

THE UPPER CUMBERLAND
OF
PIONEER TIMES
By Alvin B. Wirt

PREFACE: This book deals with the pioneer history of what was formerly a remote, backwoods section of Tennessee, adjoining the wildness hunting grounds of the Indians. From this stage, however, it progressed into that of a delightfully easygoing, friendly, rural section. And finally, with the building of modern highways, better schools, and electric power projects, it has now taken great strides toward developing into one of the truly progressive districts of our State.

For additional local and biographical information the reader should refer to such works as A. R. Hogue's *History of Fentress County*; W. R. McClain's *History of Putnam County*; W. T. Hale's *Early History of Warren County*; and Monroe Seal's *History of White County*.

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CHAPTER 1

EXPLORERS, HUNTERS, AND ADVENTURERS

In ancient times that part of Tennessee which we know as “The Upper Cumberland”¹ comprised a part of the extensive domain of the Mound Builders. But long before the coming of the first white men it had been incorporated in vast wilderness, set aside by the confederated tribes of the Six Nations as a perpetual hunting ground.

Although interesting from the standpoint of its varied landscaping, this wilderness was, at the same time, a land of depressing solitude, of rain and mud, swollen streams, dense canebrakes, dark forests, rugged mountains, and treeless barrens, or prairies, stretching north and south, east and west, wherever the land was favorable to the growth of the wild peavine and other herbage relished by the buffalo.

The Cumberland River, which flows through this section, was first known as the “Ouasioto,” but early French explorers gave it the name “Shavanon,” or Shawnee, because they found a few Indians of the Shawnee tribe living in the lower part of the valley. These explorers were followed by numerous hunters and trappers from the French settlements beyond the Ohio. In time a trading post was established at French Lick, where lived the intrepid Martin Chartier, hunter, trapper, and guide. As early as 1679 Chartier piloted a party of adventurers up the Shawnee to the head of navigation, where they took the ancient overland trail to Virginia. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that in 1686 Henri de Tonty, commandant of French posts in the Illinois country, reported to his superiors that English adventurers from the Carolinas had entered the lower Ohio valley by way of the Shawnee and Cherokee Rivers.²

In 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker, of Albemarle County, VA, heading an exploration party in the employ of the Loyal Land Company, came into the upper part of this valley over the old Indian trail and gave the English name “Cumberland” to the Ouasioto Mountains, as well as to the gap in those mountains through which the path passed into Kentucky, and to the Shawnee River in the valley beyond.

¹ For the purpose of this book the rather indefinite section long known as “The Upper Cumberland” will be construed as comprising the territory east of Dixons Creek, drained by the Cumberland River and its principal tributaries, the Caney Fork, Roaring, and Obey Rivers. Roughly speaking, it embraces the present counties of Smith, Jackson, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Overton, Putnam, DeKalb, White, and Warren.

² S. C. Williams, *Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History*, pp. 16, 19.

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A company of eighteen men, from Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia, came into The Upper Cumberland in 1761, on an exploration and hunting expedition. Three of the company, namely William Blevins, John Blevins, and William Harrilson, were selected to cover the country along the Wolf and Obey Rivers. Here they set up two or more hunting camps and found game so abundant they decided to remain throughout the winter. The Blevins brothers returned to this section again in 1764 and are said to have been visited at one of their camps by Daniel Boone and Samuel Calloway, who were at that time exploring for Richard Henderson and associates, of North Carolina.

After the close of the French and Indian War increasing numbers of English adventurers came into the Cumberland valley. And such hunters as Thomas Hollingsworth and the notorious Simon Girty as said to have come up the Cumberland River to fill their long boats with game and pelts.

Col. James Knox recruited a party of hunters from the southwestern part of Virginia in 1769 and “set out by way of Powells Valley and Cumberland Gap for the hunting grounds along the Cumberland River.” In June they established a central camp at a place known as Price’s Meadow, in what is now Wayne County, Kentucky. Here they were divided into small groups and sent out in different directions to hunt, with the understanding that they were to return to the main camp every five weeks to deposit their pelts in a common cache. One group struck out to the south and set up a hunting camp on Mitchell’s Creek, just above its junction with Sulphur Fork, in what is now Overton County. It was here that Robert Crockett, one of their number, was killed by Indians. The tragedy occurred when the hunters were returning to camp from the vicinity of Rock Island, after hunting along the waters of the upper Caney Fork River. Apparently Crockett was in advance of the others and was shot from ambush as he entered the camp.²

Some of the Knox party of hunters remained in the wilderness until 1772 and, for that reason, were called “long hunters.”

On entering the Kentucky River country in 1770, Daniel and Squire Boone became so alarmed by the large number of Indians hunting there that they decided to shift over into the Upper Cumberland valley, where they found game in abundance. They hunted in and explored this country from August 1770 to March 1771.³ It is said that during this time

the Boones camped for a time at the Waterloo Falls, on Spring Creek, and gave Roaring River its name.⁴ In his

² Williams, *op cit.*, p. 328, etc.

³ Boone's Autobiography, in C. B. Hartley's *Life of Daniel Boone*, p. 337.

⁴ R. G. Draper, "Sketch 9 - - *Early History and Traditions of Jackson County*."

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Autobiography, Boone substantiates this by saying, "We proceeded to Cumberland River, reconnoitering that part of the country until March 1771, and giving names to the different waters."

In February or March 1776, nine people, including John Duncan and wife, James Ferguson, and William Bowen, came through the Cumberland Gap over the usual transwilderness route (forerunner of the Natchez Trace) to the head of navigation on Cumberland River, and there shoved off in boats, with Natchez as their destination. About sixty miles below French Lick they met Timothy Demonbreun, another old-time French hunter and guide. They told him that while hunting, upriver, William Bowen had been killed by a stampeded herd of buffalo, and that John Duncan had taken sick and was left behind at a designated place. As soon as the adventurers continued on their way Demonbreun headed upstream, determined, if possible, to aid the unfortunate sick man. On arriving, however, he found the man dead.⁵

According to Moses Fisk, the advance contingent of Nashville settlers followed the East-West Trail across the mountains and reached Cumberland River at the site of the present town of Celina, where they "built a boat" in which three of the party embarked downstream with their farming tools and baggage, while the rest proceeded down the valley on horseback.⁶

Before the Cumberland River froze over in the "cold winter" of 1780 a group of Nashville settlers came into the Upper Cumberland on a hunting expedition, and, after several days in the Big Lick county of what is now Jackson County, returned home with the carcasses of 105 bears, 75 buffaloes, and 80 deer.

⁵ W. T. Hale, *Tennessee Historical Scrapbook*, pp. 43, 44. See also *Ramsey's Annals*, p. 24.

⁶ Moses Fisk, *Historical Sketch of Tennessee*, *Am. Hist. Mag.*, v. 2, p. 24.

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CHAPTER 2 EARLY SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS

Settlement of the Cumberland valley was first promoted by the Transylvania Company,¹ of North Carolina, after its purchase from the Indians of that part of their hunting grounds extending from the Kentucky River southwardly "to the head spring of the most southerly

branch” of the Cumberland River, “thence down that river, including all its waters, to the Ohio River.” After selling land to many of the first settlers in Kentucky, and on the Cumberland, Transylvania’s title was litigated in the courts of Virginia, where it was decided that while Transylvania had secured a good claim to whatever title the Indians may have possessed, it had secured none whatever from the sovereign State of Virginia, which held the legal title, by virtue of royal grants, hence could not give clear titles of conveyance. Later North Carolina followed the Virginia ruling respecting Transylvania’s sale of land in the Cumberland valley.

At the close of the Revolution the State of North Carolina was financially indebted to her Soldiers and undertook to settle the account by issuing compensatory grants of western land in the amount of 640 acres to privates, 1,000 acres to noncommissioned officers, 2,500 acres to subalterns, 3,800 acres to captains, and so forth. For this purpose an act was passed setting aside a large tract of land to be known as the “Military Reservation,” and located southwest of the Transylvania Purchase. It was while this Reservation boundary line was being run that Transylvania’s title was declared void. Immediately thereafter the North Carolina legislature, by an act dated May 17, 1783, changed the location of the Military Reservation boundary to “begin on the Virginia line where the Cumberland River intersects the same; thence south 55 miles; thence west to the Tennessee River; thence down the Tennessee River to the Virginia line; thence east with said Virginia line to the beginning.” After being surveyed in 1784 this new boundary was known as the “Commissioners’ Line,” and North Carolina began issuing warrants for tracts of the sizes indicated above, to be located within its bounds, but not to include any of the lands already conveyed by the Transylvania Company under color of title. All these Transylvania settlers were given preemption rights.

The eastern boundary of the new Military Reservation was long known as the “Meridian Line.” It began at the Virginia line, on the east bank of Cumberland River; thence “South 5 degrees East,” through the Upper Cumberland section, to a point some distance south of Caney Fork River, crossing the latter near the mouth of the Calfkiller. This line was about a mile east of the present city of Cookeville.

¹ See article on “Transylvania Purchase,” herein.

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The boundary of the Military Reservation became the subject of considerable dispute with the Cherokees, and was dealt with in both the Treaty of Hopewell (1785) and the Treaty of Holston (Blount’s Treaty, of 1791). The new boundary, as described in the first of these treaties, was blazed in 1785. It was described again in the second treaty, and officially surveyed in 1797 by Brig. Gen. James Winchester, accompanied by a commission of Cherokees. It is always mentioned thereafter as the “Indian Boundary.” The eastern part of this boundary was run “North 45 degrees East,” by the compass, and extended from the head of the West Fork of Stone’s River to a point on Cumberland River near the mouth of Rock Castle River in Kentucky.

Beginning about 1786, the earliest settlements in the Upper Cumberland centered around Lilydale - - located on the East-West Trail, in what is now Clay County; Dixon Springs, Fort Blount, and Blackburn Springs, the latter three being located on the North Carolina Military trace. By the fall of 1797 all of the best land to the west of the Indian Boundary had been taken, new settlements having been started at Carthage, Rome, Liberty, Laurel Hill, Monroe, Windle, Gainesboro, Hilham, Beech Hill, Livingston, Alexandria, Elmwood, and Gordonsville. On the eastern side of this line lay the Cherokee country, where a good many white families also held tomahawk rights, hoping to perfect their titles in the future.

In 1803, while campaigning for the office of Governor of Tennessee, John Sevier strongly advocated the procurement of all remaining Indian lands for white settlement. After that, more people began crossing the border to stake out prospective claims in the Indian country. This is illustrated in the following extract from a letter by Capt. Sampson Williams to Judge Andrew Jackson, dated July 20, 1805:

He (John Sevier) has got a number of Jackson County people on fire with the idea of shortly getting over the Indian line, and two men are now already at work on the Indian side, near Maj. Russell's. One of the men's name is Joseph Taylor.

By the Third Treaty of Tellico, dated October 25, 1805, most of the Wilderness was finally purchased from the Cherokees, and settlements sprang up around such places as White Plains, Rock Island, Sparta, McMinnville, Milledgeville, and Mount Granger.

¹ For sketches of these and other settlements, see "Gazetteer," herein.

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CHAPTER 3 MILITARY HISTORY-FORT BLOUNT

Military discipline and service were prerequisite to survival on our early frontiers. It was enjoined upon all signers of the Cumberland Compact, of 1783, as follows:

Whereas the frequent and dangerous incursions of the Indian, and almost daily massacre of some of our inhabitants, renders it absolutely necessary, for our safety and defense, that due obedience be paid to our respective officers, elected and to be elected, at the several stations and settlements.

The Upper Cumberland was the scene of many hostile incidents between white settlers and Indians, few of which were ever recorded on the pages of history. They involved brushes with the border patrol, attacks on travelers crossing the wilderness, and personal encounters.

Hanging Maw's Raid:

On the night of March 2, 1786, at their camp on a little island in Defeated Creek, Smith County, located a short distance below the place where the Fort Blount road afterwards crossed said creek, a party of surveyors, composed of John Peyton, Ephraim Peyton, Thomas Pugh, John Frazier, and others, after a hard day's work, made the mistake of retiring for the night without posting a guard, and were attacked during the night by a band of Cherokees led by Hanging Maw. The Indians could have killed and scalped the entire party, but the old chief chose to spare them from such a inglorious end. Instead, he withdrew his men a short distance and ordered them to fire indiscriminately into the camp, with the object of routing the whites and taking the spoils. In this they succeeded only too well, for they got away with everything, including horses, saddles, blankets, surveying instruments, and provisions. Four of the white men were wounded. On Learning the identity of the Indian chief who had made the raid, word was sent to him demanding the return of the property. This chief was Hanging Maw, who replied as follows: "You, John Peyton, ran like a coward and left all your property, with I took. As fort he land-stealer. I broke it against a tree."¹ Defeated Creek received its name in memory of this humiliating incident.

In setting up a government for the Territory South of the River Ohio in 1790, President Washington appointed William Blount as Territorial Governor; John Sevier, Brigadier General of Militia for Washington District; and James Robertson, Brigadier General for Mero District.² James Winchester³ was named Lieutenant Colonel, Commandant,

¹ J. P. Brown, *Old Frontiers*, p. 261. Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, pp. 227, 228.

² Cater, *Territorial Papers*, v. 4, p. 441.

³ Winchester replaced Robertson as Brigadier General of Mero District in 1795. (Writings of George Washington, v. 34, p. 242n).

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For Sumner County, (which then included the Upper Cumberland) and had the following officers in his command: Kasper Mansker, Lt. Col.; Anthony Sharp, First Major; Edward Douglas, Second Major; Captains Joseph McElwrath, James Frazier, James McKean, Jr., Zeb Hubbard, and John Morgan; Lieutenants Elisha Clary, Joseph Yates, John White, Stephen Cantrell, and Thomas Patton; Ensigns Peter Looney, James Hamilton, William Snoddy, John Rule, and James Morgan.

THE BORDER PATROL

Lt. Col. James Winchester, while scouting along the Indian boundary in the Smith Fork River country, May 1, 1791,⁴ with the mounted patrol, discovered signs of the presence of a band of Indians who had apparently come across the border from the southeast. The patrol immediately set out in pursuit, the trail leading first through an open forest, thence in a northerly direction across Smith Fork River.

Knowing the Indians were aware of the patrol's presence and might lead them into an ambush, Colonel Winchester sent Capt. Joseph McElwrath and Capt. John Hickerson

ahead to scout the enemy, in an effort to discover their number and disposition. As the scouts approached a dense canebrake, some distance in advance of the patrol, the Indians opened fire, killing Captain Hickerson on the spot. The patrol advanced cautiously, but as soon as they came within range the Indians fired again, wounding another man. Fearing the consequences of further losses, Winchester ordered the patrol to retreat to the open woodland on the south side of the river, hoping thereby to draw the enemy out of the canebrake. This strategy failed, however, due to the fact that most of the Indians had already slipped across the border, leaving only a rear guard behind to delay the patrol.⁵

In 1792 Chief John Watts (also known as “Young Tassel”) undertook a campaign of extermination against the Cumberland settlements. His plan was to cut off all lines of communication by posting bands of warriors on the two paths leading to the Cumberland, while he, with the main body of 281 warriors, undertook to destroy the fort at Nashville, along with all outlying stations, dwellings, and other improvements. In carrying out the plan he posted Middlestriker, with a band of warriors, on the Cherokee Path, near the big spring at Spencer’s Hill, and sent Doublehead, with another band, to cover the Wilderness Road through Kentucky.

