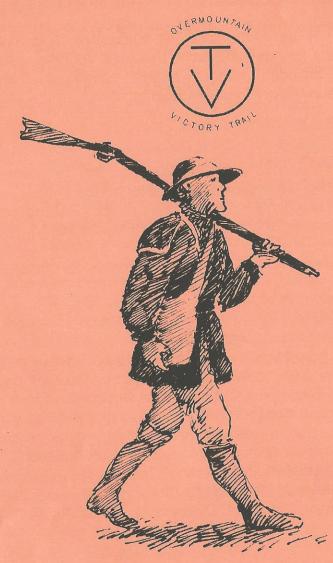
Trail Log

The Newsletter of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association June 1995



Going to Kings Mountain on the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Walking the Walk, Talking the Talk

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

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#### On the Cover

This issue shows a reenactor on the trail.

The artwork is a pencil sketch drawn by Bryan Richardson from a series of photos taken in 1991 and 1994.

Drawings and pictures for the cover are welcome!

## 1995 Meetings

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

- 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, June 24, 1995, 12 to 3 p.m. Where: Whippoorwill Academy, Ferguson, NC

Who: All officers, board members, regular members, and

the general public

Agenda:

- Report on Appalachian Trail Days (Blair Keller, jr.)
- Reports on National Trails Day
- Report on Scenic Byways Meeting (Mae Murph)
- \* T-Shirts (R.G. Absher, jr.)
- 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)
- 1995 Reenactment Planning (Ruth Christian)
- Program for Members 2:30 p.m.
   (Working with Gourds Sallie Miller Weaver)
- Members' Program for Public 4 p.m.
- Members' Program for Public 7 p.m.
   (Kerr Scott Reservoir Bandits' Roost)

**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

- Annie Winkler Dies
- Board Approves Printing & Selling T-Shirts
- Board Recognizes Millie Fox Harbison
- Will Brown Picked as Region 2 Director
- Conrad Schliske First Contribution to Curriculum Guide
- 1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** Reports on National Trail Meeting in Washington
- Trail Meeting Encourages Historycade
- Trail Impact Survey to Begin July 1
- Lynn Fox Named Director of Governor Sevier Society
  Other April Board Decisions
- No Action Taken on Fees

#### A Founder Lost

Annie Winkler, a founder of Old Wilkes and OVTA, died recently at her new home in Texas. Memorial services back in Wilkesboro were packed, attesting to her strong place in the community at large, as well as in the historic community. Beginning in 1975, she helped organize OVTA efforts in Wilkes County, bringing many citizens into our organization. Her efforts were recognized during the 1990 reenactment as the main order of business for the pinto bean and combread supper held at Bandits' Roost Amphitheater at Kerr Scott Reservoir near Wilkesboro. Soon after, she moved to Texas. She was buried in North Wilkesboro.

# **National Trails System Meeting**

At April's meeting of the board of directors, 1995 Grand Marshal Ruth Christian reported on her attendance at this year's meeting of representatives of the national historic and scenic trails which make up the National Trails System. This year's meeting was in Washington in early April. Ruth, her husband, Frank Christian, and 1988 Grand Marshal Grant Hardin represented OVTA. All three were financed by the Southeast Region of the National Park Service. Also attending were Chief Ranger at Cowpens, Pat Ruff, Superintendent Mike Loveless from Kings Mountain, and Rich Sussman from the region.

## **Historycade Support**

Ruth reported that representatives of other trails thought the Historycade was a very important function that OVTA should expand and develop. The tour guide who took the conference attendees around Washingtom suggested OVTA contact a tour operator. A suggestion made this winter by Region 4 (Rutherford County) Director Nancy Ferguson was also seconded by attendees: Look to senior citizens' groups for Historycade participants.

Ruth and Grant were also impressed by audio tapes used on tours in Washington. They suggested OVTA develop a similar tape for the OVNHT and the Historycade.

Ruth reported that Congress was not in session when the conference goers went to Capitol Hill to talk to Congress. They did get to meet with some Tennessee staff members. Ruth reported wearing period dress on visits to the Capitol would be very effective. And several founding members did just that in the efforts to get national designation for the trail.

## Final Show Stopper

The conference ended with a banquet at which the three OVTA representatives provided the entertainment: Our usual talking about the people and the trail, as well as Grant providing the Reverend Samuel Doak's sermon. This was a special opportunity, for many attendees are not familiar with the trail. Ruth reported that people at the banquet talked all through the speeches leading up to the entertainment. But all talk ended when OVTA began.

