simmer over low heat for 1 hour.

Standing room only at the presentation of the plan for the Overmountain Victory Trail Greenway Corridor by Destination by Design

Caldwell County Pathways along with our co-partners City of Lenoir, Town of Gamewell, City of Morganton, Burke County and Caldwell County Governments contracted with Destination by Design to study the feasibility of a Overmountain Victory Trail Greenway Corridor that will integrate recreational, conservation and eco-educational opportunities in Burke and Caldwell Counties.

This biking and hiking trail system will tie together Lenoir and Morganton Greenways along Lower Creek and the Catawba River. This Greenway plan will be the preliminary step in establishing a future Greenway alignment along a main stem of the Overmountain Victory Trail.



Did You Know?

In 1760, the famed frontiersman Daniel Boone named the area Wolf Hills, after his dogs were attacked by a pack of wolves during a hunting expedition. What is now present day Abingdon, Virginia.

OverMountain VictoryTrail



O.V.T.A. Documentary

OVTA John Sevier Chapter News



Douglas Busby

Douglas Busby

Biography Date of Birth 2 August 1965
Brighton, Colorado

Douglas Busby's vast experience in film and television has spanned almost two

The inaugural John Sevier Chapter of the OVTA was accompanied by award-winning documentary filmmaker Douglas Busby during the 2016 march. Mr. Busby, in partnership with members of the Sevier family, is producing a documentary on the history of the Overmountain Men. Mr. Busby has captured over 20 hours of footage to date and is moving to Tennessee next week from Hollywood to continue filming. The documentary is slated to premiere at the beginning of the 2019 OVTA march. Mr. Busby has produced, filmed and directed over 80 productions over a 20 year period. He is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild, the International Documentary Association and the Society of Operating Cameramen. His experience in film and television has spanned almost two decades. He has over 80 film & television productions to his credit, having worked as a Director, Producer, Assistant Director, Camera Operator, Camera Assistant, and Actor, for such companies as Universal Pictures, Warner Brothers, Paramount Pictures, and Sony Entertainment. In addition he has been a camera operator & camera assistant on more than 50 music videos and commercials.

Busby studied at Vancouver Film School, New York University and the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre where he learned film directing, screenwriting and acting. He is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild, The Screen Actors Guild, International Documentary Association and the Society of Operating Cameramen.

Regards, Camille Chidiac

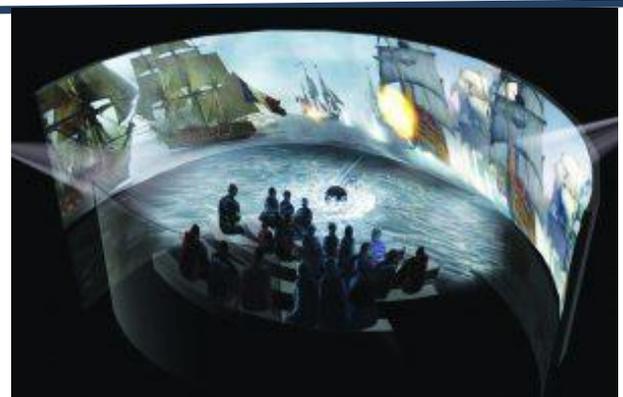
Did You Know?

John Sevier (September 23, 1745 – September 24, 1815) was an American soldier, frontiersman and politician, and one of the founding fathers, of the State of Tennessee. He played a leading role, both militarily and politically, in Tennessee's pre-statehood period, and was elected the state's first governor in 1796. Sevier served as a colonel in the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780, and commanded the frontier militia in dozens of battles against the Cherokee in the 1790s.

The American Museum at Yorktown

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, replacing the Yorktown Victory Center, achieved a crucial milestone with the debut of an introductory film, permanent exhibition galleries and the new museum name October 15 and 16, 2016.

Through comprehensive, immersive indoor exhibits and outdoor living history, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown offers a truly national perspective, conveying a sense of the transformational nature and epic scale of the Revolution and the richness and complexity of the country's Revolutionary heritage. Work continues on construction of a new outdoor living-history Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm, and a grand opening celebration **March 23-April 4, 2017, will officially launch the new museum.**



Did You Know?

At Yorktown, the victory that won the war, Frenchman outnumbered Americans almost three to one!

Tanasi Coming! March 2017

TANASI 1796

CLAYTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MARYVILLE TENNESSEE
MARCH 25, 2017 • Matinee 2:00PM, Evening 7:30PM

EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

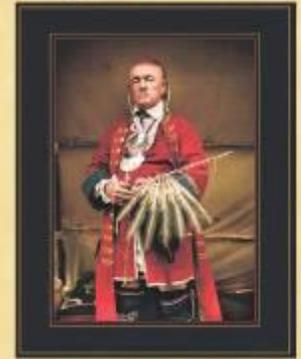
1756-1796

DOCUDRAMA

A story told with MUSIC, ART AND DRAMA
as seen through the eyes of Captain Joseph Black,
Cherokee Peace Chief Attakulakulla, and Ensign Andrew Evans.



