

Protecting & Preserving the Trail

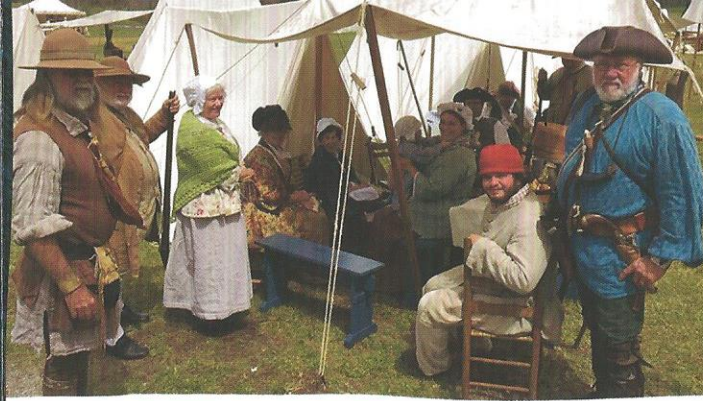
The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail is 330 miles long, with 30 miles of the original 1780 roadbed intact today. One of the OVTA's priorities is to protect and preserve those remaining roadbed remnants.

The OVTA's mission is to protect, preserve and interpret the route of the Overmountain Men to the Battle of King's Mountain. We partner with communities, organizations and government agencies in the development of new walking trails as well as protecting and preserving trail remnants and historic sites located on the trail.

The saga of the Overmountain Men is the story of our American spirit.

It is what makes us *unique*.

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), Inc is a registered 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Your membership card will be sent upon registration. This brochure was produced by the OVTA with funding support from the National Park Service.



The Story of the Overmountain Men

“Lay down your arms and swear allegiance to the King or I will march my army over the mountains, hang your leaders and lay waste with fire and sword your home and fields.”

– Patrick Ferguson, late summer 1780

In response to Ferguson's threat, a volunteer army formed from west of the Appalachian Mountains and the Upper Yadkin Valley of North Carolina. They gained strength in numbers as they pursued the British major and his western wing of the most feared and powerful army in the world. After a two week campaign, the two forces met on the afternoon of October 7, 1780, on top of Kings Mountain. When the one-hour battle was over, Ferguson lay dead and all of his 1,100 men had been either killed or captured.

The job was done and the patriots split up and returned home to their families never to come together as an army again. The Battle of Kings Mountain was an amazing victory and considered by many to be the turning point of the American Revolution.

Keeping the Story Alive

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association was formed in 1975 to prevent the history of the Overmountain Men and their march to the battle of King's Mountain from being lost to the passages of time. In 1980 Congress designated the route from Abingdon, VA and from Elkin, NC to King's Mountain as the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail which is part of the National Park Service.

Each year, since 1975, OVTA volunteers gather in late September at the original muster grounds to prepare for the historic March. During the next 15 days they follow in the footsteps of our patriot forefathers in VA, TN, NC and SC telling their story along the way. Whenever possible, the original trail is used for camping and programming.

The OVTA also works with local communities to help them form local chapters and develop their own part of trail story.

Visit our website at www.ovta.org for online history of the story of Kings Mountain.

