

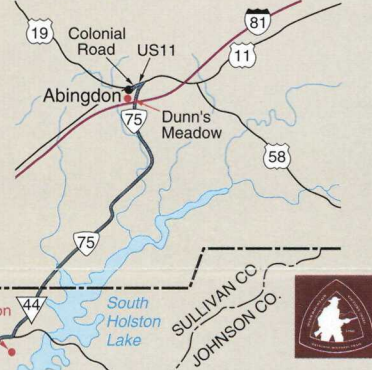
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Commemorative Motor Route

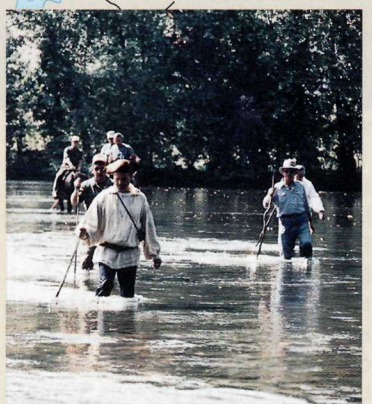
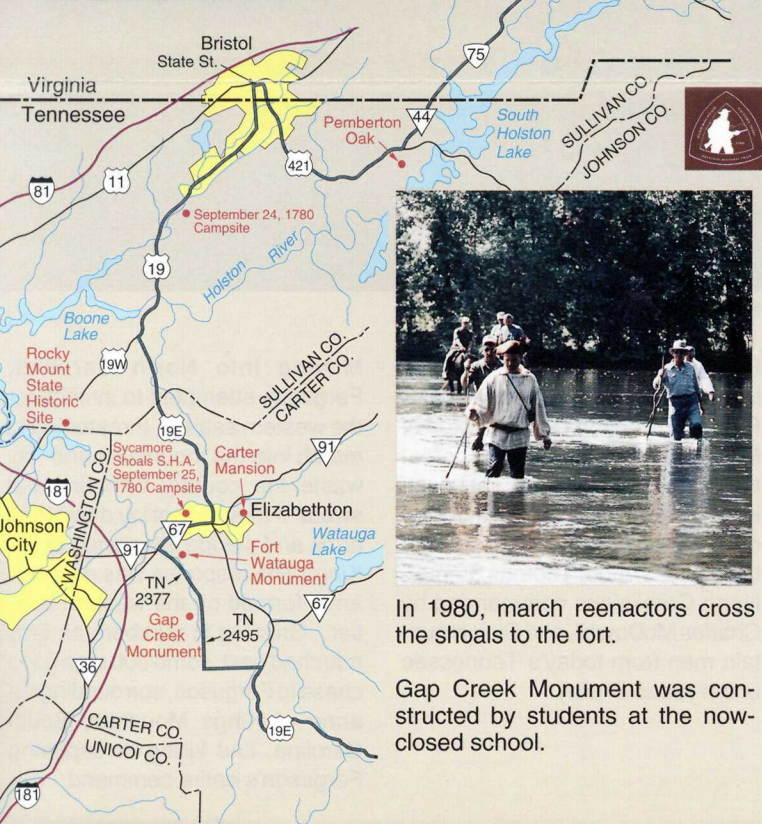
Rocky Mount, the William Cobb home, later served as the capital of the Southwest Territory. Today Rocky Mount operates as a living-history farm of 1791 and is open to the public daily.



Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail begins on Colonial Road in Abingdon, Virginia. March reenactors assemble here each September 23rd. In late September, 1780, William and cousin Arthur Campbell assembled Washington County, Virginia, militia.



Pemberton Oak, on the road to Sycamore Shoals, shaded men commanded by John Pemberton, a captain serving in Shelby's command at Kings Mountain.

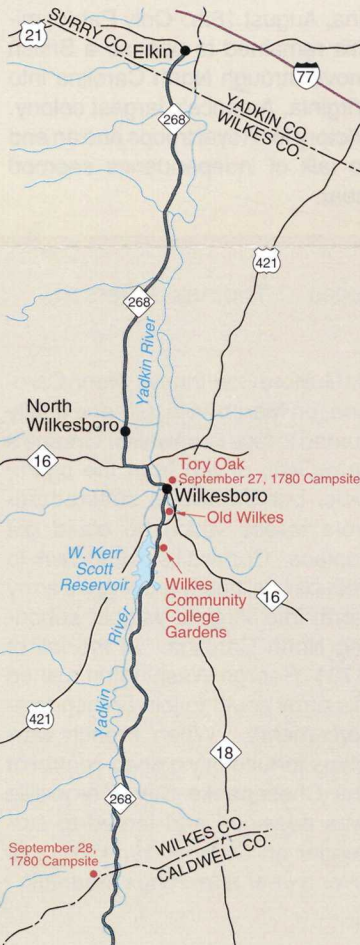


In 1980, march reenactors cross the shoals to the fort.