# "Fun" Getting There

The flights from Tri Cities to Washington by way of Charlotte were a special treat for Grant, who had not flown before. In usual fashion, the flight from Charlotte to Washington was delayed. The takeoff was unusual, the pilot explaining there was a "slight engine burp!"

# **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 June meeting.

# 1995 Reenactment Planning

1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** reported on her continuing efforts. She talked to a home schooler who may be along for the entire reenactment. She also asked for the support of members in setting up campfire programs for each night on the trail. She asked for suggestions on topics and members who would like to help out.

# **Historycade Leadership**

1977 Grand Marshal **William Stronach**, the only Historycade Marshal since the effort began, declined to serve this year. He stated several reasons, beginning with the \$150 to \$200 he has spent each year on brochures

specifying the itinerary. He also cited President Bob Sweeny's abrupt comments at Cane Creek, in particular his saying that a trail motor guide would not be available for three years at the earliest. Bill also criticized the confusion over whether or not the National Park Service would recognize former Appalachian Consortium head Borden Mace and former Congressman Jim Broyhill at Kings Mountain last fall.

Bob Sweeny apologized, saying it was never his intent to cut off or embarrass Bill Stronach at Cane Creek. He specifically was referring to the formal guide to the commemorative motor route which the two had discussed earlier. He has not had any time to begin work and does not see any time until after the curriculum guide is finished.

Bob Sweeny also reviewed the process by which the OVTA nominates people for possible recognition by NPS. Under the agreement between the two organizations, OVTA makes multiple nominations. The NPS then picks one or more for designation. The choice is not made by OVTA. Usually only one of the nominees is picked. Bob Sweeny indicated he did not know the criteria the NPS used.

Usually, the nominations are made at the June or August board meeting. This year, the NPS asked at the February meeting if OVTA would renominate Borden Mace and Jim Broyhill, since they were not recognized last year. The board did so.

#### **Trail Study Support**

**Dr. Roger Moore** reported to the board of directors on the 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. Moore to find out how much hard cash a trail puts in the pockets along the trail corridor.

**Dr. Roger Moore** explained the survey is in its second phase:

- · Conduct a literature search, 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 60 days. He plans to submit his proposal to OMB by May 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. Areas with no visitors' centers are not surveyed:

- 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

The Quaker Meadows Plantation House (McDowell House) is not open regularly, so data will be taken during the reenactment only. The sites reviewed the questionnaires, as did OVTA liaison, 1981 Grand Marshal Conrad Schliske, and president Bob Sweeny.

Visitors will be given a one-page questionnaire and asked if they would fill out a longer form. Dr. Moore or a representative from N.C. State will be on the reenactment. 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.

#### **T-Shirts**

1992 Grand Marshal **R.G. Absher, jr.**, showed off the design prepared by **Dick Underwood** of Old Wilkes for the proposed OVTA t-shirts. **Joan Baity**, of Old Wilkes and OVTA, also helped out.

T-Shirt Back





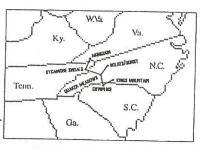
# An American Turning Point, Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

#### **T-Shirt Front**

# OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL







National Historic Trail



## A Good (Low) Cost

R.G. reported he began checking with local t-shirt outfits and screen printers. The estimates ranged up to \$8.50. American Sign Company, however, suggested they would

#### **But What Color?**

R.G. suggested white shirts with green printing and a green shirt with white lettering. In earlier discussions, board members indicated the black and dark shirts are very popular with students. Older members seemed to like lighter colors. The t-shirts available from OVTA in the past were blue. The board voted to purchase large and extra large shirts, half in a light color scheme and half in a dark scheme.

#### A Good Price

The board then voted to charge \$10 for each shirt. Shirts will be available by June 3rd, National Trails Day. **Francis Manderson** of Historic Burke Foundation mentioned that they would offer the shirts at the Old Court House Museum, without any charge to OVTA. Old Wilkes is expected to do the same. In the past, Sycamore Shoals has also sold OVTA t-shirts.

## The Gray, Cap Lock, Shirts

The board also voted to spend \$136 to purchase the remaining shirts procured by **Will Neville** for earlier bike rides associated with National Trails Day. Members can purchase these shirts, while supplies last, for \$8.50. Contact R.G. Absher. Yes, the design on these shirts is very attractive, but a cap lock rifle is clearly visible instead of the correct flintlock!

