



CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
W. H. PLEMMONS
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607
ARTHUR H. DEROSIER, JR.
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE 37601

407 East Howard Street
Boone, North Carolina 28607
July 31, 1975

TO: County Bicentennial Chairmen
County Trail Marshalls
Selected Interested Guests

RE: OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL RALLY

Dear Revolutionary Friends:

An important rally is being staged at the handsome CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION on the campus of Appalachian State University to distribute brochures, maps, emblems, and receive progress reports on the Overmountain Victory Trail.

The date is Thursday, August 21, 1975, at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served banquet style, "dutch treat". Among those expected will be Dr. Cratis Williams, Chancellor for A.S.U. and expert on the Appalachians, and Bob Harmon, local folk singer.

This being during the vacation period and at such a distance from many of our participating counties, it is particularly urgent that we have a confirmation from each of you who plan to attend . . . and any persons you may wish to bring as your personal guests.

Be sure to confirm your intentions to be here so that we may have adequate food prepared and served promptly. At the two previous meetings we had many more than was expected, but our facilities at the Center for Continuing Education will not allow for many extra meals at a last minutes notice. Don't let this deter you from making this visit to Boone - just help us plan ahead to be able to serve you in the grand manner of this marvelous University facility.

There is much big news in the offering and I hope to see you here personally.

Cordially,

Rip Collins

R. L. (Rip) Collins
Grand Marshall



OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL MAILING ROSTER.....August 1, 1975

Names and addresses for meeting at Continuing Education Center, ASU, Boone, N.C.
Meeting: Dutch Treat Banquet, reply requested, Thursday, August 21, 1975 at 7:00 P. M.

CARTER COUNTY: Tenn.

1. Judge Ben Allen, Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643
2. Carlisle Stafford, Dir. Carter Co. Chamber of Commerce, Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643
3. Tom Gray, Route 8, Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643
4. Jim Burleson, Roan Mt., Tenn.
- 5.

AVERY COUNTY, N. C.

1. Waightstill Avery, Jr., County Agricultural Agent, Newland, N/ C.
2. Doran Robbins, Newland, N. C.
3. Robert Aldridge, Box 264, Crossnore, N. C.
4. Dean Bare, Crossnore, N. C.
5. Rev. Jackie Bryant, Newland, N. C.
6. Ann Weld Hampton, Route 2, Newland, N. C.

MITCHELL COUNTY, N. C.

1. T. V. Hall, Box 302, Spruce Pine, N. C.
2. Hale Buchanan, Route 2, Box 156, Spruce Pine
3. Michal Hobson, Box 133, Spruce Pine, N. C.
4. W. Y. Brown, 105 Rhododendron St., Spruce Pine, N. C.
5. William H. Lawrence, 314, Swiss Pine Lake Dr. Spruce Pine, N. C.
6. Dr. William Davenport, 602 Greenwood Road, Spruce Pine, N. C.

MCDOWELL COUNTY, N. C.

1. Larry Hogan, 115 Cross St., Marion, N. C.
2. Tommy Norton, Old Fort, N. C.
3. Charles H. Greenlee, Route 3, Marion, N. C.
4. Robert L. Rowe, 109 Greenwood Dr. Marion, N. C.
5. Bud Robertson, Rt 2, Box 74, Old Fort, N. C.
6. Mrs. Mildred Fossett, 104 Sinclair St., Marion, N. C.
7. Mrs. Rhom English, Route 3, Marion, N. C.
8. Mrs. John Childers, Route 3, Marion, N. C.

BURKE COUNTY, N. C.

1. Dr. Emmett R. White, Box 265, Rutherford College, N. C. 28671
2. Gordon Roger, Belair Estates, Morganton, N. C.
3. Harry Hallyburton, Drexel, N. C. 28619
4. John Randolph, 237 Park Drive West, Morganton, N. C.
5. Danny Lingerfelt, 602 Alexander Ave., Morganton, N. C.
6. Ms. Edna Mae Herman, 94 East Ave., Morganton, N. C.
7. Dr. Eward Phifer, Jr., 425 King St., Morganton, N. C.
8. Mrs. Mary Haynes, Box 505, Granite Falls, N. C.

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, N. C.

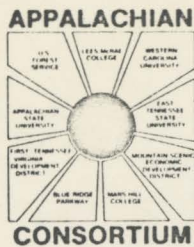
1. Sam R. Thomas, 206 Westhaven Street, Forest City, N. C.
2. Fred Burgin, Route 4, Box 260, Rutherfordton, N. C.
3. Jim Kennedy III, Box 497, Forest City, N. C.
4. Tom McSwain, RFD, Bostic, N. C.
5. Wilbur Wright, 87½ Price Street, Forest City, N. C.
6. Susan McBrayer, Eastover Drive, Forest City, N. C.

