

# Bethel

## I. Osborne Boundary Oak | 3475 Pisgah Drive

This 300-year-old black oak growing alongside N.C. 110 witnessed Rutherford's march as the legion of militiamen passed through the Pigeon River Valley. The spirit of this witness tree lives on in a sapling propagated from an acorn and planted at the Shook-Smathers house in Clyde, where it now bears the official designation as Haywood County's Liberty Tree.

The Osborne Boundary Oak, while declining in health, is growing adjacent to highway N.C. 110 by present day Jeffrey Lane.



## 2. Rutherford Expedition

A muster of 2,400 militiamen — the largest of the Revolutionary War — passed through the Pigeon River Valley en route to a campaign against the Cherokee, who had sided with the British. Over the course of a few weeks in September 1776, the Rutherford Expedition destroyed the crops, livestock and food stores of 36 villages, neutralizing the formidable threat the Cherokee posed along the western frontier.

The expedition crossed the river north of the bridge on Sonoma Road, continuing along a route consistent with present-day U.S. 276 over Pigeon Gap. This arduous effort of animals and men created the Rutherford Trace.



# Canton

## I. 1776 Garden | 11 Pennsylvania Avenue, Canton

A 1776 garden located behind the Haywood County Public Library in Canton depicts types of vegetables and herbs that would have been growing in colonists' gardens or colonial gardens in 1776. This garden was patterned after a 1776 garden as described in *The Old Farmer's 2026 Almanac*, along with notes from Thomas Jefferson's gardening diaries.



## 2. Grave of Thomas Abel | Across the street from the library

Locust Field Cemetery is home to the grave of Thomas Abel, an American Revolution War veteran who served in Virginia. His burial place is marked by a rough-hewn headstone, along with a nearby monument placed generations later by the Hugh Rogers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution that bears the inscription "First settler of Haywood County." He allegedly settled here in 1782, after witnessing the surrender of British General Cornwallis at Yorktown, according to testimony of his wife, Elizabeth, when applying for a widow's pension in 1839.

Two other American Revolution War veterans, John Messer and George Hall, are purported to be buried in the cemetery.