On hearing of Watt’s plans, Governor Blount ordered Capt. Samuel Handley to take a company of 42 men from Southwest Point to Nashville, and reinforce the garrison there. They left Southwest Point over the Cherokee^{Pa5th}, and, upon entering Crab Orchard Gap, were ambushed by

⁴This date is probably correct, instead of 1789, since Maj. Joseph McElwrath, referred to, was only a captain until after 1790.

⁵ John Carr, *Early Times in Middle Tennessee*, 1857, p. 212. *American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 7, p. 81.

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Middlestriker’s warriors, Captain Handley being captured and three of his men killed. The rest scattered and managed to escape.⁶

Back on the Wilderness Road in Kentucky, Doublehead attacked a party of six white men and took one scalp. He then turned south along the Chickamauga Path to a point near the Horseshoe Bend of Caney Fork River, below Rock Island, where he intended to make camp. First, however, the Indians hid their packs and went into the woods to hunt. While thus engaged, Capt. William Snoddy, in command of the mounted Border Patrol of 34 men, discovered the hidden war packs and proceeded to confiscate them, since they contained bearskins, blankets, lead, and other valuable booty. By this time night was closing in and Captain Snoddy knew the Indians would return soon for their packs, and, finding them gone, strike out in search of him, like a pack of wolves. He, therefore, withdrew to a defensive position at the crest of a high bluff along the river, forming his front line in a semicircle facing the forest below. During the night the neighing of one of his horses betrayed his location to the pursuing redman. Throughout the remainder of the night Doublehead and his warriors kept up a bedlam of bloodcurdling shrieks, mingled

with the mimicked howling of so many wild animals. At dawn came the attack, which lasted until sunrise, when the Indians suddenly broke off and fled across the mountains. Captain Snoddy lost two men, named Scoby and Latimer. Several others were wounded, including William Read and Andrew Steel.⁷ Thirteen Indians were killed and a number wounded. This event took place on or about the second day of October, 1792.

FORT BLOUNT (1792-96)

Early in 1791 Gov. William Blount wrote to Brig. Gen. Jas. Robertson, directing him “to explore the Cumberland River from the mouth of Caney Fork to Salt Lick” in search of a suitable location for a blockhouse.⁸ Accordingly, Robertson sent Col. Jas. Winchester and Capt. Joseph McElrath to explore the country. They reported that “the only eligible place for a station is at the mouth of a small creek about 3 ½ miles below Salt Lick and in sight of the mouth of Martins Creek.”⁹ No effort was made to build the blockhouse at this point, however, so about the first of January 1792 the Governor authorized Sampson Williams, who was then operating a ferry at the upper crossing of the Cumberland River, to enlist Territorial troops to be stationed at that point for a period of six months, beginning March 15, 1792. It was about this time that the blockhouse was built at a point on the military trace, two miles northeast of the ferry landing,¹⁰ possibly by

⁶ J. P. Brown, *Old Frontiers*, pp. 362,363,364.

⁷ John Carr, *Early Times in Middle Tennessee*, pp. 200-202.

⁸ The terms “blockhouse” and “station” were often synonymous.

⁹ *American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, pp. 352-53.

¹⁰ *Knoxville Gazette*, May 8, 1795.

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Capt. Sampson Williams and his Territorial troops. The place is mentioned by contemporary writers as the “Big Lick garrison,” and the “blockhouse on the Cumberland.”

These log blockhouses probably were similar to other frontier garrison houses of the time, with first-floor accommodations consisting of guard room, dining room, and kitchen. The upper story was ordinarily used for barracks. Loopholes were provided in the walls of both upper and lower stories.

The year of 1793 was the bloodiest in the annals of the Southwest, a total of 102 people having been killed along the Military Trace alone,¹¹ with an additional 200 in and around Nashville.¹²

In the fall of 1793 Governor Blount sent Capt. Nathaniel Evans from Washington District with 180 mounted troops, with orders to cross the wilderness and scout the country to the south of the blockhouse on the Cumberland, hoping by this show of force to discourage further incursions into Mero District from that direction. With James Capshaw, Samuel Martin, and George Telfors acting as advance scouts, the expedition set out from

Southwest Point along the Cherokee Path, through Post Oak Springs and Crab Orchard Gap, across the Cumberland Mountains, down the western rim of the mountain into the Calfkiller valley, along the Chickamauga Path to Rock Island, and from there along the Black Fox trail to Nashville. No Indians were seen.¹³

In 1794 the blockhouse on the Upper Cumberland was named, "Fort Blount," in honor of the Territorial Governor.

During the summer of this year Capt. Sampson Williams left Fort Blount to take an active part in Maj. James Ore's "Nickajack Campaign," so, on July 28, 1794, Maj. John Beard, with a detachment of Militia, was sent to Fort Blount from Knoxville, his orders being to take over as commandant.¹⁴

The garrison at Fort Blount consisted, at different times, of between 15 and 30 men. They were usually enlisted for a period of three months, "for the better security of the frontier."¹⁵ When their terms of enlistment were up they either reenlisted, or were discharged and their place filled by new recruits.

¹¹Statement of Gideon Pillow, of Smith County. (Draper Manuscripts).

¹²*American State Papers*, pp. 265,325,331.

¹³Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, p. 579.

¹⁴*American History Magazine*, Vol. 3, pp.354-55.

¹⁵*American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, p. 78.

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While Fort Blount was never subjected to a direct Indian assault, at least two soldiers were killed there at different times. One of those incidents is mentioned by Governor Blount in a letter to the Secretary of War, dated Oct. 24, 1794. He says: Thomas Bledsoe, one of the soldiers belonging to the post at the ford of Cumberland, killed by Indians on the 2d instant."

The other fatality is mentioned in the *Knoxville Gazette* of May 8, 1795, which states that John Wirow, a soldier, was killed by Indians on April 6, 1795, while "on duty at the ford of Cumberland River, two miles from the blockhouse."

On July 13, 1795, Maj. Gen. James Robertson was directed to reduce the Fort Blount detachment to the commandant, Lieutenant Gillespie, and 25 men.¹⁶

Finally, in 1796, Capt. Sampson Williams was again in command at Fort Blount, but soon thereafter the entire garrison was dismissed and Fort Blount ceased to be a military post.

The following letter from Sampson Williams to the editor of the *Tennessee Gazette*, of Nashville, was published in that newspaper's issue of July 2, 1800:

Fort Blount,¹⁷ June 12, 1800,

Mr. Bradford:

Having lately seen a paragraph in your last paper, which contains an account of an Indian being killed and another wounded by two men from the settlement of Flynn Creek, I take the liberty to inform you that it is not a fact - - and lest such a report may make an unfavorable impression on the public mind I wish you to correct the error. It is true that two Indians stole 2 horses from the Flynn Creek settlement and were pursued by six men nearly to the head of the Caney Fork, where they came up with the Indians and recovered the stolen horses, but they never fired a gun at them.

Since that, two Indians stole 4 horses from Blackburn's, on the waters of Roaring River, were pursued by three men, who recovered their horses in about twelve miles. They fired 2 guns at the Indians, but it is not known whether they hurt them or not.

S. Williams

¹⁶ Ibid, p. 327

¹⁷ Sampson Williams probably converted the old blockhouse into the "roomy house", mentioned by the Moravian missionaries, Steiner and Schweinitz, in 1799, where Williams resided and operated a tavern for many years.

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The latest incident noted occurred in 1807, when an Indian killed a Negro on the Walton Road. He was later arrested by Sheriff Joe Copeland, of Overton County, and incarcerated in the Carthage jail.

War of 1812:

As the war clouds of 1812 appeared on the horizon none were more eager to enlist for military service than the aging veterans of the Revolution. Thus, on March 12, 1812, Col. James Winchester came to Smith County to review Dixon's Company of Smith County Revolutionary Volunteers. When he returned home he wrote the following letter to General Jackson.

Cragfont, 13th March, 1812

General Jackson,

Sir: I was yesterday highly gratified in reviewing Capt. Tilmon Dixon's Company of Smith County Revolutionary Volunteers. I found them paraded in a meadow, in a solemn and awful silence - - not a word was to be heard from the ranks; death or victory was strongly marked in each countenance; no jovial levity was to be seen or heard; all wore

the aspect of indignation and revenge. When the review was over the Captain caused a salute to be fired by platoons, divisions, and the line, all of which was performed in a soldierly-like manner.

On this parade I saw many persons, through somewhat heavy by time, whom I knew to have served during the Revolutionary War, and to have performed their duty in the time that tried men's souls.

Upon the whole, Sir, to see a full company of veterans, with stern countenances, and heads whitened with many revolving years, armed with resolute and martial attitude, strikes the mind with grand, solemn and awful sensations, as nothing less than the duties, rights, and privileges of a beloved country could bring such men to the field a second time, in an advanced stage of life, and in easy circumstances too.

I am, respectfully, your obt. Servant,

J. Winchester

Clarion and Tennessee Gazette, Nashville, April 7, 1812.

Capt. Dixon's company was accepted for home guard duty. Other officers were William Walton, 1st Lt., and **William Alexander**, 2d Lt.

The Upper Cumberland Section furnished numerous volunteer companies for this war.

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CHAPTER 4: LAWLESSNESS

Stretching along the boundary between the Cumberland settlements and the wilderness of the red men, the Upper Cumberland of early times comprised the raw edge of a frontier swept by all manner of lawlessness. The Indian territory, in particular, was both a convenient field of operations and also a place of refuge for white criminals, whose murders, robberies, counterfeiting, and other offenses probably outnumbered the depredations of the troublesome Indians.

The Powells Valley outlaws were typical of other gangs that operated along the roads to the west. This particular gang was operating as early as 1800. Ordinarily they went about dressed in the garb of the frontier, so as not to arouse suspicion, but would watch people traveling over the Wilderness Road through Cumberland Gap until they spotted a group of likely victims believed to be carrying a worthwhile sum of money, whereupon they dressed like Indians, passed ahead of the travelers by a near route across the mountains, watched them until they pitched their tents in the wilderness, then murdered and robbed them during the night.¹

Some of the worst desperadoes of the times operated in the territory between Knoxville and Natchez, against whom law-abiding citizens feared to testify, for, as John A. Murrell, the arch criminal, once put it, "They (the outlaws) are so strong that nothing can be done with them. They steal from whom they please, and if the person they take from accuses them they jump on more of his property. And it is found that it is best to be friendly with them."²

It was in and around Knoxville that "Big" and "Little" Harp, John A. Murrell, and others began their notorious careers of crime. In 1810 a number of persons, some of them well-known citizens, were arrested for allegedly carrying on a counterfeit enterprise in the Upper Cumberland - -" in a chasm of a spur of Cumberland Mountains, in a house at Badger's the printing was done."³ Their trial was held at Carthage, but the outcome is not known.

In 1811 Rev. David Benedict, a Baptist preacher, on his way to the Cumberland, spent one night at a tavern on the Walton Road, at the western edge of Cumberland Mountain (probably Phillips') and wrote the following commentary respecting his experience:

One night I tarried at an inn where I was treated with much hospitality. Shortly after I arrived the people informed me that two panthers had lately been seen by the side of the road which I had passed.....They had just about finished this

¹ Rev. James Young, *Autobiography of a Pioneer*, pp. 111, 112.

² Ross Phares, *Reverend Devil*, p. 125.

³ *Nashville Clarion*, December 7, 1810.

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Relation when two men of a most rustic and woodsy appearance rode up to the door. They informed us that they were in pursuit of a man who had lately broken a log jail some distance off down the mountain, and that he was imprisoned for robbing and murdering a traveler on the road....They also informed us that there were lurking a few miles off two noted horse thieves on foot...The people also informed me that the wolves were at that time very numerous and voracious, and that a company of them had a day or two before shown alarming signs of insolence and hostility to some travelers on the road. After hearing all these unpleasant relations I committed myself to divine Providence, and retired to rest as composedly as I could; but I could not help reflecting that I must ride in the morning, if my horse was not stolen, over rocks and mountains, through mud and snow, for ten miles without a house or inhabitant.⁴

In the *Democratic Clarion and Tennessee Gazette* (Nashville), issue of May 3, 1814, appeared the following: "Reward of \$50 offered for capture of Wm. Phillips, escaped prisoner, charged with the murder of Maj. William Quarles in White County."

Such is a general picture of a situation that existed for many years. Law and order had little chance, for criminals were hard to catch, harder to keep, and almost impossible to convict.

In 1825 vice and crime were still so bad that respectable citizens found it necessary to organize “Regulators” to cope with the situation. The *Sparta Review* of June 2, 1824 contains the following item pertaining to them:

Constitution of the Regulators in the Flat Woods of Jackson, White and Overton

State of Tennessee
February 28, A.D. 1824

We the undersigned subscribers, being citizens of the counties of Jackson, White, and Overton, being in the fear of God, and in strict obedience to the laws of our country, do conceive it a duty we owe to each other, both for the benefit of society and the good of the community at large, to unite ourselves in a body, for the laudable purpose of suppressing vice, and the more disgraceful and injurious practice of feloniously stealing - - for we conceive it the indispensable duty of every honest citizen in society to use all lawful means to put down vice.

Be it known, therefore, that having the aforesaid object in view, and desirous in all cases to recover the property stolen or taken, and bringing the thief to justice if possible - - We

⁴ Rev. David Benedict, *A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America*. Boston, 1818, Vol. 2, p. 217, 226, etc.

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Therefore, do agree and covenant with each other, and bind ourselves upon our sacred honor to continue united for the term of two years to come, from and after the first day of March 1824, do agree to and abide by the rules and regulations adopted by said society, which said society shall convene on the first Saturday night in April at the house of Richard F. Cooke, and elect a president or leader, also a clerk and treasurer. (Signatures were omitted for lack of space).

The Democrat, Huntsville, Ala., Friday, Sept. 18, 1829, comments as follows: “We have sometimes felt a secret pleasure in contemplating the moral improvement of the Western States, and have fondly hoped that those scenes of bloodshed which characterized the territories were to be witnessed no more forever. Tennessee has blasted our hopes. We hear of fatal rencountres in almost every part of the State.”

That was during the heyday of those highwaymen, Murrel, Crenshaw, and others. Prof. Monroe Seals, in his *History of White County*, says Murrel’s gang had a hideout in the Lost Creek gorge in the Cumberland Mountains. Incidentally, Murrel died of

tuberculosis at Pikeville, in 1844,⁵ after serving a term in the Tennessee State penitentiary.

⁵ *The Republican* (Carthage), Vol. 3, No. 47, Nov. 29, 1844.

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CHAPTER 5: ROADS AND HOSTELRIES

The North Carolina Military Trace of 1788¹

The most urgent need of the Cumberland settlements was a good wagon road across the wilderness, but the Cherokees were unalterably opposed to such a project. In 1784, James Robertson, representing Davidson County in the North Carolina House of Commons, presented to that body a petition for legislation to authorize the raising of troops to open a military road “from the lower end of Clinch Mountain to Nashville,” and, when completed, to “attend at stated points to escort emigrants to the Cumberland.”² Unfortunately, however, just at this time a bill was passed offering to cede all of North Carolina’s western lands to the Federal Government. This resulted in shelving the road legislation. But after Congress failed to accept the offer of cession, the legislature of 1786 finally passed an act providing, in part, as follows:

Whereas, the frequent acts of hostility committed by the Indians on the inhabitants of Davidson County for a considerable time past renders it necessary that some measures should be taken for their protection...

1. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That 201 men shall be enlisted and formed into a military body for the protection of the inhabitants of Davidson County, in such manner and form, and under such regulations and rules as are hereinafter mentioned; whose time of service shall continue for two years commencing from the day of their general rendezvous at the lower end of Clinch Mountain, unless sooner disbanded by the General Assembly...

13. And be it further enacted, That every private to be raised by virtue of this Act shall be allowed 400 acres of land to be laid off and allotted in some part of this State west of the Cumberland Mountains, in full satisfaction of the half of the first year’s pay that shall be due; and in the same proportion for the time that he shall served over and above one year, in full satisfaction of one-half of the pay that shall be due him for such further service.

15. And be it further enacted, That the said troops, when assembled at the lower end of Clinch Mountain as aforesaid, shall

¹ Also called the “North Carolina Road,” and “Cumberland Trace.”

²J. R. Gilmore, *The Advance Guard of Western Civilization*, pp. 73-74.

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cut and clear a road from thence the nearest, most direct and convenient way to the town of Nashville, on Cumberland River, making the same ten feet wide at the least, and fit for the passage of wagons and carts.³

In accordance with this Act, an effort was made to enlist the 201 volunteers, but only about 80 were ultimately signed up for the enterprise. This initial failure resulted in the Cumberlanders getting only the assurance of a military trace, instead of a wagon road. Finally, in August 1787, the 80 volunteers rendezvoused at the western terminus of Averys Trace near the southern end of Clinch Mountain, in what is now Grainger County. They were organized into two companies of foot soldiers under Captains William Martin and Joshua Hadley, and a company of cavalry under Capt. John Hunter, the three units comprising a battalion under the command of Maj. Thomas Evans.⁴ Shortly thereafter the battalion commenced the task of opening the military trace to the Cumberland, beginning at the terminus of Averys Trace. From there the route lay in a southwesterly direction to the upper crossing of the Peleson (Clinch) River, later known as Glasgow's ferry; thence westwardly, by way of Poplar Creek, Crooked Fork, Emory River, Obed River, Flat Rock, Northwest Foot of the Mountain,⁵ Flynns Creek, the upper crossing of Cumberland River, and Dixson Springs, to Nashville.⁶ This trace was opened to the public on September 25, 1788. The military guard thereafter escorted emigrants across the wilderness every three months.⁷ Household goods had to be sent by boat by way of the Tennessee, Ohio, and Cumberland Rivers to Nashville.

By 1790 the eastern end of the original military trace, from Clinch Mountain to Crooked Fork, had been practically abandoned in favor of a better road to Whites Fort and Campbells Station. The latter place then became the terminal for the military guard, as seen by a notice with James Robertson inserted in the *North Carolina State Gazette*:

³ Scott, *Early Laws of North Carolina and Tennessee*. (Acts of 1786).

⁴ According to pay rolls, Hunter's and Martin's companies were in the service eighteen months, from August 1787 until December 1788; and Hadley's company of cavalry served two full years, until August 1789. During this time about one third of the men were lost by death, discharge, or desertion, and had to be replaced by new recruits. Captain Hadley was killed January 20, 1789, Lt. Jas. Nelson and Ensign Thos. Smith being promoted to the rank of Captain and Lieutenant respectively, of his company.

⁵ The "Northwest Foot of the Mountain" was near the site of the present town of Algood, in Putnam County.

⁶ Francis Bailey, 1796-97; *American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 5, p. 107 (1900).

⁷ The eastern terminus of the guard was shifted three times; first to Knoxville, then to Campbell's Station, and finally to Southwest Point.

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NOTICE TO EMIGRANTS: The road is now opened from Campbell's Station to Nashville. The guard will be ready to escort parties about the first of October.⁸

From Campbell's station this new road crossed the Clinch River at the Pappa Ford, running thence through D'Armond gap, and merging with the military trace at Crooked Fork.

In 1791 the new road was extended to Southwest Point. From there a connecting link to the military trace crossed the Clinch at the Senter ford, just above the mouth of the Emory. The terminus of the guard was also advanced to Southwest Point. Incidentally the Cherokees collected a toll from every person crossing the Clinch.

Governor Blount Treats With the Cherokees for a Right-of-Way

As soon as William Blount took over as Governor of the Territory South of the Ohio River he began negotiations that resulted in the Treaty of Holston, dated July 2, 1791, by which the Cherokees agreed "that the citizens and inhabitants of the United States shall have a free and unmolested use of the road from Washington District to Mero District, and of the navigation of the Tennessee River."⁹

Obviously this stipulation was indefinite. And it became the source of much controversy, the Indians insisting they had in mind the route of the old North Carolina military trace of 1788, while the white people contended they had in mind a distinctly new road, over a better and more direct route.

A new way across part of the wilderness was opened in 1792. It crossed the Clinch at the lower ford, below the mouth of the Emory, running thence southwardly to a place later known as "Dunlaps" where it turned west and ascended the mountains along the old Cherokee path to its junction with the military trace at or near Flat Rock. After this an ever-increasing number of people began undertaking the wilderness journey without waiting for the periodical convoys escorted by the military guard. This spirit of daring undoubtedly contributed to the terrible death toll of 102 white people killed on the wilderness road in 1792. The military guard always traveled over the military trace from Southwest Point to Fort Blount, but it was a longer and more difficult route.

Clark's ferry across the Clinch at Southwest Point, in 1793, provided a shortcut to the Cherokee path.

The "Walton" and "Emory" Roads of 1795

At last, with a view to opening a graded wagon road across the wilderness, Governor Blount wrote Brigadier General Robertson as follows:

⁸ J. P. Brown, *Old Frontier*, p. 238.

⁹ U.S. *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 7, p. 40.

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Knoxville, May 30, 1795.

Dear Sir: I shall be truly glad to see you at the General Assembly. I beg you to use your efforts that all possible means at present in your power may be used to open a wagon road - - as early as may be - - the best possible way, regardless of all private considerations as to the place it shall pass the river.

If the Caney Fork is the best way, why not order Gillespie¹⁰ down to the mouth of it and at once open the road that way.

It will be trifling to pay any regard to the old road because it is the old road, but if it is the best way it will be best to continue it. The best road is at once to be attempted regardless of all and every private consideration.

I am, with much esteem,
WM. BLOUNT¹¹

Such sentiment as that expressed by the governor served as a go ahead signal for William Walton, who was operating a ferry across the Cumberland just above the mouth of the Caney Fork to accommodate settlers moving into the latter valley, so he set out that very summer and opened a wagon road along an old buffalo path up Snow Creek to the top of Chestnut Mound hill; thence along the crests of a chain of hills¹² to the barrens (flatwoods or highland rim); ascending the mountain east of the white plains, and terminating at a place known for several years thereafter as the "Forks of the Road."¹³

At the same time William Emory was busy grading the eastern half of this toll road, that is, from Southwest Point to the Forks of the Road, where it joined Walton's road. It followed the northern route of the old military trace, by way of D'Armand Gap, Emory River, Obed River, Flat Rock, and the Standing Stone.

Although never completely graded the combined Walton and Emory Road was opened to the public in the fall of 1795 and successfully traversed by "30 or 40 wagons".

¹⁰The Commandant at Fort Blount.

¹¹*American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 4, p. 267.

¹²As described by the Moravian missionaries, Steiner and Schweinitz, in 1799, Walton's road "runs on high hills, making many great turns, in parts very steep; on the whole, however, much to be preferred to the Fort Blount Branch."

¹³At or near the present village of Brotherton, in Putnam County, TN.

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Walton's segment of this road was variously known as "Walton's Ferry Road," "Caney Fork Branch Road," and "The Walton Road." The latter name was current after 1802, when the route of the road was altered by veering to the northwest at the white plains, and intersecting the old military trace, which it followed to Blackburn Springs; thence due west to the vicinity of the present town of Baxter, where it again merged with Walton's original road.

Fort Blount Branch Road

The "Fort Blount Branch Road" was a segment of the old North Carolina Military Trace. At first it extended from Dixon Springs to the "Folks of the Road," on Cumberland Mountain, by way of Fort Blount and Blackburn Springs. It was supposed to be about 10 miles shorter than Walton's Caney Fork Branch Road, where it intersected the new Walton Road.

The Cumberland Turnpike of 1802

At the 1798 session of the Tennessee Legislature in Knoxville a House committee was appointed to hear evidence on the matter of selecting the route for a proposed new road to the Cumberland, and directed to report back, with the recommendations. Subsequently, on December 31, James Robertson, chairman of the committee, reported as follows:

That the road at present used through that part of the country claimed by the Cherokees, distant about seventy-five miles, was never laid out by the contracting parties to the Treaty of Holston, which treaty it is that a road through the tract of country claimed by the Cherokees is stipulated and agreed for, nor is it the trace that was used when the treaty was formed; that that road, meaning the one at present in use, came into use by the security afforded across the Clinch by the military post at Southwest Point, whence one traveler, first picking out a way for himself, a second followed his track, and others pursuing their footsteps, formed that present road.

That this road is neither the nearest nor the best through that tract of country; and that a road the nearest and best way should pass through it, the committee conceive to have been the true object of the stipulation contained in thin the at treaty for the free and unmolested use of a road.

The committee recommended that the proposed new road begin at the ford across the Clinch River, below the mouth of the Emory.¹⁴ In the interest of a more specific description of the route to be followed, the Senate offered the following amendment"

Beginning on the west side of Cumberland Mountain at the forks of the road leading to Williams' and Walton's ferries, thence the nearest and best way through the Cumberland Mountain to the ford on the river Clinch next below the mouth of Emmey's River.¹⁵

¹⁴ Senate Journal, p. 340, Dec. 31, 1798.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 349, Jan. 3, 1799.

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Nothing further was done at this session of the legislature. But on Oct. 26, 1799, it was resolved - -

That the Governor lay the matter before the President of the United States, and request him to have marked out a road, and as soon as it is done that William Walton and William Morton of Smith County, and Robert Kyle of Hawkins County, be authorized to have the same cleared out at the expense of the State.¹⁶

President Adams approved the action and appointed the gentlemen mentioned to act as commissioners for the United States, pursuant to the stipulations of the Treaty of Holston. No further mention of the matter is noted, but the project was probably carried out in a modest way.

Two years later the legislature passed its first act of incorporation, entitled—

An Act Authorizing the Opening and Repairing of the Road From Hamilton District to the District of Mero, as Stipulated by the Treaty of Holston, and for Erecting a Turnpike or Turnpikes.

The more interesting provisions of the act read, in part, as follows:

Whereas justice and policy require that the road leading from Hamilton District to the District of Mero, shall be made and kept in good repair, and it is supposed that an association of citizens would undertake the same, if proper encouragement would be given by the legislature....The Governor is hereby authorized and required to erect and incorporate, under hand and seal, and number of person not exceeding five, who shall be known by the title and style of The Cumberland Turnpike Company, and may sue or be sued under the title aforesaid....The company shall measure and mile-mark the road, erect bridges and causeways, dig and level the sides of hills and mountains over which the said road may pass, to the breadth of fifteen feet, except where it may be necessary to build bridges, causeways, or dig the road as aforesaid, in which cases the same shall be twelve feet in breadth; and said company shall hereafter maintain and keep the said road in good order and repair for the term of ten years, during which time said company, their heirs, executors, etc., shall be entitled to all emoluments and profits arising there from....said company shall have the road opened and made in good repair agreeably to the true intent and meaning of this act, on or before the first day of September next, or shall forfeit all right to same....The company shall cut and clear the road from the Indians boundary line on the east side of Cumberland Mountains, to the forks of the roads leading to Fort Blount and Walton's ferry, and they shall erect a turnpike or turnpikes for the purpose of receiving

¹⁶ *American Historical Magazine*, Vol. 8, pp. 347-54.

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the tolls as aforesaid, from all persons traveling said road, but no person shall be liable to pay but one toll for traveling the same.¹⁷

Authorized tolls were \$1.50 for a four-wheel carriage for the conveyance of persons; 75 cents for a wagon and team; 12 ½ cents for a man and horse; and 6 ¼ cents for a foot traveler. Indians were exempt.

The incorporators of the Cumberland Turnpike Company were William Walton, William Hall, Alexander Outlaw, and Thomas Norris Clark. On the day the act of incorporation was passed they made bond for \$2,000, to be forfeited in case of their failure to open and keep the road in repair in the manner provided by law. Moses Fisk was employed to superintend the construction and repair of the road, and it was opened to the public in October 1802, a little over a month behind schedule.

F.A. Michaux, the noted scientist, was one of the first travelers to cross the wilderness over the Cumberland Turnpike. He said:

It is a wide and as well beaten as those in the environs of Philadelphia, on account of the great number of emigrants who travel it, as they go to settle in the western country....Small boards painted black and nailed against trees at every third mile, show how far they have gone.¹⁸

King's Road

About 1795 William King and others made the first effort to open a road from Nashville to Campbell's Station, partly along the route of the present Lebanon pike, as follows: "Stone's River, 9 miles; Big Spring, 6; Cedar Lick, 4; Little Spring, 6; Bartons Creek, 4; Spring Creek, 5; Martins Spring, 5; Blairs Spring, 5; Buck Spring, 12; Fountaine's, 8; Smith Creek, 6; Caney Creek, 8; Kings Spring, 16; Grovets Creek, 7; Foot of Cumberland Mountain, 2; Emory River, 11; the Pappa Ford on Clinch River, 12; Campbells Station, 10."

Gordon's Road

It was probably in 1798 that George Gordon opened a road from the ford of Wolf River, in what is now Pickett County, to Blackburn Springs, by way of Obey River, Monroe, Roaring River (at the mouth of Spring Creek), and the highlands.

Rock Island Road

The Rock Island Road was opened in 1807 from Rock Island, first county seat of White County, to the Walton Ferry Road, at Alexander's stand.

Sparta Turnpike

The legislature of 1809 passed an act “For the opening of a turnpike road from White County courthouse to intersect the road leading

¹⁷ *Acts of Tennessee*, Chapter 73, Nov. 14, 1801.

¹⁸ F. A. Michaux, *Travels to the Westward of the Alleghany Mountains*, pp. 264-65.

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From Southwest Point to Carthage to Daddys Creek, so as to pass the reviewers’ camp on the Caney Fork.” When completed it intersected the Cumberland Turnpike at or near Robert Kimbrough’s stand, just west of Daddy’s Creek.

Within the next few years this road was extended from Sparta to Sligo landings, on Caney Fork River, thence by way of Smithville and Liberty to a junction with Kings Road, leading to Lebanon and Nashville.

This road was improved in 1818 and soon became the most popular route to the East. It was also made the official post road between Nashville and Knoxville, over which the mail was delivered three times a week. It was macadamized in 1828.

Washington and Jefferson Road

This road was opened early in the 19th century along the old Black Fox trail, from Washington, the country seat of Rhea County, on the west bank of the Tennessee River, westwardly across Walden’s Ridge, Sequatchie valley, and Cumberland Mountain, thence down Stones River valley to Jefferson Springs, in Rutherford County.