## **National Trails Day**

Again this year, a bike ride is planned on National Trails Day from W. Kerr Scott Reservoir to Fort Defiance and Whippoorwill Academy. Sponsors are Old Wilkes and OVTA, along with the bike club in Wilkes County. Contact R.G. Absher.

Lynn (Carty) Fox plans a continuation of marching the Tennessee trail segments. This year will be the popular crossing of Roan Mountain through Yellow Mountain Gap.

Last year, a segment between Sycamore Shoals and Roan Mountain was walked. The year before, the segment was from Rocky Mount to Watauga. Assembly point this year is Sycamore Shoals.

## **Appalachian Trail Days**

1995 Trail Marshal **Blair Keller, jr.**, reported the Town of Damascus, Virginia, was again expecting OVTA to exhibit at the annual Appalachian Trail Days. He planned to erect his tent and bring over from Sycamore Shoals the NPS traveling exhibit on the national historic trail.

#### **Historic Burke's Plans**

Executive Director **Francis Manderson** was on hand to welcome OVTA to the McDowell House, the first time the board has met there. She reported that the contractors were finishing up the lighting and heating/ventilating systems. Large holes in the floor were evidence of that!

Unfortunately, the system was not in use. Poor Director Nancy Ferguson suffered a severe asthma attack from the dust and mold in the house. Both she and the members weren't sure how it would come out. Finally, her medicine kicked in and she was able to stay for the rest of the meeting.

#### Money and Plans for Each Room

The next step for Historic Burke is the familiar fund raising, money being the stumblig block for the next phase. The otherwise bare house is doing good, however. Design classes at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton study the house to develop possible furnishings. Last year when we stayed there during the reenactment, paper outlines of furniture covered the floors where students expected chairs and tables and beds to go. At the board meeting in April, charts and photos and posters of possible designs were propped on the chair rails and window sills, the latest efforts by WPCC.

#### **A Visitors' Center**

The final phase is the building of a separate visitors' center disguised as a barn. This is the most popular part of the development to many OVTA members, who expect to see

Francis Manderson answered, "No," explaining that the house is only opened for special occasions. At this time no regular hours are kept. Some board members suggested a regular schedule might be useful. Such a schedule is necessary for site certification by the National Park Service. Because of the central historical role of the Quaker Meadows, that certification is desirable.

#### 1995 Visit to Quaker Meadows

Again this year, the reenactors are invited to stay the night of September 30th at Quaker Meadows in the house. The board assured Historic Burke that the reenactors will provide a program for the public when they get in that evening. Since this year's stay is on a Saturday, **Francis Manderson** will see if she can arrange all day activities. A concern is the fair schedule, for last year the fair was still going on, as all who slept there were well aware!

## Appalachian Trail Conference Exhibit

The board asked President Bob Sweeny to check with NPS to determine if space is available for the traveling exhibit in the NPS space. The convention is July 1 through 7 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Usually the exhibits are open on the first two days, Saturday, July 1, and Sunday, July 2. If you can attend and help out, let Bob know.

## Millie Fox Harbison's Resignation

As reported in the last newsletter, Region 2 Director Millie Fox Harbison resigned from the board for continuing health problems. The board voted by acclimation to express their appreciation for her services. She came to the board when participation was low and efforts in Burke County were meager. Always saying she was "just a housewife," she plunged right in to put OVTA on firmer ground.

Her two challenges during the reenactment were shelter and schools. Her efforts with the schools took us from no presence to a close working relationship with both county high schools and the school for the deaf. Over the years she arranged camping at the fairgrounds and her church, Oak Hill United Methodist, as reconstruction work on the McDowell House put that most-desired camping site off limits. Many a trip to North Cove, Dysartsville, or up Old 105 on Linville Mountain, she and her husband, Ed, made to coordinate and make ready. In fact, they brought quite a few weary marchers down off Linville one year.

## Will Brown New Region 2 Director

The board unanimously chose William F. Brown III of Morganton to fill Millie's unexpired term as Region 2 Director. Will is a longtime colonial reenactor who has participated numerous time with OVTA on the reenactment. He portrayed Benjamin Cleveland in a video about that King's Mountain commander. He also managed to take his flintlock to Yellow Mountain Gap in the terrible rain of 1993 and fire when he unwrapped it.