POLK COUNTY, N. C.

1. Lt. Commander, Paul Butler, Longbranch, Tryon, N. C.

CHEROKEE COUNTY, S. C.

1. Mr. Bobby Moss, Route 1, Box 423, Blacksburg, S. C.
2. Mrs. Annie Laurie Hamrick, Route 1, Hickory Grove, S. C. 29717
3. Mr. Robert Mosley, Lyman St., Gaffney, S. C.
4. Paul Neal, 101 Clairborne St., Blacksburg, S. C. 29702
5. T. R. Hayes, Route 3, Gaffney, S. C.
6. Charles etty, 404 D gwood Dr., Gaffney S. C.
7. Craig Turner, Box 1023, Gaffney, S. C.



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407 East Howard Street
Boone, North Carolina 28607
September 4, 1975

TO: County Marshalls

RE: Over-Mountain Victory Trail
The Ballad of the Over-Mountain Men

Dear Marshalls:

Ron Hester, radio WATA, Boone, North Carolina, has taped the Ballad of the Over-Mountain Men and is mailing a copy to your local radio stations. Please call your station and ask them to play the recording.

After they play it, call on your local marshalls and ask them to call the radio station and request they play the ballad again.

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the Charlotte newspaper regarding a ballad used as a signal during the Over-Mountain March. Please make every effort to see if we can locate additional words and the original tune.

Consult with your Publicity Marshall and make sure this information is used along with other materials from your county.

Ask the Publicity Marshall to send us a copy of any releases being made in your area.

Sincerely,

R. L. (Rip) Collins
Grand Marshall
Over-Mountain Men March

RLC/jw

Enclosures



I'm trying to track down an early American folk song called Barney Lynn, popular in the Carolina colonies more than 200 years ago. I'd appreciate any help you can give me because I've exhausted every approach I can think of. G. Y., Charlotte.

References to this comical Irish ballad are scanty, sketchy and scarce. The Library of Congress, some university libraries, museums, local historians and ballad



collectors provided a few references to the song (and to the incident in which it figured) but none of them could provide the words or music. According to the story, the song was used as a signal to warn mountain patriots that the British and Tories were in the area. We asked the Schiele Museum in Gastonia for information; it asked Bill Craig, a student of Kings Mountain and

Gaston County history, and Craig found it on page 37 of Cope and Wollman's "History of Gaston County." The one verse reprinted there (there must have been many more) goes: "Barney O'Linn had no britches to wear, So he got him a sheepskin to make him a pair. With the skinny side out and the woolly side in, They were nice, light and thin — Said Barney O'Linn." The tune is no longer known, but try "Cumberland Gap." That fits. Graig says there's a reference to the song in the "Memoirs of David Vance." Vance participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

BALLAD OF THE OVER-MOUNTAIN MEN

BY

RIP COLLINS

Red-coated Major Ferguson sent the word
The sternest warning ever yet heard
"Come down the mountain ye rustic backwater men
And swear that loyalty to the King again."

At Sycamore Shoals over one hundred miles away
One thousand men mustered on that September day.
"Spread the word that Jack Sevier sings
Over these mountains freedom rings."

Up Doe River, across High Yellow Bald
Rode the mountain men in saddles tall.
"Tell young Ferguson his answer we do bring
Forever liberty despite his British King."

Down North Toe river banks they rode
Clad with buckskin in frontier mode.
"Where is yon Major Ferguson and his Troy ring
Who doth taunt Freedom's sting?"

On they rode to Gillispies Gap
Before settling for a third night's nap.
"Tell young Ferguson so young and proud
His brilliant military career is under a cloud."

One column down North and one down Turkey cover
On to Quaker Meadows the mountain men rode.
"Ferguson, Ferguson with your loyalist band
Have you heard and left this land?"

Down Silver Creek to Bedford's Hill
The brave mountain men rode at will.
"Young Ferguson is here no more
He's headed south beyond Gilbert's store."

Down Cane Creek to Gilberts town
Now joined by Winston and Cleveland around.
"Major Ferguson have ye slipped away?"
"We brought our answer for your king today."

On rode the mountain men toward the scene
On to the banks of the river Green.
"Has Ferguson lately passed this way?"
"We're sorry that he couldn't stay."