Kentucky Stock Road

The Kentucky Stock Road was in use prior to 1814, between Danville, Kentucky, and Huntsville, Alabama, by way of Stanford, Somerset, Monticello, and Albany, in Kentucky; Monroe, White Plains, Sparta, McMinnville, and Winchester, Tennessee. Its popularity was probably due to its being a free road, and for over fifty years stockmen drove their cattle, hogs, and sheep to the northern markets over it. It was also extensively used by freight wagons and peddlers.

Marchbanks Turnpike

William Marchbanks operated two toll roads, one of them over a sector of the old Emory Road, from Johnson’s Stand, on the Cumberland Turnpike, to Wall’s on the Big Emory River, in what is now Morgan County. The other road was from Johnson’s Stand to Poplar Cove, in Fentress County.

Pyles Turnpike

Conrad Pyle opened a turnpike about the year 1820. It crossed Morgan and Fentress Counties, probably along the old Tennessee Path, and intersected the Gordon Road at or near Monroe, in Overton County.

Helms Turnpike

George and Adam Helm operated a toll road that extended from Jacksboro in a westerly direction, probably along the route of the East and West Trail, to Wolf River, where these two Revolutionary War veterans lived; thence to a junction with Pyles Turnpike. It was authorized by the legislature of 1822.

Fisk Road

This road was also known as the “Fike Turnpike.” And “Meridian Road”. It was under construction in 1826 when the state of legislature passed an

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“Act for the encouragement of Moses Fisk” (Ch. 117), in which it was recited that “Moses Fisk has partly opened a turnpike road from Hilham across Roaring River in a southerly direction, and one from Hilham across Obey River, in a northerly direction, which he has been unable to finish.” It then granted him an additional two years in which to complete the roads. The act also specified that the “southerly road shall extend from Hilham to the great road leading by Overton courthouse and the Rock Island Road, to unite with the same near the Dodson old place on which Wm. Burton now lives.” When completed it intersected the Walton Road about three miles west of White Plains. North of the Walton Road it ran in a straight line, for several miles, along the old Meridian, or eastern boundary of the First Land District. This old Meridian line had first served as the eastern boundary of the Continental Reservation, and later as the eastern boundary of Davidson County.

Fisk opened several other roads radiating from Hilham, including the following:

1. About 1812, a road to “the highlands south of Roaring River, and intersecting the Gordon Road near Bowen’s.
2. About 1817, a road to Obey River above William Dale’s
3. A road to Gainesboro and Fort Blount.
4. A road to Standing Stone.
5. About 1831, a road to Glasgow, Kentucky, by way of Princeton (Butler’s Ferry), and Tompkinsville.

Hostelries

Most of the hostelries of our frontiers were known as “ordinaries” or “stands.” They were simply the wayside homes of enterprising pioneers who had secured licenses to engage in the business of entertaining travelers. The quality of service offered depended on the size and facilities of the house, as well as the personal resourcefulness and character of the host and hostess, as well as the personal resourcefulness and character of the host and hostess. They catered to all classes, and guests usually had their meals with the host.

The term “tavern” implied a larger and more commercialized establishment, usually located in a thriving community, village, or town. Its main feature was a large “public room” and bar, the large room also serving as a sort of community center, where various kinds of assemblages, shows, and other entertainments were held.

An “inn” was a more pretentious hostelry that catered to discriminating travelers.

For almost a quarter of a century after the first settlement in the Cumberland, travelers across the Indian country were exposed to grave dangers, and to “every inclemency of the weather, without a shelter to retire to.” The first hostelry of the Upper Cumberland region was built at Dixon Springs in 1788. And about the year 1796 the following new ordinaries were opened for business: Walton’s, on Cumberland River, opposite the mouth of Caney Fork;

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Williams’ at Fort Blount; Shaw’s, near the present village of Gentry; and Blackburn’s, at the Double-Springs. These were all in Mero District.

In 1804 the Cherokees permitted white people to build four guest houses along the Cumberland Turnpike in the wilderness. They were Haley’s, at Crab Orchard; Kimbrough’s, at Daddy’s Creek; Terrel’s, at Drowing Creek; and Alexander’s, near the White Plains.

Sketches of several of the early hostelries follow:

Burke’s, -- See Crab Orchard Inn.

Crab Orchard Inn - - First known as “Haley’s,” and “Burke’s.” Built in 1804 at Crab Orchard Gap on the Cumberland Turnpike, by David Haley, a soldier of the Revolution, with the permission of the Cherokees. Haley died after a few years, and his wife, Letitia (nee Cloud) married Robert Burke and they continued to operate the inn.

Dixon’s -- At Dixon Springs, where the Fort Blount Branch Road and Caney Fork Branch Road joined. Built about 1788 by Maj. Tilman Dixon. Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, was a guest there the night of May 8, 1797.

Dunlap's - - On the Cumberland Turnpike at the foot of Cumberland Mountain, west of Southwest Point. Built by Hugh Dunlap.

Gordon's - - On the Caney Fork Branch Road, four miles east of Walton's Ferry.

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Graham's - - On the Cumberland Turnpike on Cumberland Mountain, near Obed River.

Haley's - - See Crab Orchard Inn.

Hat and Bottle - - "I wish to sell my stand on Gordon's turnpike road, on Cumberland Mountain, at the sign of the Hat and Bottle. For particulars apply to the subscriber at Rev. John Green's, in White County, Tenn. Henry Williams." - - Adv. in *Sparta Recorder and Law Journal*, Feb. 25, 1832.

Jackson Inn - - On west side of public square in Gainesboro. Operated by N. G. Jackson in 1840 and possible earlier.

Johnson's - - On the Cumberland Turnpike, at or near Flat Rock. Built and operated by Robert Johnson.

Kimbrough's (Kimmer's) - - On the Cumberland Road, one mile west of Daddy's Creek. Built by Robert Kimbrough, of Virginia, in 1805.

Phillips' - - On the Walton Road, near the Forks of the Road. Built and operated by William Phillips, first sheriff of White County.

Roulston's - - On the Walton Road, east of Chestnut Mound. Built and operated by James Roulston. It was at a place afterwards known as Mount Richardson.

Sehon's - - Located on the south side of the Cumberland Turnpike, 2 ½ miles west of Standing Stone. Operated by Capt. John Sehon.

Shaw's - - On the Walton Road, 16 miles east of the ferry across Cumberland River. Bishop Asbury's Journal contains the following entry for Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1802: "Arrived late in the evening. Slept on floor at Shaw's."

Taylor's - - One Walton Road, in the vicinity of Baxter.

Terrel's - - Located on the Cumberland Turnpike, at Drowning Creek. Operated by Jesse Terrel. The place was sometimes called "Terry's".

Walton's - - On the north side of Cumberland River at Walton's ferry. Built and operated by William Walton. Francis Bailey tells of his stop at Walton's in 1797, as follows:

“Came to the ferry house, where I stopped, and giving my horses some corn, took breakfast with my host, who furnished me with coffee and some fried rashers of bacon, served up with Indian bread - - a common breakfast in this part of the country, where nothing better is to be had. This man’s house stands immediately upon the bank of the river. And to the advantage of cultivating his own plantation he unites the profits of the ferry. The river is here 170 feet wide; and a little distance below the house a stream called the ‘Caney Fork’ come in....I was ferried across here about ten o’clock. I paid one-eighth of a dollar

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For each horse, through at Nashville I paid only one-sixteenth. It is customary not to charge anything for the passenger....I was landed on the opposite shore exactly on the point of land where the two river meet.”

Washington Hotel - - Operated in Sparta by Capt. Thomas Eastland about 1820.

Watson’s - - On the Kentucky Stock Road, about two miles west of the present town of Livingston, after 1825. Operated by Becky Watson. A. V. Goodpasture says: “Almost incredible trains of wagons, which were constantly passing over this road both north and south, always stopped at Becky Watson’s.”

William’ - - An ordinary at Fort Blount, operated by Capt. Sampson Williams. Rates: Dinner, 25 cents; breakfast and supper, 16 ¼ cents; brandy, half pint, 25 cents; whiskey, half pint, 12 1/12 cents; corn, per quart, 4 cents; oats, 3 cents.

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CHAPTER 6: RELIGION

“In June 1800 the great revival fully developed itself at Red River meeting house,” of which Rev. James McGready had charge. “The first camp meeting was held not long after that time. The crowds became so large that it was found impossible to procure food and shelter for them, so people resorted to tents, and brought their food with them.”¹

Thus the early years of the 18th century saw the memorable camp meetings in progress in the Cumberland, with people of all religious denominations participating. *Flint’s Geography* contains the following interesting description of an early camp meeting in this part of Tennessee:

None but one who has seen, can imagine the interest, excited in a district of country perhaps fifty miles in extent, by the awaited approach of the time for a camp meeting; and none but one who has seen, can imagine how profoundly the preachers have understood what produces effect, and how well they have practiced upon it. Suppose the

scene to be, where the most extensive excitements and most frequent camp meetings have been, during the two past years, in one of the beautiful and fertile valleys among the mountains of Tennessee. The notice has been circulated two or three months. On the appointed day, coaches, chaises, wagons, carts, people on horseback, and multitudes traveling from a distance on foot, wagons with provisions, mattresses, tents, and arrangements for the stay of a week, are seen hurrying from every point towards the central spot. It is in the midst of a grove of those beautiful and lofty trees, natural to the valleys of Tennessee, in its deepest verdure, and beside a spring branch, for the requisite supply of water....

The line of tents is pitched; and the religious city grows up in a few hours under the trees, beside the stream. Lamps are hung in lines among the branches; and the effect of their glare upon the surrounding forest is as of magic. The scenery of the most brilliant theatre in the world is a painting only for children, compared with it. Meantime the multitudes, with the highest excitement of social feeling added to the general enthusiasm of expectation, pass from tent to tent, and interchange apostolic greetings and embraces, and talk of the coming solemnities. Their coffee and tea are prepared, and their supper is finished. By this time the moon, (for they take thought, to appoint the meeting at the proper time of the moon) begins to show its disk above the dark summits of the mountains; and a few stars are seen glimmering through the intervals of the branches. The whole constitutes a temple worthy of the grandeur of God.

¹ Jas. Phelan, *School History of Tennessee*, p. 80.

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An old man, in a dress of the quaintest simplicity, ascends a platform, wipes the dust from his spectacles, and in a voice of suppressed emotion, gives out the hymn, of which the whole assembled multitude can recite the words, - and an air, in which every voice can join. We should deem poorly of the heart, that would not thrill, as the son is heard, like the "sound of many waters," echoing among the hills and mountains. Such are the scenes, the associations, and such the influence of external things upon the nature so "fearfully and wonderfully" constituted, as ours, that little effort is necessary, on such a them as religion, urged at such a place, under such circumstances to fill the heart and the eyes. The hoary orator talks of God, of eternity, a judgment to come, and all that is impressive beyond. He speaks of his "experiences," his toils and travels, his persecutions and welcomes, and how many he has seen in hope, in peace and triumph, gathered to their fathers; and when he speaks of the short space that remains to him, his only regret is, that he can no more proclaim, in the silence of death, the mercies of his crucified Redeemer.

There is no need of the studied trick of oratory, to produce in such a place the deepest movements of the heart. No wonder, as the Speaker pauses to dash the gathering moisture from his own eye, that his audience are dissolved in tears, or uttering the exclamations of penitence. Nor is it cause for admiration, that many, who poised themselves on an estimation of higher intellect and a nobler insensibility, than the crowd,

catch the infectious feeling and become women and children in their turn; and though they “came to mock, remain to pray.”

The Presbyterians

The Presbyterians were at first the leading denomination in what is now Tennessee. They had a congregation in Sumner County as early as 1787, with Rev. Thomas Craighead as pastor. Rev. Wm. McGee, of Dixon Springs, was an early minister of this denomination in the Upper Cumberland.

The Methodists

The Methodists had circuit riders James Haw and Benjamin Ogden in Kentucky and the Cumberland as early as 1786, when the Kentucky Circuit was formed, with Rev. Francis Poythress as presiding elder.

In 1787 the Cumberland Circuit, with a membership of 90, was organized as part of the Kentucky Conference, with Benjamin Ogden as circuit rider. Within a year the membership had grown to 479, and D. Combs and B. McHenry had been added to the ministry. In 1789 there were 1,037 white, and 51 colored members. And in 1790 Wilson Lee, Jas. Haw, and Peter Massie were the preachers on the Cumberland Circuit.²

² *Historical Sketch of the M. E. Church in Ky*, pp. 124-31. (N. B.: Benj. Ogden was born in New Jersey in 1764 and served in the Revolutionary War. Began preaching in 1786, and is said to have been the first Methodist preacher to carry the gospel message into the Cumberland coming here in 1767. He died in 1834 near Princeton, Ky. Peter Massie became an itinerant Methodist preacher in Kentucky in 1786. He died Dec. 19, 1791 at the home of a Mr. Hodges, 4 miles west of Nashville.

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Rev. John McGee was an early Methodist preacher in the Upper Cumberland having come from North Carolina about 1798 and settled near Dixon Springs.

Rev. Miles Harper served as pastor of Roaring River Circuit in 1806. “He was one of the sweet singers of Israel,” as well as a very popular and effective preacher. William McKendre was the Presiding Elder. At that time one of the most important churches of this circuit was the one known as “Paran,” now on the Algood Circuit. It was originally a camp-meeting ground, but a church was organized there in the late 1790’s, when a log church house was built. The present frame building was built in 1875. In the church cemetery the oldest monument is marked “1795”.

Rev. John Crane, son of Lewis Crane, who lived at Cage’s ford of Cumberland River, was the famous “Little John Crane,” or “boy preacher,” of early times in middle Tennessee and Kentucky.

He was converted when eight years old and took the circuit in his sixteenth year....I have seen him stand on some eminence, before he was nine years old, with five or six thousand people around him, and exhort for two hours. He carried the spirit of revival with him wherever he went....He led many to righteousness and was a burning and shining light in the church.” Rev. Jacob Young, *Autobiography of a Pioneer*, p. 186.

Peter Cartwright was another early Methodist preacher in the Cumberland, and was appointed presiding elder of Cumberland District in 1808 by Bishop McKendree.

Cumberland District, 1832.

Rev. S. Joyner, presiding elder.

Fountain Head Circuit: J. Page and R. Elander.

Goose Creek Circuit: S.W. Ellis and W. E. Potter.

Lebanon Circuit: T. Smith and S. S. Moody.

Smith Fork Circuit: J. Kelly and E. Carr.

Caney Fork Circuit: J. D. Winn and W. Williams.

Roaring River Circuit: L. D. Mullins and N. S. Johnston.

Bedford Circuit: W. Ledbetter and J. Seay.

Murfreesboro Station: G. T. Henderson.

Lebanon and Cairo: A. F. Driskville.³

Cumberland District in 1844.

Rev. Garrett W. Martin, presiding elder.

Smith Fork: Jas. Walkup, John Hill, and John Page supply.

Carthage: David H. Jones.

Wartrace: Lloyd Richardson.

Cumberland: Joel Whitten and Asbury D. Overall.

Gainesboro: William Jared, supply.

Livingston: Russell Eskew.

