

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

2014 History Symposium

Gaffney, South Carolina
November 21 & 22, 2014



Painting by Richard Luce

Sponsored by
City of Gaffney, South Carolina, and
Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc. (OVTA)



2014 OVNHT History Symposium

Co-sponsored by the City of Gaffney, SC, and
the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc. (OVTA)

Friday, November 21
Gaffney Visitors Center and Art Gallery
210 W. Frederick St., Gaffney

- 5:00-5:45 Reception
- 5:45 Welcome
- 6:00 Ken Robinson
"Skirmish at Cane Creek: Prelude to the Overmountain Trek and Victory at Kings Mountain"
- 7:15 Break
- 7:30 Andrea Kiser and Patrick Kiser
"OVT Marches—the early years"
- 8:45-9:30 Social time

Saturday, November 22
Cherokee County Museum of History & Art
301 College Drive, Gaffney

- 8:00-8:50 Museum viewing
"The American Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1783"
- 8:50 Welcome
- 9:00 Bill Anderson
"Routes to Kings Mountain by Hawthorn, Lacey, Williams, and the South Fork Boys"
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Ricky Roberts
"Every Insult and Indignity, the Life, Genius, and Legacy of Major Patrick Ferguson"
- 12:00 Lunch and 40th anniversary OVTA celebration
- 1:00 Closing remarks and Adjourn
Optional field trips: Grave of Col. Williams and Cherokee Ford



Andrea Kiser and Patrick Kiser

“OVT Marches—the early years”

During the earliest years of the OVT marches, before it became a national historic trail, Andrea Bennett Kiser and her pre-teen son, walked from Sycamore Shoals in Elizabethton, TN, to Kings Mountain

National Military Park.. Walking with them were her parents Hugh and Lottie Bennett and Andrea’s daughter, Robin Kiser (now Michaels). They completed this trek several times. Hugh Bennett served as the Grand Marshal for the 1979 OVT March. Hugh was an avid photographer and early videographer and Andrea has his archives. She plans to share some of those images from the early marches and help the audience take a walk down memory lane.

Those attending the symposium who have memorabilia from the early marches are invited to bring those for sharing during this informal presentation and afterward.



1975 OVT March at McDowell - Burke county line.

(l to r) Lottie Bennett, Hugh Bennett, Andrea Bennett Kiser, and Patrick Kiser

Symposium participants are invited to read *“A Volunteer Effort—The Unrelenting Pursuit of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail”* written in 2005. It is available online at www.nps.gov/ovvi/historyculture .



“Bob Benner marking Victory Trail route.” News Herald, Sept. 26, 1975



William Lee Anderson, III

Bill Anderson grew up in Charlotte, NC, where he read about nearby events of the American Revolution. He is a software developer in Charlotte. About 15 years ago, it became evident that computer tools like Web search could solve many unanswered questions about the Revolutionary War. Bill has written several reports (<http://elehistory.com/amrev/AmRevReportsFlyer.pdf>). He applied for two state-approved historical markers and led an effort that

protected a 200-year-old Patriot cemetery in Lincoln County, NC. He also wrote the web application American Revolution Sites, Events, and Troop Movements (<http://elehistory.com/amrev/SitesEventsTroopMovements.htm>) that plots events during the Revolutionary War. He enjoys participating in American Revolution commemoration events. He helped organized two tours that retraced the marches of Cornwallis’s army to and from Charlotte in 1780. He has written articles in local historical publications and spoken at SAR, DAR, and other group meetings about local history. He is a member of the Charlotte History Roundtable.