From the Ford swift to Cowpens fields
Rode mountain men of determined wills.
"Ferguson, Ferguson we your answer bring."
"Tarry ye a while and hear Freedom ring."

He's headed now East to meet Cornwallis strong
Came the word from a farmer wronged.
"Major Ferguson, Ferguson slow ye down
We'll speak with ye before Charlotte town."

On Kings Mountain he finally stood
As the backwood's army hoped he would.
"Ferguson, Ferguson, we came to fight."
"Ye'll learn about free men before the night."

On King's ridge, a cairn of rocks pile high
Marking the spot where he doth lie.
"Ferguson, Ferguson once young and proud."
"Here freedom rang and tyranny bowed."

Box 10

Rutherford College NC

28671

April 4, 1975

Ruth Minich

% Surry Co. Historical Society

Mt. Airy, N.C.

Dear Ruth -

The Kings Mountain March is being planned for Sept and Oct of this year, being spearheaded by Rip Collins of Boone. The group in Tennessee has been active for a couple of years and will also be participating. To my astonishment, the Wilkes and Surry portions of the march were left out. At the meeting (organizational) at Morganton April 3rd my objections were voiced, and I think that the commemorative reenactment will include all segments. It is being held early, to take advantage of the Bicentennial spirit, to encourage permanent marking of the route, and to allow oldsters to participate (who might not be here in 1980) — The meeting was well attended and the response enthusiastic.

You may be interested to know that I am preparing a roster & biographical sketches of the Surry Co. veterans of the Revolution. I hope to have this published in book form within a year. On the side — I have been also tabulating a list of the Surry veterans. So far, I have over a hundred, including many

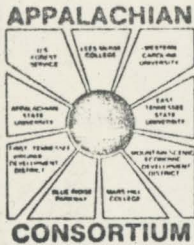
Knigs mtn. men. My biographical sketches on the Surry veterans have been few so far, but I have noted the source references so I can go back later and pick them up. Surry was a real revolutionary county, and made great contributions - I'm amazed at how many patriots served from Surry (far more than Burke), in spite of the fact that the southern half was populated by loyalists + non-combatants. (Yadkin Co., Forsyth Co.) Loyalists are to be included in the roster (and women)

Getting back to the Knigs mtn. march, I do think, by all means, that the Surry, Stokes and Wilkes Co. people should be represented. Getting the historical society interested should be the first step. At the meeting, they stressed the importance of preparing a documentary map, showing the routes of march. Mapping is a hobby of mine, and I will be most happy to assist -

Please give my regards to everyone

Sincerely

Kenneth A. White M.D.



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4 April 1975

To: Participants in Kick-off meeting

Re: Overmountain Victory Trail

Dear Revolutionary friend:

Your attendance and enthusiasm contributed measurably to the success of the planning meeting in Morganton Thursday evening.

The plan designed for full participation within each county means we can share the fun of the organizational and promotional work for the success of the historic trail. It also means that each county is a vital link necessary for the total mapping, marking and celebration of that historic march.

Please work immediately and directly with your chairman select and register the important members needed for the task force within your county. Immediate action is needed especially to complete the mapping.

A tentative meeting in Morganton for all members of each County Task Force is being planned the first Thursday in May. Let's work forward to it together.

Thank you,
Rip Collins
Rip Collins



APPALACHIAN CONSORTIUM
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
407 E. Howard Street
Boone, N. C. 28607

10 July 1975

Mr. Bob Foy
154 West Elm Street
Mount Airy, N. C. 27030

Re: Overmountain Victory Trail, reenactment march

Dear Mr. Foy:

Thank you for your letter acknowledging receipt of material which I mailed regarding the establishment of the Overmountain Victory Trail.

The Northwestern Historical Society is holding a picnic, Saturday, July 26 at Kerr Reservoir near Wilkesboro, and I hope that you can be there with a group from your county to help stir up some interest in participation from Surry and Wilkes counties.

We would be delighted if a group would follow the same procedure in Surry, Wilkes and Caldwell to mark the trail and secure participants who would begin at the appropriate dates and locations to join the others at Quaker Meadows as did Col. Winston and Col. Cleveland.

It is not too late and we really think that those counties would find that their people would enjoy participating in this exciting Bi-Centennial event.

Cordially,

R. L. (Rip) Collins
Grand Marshall
Overmountain Victory Trail

CC: Mr. Spanski, Ex. Director
Surry County Bicentennial Commission
Dobson, N. C.