After the April board meeting, those camping at Quaker Meadows went to his home for supper. Everyone was delighted with its rustic, colonial design and furnishing. **Betsy Buss** remarked on how spooky it was to watch the perid-dressed campers file into the house, making it unclear when the gathering was occurring.

#### **OVTA-Charles McDowell Scholarship Award**

Following up on discussions with the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton, President Bob Sweeny reported for scholarship committee chairman **Orville Clayton** that the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton agreed to rename their scholarship the OVTA-Charles McDowell Scholarship. Ther first award will occur June 1 at the school's high school graduation in Morganton. The OVTA will provide \$500 of the scholarship's \$1,500. 1995 Grand Marshal **Ruth Christian** will present the scholarship.

#### **OVTA History**

Hank Weaver reported on a recent meeting of the Appalachian Consortium at which he represented OVTA. Over the years, the Consortium has grown and changed.

Hank reported that efforts to get the founders to record their experiences are continuing. In May, the third Grand Marshal William Stronach, widow of the first Margaret Collins, the third Harry Smith, and incorporater Bob Morrison plan to put together material from the first days. William Stronach brought in a poster used in the early marches and county chapter charters issued by the Consortium before OVTA was formed.

#### **Curriculum Guide**

Hank Weaver reported on the work on the curriculum guide. At the request of **Dr. Anita Davis**, who is writing the guide, Hank will contact **Phylis Hollifield** of North Carolina to work on the high school lessons.

#### **Member Curriculum Guide Contributions**

He reported that, as of the April board meeting, no member had submitted any material for the curriculum guide.

## The Very First

On May 18, the very first material from a member came in. 1981 Grand Marshal **Conrad Schliske** submitted fourteen questions about different aspects of the trail. Best of all, he used different subjects as the basis of the questions. Two math questions dealt with sewing, asking how many stitches are required for a certain size of shirt if so many stitches per inch are used. He then asked how long it would take a seamstress to sew the shirt at different speeds (stitches per minute).

He also used geography for the basis of math questions, questioning percentages based on the trail lengths in the different states. A more traditional math question requires the student to determine how many acres the trail takes for different widths. Following up is how many steps are required to walk the trail.

Most questions about the battle are math questions, too. The usual interests about fire arms are practical questions relating to how much shot and powder, although not in those simple terms! The second half has questions about the trail's history that we recount each year. Thanks, Conrad!

**Don't Stop Work on Your Material** 

Hank reiterated the need for members to help out. 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 on the back cover.

**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.

## The Schedule

The schedule calls for finishing the draft by June 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 contacted.

## Some Coin to Bank On

Region 4 Director Nancy Ferguson reported an interesting inquiry to OVTA. She was appearing on TV to talk about the

Baechler Mint in Rutherford County. The subject of commemorative coins was brought up. One caller asked why wasn't there a commemorative coin for the OVNHT. More callers chimed in with the same question. She received more calls at home with the same request. In total, 17 people asked why we didn't have a commemorative coin.

**Lynn Fox Paid** 

Region 1 (Tennessee) Director Lynn (Carty) Fox starts a new job July 1. He's the paid director of the Governor John Sevier Society in Knoxville. They operate the Sevier home, Marble Springs. He previously served on the organization's board of directors, as vice president, and president. His regular full-time job continues, but now his work with history is rewarded with hard cash, too. He will have to give up his seat on the OVTA board, but he plans to offer the OVTA t-shirts at the gift shop in Marble Springs.

April's Program

The April board meeting ended on a high note as 1995 Grand Marshal Ruth Christian, 1992 Grand Marshal R.G. Absher, 1981 Grand Marshal Conrad Schliske, 1995 Trail Marshal Blair Keller, Member Gene Cunningham, 1995 Entry Taker Frank Christian, Region 2 Director Will Brown, and 1987 Grand Marshal Bob Sweeny presented a program for about ten people at Quaker Meadows. Things began with an Irish jig composed by R.G. Absher with lyrics devised by Bob Sweeny. The usual talks on Kings Mountain and colonial life followed. The firing demonstration was ragged, reflecting the humid air that turned to strong rains the next morning. Bob Sweeny closed the program with a poem about Kings Mountain.

**Special Thanks to Historic Burke** 

A very special thanks for the hospitality offered by Historic Burke for the April board meeting. Executive **Francis Manderson** made sure everything was in place for the meeting, the public program, and the night's camping. Thanks to the City of Morganton for bringing out chairs, too.