³ *Sparta Recorder and Law Journal*, Nov. 26, 1831, reporting on the assignments of the Tennessee Conference for 1832.

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Caney Fork: Burkett F. Ferrell.

Short Mountain: Isaac C. Woodward; and Abraham Overall, supply.

Hickory Creek: Abner Bowen and M. P. B Parham.

Bedford: David Coulson.⁴

The Baptists

The Baptists also had an early beginning in the Cumberland, which was at first included in the South Kentucky Association.

South Kentucky Association, 1792. - - Forks of Sulphur, Red River Church: John Grammar, itinerant; 30 members.

William Hickman and Lewis Craig were early Baptist preachers in the Cumberland, and the Tennessee Association was in existence before 1800, in which year they were visited by Rev. David Benedict, A. M., of Boston, Mass. The Cumberland Baptist Association was organized about this same date. And in 1809 this association was divided, all those churches east of the road leading northwardly from Nashville to Lexington, Ky, and southwardly from Nashville to the Tennessee River, comprising a new association to be known as "Concord," which included the following churches of the Upper Cumberland: Dixon Creek, Head of Roaring River, Concord (Carthage), Hickman Creek, Round Lick, Salem Church (Liberty), and Hodges Meeting House (Smith Fork). Among their ministers at that time were Chas. Riddle, John Wiseman, and Joseph Lister.

Disciples of Christ or Christians

There was a congregation of Disciples at Bagdad, Smith County, prior to 1836, among its members being James Young, Thomas Huddleston, and Thomas Draper.

Fort Blount, Jackson County, Tenn.
June 8, 1836.

There is a congregation of Disciples at Bagdad, about six miles distant from this place, who meet weekly to worship the Lord. We occasionally have accessions, and would have more than we do if the people generally were better informed upon the subject of the reformation. Any of the teaching brethren passing through this country would be gladly received by the brethren at Bagdad.

O. D. Williams⁵

Cumberland Presbyterians

The Cumberland Presbyterians were an outgrowth of the great western revival in middle Tennessee, in which the Methodists and Presbyterians were closely associated, under the terms of an agreement known as the "Christian Union."

In his interesting Autobiography of a Pioneer, Rev. Jacob Young, of the Methodist Church who came to the Nashville circuit in 1806, says:

⁴ *The Republican*, Carthage, Nov. 29, 1844, vol. 3, No. 47.

⁵ *Millennial Harbinger*, 1836.

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I found the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were closely united. They had taken many of our efficient class leaders and made them elders in their church, and their elders had been made class leaders in the Methodist church. I could not tell who were

Methodists and who Presbyterians.....Jealousies began to operate in the Presbyterian Synod of Kentucky. They began to think and say that the Presbyterians were all turning Methodists, and, indeed, it looked a good deal like it. They preached and prayed like Methodists; shouted and sung like Methodists. They had licensed several young men to preach who had not a collegiate education. They had formed circuits like the Methodists; had their saddlebags and greatcoats mailed on behind, sweeping through the country like itinerant evangelists. The Tennessee presbytery was a part and parcel of the Kentucky synod, and when the Kentuckians heard these things they sent a deputation of learned men to make a thorough examination, authorizing them, if they found that the people had departed from the doctrine and discipline of the Presbyterian Church and refused to return, to dissolve the Presbytery.

The committee came one and acted according to instructions. They ordered these licensed young men to desist from preaching. They refused. Several of the old theologians, such as Hodges, M'Grada, and others, became alarmed, submitted to the authority of the Church, and returned to their old paths. But the young men, with old Billy M'Gee at their head, held on their way. Some of them were superior men, such as James Porter, Thomas Cahoun; and they, having spent two or three years in trying to reconcile the Kentucky Synod, and, having found it to be a forlorn hope, withdrew from the Presbyterian Church, and constituted a Church and congregation of their own, called the Cumberland Presbyterians. They soon extended their influence far and wide, and as a body they are a successful and holy people.

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CHAPTER 7: SCHOOLS

The first effort to establish a school system in Tennessee was by the Academy Act of 1806, ¹ entitled "An Act to establish academies in the several counties of the State, and appoint trustees thereof. Those established in Upper Cumberland Counties were as follows:

Montpelier Academy, Jackson County. Trustees: Thomas Draper, Nathaniel Ridley, John H. Bowen, Sampson Williams, and Ferdinand Hamilton. In 1811 **James Roulston**, Jas. W. Smith, Jas. Vance, Jonas Bedford and **Nathan Haggard** were named as trustees.

Overton Academy, Overton County. Trustees: Moses Fisk, John Overton, Jas. Chissum, John B. Cross, and Henry Reagan. In 1811 John Grove and William Marchbanks were added to the board of trustees.

Geneva Academy, Smith County. Trustees: William Martin, Grant Allen, Henry Tooley, Richard Banks, William Cage. In 1807 the following were named as trustees: John Fite, John Gordon, Lee Sullivan, Robert Allen, Wm. Cage, and Arthur S. Hogan. In 1811 Trustees were again appointed, as follows: William Walton, Francis Gildart, Archibald W. Overton, Basil Shaw, and Nathaniel Williams.

Academies Authorized since 1806

Priestly Academy, White County. Established by Chapter 109, Acts of 1809. Trustees: Alex Lowry, Turner Lane, Isaac Taylor, Jr., John Bryant, John M. Carrick, Bird Smith, and Thomas K. Harris.

Macon Academy, Jackson County. Established by Ch. 131, Acts of 1827, “to be erected within two miles of the courthouse in Gainesboro.” Trustees: Andrew Whitley, Mounce Gore, Wm. Locke, Henry Saddler, Alex Keith, Richard F. Cooke, Jas. Kilpatrick, John Graham, Wm. Scanland, and Philip Muhley.

Mount Cumberland Academy, Fentress County. Established by Ch. 176, Acts of 1826. Trustees: John Reagan, Wm. Travis, Early Albertson, John Crawford, Samuel Odle, Strother Frogg, Jas. Findley, John Gunn, and John Evans. In 1831 the following were appointed as trustees: Jos. H. Schooler, Wm. H. McGee, Hannibal Clemmins, Wm. B. Richardson, Wm. Chilton, Jr., Jas. Campbell, Wm. H. Atkinson, Jno. B. Rogers, and A. C. Rogers.

Pleasant Forest Academy, Overton County, Established by Ch. 176, Acts of 1826. Trustees: Geo. Finley, Jas. Turner, Geo. Heron, John Wheeler, Isaac Gore, Wm. Nevans, Hugh C. Armstrong, and David Jackson. In 1827 Wm. Turner and Jas. McDonald were added to the list.

¹ Chapter 8, Acts of 1806.

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Fulton Academy, DeKalb County. Incorporated in 1838. Trustees: Thos. Durham, Moses Pedigo, Samuel Allen, Martin Phillips, and Bernard Richardson.

Quincy Adams Academy, Warren County, 1821.

Carroll Academy, Warren County. Incorporated in 1838. Trustees: Alex Shields, S. D. Rowan, and J. F. Morford.

Oakland Male Academy, Smith County. Incorporated by Ch. 86, Acts of 1832. Trustees: **Richard Alexander**, Henry Brooks, Wm. Dillen, Frederick N. Mitchell, John Bradley, Jas. McMurray, Chesley Bridgewater.

Alpine Academy, Overton County. Later known as Alpine Institute. This school “began several years before the Civil War, when John L. Dillard and John L. Beveridge established a graded school at a summer resort on Alpine Mountain and christened it ‘Alpine Academy.’ After the war Dillard removed to Sumner County; and Beveridge to Illinois, of which State he became governor. During reconstruction days the school was

moved to Nettle Carrier. New buildings were erected, and Prof. W. T. Davis was its first principal at that place.”

Andres College, Putnam County. Chartered by Chapter 91, Acts of 1848, p. 141. It was authorized to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Arts. Burritt College, at Spencer, was chartered by the same Act. The incorporators and instructors of Andrew College were Isaac and Jonathan Buck; and the following board of visitors was named: Alvan Cullom, Wm. B. Potter, S. D. Lisle, Nathan Judd, A. Dibrell, **William Jarrett**, A. Rodgers, R. S. Burton, and B. D. Hunter. The school was to be built at the site selected for Jackson Academy, and for some time the college received a share of academy funds. This school has for many years been spoken of as “Buck’s College.” The old schoolhouse is still standing on the north side of what is now known as the Buck Mountain Road, east of Cookeville. It was also the site chosen for the first county seat of Putnam, to be known as Monticello.

Irving Institute, Warren County. Established prior to 1843, eight miles south of McMinnville. Afterwards known as Irving College.

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PART II: MISCELLANY

Elected to Congress by One Vote

In 1813 Thomas K. Harris, of Sparta, and Judge William Kelly, of Warren County, engaged in one of the closest races for the office of Representative in Congress on record. It was in the Third Congressional District and Mr. Harris won by a single vote, according to the Governor’s return.

Mr. Kelly contested the election, on the ground that the certificate of polls filed with the county court clerk of Warren County showed two less votes for Mr. Harris than were shown in the Governor’s return. In the subsequent recheck the investigation, however, two illegal ballots, both of which were for Mr. Kelly, were discovered and thrown out, which still left a margin of one vote in favor of Mr. Harris, who was subsequently seated.¹

(Note: This may have been the same William Kelly who was born in Tennessee in 1770; settled in Warren County; received a classical education; was admitted to the bar, and afterwards removed to Huntsville, Alabama, from which place he was appointed to the United States Senate, to succeed John W. Walker; after serving in the senate from Dec. 12, 1822 through Mar. 3, 1825, he removed to New Orleans, where he died in 1832).

The Fawcett Tradition

It has been rumored from an early period that Braddock had been shot by one of his men. More recently it has been stated by one who could not be mistaken, that in the course of the battle Braddock ordered the provincial troops to form a column. They, however, adhered to the Indian mode of fighting severally from the shelter of a tree. Braddock in his vexation, rode up to a young man of the name of Fawcett, and with his sword rashly cut him down. Thomas Fawcett, a brother of the killed, soon learned his opportunity, revenged his brother's blood by shooting Braddock through the body, of which wound he died. Thomas Fawcett is now or was very lately living near Laurel Hill. He is now 95 years of age. *Sparta Review*, November 16, 1825.

Thomas Fawcett, prior to settling in Tennessee, was described as "a sort of mountain hermit of Fayette County, Pennsylvania; wild, uncouth, and gigantic in his appearance."

Although Winthrop Sargent, in his "*History of Braddock's Expedition and Battle*," discounts Fawcett's story as a fiction, he offers

¹ Report on case of Kelly v. Harris, by Rep. J. Fisk, Jan. 3, 1814. 6 pp. 2d Sess. Rept. 13 C. 15, 3d Cong. Dist.; Executive Document No. 15.

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no proof. As a matter of fact, therefore, it may have been true. At least it was "a Pennsylvania tradition, generally believed for half a century." There was certainly something behind Fawcett's intense hatred of Braddock, and, so far as is known, he never changed his story, or any of its details, in the least, as indicated by the above item from the *Sparta Review*, which Mr. Sargent probably had not seen.

Tribute to Judge Marchbanks

The Nashville *Republican Banner*, of Jan. 10, 1867, contains the following tribute to the memory of Judge Andrew J. Marchbanks:

Since the organization of the State Government, the death of no public man of more real merit has been recorded. It is eminently right and proper that the people of Tennessee should preserve for posterity the virtues of this man.

For 25 years Judge Marchbanks was on the bench in the same circuit, without change or respite for that long period; elected twice by the legislature and three times by the people. To say that Judge Marchbanks was an able lawyer and an upright judge is but feebly to express the truth. It is the unanimous judgment of the bar that knew him best that as a lawyer he had no superior in the state; but in this was not his greatest merit. A purer man in the administration of justice never dignified the bench in any country. During the long period of 25 years, while on the bench, not a whisper was ever heard against his integrity. In all that adorns the bench, strong and native intellect, hard and thorough training in his profession; untiring labor and toil, with the purest morals and the most elevated and conscientious convictions of duty.

John Lusk, Soldier

John Lusk, soldier, b. on Long Island, N. Y., Nov. 5, 1734; d. near McMinnville, Tenn., June 8, 1838. He began his military career when he was about 20 years old, at the conquest of Acadia, in the French and Indian War of 1756. He was present at the siege of Quebec; saw Gen. Wolfe fall on the Plains of Abraham; and served with Arnold's expedition to Canada. He was engaged in the erection of Ft. Edward, and was wounded there. Was in the battle of Saratoga, and surrender of Burgoyne; and also that of Cornwallis; and subsequently served with Wayne in the campaign against the Indians. Appleton's *Cyclopaedia of American Biography*.

Hunting Camp Where Robert Crockett Was Killed – 1769

Phenix Cox had a grant of 640 acres of land, by right of preemption, evidenced by entry No. 507, dated Aug. 9, 1784, located on both sides of Mitchell's Creek, including the site of the old hunting camp and spring where Robert Crockett was killed by the Indians in 1769. The exact location of the camp was on Mitchell's Creek, at or slightly above its junction with Sulphur Fork, in Overton County.¹ No doubt Crockett's grave is located in that vicinity.

¹ In Grant No. 8889 (Book M, p. 350, *General Land Grants of West Tennessee*) Mitchell's Creek is called "the fork that Robert Crockett was killed on." See also Grant 3763, vol. E, p. 296. In a letter to the author, dated Aug. 30, 1937, A. V. Goodpasture wrote: "It was said the Crockett grave could be identified in 1876. It ought to be marked by a monument."

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PIONEER NEWSPAPERS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Carthage, Sparta, and McMinnville were the largest communities, as well as the chief business centers of the Upper Cumberland in early times, and it was there that the first country newspapers were published.

Carthage Gazette

In 1808 Col. William Moore and wife¹ came from Knoxville to set up a printing establishment in Carthage, and began publishing the "*Carthage Gazette and Friends of the People*," the first issue having been dated Aug. 13, 1808. Beginning with the issue of March 16, 1810, the paper was titled simply the "*Carthage Gazette*." Jas. Lyon was editor until 1811. "In May or June 1812 Moore took John B. Hood in as a partner, under the firm name or 'Moore and Hood.'" This partnership, however, was dissolved "Dec. 12, 1812, and the paper was then published for William Moore by Xenophon J. Gaines. With the issue of Nov. 3, 1814, **Jas. G. Roulstone** became a partner, under the firm name

of **'Moore and Roulstone.'** Between Aug. 27, 1816, and July 1, 1817, the firm name became **'Roulstone and Ford.'**" Vol. 8, No. 31, is the last known issue.²

Western Express

"Established September 26, 1808, at Carthage. Published by **J. G. Roulstone** and R. L. Caruthers. "\$3 per annum in advance."

Marriage Notice. "Wednesday evening May 18, (1825), by Rev. John Wisman, Dr. John H. Ray of this place, to Miss Martha T. Cage, daughter of Wm. Cage, Esq., of Sumner County." *Tenn. Repub.*, vol. 1, No. 51.

"Died. - - In Pikeville, Bledsoe County, on the 1st instant, of pulmonary consumption, John A. Murrel, the notorious land pirate. On his death bed he acknowledged he had been guilty of almost everything charged against

² *American Antiquarian Society Journal*, vol. 35, pt. 1, Apr. 1925.