CAPTAIN JOSEPH BLACK



CHEROKEE CHIEF ATTAKULLAKULLA

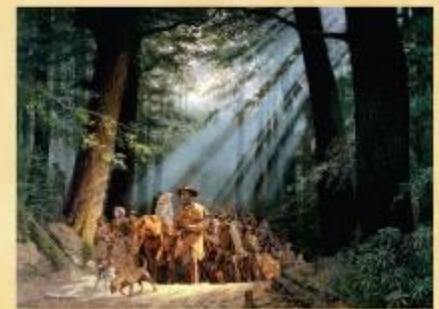
“Typical period’ Lunch & Dinner will be available at the campsite just
across the terrace from the center (cost reasonable but not included).
Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., Dinner 5:45 -7:15 p.m.

PERFORMING...



RANDY MCGINNIS & CONNIE OTTWAY

- Current Sponsors:
- East Tennessee Historical Society
 - Barbara Everett, Realty Executives Associates
 - Kizer and Black, Attorneys, LLC
 - Fred and Sharon Lawson
 - Lamar Dunn, Strategic Services Company
 - Citizen's Bank of Blount County , CBBC
 - Hickory Construction Company
 - Bill Vines, Butler, Vines and Babb, Attorneys
 - Carl and Stephen Koella



GATEWAY TO THE WEST

Tickets: Clayton Center for the Arts Box Office 865-981-8590
Reserved \$25.00/General Admission \$15.00
WWW.TANASI1796.COM

Did You Know?

During Lord Dunmore's War, Joseph Black built Black's Fort in 1774 to protect local settlers in the region from attacks by the Cherokee of the Lower Towns. It consisted of a log stockade, with a few log cabins inside, where nearby settlers took refuge in event of attack. They retreated to the fort in 1776 when attacked by the war leader Dragging Canoe and his Chickamauga Cherokee forces. Hoping to push out the colonists, the Cherokee had allied with the British in the American Revolutionary War. The settlement was known as Black's Fort prior to being named Abingdon. Black, Briggs and Walker donated the 120 acres of land upon which the original town was laid out. It was at the intersection of two great Indian trails, which had followed ancient animal migration trails through the mountains. It was a prime location as a trade center and access point to the west and south. In 1776 the community of Black's Fort was made the county seat of the newly formed Washington county. In 1778, Black's Fort was incorporated as the town of Abingdon, said to be named for the ancestral home of Martha Washington in Oxfordshire, England.

OVTA Leadership

Address;
Overmountain Victory Trail Assoc.

1780 Muster Place
Abingdon, Virginia 24210

Phone - 276 525 1050



We're on the Web!

www.ovta.org

2017 OVTA Leadership



OVTA Officers

Term

R&G Absher - President - Elkin, NC	2016-2018
David Doan - Vice President - Blountville, TN	2017-2019
Tom Vaughan - Treasurer - Bristol, TN	2017-2019
Leigh Anne Hunter Surber - Secretary - Abingdon, VA	2016-2018

OVTA Board Members

Donna Absher - Elkin, NC	2017-2019
Joella Johnson Barbour - Abingdon, VA	2016-2018
Mary Bohlen - Purlear, NC	2017-2019
Alan Bowen - Cartersville, GA	2017-2019
Scott Bowen - Rydal, GA	2016-2018
Chivous Bradley - Rutherfordton, NC	2017-2019
Roger Byers - Rutherfordton, NC	2016-2018
Randy Curde - Tega Cay, SC	2017-2019
Albert Dale - Dysartsville, NC	2016-2018
Tony DeVault - Bluff City, TN	2016-2018
Dan Hopping - Raleigh, NC	2016-2018
Teresa Howell - Elkin, NC	2016-2018
Rick Humphreys - Abingdon, VA	2017-2019
Aggie King - Bristol, TN	2017-2019
Ronnie Lail - Unicoi, TN	2016-2018
Bryant Lindsey - Morganton, NC	2016-2018
Mel McKay - Johnson City, TN	2016-2018
Leighann Snuggs - Gaffney, SC	2016-2018
Gary Walrath - Piney Flats, TN	2016-2018

Overmountain Victory Trail Association
1780 Muster Place
Abingdon, VA 24210
276-525-1050

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
1780 MUSTER PLACE
ABINGDON, VIRGINIA 24210