“Routes to Kings Mountain by Hawthorn, Lacey, Williams, and the South Fork Boys”

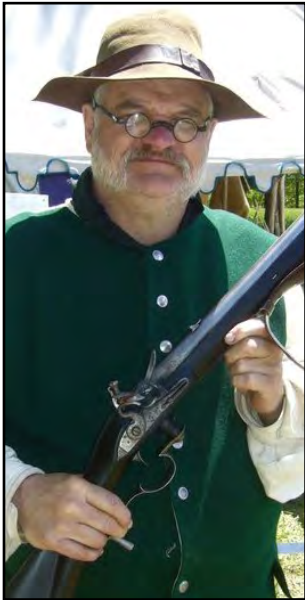
Although the story of the Overmountain Men’s march to Kings Mountain is a compelling story, other Patriot groups followed routes that converged at The Cowpens on the evening of October 6, the night before the battle at Kings Mountain. The route taken by Sumter’s men, under Hawthorn and Lacey, by Williams’ men, and by the South Fork Boys of Lincoln County under Graham (i.e., under Hambright and Chronicle), will be described and illustrated on an interactive map. What is known and unknown about these routes will be presented and discussed. Bill’s account of the Lincoln County militia is at <http://www.elehistory.com/amrev/LincolnCountyMenAtKingsMountain.pdf>.



Ricky Roberts

co-author with Bryan Brown,

“Every Insult and Indignity, the Life, Genius, and Legacy of Major Patrick Ferguson”



Ricky Roberts and Bryan Brown are two historical reenactors and amateur historians with a bit of a bug for the firelocks and an itch for Patrick Ferguson’s Breech loading Ordinance Rifle specifically. “In an era when most other arms loaded from the muzzle and smoothbore arms were in the vast majority Patrick Ferguson developed what is in our opinion the ultimate pre-cartridge firearm, certainly the coolest flintlock-era weapon.”

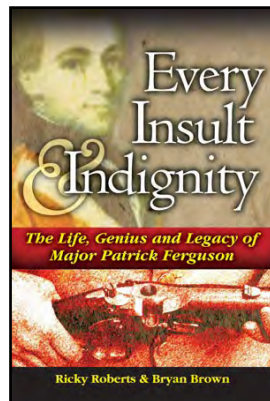
Ricky is no novice at this; he has been reenacting and shooting black powder since the 1970s and is a former member of the US International Muzzle Loading team and has

represented the US at many international competitions shooting anything from a Matchlock, through a Cap lock both in long arms and pistols. He wrote over 20 articles about the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution for On the Trail magazine under the banner, “Ramblings of a Shirttailed Man.”

He is a member of the New Acquisition Militia, The Widow makers, Hesse Kassel Jaeger Korps, American Long Rifle Association, The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, and National Rifle Association, a regular attendee of the NMLRA Friendship shoots and is retired from the US Postal Service.

Watch Ricky Roberts fire his Ferguson Rifle seven times in about one minute at Kings Mountain National Military Park in May 2010.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2CFFkg-UI>



Kenneth W. Robinson

Archaeologist, RPA



Ken Robinson is a registered professional archaeologist with nearly 40 years of archaeological experience. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University (BA, 1975) and the University of Kentucky (MA, 1984) with degrees in anthropology. Much of his research has been in North Carolina, but he also has undertaken projects in other parts of the United States, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. His research interests include sites of the late 18th century and 19th century, as well as the study of pre-Columbian artifacts and sites. He has conducted studies at more than ten different sites along the Overmountain Victory Trail. He is now Principal Investigator of the Cane Creek Battlefield Delineation project, sponsored by the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina with funding provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association. The Revolutionary War skirmish at Cane Creek occurred only three weeks prior to the Battle of Kings Mountain.



“Skirmish at Cane Creek: Prelude to the Overmountain Trek and Victory at Kings Mountain”

On September 12, 1780, about three weeks before the Battle at Kings Mountain, Patriot militia led by colonels Charles McDowell and Andrew Hampton engaged British loyalists under the command of Major Patrick

Ferguson in a skirmish on the headwaters of Cane Creek. The fight took place at the edge of the South Mountains in what is today McDowell County, NC. Several soldiers on both sides were killed and wounded. After the battle, with Ferguson and his troops in chase, McDowell and Hampton traveled across the Blue Ridge to join with other Patriot militia. The assembled force soon returned to the head of Cane Creek, where they planned an attack on Ferguson that ultimately led to defeat of his army and his death at Kings Mountain. This presentation will summarize the history of the Cane Creek battle in the context of the Southern Campaign, and the efforts to archaeologically identify and document the battle site.