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him but murder. Of this charge he declared himself guiltless. - - *McMinnville Gazette.*" - *The Republican*, vol. 3, No. 47, Nov. 29, 1844.

Sparta Gazette

The *Sparta Gazette* succeeded the *Gazette* in 1822, and was published by John W. Ford and Thomas Eastland, printers.

Death Notice. "Mrs. Jane, consort of Mr. Thomas Little, died Monday morning last, age 39 years." - - *Sp. Rev.*, Aug. 18, 1824.

"Married in this place on Wednesday evening last, Mr. John N. Alstedt to Mrs. Patsy Butler." *Sp. Rev.*, Oct. 6, 1824.

"Died at his residence near Monroe, Overton County, on the 18th ult., Mr. Jacob Huntsman in the 80th year of his age. Early in life he witnessed the tragic death of his father, grandfather, and an infant brother by the hands of the Indians. They at the same time made him a prisoner, and he remained with them upwards of 4 years. After his release he joined the Revolutionary Army, and continued in the service of his country until the close of the war. In the late contest with Great Britain he was not a silent spectator. Although not one of the opulent class, at his own expense he furnished his son with a horse, arms, etc., when in his fifteenth year, and sent him forth to fight the battles of his country. During the whole course of his life he has distinguished himself as an undeviating patriot and soldier, firmly devoted to the case of freedom.

“The citizens of Monroe and the adjacent country attended in military array on the day of his burial, and interred his remains with the honors of war. Not an eye was dry - - all present dropped a tear on the grave of the veteran. An aged widow, two daughters, and numerous and grateful acquaintances deplore his loss.” *Sp. Rev.*, May 4, 1825.

“Married in Gainesboro on Thursday evening, the 16th inst., Mr. John A. Quarles of White Plains, Overton County, Tenn., to Miss Martha Ann, youngest daughter of Col. Benj. Lampton of Adair County, Kentucky.” *Sp. Rev.*, June 22, 1825.

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“Died yesterday, in this vicinity, Mrs. **Nancy Anderson**, consort of **Mr. Wm. Anderson**; aged about 45.” *Sp. Rev.*, July 13, 1825.

“Died - - Capt. Jas. Peak, age about 35 years; a respectable citizen of this place.” *Sp. Rev.*, Aug. 16, 1825.

“Married on Thursday evening last, Col. David L. Mitchell of this place and Miss Sarah, daughter of Capt. Thos. P. Robinson of this county.” *Sp. Rev.*, Oct. 19, 1825.

“Died on 12 November 1825 in Fentress County, **Chas. Atkinson**, in the 85th year of his age, a soldier of the Revolution, and one of the brave band of King’s Mountain Battle.” *Sp. Rev.*, Nov. 23, 1825.

“Married in Wythe County, Virginia, on the 17th inst., Isaac J. Leftwich, Esq., attorney at law of this place, and Miss Nancy Ward.” *Sp. Rev.*, Nov. 30, 1825.

Spartonian and Mountain District Advertiser

This paper was published at Sparta in 1829-30 by Lane and Anderson.

“Married on the evening of the 14th inst., in Madison County, Adam Huntsman, Esq., to Miss Elizabeth Todd.” *Spartonian*, Jan. 14, 1829.

“Married on the 31st ultimo by Jesse Scoggins, Esq., Mr. Turner Lane, Jr., to Miss Mary Scoggins, daughter of John Scoggins, all of this county.” *Spartonian*, Jan. 2, 1830.

“Married on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., Mr. James Carrick to Miss Finetta Lowry, eldest daughter of Mark Lowry, Esq., all of this county.” *Spartonian*, Jan. 16, 1830.

Sparta Recorder and Law Journal

Beginning in 1832, the *Sparta Recorder and Law Journal* was published for about three years by Medicus A. Long.

Sparta Times

This newspaper is mentioned as early as 1847, but there are no known copies in existence at present.

Mountain Echo

The *Mountain Echo* was established Jan. 6, 1816, at McMinnville, by Eli Harris.

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Central Gazette

J. W. Ford either set up or took over the *Central Gazette* at McMinnville in 1833, and operated it until 1843, in which year he was succeeded by Leonidas N. Ford.

“Died, July 25, 1847, Mrs. Sarah Gordon, wife of Robert Gordon, in her 63rd year.”
Central Gazette, July 30, 1847.

Heavy Rain Storm, Saturday, June 27, 1829, in and Around Sparta

Many individuals have sustained considerable losses. The saw mill of Thomas Little, together with the dam; the bridge of Wm. Simpson; the saw mill and bridge of Gen. John W. Simpson; and the saw mill and dam of Jabez G. Mitchell, were all swept off by the current....The bridge at this place was saved by the exertion of the citizens....Most of the bridges and mills on Cumberland Mountain were likewise destroyed. The bridge of Col. Randolph Ross on the Caney Fork, between this place and McMinnville was carried off by the violence of the stream....The road on the mountain is greatly impaired. *Sparta and Mountain District Advertiser*, Sat. July 4, 1829.

Violent Storm Hits Shelbyville and Carthage, Night of May 31, 1830

At Shelbyville 38 stores and shops, and 15 dwellings were destroyed, five men killed, and many bruised and wounded. Mr. Newton, editor of Shelbyville *Intelligencer*, was carried, amidst the ruins of his house, one hundred yards and found dreadfully mangled and dead. The noise of the tempest was indeed fearful. The lightning gave to midnight the power of seeing as well as at mid-day. The earth was covered with a sheet of water. The crash of falling houses, the cry of distress, the groans of the wounded, were awful. It is a tale of horror. Independent of the loss of life, property to the amount of between fifty and one hundred thousand dollars was destroyed. We only wonder that so few lives were lost.

The storm was equally felt at Carthage, also reduced to a heap of ruins, though it lasted only 5 minutes! The courthouse, a substantial brick building, as well as the jail, were reduced to heaps of rubbish. The public records, and fragments of buildings were scattered through the country for miles. Almost every house in the town was destroyed

or damaged, but, happily, no lives lost, though several persons were dreadfully wounded. The goods in the stores were dispersed to “the winds of the heavens”; and many lost all their clothing, except what they had on their backs! *Niles Register*, June 26, 1830.

First Show Boat

N. M. Ludlow was the father of the show boat. In 1817 he “crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains to the headwaters of the Cumberland...and there built a sheltered keel boat on which he ran a show.”³

³ Richardson Wright, *Hawkers and Walerks*, p. 251. See also 1860 edition of Sol Smith’s, *Theatrical Management in the West and South*.

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It was known as Ludlow’s “Opera Boat.” The maiden voyage of this first of all show boats was down the Cumberland (probably from the vicinity of Burnside, KY), Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. Prior to setting out with his own show Mr. Ludlow had been an actor with the famous Drake theatrical family, who made a fortune in the show business in the West, during that era.

High Taxes in Jackson County 1825

In 1825 Capt. Sampson Williams was a candidate for the State Senate and had an announcement inserted in the *Sparta Review* of Aug. 3, in which he stated, among other things, that “in the year 1812, when I left the legislature, the county tax in Jackson County had never exceeded \$250 annually, which sum was more than sufficient to defray all the expenditures of the county. Since that year it has been increasing, and last year amounted to the sum of \$953.25, and the county left still in debt upwards of \$6,000.”

Early Mail Service

United States mail service was inaugurated between Knoxville and Nashville in 1797, by way of Southwest Point and Fort Blount, at 60-day intervals.

In 1806 Mount Granger was made the distribution point for all mail going to the Cumberland and southwestern frontiers. Mount Granger was the western terminus of the Cumberland Turnpike, at a place on Cumberland Mountain previously known as the Forks of the Road. Off-route postmasters had either to go in person, or send someone else, to Mount Granger twice a month to receive and dispatch their mail.

The *Nashville Impartial Review*, of July 12, 1806, contained the following announcement: “Proposals for carrying mails of the United States on the following post roads will be received until the first day of August next, inclusive:

69. From Lebanon, by Kavanaugh and Carthage, to Mount Granger, once in two weeks. Leave Lebanon every Tuesday at 6 a.m., and arrive at Mount Granger by 6 p.m. Leave Mount Granger every other Wednesday at 6 a. m., and arrive at Lebanon by 6 p.m.

This contract was offered to James Lyon, of Carthage, at \$240 per annum.

Mount Granger, as a mail distribution center, was closed about 1813, and for the succeeding three years, from 1814 through 1818, James Eddington carried the mails all the way from Knoxville to Nashville.

Postage

By an act of Congress, March 3, 1825, and an amendatory act of March 2, 1827, letter postage was put on a zone basis, as follows: 30 miles,

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Or under, 6 cents; 30-80 miles, 10 cents; 80-150 miles, 12 ½ cents; 150-400 miles, 18 ¾ cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. Newspapers were delivered free.

Upper Cumberland Postmasters of 1830

The following postmasters were serving the public in this section in 1830:

Jackson County – Beech Hill, Jas. W. Smith; Butler's Ferry, Bailey Butler; Celina, Robert Nivins; Cookeville, Richard F. Cooke; Fort Blount, Sampson Williams; **Gainesboro, John B. Anderson**; McLeansville, Stewart Watson; **Meigsville, Amos Kirkpatrick**; Mt. Richardson, James McKinley; Princeton, John Gates; White Plains, John A. Quarles; Whitleyville, Tandy K. Witcher.

Overton County – Hilham, Moses Fisk; Locust Shade, Geo. W. Sevier; Monroe, Wm. Wray; Sinking Cane, Patrick Pool.

Smith County – Alexandria, Jacob Fite; Bratton's, Wm. Bratton; Brevard's, Alfred A. Brevard; Carthage, Jas. A. Beckwith; Dixon Springs, Thomas Roberts; Gordonsville, John Gordon; Lancaster, Abner Locke; Liberty, John Daugherty; Rome, Wm. Moore.

White County – Clifty, Thos. Eastland; Sparta, Wayman Leftwich.

Industry

The homes of the pioneers were the first centers of industry on the frontier, for in them were practiced most of the essential sciences, arts, and crafts, including the processing, spinning, dying, and weaving of linen, cotton, and woolen materials, which were then made into clothing and other essentials. According to the census of 1810, 1,790,000

yards of cotton cloth were manufactured in Tennessee homes during the previous year, as well as 262,334 yards of woolen, linen, and linsey-woolsey materials.

Tanning was another important enterprise, for the skins of both domestic and wild animals were utilized in many ways. Out of deerskins, from which the hair had been removed, were made breeches, hunting shirts, and undergarments. Those tanned with the fur on them were used for rugs, robes, and upholstery. The hides of the buffalo and bear were largely used for robes and coverlets.

One of the largest early industries was that of distilling, a total of 801,254 gallons of whiskey having been made in Tennessee in 1809 - - an average of 20 gallons for every adult male person in the state.

Probably the first grist mill east of the Cumberland River was Russell's, located on Mill Creek, in what is now the northern part of Putnam County. Then there were Williams' mill, on Iron Creek, Overton County; Hunter's mill, on Falling Water; Scarborough's mill on Cumberland Mountain, at the head of the Caney Fork; Usrey's mill on

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Blue Spring Creek, White County; Stumps' mill, on Smith Fork; David Venters' mill, on Goose Creek, Smith County; Adam Dale's mill, on Smith Fork; James Shell's mill, on Collins River; and others.

Migratory Pigeons

About two miles south of Cookeville there is a stream known as Pigeons Roost, where, in former times, millions of American migratory pigeons roosted during their seasonal flights.

These birds pass the summer in the northern parts of North America, and on the approach of winter move towards the southern. They build in trees, and feed principally upon acorns and mast of every description. They are also extremely fond of rice and corn. They pass in their periodical migrations in flocks, stated to extend in length two miles, and a quarter of a mile in width; occasionally alighting in the course of their journey, and covering the foliage of considerable woods. During what is called their flight time, the common people of the country easily knock them from their roosts, and find them a very nourishing and pleasant, as well as cheap article of food. In Louisiana, it is common entertainment in an evening, in which ladies frequently participate, to enter the woods frequented by these birds and burn a small quantity of sulphur under the trees on which they are lodged. Stupefied by this application, they almost immediately quit their hold, and drop lifeless to the ground, whence they are picked up in quantities.⁴

John J. Audubon, the naturalist, once wrote the following interesting item respecting the wild pigeons:

It may not, perhaps, be out of place to attempt an estimate of the number of wild pigeons, contained in those mighty flocks often seen in the west, and the quantity of food consumed by its members. The inquiry will show the astonishing bounty of the Creator in his works, and how universally this bounty has been granted to every living thing on the vast continent of America.

We shall take, for example, a column of one mile in breadth, which is far below the average size, and suppose it passing over us without interruption for three hours, at the rate of one mile per minute. This will give us a parallelogram of one hundred and eighty miles by one, covering one hundred and eighty square miles, and allowing two pigeons to the square yard, we have one billion one hundred and fifteen million one hundred and thirty-six thousand pigeons in one flock; and as every pigeon consumes fully half a pint of food per day, the quantity must be eight million seven hundred and twelve thousand bushels per day, which is required to feed such a flock.

⁴Nicholson's Encyclopedia of Arts and Sciences (1818)

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As soon as these birds discover a sufficiency of food to entice them to alight, they fly around in circles reviewing the country below, and at this time exhibit their phalanx in all the beauties of their plumage; now displaying a large glistening sheet of bright azure, by exposing their backs to view, and suddenly veering, exhibit a mass of rich deep purple.

They then pass lower over the woods, and are lost among the foliage for a moment, but they reappear as suddenly above; after which they alight, and, as if affrighted, the whole again take to wing, with a roar equal to loud thunder, and wander swiftly through the forest to see if danger is near.

Impelling hunger, however, soon brings them all to the ground, and then they are seen industriously throwing up the fallen leaves, to seek for the last beech-nut or acorn; the rear ranks continually rising, passing over, and alighting in front in such quick succession, that the whole still bears the appearance of being on the wing.

The quantity of ground thus swept up, is astonishing, and so clean is this work, that gleaners never find it worth their while to follow where the pigeons have been. On such occasions, when the woods are thus filled with them, they are killed in immense numbers, yet without any apparent diminution.

During the middle of the day, after their repast is finished, the whole settle on the trees to enjoy rest, and digest their food; but as the sun sinks in the horizon, they depart en masse for the roosting place, not infrequently hundreds of miles off, as has been ascertained by persons keeping account of their arrival, and of their departure from their curious roosting places, to which I must now conduct the reader.

To one of those general nightly rendezvous, not far from the banks of Green River, in Kentucky, I paid repeated visits. It was, as is almost the case, pitched in a portion of the forest where the trees were of great magnitude of growth, with but little underwood.

I rode thorough it lengthwise upward of forty miles, and crossed it in different parts, ascertaining its average width to be rather more than three miles.

My first view of it was about fortnight subsequent to the period when they had chosen this spot, and I arrived there nearly two hours before the setting of the sun. Few pigeons were then to be seen, but a great number of person with horses and wagons, guns and ammunition, had already established different camps on the borders.

Two farmers from the vicinity of Russelsville, distant more than a hundred miles, had driven upwards of three hundred hogs to be fattened on pigeon-meat, and here and there the people, employed in picking and salting what had already been procured, were seen sitting

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in the centre of large piles of these birds, all proving to me that the number resorting there at night must be immense, and probably consisting of all those then feeding in Indian, some distance beyond Jeffersonville, not less than one hundred and fifty miles off.