Members' Program at Whippoorwill Academy

Program Chair Conrad Schliske has lined up an interesting program for this month's meeting at Whippoorwill Academy.

Secretary Sallie Miller Weaver will talk on crafts with gourds. Since the colonial man and woman used the gourd for all sorts of tools, she will help all reenactors.

**Public Programs at June Board Meeting** 

Members are asked to wear period dress and bring their flintlocks to Whippoorwill Academy for the board meeting. We will present a program for the public after the meeting at 4 p.m. at Whippoorwill Academy. R. G. Absher, jr., reports 400 showed up for Daniel Boone Days in April, so a big turnout is possible.

Saturday night camping will be available at Kerr Scott Reservoir, just up the road near Wilkesboro. A program is planned at the reservoir's Bandits Roost Amphitheater about 7 p.m. Hundreds of campers are likely to show up there, too. Members are urged to join in what could be the biggest one-day set of public programs outside the reenactment.

**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.

# **Easier Access to President**

Bob Sweeny reports his new long-distance company offers home 800 (toll-free) service. If you have a Touch Tone® phone, you can call him at 1-800-860-1000. Follow the instructions and enter 765597. Be advised, he always has an answering machine on the phone. But he picks up if he can. If not, he'll call back.

**June Board Meeting Location** 

The June meeting will be held in the Whippoorwill Academy in the Whippoorwill Village, a private museum operated by **Edith Ferguson Carter** and her husband, Hill. They are

located on N.C. 268 at Ferguson, between U.S. 321 and U.S. 421. More exactly, they are bewteen W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and Fort Defiance. See the map on page 16.

Whippoorwill Academy is a one-room school built in 1880 and in use until 1901. The building remained in use as a polling place until the mid 1960's. In 1986, the academy was disassembled and reconstructed on its current site. In the loft is the Tom Dooley (Dula) gallery with artifacts from the life and violent death of the man made famous by the Kingston Trio.

The **Smokehouse Gallery** is from the late 1700's on the Ferguson farm. Nearby is another smokehouse constructed from logs dating to the 1700's, also. Local arts and crafts are displayed there.

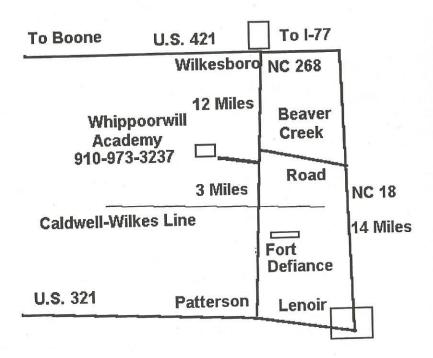
Matt's Store was originally built about a mile away and was moved to the village. Actually, the original store - built in the 1920's - was destroyed in the great flood of 1940. This structure was rebuilt from scrap lumber left by the flood. Yes, that flood was the event that sparked interest in a flood control project for the Yadkin, the dam now called W. Kerr Scott. The store has space for artifacts and craft items.

The **Daniel Boone Cabin** is a replica of the home in this area from which Boone traveled to Kentucky.

Tom Dula's grave is about a mile away by a walking trail.

Edtih and her husband have prepared several videos which detail local history. "The Battle of King's Mountain and the Overmountain Men" and a sequel, "The Legend of the Devil Ground," are of obvious interest to OVTA members. These two take about 40 minutes. Other tapes cover the Tom Dula story, Blowing Rock, and the Brown Mountain Lights. Each is about 20 minutes.

Call ahead if you plan to come early to Whippoorwill Academy to see all the exhibits before the meeting. Region 3 Directors **Edith Carter** and **R.G. Absher, jr.**, plan to have snacks available for lunch.



**Getting in Touch With Your Officers** 

President	Vice President
Bob Sweeny	R.G. Absher, jr.
P.O. Box 632	W. Kerr Scott
Manassas Park, VA 22111	Reservoir
703-834-4582 (Day)	Wilkesboro, NC 28697
703-368-9577 (Eve)	910-921-3390 (Day)

Secretary	Treasurer
Sallie Miller Weaver	John Gray
P.O. Box 220	517 Freeman's Walk
Boone, NC 28607	Stone Mtn, GA 30083
704-264-2659 (Eve)	404-299-3237 (Eve)

## **Future Activities**

National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, 1995
Appalachian Trail Conference Convention, July1 to 7, 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.

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**Address Correction Requested** 

Nonprofit Bulk Third-Class Rate