Gap Creek Monument was constructed by students at the now-closed school.

September 25, 1780 Shelby, Sevier, Campbell mustered the militia of the Watauga and Holston Valleys at Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River (Elizabethton) to join Burke County militia under Charles McDowell. Fort Watauga is today reconstructed at the Tennessee historic area. In 1780, this was North Carolina, later Franklin (or Frankland), later Southwest Territory.

Wilkes-Surry branch of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail begins in Elkin, North Carolina.



Modern march reenactor is ready to begin the trek to Kings Mountain. Reenactors visit schools and join public celebrations along the way. The public is welcome for a day or the full trip.



The frontier militia man was a skilled irregular infantryman lacking formal training. Wearing his everyday clothes, he was equipped with his personal long rifle, a muzzleloading flintlock, which he used with deadly accuracy.

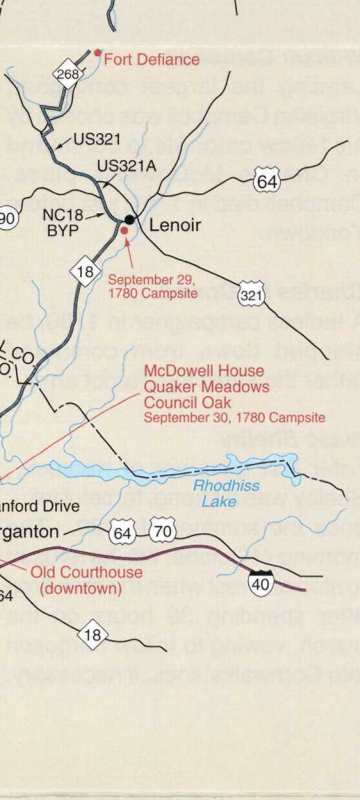
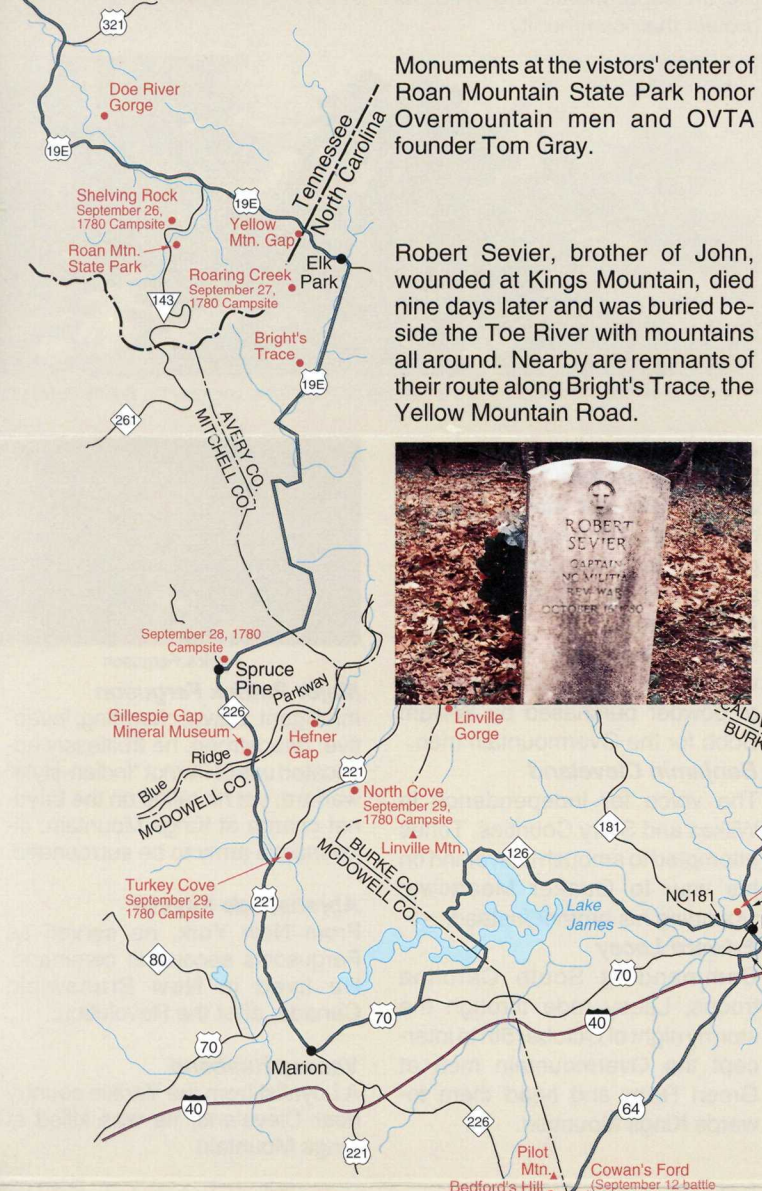