Many trees, two feet in diameter, I observed, were broken at no great distance from the ground, and the branches of many of the largest and tallest so much so, that the desolation already exhibited equaled that performed by a furious tornado. As the time elapsed, I saw each of the anxious persons about to prepare for action; some with sulphur in iron pots, other with torches of pine-knots, many with poles, and the rest with guns double and treble charged.

The sun was lost to our views, and not a pigeon had yet arrived, but all of a sudden I heard a general cry of 'Here they come!' The noise which they made, though distant, reminded me of a hard gale at sea, passing through the rigging of a close reefed vessel. As the birds arrived, and passed over me, I felt a current of air that surprised me. Thousands were soon knocked down by the polemen. The current of birds, however, kept increasing. The fires were lighted, and most magnificent as well as wonderful and terrifying sight was before me.

The pigeons, coming in by millions, alighted every where, one on the top of another, until masses of them, resembling hanging swarms of bees as large as hogsheads were formed on every tree in all directions. These heavy clusters were seen to give away, as the supporting branches, breaking down with a crash, came to the ground, killing hundred of those which obstructed their fall, forcing down other equally large and heavy groups, and rendering the whole a scene of uproar and of distressing confusion. I found it quite useless to speak, or even to shout to those persons nearest me. The reports even of the

different guns were seldom heard, and I knew only of their going off by seeing the owners reload them.

No person dared venture within the line of devastation, and the hogs had been penned up in due time, the picking of the dead and wounded sufferers being left for the next morning's operation. Still the pigeons were constantly coming, and it was past midnight before I perceived a decrease in the number of those that arrived. The uproar continued, however, the whole night; and as I was anxious to know to what distance the sound reached, I sent off a man, who, by his habits in the woods, was able to tell me, tow hours afterwards, that at three miles he heard it distinctly.

Towards the approach of day the noise rather subsided; but, long ere the objects were at all distinguishable, the pigeons began to move off in a direction quite different from that in which they had arrived the day before, and at sunrise none that were able to fly remained. The howling of the wolves now reached our ears, and the foxes, the lynxes, the cougars, bears, raccoons, opossums, and polecats, were seen sneaking off the spot, whilst the eagles and hawks of different species, supported by a horde of buzzards and carrion-crows, came to supplant them, and reap the benefits of this night of destruction.

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It was then that I, and all those present, began our entry amongst the dead and wounded sufferers. They were picked up in great numbers, until each had as many as could possibly be disposed of; and afterwards the hogs and dogs were let loose to feed on the remainder.⁵

⁵B. D. Emerson, Second-Grade Reader (1835), pp. 137-140.

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ANTIQUITIES OF THE UPPER CUMBERLAND

Mounds and Other Ancient Works

The Mound Builders lived in communities of town and village proportions. Some of the more independent, however, lived apart in isolated places, such as caves or cliffs. The sites of their villages are usually marked by earthworks. Three-fourths of these are classified as burial mounds, the remainder being either house mounds, temple mounds, or enclosures. Burial mounds are older, and vary in size up to twenty-five feet in diameter and eight feet in height. House and temple mounds were larger than burial mounds, and had flat tops where the houses or temples stood. The enclosures included stone walls, earth embankments, and ditches. Many of them either skirting the flat tops of or forming rectangular enclosures upon low, level ground, were long believed to have been fortifications, but are now known to have been temple enclosure instead.¹

In addition to numerous small mounds and earthworks, there were three unusually large mounds in this part of the State. One of these was located in Hickory Valley, White County, and is said to have had a flat top eighty acres in extent. Another was one hundred feet in diameter and thirty feet high, located on Sink Creek, in the same county. The third, located on Collins River, 18 miles south of McMinnville, was thirty feet high, with a top surface area of 1 ½ acres.²

The so-called "Officer mounds," located about two miles north of Algood, a short distance west of the Livingston highway, were small burial mounds, but have been plowed over until they are now scarcely visible.

Standing Stone

The "Standing Stone" was a sandstone pillar, about a foot square, and several feet high, that formerly stood on the south side of the old Cumberland Turnpike, west of the present town of Monterey. "Tradition says that the first white men who passed there found two standing stones, which had evidently been set up by human hands, as they were not very large, and under which charcoal was found in the ground."³

¹"Aeology," Popular Educator, pp. 3590-92.

²Monroe Seals, History of White County, p. 2 et seq.

³Engineers' Report, Tennessee and Pacific Railway Experimental Survey, 1867, p. 14. (Note: The Improved Order of Red Men eventually preserved what remained of the stone by placing it on top of a monument that stands today near Highway 70N in Monterey).

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CANEY FORK RIVER COPPERAS CAVE MUMMIES

The most interesting discovery in this section of the State was made on September 2, 1810, when two well-preserved human mummies were found in a copperas cave located "ten miles below the falls, and two miles west of Caney Fork River, in what is now DeKalb County. The details are authenticated by a number of contemporary witnesses and investigators, chief among the latter having been Pleasant N. Miller, a Member of Congress from East Tennessee and afterwards a Chancellor in West Tennessee. In a letter to the editor of the Medical Repository and Scientific Journal, dated May 1, 1811, Mr. Miller said:

You may remember, during the last winter, of my showing you at Washington an extract from the Nashville paper relative to a discovery of two bodies in a perfect state of preservation, that were found in a copperas cave, and that on some account we had some reason to doubt the truth of that statement. Since my return home I made some inquiry, and I know that the facts stated in the extract are true. Some parts of the bodies have been transported to some of the larger towns to the eastward of this. Another circumstance not detailed is that the cane boxes or coffins in which they were preserved

were not long enough for the whole body, the legs were cut off and laid on their breast; the bodies were as well preserved as a dried venison ham.⁴

The newspaper article referred to by Mr. Miller was from the Nashville Clarion and Tennessee State Gazette. It says:

We are informed by a gentleman who was present when the following discovery was made, and of the fidelity of whose narrative we place the utmost reliance, that on the 2d day of September last, some persons were digging in a copperas cave (in the county of Warren, state of Tennessee), situated on what is usually called the Caney Fork of Cumberland River, 10 miles below the falls. That at about six feet below the surface of the bottom of the cave, something like clothing was discovered, which, upon proper examination, was found to be the shrouding of some dead bodies. Upon further investigation, the bodies were found to be two in number, a male and a female, which, as he expressed it, they judged to have been buried in ancient times.

The supposed the male to have been at the time of his decease about 25 years of age. He was enveloped in the following manner: first, with a fine linen shirt. His legs were drawn up, then five dressed deer skins were closely bound round his body. A twilled blanket, wrapped around the whole. His frame was entire except the bowels; his hair, of a fair complexion; his teeth, remarkably sound, stature, above the common. The body of the female was found interred about three feet from that of the other. Its position of lying was similar to that of the male. The carcass was enveloped first with two undressed deer skins, under which, upon the face, was found a small cane mat. Then four dressed deer skins were wrapped round it, over which was folded a cane mat large enough to cover the whole.

⁴Medical Repository, Vol. XV (1812), p. 147

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There were five sheets, supposed to be made of nettle line, but wrought up curiously around each side with feathers of various kinds and colours. Two fans of feather were found next, upon the breast. The body, with the whole of the before described wrapping, was found on what was wound up in two well-dressed deerskins of the largest kind the whole girthed with two straps; the female is supposed to have been from 12 to 15 years of age; her hair short and black; the body entire; the eyes as full and prominent as if alive.⁵

In a later report to the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. Joseph Jones, of Nashville, described these remains as follows:

They were interred in baskets of cane, curiously wrought and evidencing considerable mechanical skill. They were both dislocated at the hip joint, and were placed erect in baskets, with a covering of cane made to fit the enclosure in which they were placed. The flesh of their bodies was undecayed, of a brown color, and adherent to the bones and sinews. Around the female, next to the body, was wrapped a well-dressed doeskin; next

to this was a mat very curiously wrought from the bark of a tree and feathers. The bark seemed to have been made into small strands, well twisted. Around each of these strands feathers were rolled and the whole was woven into cloth of a fine texture, after the manner of our common coarse fabric. This mat was about three feet wide and between six and seven feet in length. The whole of the fabric thus formed of bark was completely covered with feathers, the body of it being about a quarter of an inch from the strand to which they were attached. The appearance was highly diversified by green, yellow and black feathers, presenting different shades of color when exposed to the sunlight in different positions. The next covering was an undressed doeskin, around which was rolled in good order, a plain shroud, manufactured after the same plan as the one ornamented with feathers. This article resembled very much, in its texture, the bags generally used for the purpose of holding coffee exported from Havana to the United States. The female had in her hand a fan formed of the tail feathers of a turkey, bound with buckskin strings and scarlet-colored hair, so as to open and shut readily. The hair of the mummies was still remaining upon their heads, and was of a yellow cast and of very fine texture.⁶

These mummies are also mentioned in an article on "Antiquities," published by Nicholson's Encyclopedia of Arts and Sciences (1818), which says "they were first wrapped in a kind of blanket, supposed to have been manufacture of the lint of nettles, afterwards with dressed skins, and then a mat of nearly sixty yards in length. They were clad in beautiful cloth, interwoven with feathers."

⁵Op. cit., pp. 147, 148.

⁶Joseph Jones, M.D. Exploration of the Aboriginal Remains in Tennessee, p. 2.

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Smith Fork Mummies

A few years after the above discovery another burial cave was found near Smith Fork River. The cavern, about 20 feet square, is said to have been entered by passing through two consecutive openings.

This room seemed to have been carefully preserved for the reception and burial of the dead. In it, near the center, were found three human bodies, setting in baskets made of cane, the flesh being entire, but a little shriveled and hard. The bodies were those of a man, a woman, and a small child. The color of the skin was said to be fair and white, without any admixture of a copper color, their hair auburn and of a fine texture. Their teeth were very white; in stature they were about the same as the whites of the present day. The man was wrapped in 14 dressed deer skins, and over these were wound what those present called blankets. They were made of bark, like those found in the cave in White County. In form the baskets were pyramidal, being larger at the bottom and tapering toward the top. The heads of the skeletons were outside of the blankets.⁷

A visit to Big Bone Cave

D. T. Maddux, Esq., after a visit to Big Bone Cave, Warren County, in 1813, wrote an interesting description of his experience, in which he stated that - -

The road leading to it terminated in the angle of two mountains, forming, as it were, the foot and ankle of the great Cumberland range; in the ankle of which yawns the mouth of this hideous cavern. The aperture is a semicircle whose semidiameter is about fifteen feet.....The passage from the entrance is a serpentine grotto, sometimes 20, sometimes 50, and sometimes not 5 feet in altitude. After traversing this grotto for several hundred yards we arrived at the entrance of several new apartments - - some to the right, some to the left; now turning at right angles, then obliquely, till we were lost in the labyrinth.

Ascended by means of a ladder into an upper suite of apartments, where the glassy smoothness of the ceiling, and the ornamental incrustations of the walls seemed to render "darkness visible."... On one side of the apartment I discovered a small aperture that led by a gradual ascent, in the figure of a stair case, to more than half the height...My guide now informed me that in this apartment had been found bones of a remarkable size and figure. He said they had dug up the talon of a lion, thirteen inches long, the head of an elephant, the ribs of the mammoth, and the skull of a giant, but that they were all destroyed. He showed me a fishing net made of bark silk, and a moccasin of the same materials, both perfectly sound...

⁷Haywood, *Natural and Aboriginal History of Tennessee*, p. 191, as quoted by Dr. Joseph Jones in his *Exploration of the Aboriginal Remains in Tennessee*, p. 3.

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The cave is the property of Maj. John A. Wilson of McMinnville. It employs at present about 100 workmen who manufacture 500 pounds of nitre per day.⁸

Small Stone Graves

During the first quarter of the past century many of the so-called "small stone graves" were found in White County. They contained the remains of what were at that time commonly believed to have been an ancient race of pygmies. William Featherstonough, an English scientist, inspected these graves on September 17, 1834, and later wrote this observation:

We sallied out on foot (from Sparta) to a place called Hickory Valley...I had heard of Indian graves of a peculiar kind that were found here, and was desirous of inspecting them. After an agreeable walk we reached the valley and found it a very pleasing place, with fine springs, game in abundance, flint in the limestone strata occurring as the chalk flints do in Europe, and everything appropriate for the permanent residence of a tribe of Indians. Mr. Turner Lane, an old resident here, to whose plantation we went, informed us that when the stumps of trees in his clearing became sufficiently decayed to permit them

to plough their fields thoroughly the coulters frequently tore up squares blocks of limestone, and human bones. This took place so often that at last their curiosity was excited, and they perceived that these blocks were parts of stone coffins consisting of a bottom piece laid flat on the ground, two side pieces, a foot and head piece, and a lid laid on top.

The extreme length of these graves were twenty-four inches, some of them being only fifteen inches long, and other even less; and the coffins were sunk not more than a foot in the ground...The skeletons were uniformly laid on the right side, and drawn up somewhat as people sleep, the right side reposing on the right arm. Under the neck they uniformly found an earthen Indian pot.⁹

In 1820 Mose Fisk, representing the American Antiquarian Society, of Worcester, Mass., investigated the small stone graves, and, in his report to the society, clearly indicated that he could not credit the pygmy theory, but believed the graves were simply those of children of various ages.¹⁰ Nevertheless, the myth prevailed to a certain extent until 1876, when Dr. Joseph Jones emphatically declared that:

All the crania and bones which I examined in the small graves were beyond controversy, those of children....I examined carefully the bones of the small graves near Sparta, sent me by Dr. J. H. Snodgrass, and found them to be the remains of infants and children.

⁸*Niles Register*, Vol. 5, p. 175.

⁹G W. Featherstonaugh, "Excursion Through the Slave States," 1834, Harper's Magazine, 1844.

¹⁰Letter from Moses Fisk to Josiah Murray, L.D., President of American Antiquarian Society, dated Hilha, Tenn., Oct. 7, 1820.

¹¹Dr. Joseph Jones, *Exploration of the Aboriginal Remains in Tennessee*, pp. 9, 12.

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Similar graves were also found in Wildcat and Blue Spring Coves, near Lost Creek, Cherry Creek, and Calfkiller River, White County; about a mile north of Lancaster, Smith County; near Flynn's Creek, Jackson County; near Obey River, Pickett County; and elsewhere. A great, common "stone grave, two hundred feet long, five feet wide, and three feet high," was found near Mount Vernon, Rock Castle County, KY

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OLD INDIAN PATHS

Three important buffalo and Indian paths formerly crossed the Upper Cumberland valley in a generally east-west direction, while two others traversed it in a generally north-south direction.

East and West Trail

The East and West Trail was the most northerly of the first group mentioned above. It crossed the Cumberland Mountains from East Tennessee into the Cumberland valley approximately by way of the present towns of Rugby, Jamestown, Lilydale, and Celina.

Cherokee Path

The Cherokee Path crossed the Cumberland Mountains from the vicinity of the present town of Rockwood, by way of Crab Orchard, Crossville, Johnson Stand, Monterey, Brotherton, Algood, Cookeville, Double Springs, Fort Blount, and Dixson Springs.