September 26, 1780, the army spent its first night at Shelving Rock, storing their powder out of the rain.

September 27, 1780, snow fell on Roan Mountain as the army crossed. Yellow Mountain Gap, at 4682 feet, is the highest point on the trail. Here two men deserted to warn Ferguson of the Patriot army.

Monuments at the visitors' center of Roan Mountain State Park honor Overmountain men and OVTA founder Tom Gray.

Robert Sevier, brother of John, wounded at Kings Mountain, died nine days later and was buried beside the Toe River with mountains all around. Nearby are remnants of their route along Bright's Trace, the Yellow Mountain Road.



William Lenoir's home, Fort Defiance, is open to the public on a limited basis. Lenoir served in North Carolina governments before and after the American Revolution and helped establish the University of North Carolina.

Council Oak at Quaker Meadows (Morganton), later destroyed in a storm, stood near the McDowell home. The Patriot army burned McDowell fence rails in their fires.



September 30, 1780, North Carolinians under Benjamin Cleveland, Joseph Winston, and William Lenoir joined the Overmountain men at the McDowell home at Quaker Meadows.

September 12, 1780, Charles McDowell ambushed part of Ferguson's army at Cane Creek but was driven off and fled to Sycamore Shoals to await reinforcement by the Overmountain men.

October 3, 1780, the army camped beneath Marlin's Knob beside Cane Creek. South Carolina Patriots under William Hill and Edward Lacey were camped nearby at Flint Hill (Cherry Mountain).



October 7, 1780, at dawn the Patriot army successfully crossed the flooding Broad River at Cherokee Ford.



The commemorative motor route passes through mostly rural countryside. Each year the march reenactment proceeds both on foot and in cars, allowing those not wishing to walk to join.

October 1 and 2, 1780, the army stopped to dry out and prepare for battle expected soon. Unpopular Charles McDowell was persuaded to step aside as commander. William Campbell, not from North Carolina, was chosen as a compromise replacement. McDowell rode to ask for a Continental officer to command.

During the return, October 14, 1780, at Biggerstaff's Old Fields (Bickerstaff's or Red Chimneys) 30 Tories were tied. Nine were hanged, the others spared.

Many of the Patriot militia who fought at Kings Mountain returned to Cowpens January 17, 1781, to help Daniel Morgan defeat another brash, young British commander, Banastre Tarleton.

October 7, 1780, about 3:00 p.m. they found Ferguson's Loyalist army on Kings Mountain. The two sides fiercely fought until Ferguson was shot from his horse, killed with some 120 of his men. Only 40 Patriots fell.

Each year the OVTA march reenactors assemble over two weeks to remember the events of 1780 and place a wreath on the U.S. monument at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

October 4, 1780, entering Gilbert Town, they found Ferguson had left, possibly headed towards Ninety Six in South Carolina.



October 5, 1780, reassured they were following Ferguson, the army proceeded to the Green River, away from Kings Mountain. Small parties of Georgians under William Candler and North Carolinians under William Chronicle joined the Overmountain men. Early the next morning, Edward Lacey rode in with news they were headed away from Ferguson.

The two groups united the evening of October 6th at Cowpens. Eating a hasty meal, the parties pushed on through a rainy night.

October 6, 1780, finally convinced Ferguson headed east toward Charlotte, the men with the best horses raced off to meet with Lacey and Hill's South Carolinians.

The two groups united the evening of October 6th at Cowpens. Eating a hasty meal, the parties pushed on through a rainy night.



At least five African-Americans are known to have served in the Patriot army at Kings Mountain.