Holston Trace

The Holston Trace crossed the mountains in a westerly direction, by way of the Crooked Fork, Emory River, and Obed River valleys; crossed the Cherokee Path at or near Johnson's Stand; and descended the western slope of the mountains by way of the Calfkiller valley.

Warriors Path

The general course of the Warriors Path was from the Cherokee country northwardly through Cumberland Gap; thence through Kentucky to the Ohio River, at the mouth of the Scioto. This path was "cleared" as far north as the Kentucky River by Daniel Boone and others on behalf of the Transylvania Company, after which it was known as the "wilderness Road." Scaggs Trace sprang off this path in a northwesterly direction to Dicks River, where it intersected another path leading to the French Lick on Cumberland River.

Chickamauga Path

The Chickamauga Path marked a northerly course along the western foot of the mountains from the Chickamauga towns on the Tennessee River to the Warriors Path in Kentucky.

All these paths were used by the early pioneers, and were also closely followed as routes for their first wagon roads.

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TRANSYLVANIA PURCHASE

The Transylvania Company was organized in North Carolina in 1775 for the purpose of negotiating with the Cherokee Indians for the purchase of “the whole region of country which is included between the Ohio, Kentucky, and Cumberland Rivers.” The negotiations resulted in what was known as the “Transylvania Purchase,” pursuant to terms agreed upon by the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals, dated March 17, 1775, which was signed by the Cherokee Chiefs Oconistota, Attacullacula, Savanooko, and Dragging Canoe. Payment was made in goods to the value of \$50,000.

The lands purchased extended from the Kentucky River “to the head spring of the most southwardly branch” of Cumberland River, “thence down said river, including all its waters, to the Ohio River.”¹

The famous scouts, Daniel Boone, Samuel Calloway, and Henry Scaggs, had previously explored this country for Judge Henderson and his associates.

The sites chosen by the Transylvania promoters for the first settlements on the Kentucky and Cumberland Rivers were those subsequently known as Boonesboro and Nashville, respectively.

The settlement at Boonesboro was barely started when Transylvania’s sale of lands there was challenged in the courts of Virginia by George Rogers Clark and others, who won a decision to the effect that Transylvania, by its “Purchase”, had secured only the Indian title to the lands involved, the legal title being vested in the Sovereign Colony of Virginia, by virtue of royal grants.

Subsequently, in 1778, Virginia purchased Transylvania’s Indian title with a grant of 200,000 acres of land located on the Ohio River, at the mouth of Green River, including the site of the present city of Henderson, KY.

After this set-back in Kentucky, Judge Henderson went to Transylvania’s other settlement, located on the Cumberland River, to look after the company’s interests, and while there wrote the “Cumberland Compact,” dated May 23, 1780, of which he was also the first signer.

In 1783 North Carolina followed the Virginia decision, acknowledging Transylvania’s acquirement of the Indian title only. The legislature, by Chapter 38, Acts of 1783, then purchased the latter Indian title with a grant to Transylvania of 200,000 acres of land in Powells Valley. It also gave preemption rights to those who had bought lands from Transylvania under color of title.

Those associated in the Transylvania Company were Judge Richard Henderson, Thomas Hart, John Williams, William Johnston, James Hogg, David Hart, Leonard Bullock, Nathaniel Hart, John Luttrell, John Carter, and Robert Lucas. (Ch. 38, Acts of 1783).

¹S.C. Williams, Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History, pg. 409.

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THE INDIAN BOUNDARY

While running the eastern segment of the Cherokee boundary line through the Upper Cumberland section in 1797, pursuant to the terms of the Treaty of Holston (1791), Brig. Gen. Jas. Winchester, the surveyor, wrote to Jas. Robertson, Deputy U. S. Indian Agent, two letters, in which he described the progress of the survey.

In the first letter, dated Nov. 9, 1797, he says:

From Walton's Road to the Fort Blount Road, which it crosses near the two springs at the thirty-two mile tree; crosses Obeyes River about 6 or 7 miles from the mouth; Achmugh about 2 miles above the salt lick; the South Fork of Cumberland, or Flute River, 5 or 6 miles from the mouth, and struck Cumberland River about a mile above the mouth of Rock Castle.¹

In the second letter, dated Nov. 17, 1797, he says:

I am this day returned from extending the Indian line from Walton's Road to Cumberland River. I need not tell you that I had a rough and stormy way of it, as I suppose you are well acquainted with that part of the county. The line crossed the Fort Blount Road near the two springs, at the thirty-two mile tree. That line, in all 138 11/16 miles long. The Turtle-at-Home and five other lower Cherokees accompanied me back to the road.²

This sector of the boundary was run "N. 45 degrees E.",³ by the surveyor's

¹Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institute, *Treaties*, vol. 5, p. 153.

NOTE: The "32 mile tree" near Blackburn's indicated the distance from Dixon Springs, by way of Fort Blount. The expression "crosses Obeyes River about 6 or 7 miles from the mouth," should have read "6 or 7 miles above the mouth of Wolf River." "Achmugh" may have been an Indian name for Wolf River; and the "salt lick" was probably on Salt Lick Creek, a branch of the Wolf.

²American Historical Magazine, vol. 4, p. 340.

³The line is described in all early land records as "N. 45 E.", or "S. 45 W." For example of such references, see *General Land Grants of West Tennessee*, Book B, No. 768, p. 93; Book M, No. 8889, p. 350, etc. The latter reference is a deed for 640 acres, by Jas. McKnight to Stephen Copeland, dated March 12, 1816. It reads as follows: "640 acres,

lying in Overton County, in the Third District, on Roaring River, a branch of Cumberland River, at the forks where the fork that Robert Crockett was killed on empties into the said river, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a small red oak and two blackjacks on the south side of the river, running thence north, crossing the river about half a mile below the forks, 420 poles to a black oak, black gum, and two hickories northwardly from the house where Walter Green now lives; thence east, crossing a small creek above said Green's house, in all 224 poles to a sycamore on the creek bank near the plantation where widow Maxwell now lives; thence south 288 poles to a poplar and two turkey oaks in the old Indian boundary; thence S. 45 degrees w. with the same 164 poles to a stake where said Indian boundary crosses a small creek near the house where Thompson Gardenshire now lives; thence west 150 poles to the beginning." According to this description the Indian boundary passed near, the village of Windle, in Overton County.

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compass from the point of beginning on the ridge at the head of Garrison Fork (the most easterly branch of Duck River) and the East Fork of Stone River, forty miles southeast of Nashville, to a point on Cumberland River about a mile above the mouth of Rock Castle River in Kentucky, as mentioned by General Winchester.

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LAND DISTRICTS

By an act of the Tennessee legislature, passed on Sept. 12, 1806, the State was divided into six land districts. West Tennessee comprised the First, Second, and Third Districts, with the General Land Office located in Nashville. For the succeeding quarter of a century land grants in this part of the State were recorded in an alphabetical series of volumes known as the "General Land Grants of West Tennessee," beginning in 1807 with Vol. A.

Our Upper Cumberland section was in the First and Third Districts, which are described in greater detail as follows:

First District: This district comprised the old Military Reservation, bounded by the above-mentioned "Commissioners" Line." The surveyor's office was in Nashville.

In 1807 William Christmas, chief surveyor, made a preliminary working map of the First Land District, laying it off in ranges and sections. Some of the sections in the Upper Cumberland were afterwards surveyed and marked. Their north-south boundary lines are described in land records as running "N. 5 W." or "S. 5 E." The boundary of the map was from the original military reservation survey, which Mr. Christmas drew, and later filled it in by laying off "sections", six miles square without surveying them in advance. As a result, the map was grossly inaccurate, and the State refused to pay for it.

Second District: The Second District lay to the south of the First District.

Third District: This district was bounded as follows: “Begin on the northern boundary of the State at a point which shall divide by six, without a fraction, and which shall be nearest to a point due north of the Flat Rock on the turnpike road leading from Southwest Point to Nashville; thence south according to the true meridian to the south boundary of the State, which shall be its eastern boundary; thence west, to be bounded by the two first districts, inclusively, which shall compose one other district, and shall be known and distinguished by the name of the Third District.”

(The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Districts comprised the eastern half of the State).

The Mountain District: By Chapter 4, Acts of 1827, the land districts were rearranged, with groups of counties as the unit. The Mountain District included the countries of Jackson, Overton, Fentress, White, Franklin, Warren, Marion, and Bledsoe, with the land office at Sparta.

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LAND RECORDS

Prior to 1790 North Carolina grants to lands in the Cumberland were founded on the following:

1. Preemption Warrants: These warrants were for 640 acres each, and were granted to every man 21 years of age or over (or his legal heirs) who had settled in this country prior to 1784, under color of title secured by purchase from the Transylvania Company, or otherwise.
2. Military Bounty Warrants: These were the result of a legislative act granting lands located in the western military reservation to its service men of the Revolutionary War - - the State having been unable to pay them in money. The amount of land granted depended on the service rank of the grantees.
3. Evans' Battalion Warrants: These went to the soldiers who volunteered in 1787 to open a military trace from the terminus of Avery's Trace, at the southern end of Clinch Mountain, across the wilderness to the Cumberland, and to assist in the "protection of the inhabitants" of the western settlements.
4. Service Right Claims: These warrants went to those volunteering for guard service with the surveyors who came to the Cumberland to run and mark the boundary of the Military Reservation; and also those rendering other public service of a similar nature.

According to John McLemore's transcripts of "all the warrants issued by the State of North Carolina pursuant to the above authorizations, a total of 4,636 warrants were

issued, and the State of Tennessee later adopted these transcripts as its own lawful and binding records.”

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THE UPPER CUMBERLAND AS PART OF NORTH CAROLINA

Washington County (1777)

A steady stream of settlers, filling through the mountain passes, carried civilization into the vast trans-Appalachian part of North Carolina, which extended westward to the Mississippi River. During the Revolutionary War this region was incorporated in a civil district named “Washington” in honor of General Washington, who was at that time in command of the Continental Army. Later, by Chapter 31, Acts of 1777, this district was elevated to the status of a county of the same name.

Davidson County (1783)

By Chapter 51, Acts of 1783, the western part of Washington County was cut off and incorporated into a new country to be named “Greene,” in honor of Gen. Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary War fame. The next day, however, the legislature divided Greene County and created Davidson County out of its western part, “beginning on top of Cumberland Mountain where the Virginia line crosses it, extending westwardly along said line to the Tennessee River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Duck River; thence up Duck River to where the line of marked trees run by the Commissioners for laying off the land granted to the Continental Line of North Carolina intersect said river, which said line is supposed to be 35 degrees 50’ north latitude; thence east along said line to the top of Cumberland Mountains, thence northerly along said line to the beginning.” The “top of Cumberland Mountain” mentioned here meant the abrupt eastern escarpment of Walden’s Ridge and Cumberland Mountains, as viewed from the country along the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers. This new country was named in honor of Gen. William Lea Davidson, of North Carolina.

Sumner County (1786)

By Chapter 32, Acts of 1786, the new country of Sumner was carved from the eastern part of Davidson County. “The line of division began where the (Davidson) County line crosses the west fork of Stones River (40 miles southeast of Nashville); thence a direct line to the mouth of Drake’s Lick Creek; thence down Cumberland River to the mouth of Kasper’s (Mansker’s) Creek; thence up said creek to the head of the War Trace Fork; thence a northwardly course to the Virginia (Kentucky) Line at a point that will leave Red River Old Station one mile to the east; that part of Davidson County that lies east of this line was to belong to Sumner County.” This country was named in honor of Gen. Jethro Sumner.

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Part III
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

ALEXANDER, DANIEL, tavern keeper; secured permission of the Cherokees to build and operate a tavern on the Walton Road near White Plains in 1804; justice of the peace, White County, 1807; sold to Wm. Quarles, 1815. (He may have been the Daniel Alexander, b. 1759 in North Carolina, who served as a private in the Mecklenburg Militia, 1778-81, and was at the Battle of King's Mountain, under Capt. Wm. Alexander.) (Note: There was also a Daniel Alexander who was licensed in 1802 to operate a tavern in Smith County; justice of the peace, 1811. The town of Alexandria was established on his land in 1820.)

ALEXANDER, WILLIAM, captain in the Revolutionary War; one of the first justices of the peace of Smith County; second lieutenant of a company of "Smith County Revolutionary Volunteers," organized for service in the War of 1812, and accepted by the State for home guard duty.

ALLEN, JOSPEH W., county court clerk, Smith County, 1810.

ALLEN, ROBERT, congressman; b. Augusta County, VA, June 19, 1778; received higher education at William and Mary College, Williamsburg, VA; studied law and practiced the profession several years; migrated to Smith County, TN, 1804; engaged in farming, and later in the mercantile business at Carthage; also county court clerk for several years. During the War of 1812 he held the commission of colonel and commanded a regiment of Tennessee volunteers serving under General Andrew Jackson. He was a director of the Farmers Bank of Tennessee, Carthage, 1817; Presidential elector for James Monroe, 1817. Elected as a Democrat to the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th congresses (1818-27). Delegate to the State constitutional convention of 1834. Died Aug. 19, 1844, at Carthage, and interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Lebanon.

ALLEN, ROBERT JR., lawyer, Carthage, 1835.

AMES, DAVID, lawyer, Sparta, 1835.

ANDERSON, JOHN H., lawyer, Sparta, 1835.

ARMSTRONG, HUGH G., representative from Overton County, 1821; trustees of Pleasant Forest Academy, 1826; delegate to the State constitutional convention of 1834. Resided at Monroe.

ARNOLD, JESSE, captain of a privateer in 1812. Came to Tennessee in 1817 from Providence, RI, and settled at White Plains, where he engaged in the mercantile

business with William Burton, whose daughter he married; later removed to Hilham, TN.

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ATKINSON, HENRY H., lawyer, Monroe, Overton County; served in War of 1812; circuit court clerk, 1816-26; 2d major of Militia, 1815; a trustee of Fisk's Academy at Hilham, 1819-20; m. Sallie, dau. Wm. Marchbanks; d. 1832, Wm. Atkinson being appointed administrator of his estate.

BARBER, SIMEON, one of the earliest settlers in the Upper Cumberland came from New York State in 1786 and settled in the vicinity of Lilydale, Clay County.

BARRY, REDMOND D., doctor; b. in Ireland; practiced in Sumner, Smith, and Jackson Counties; m. Jane, dau. Capt. Wm. Alexander, of Smith County.

BEATY, DAVID, sheriff of Fentress County, 1835; also represented his county in the State legislature.

BLACKBURN, BENJAMIN, postmaster of Blackburn Springs, 1806-18; settled at the head of Blackburn Fork of Roaring River about 1798; built a house near the Fort Blount branch road, west of the Cherokee Line in Mero District, where he and his wife operated an ordinary for several years, during which time they entertained, among other notable guests, Bishop Francis Asbury, of the Methodist Church. An early session of the county court of Jackson County is also to have been held at Blackburn's.

BOUNDS, THOMAS, justice of the peace in Washington County, 1791; doorkeeper at first session of Tennessee legislature, 1797; first trustee of White County, 1806; and represented White County in the legislature of 1815-17. He lived at the head of Pigeon Roost Creek, about two mile south of Cookeville.

BOWEN, JOHN, early settler, and one of the first justices of the peace of Jackson County. Lived in the (Russell's) Mill Creek settlement on Gordon's road, several miles north of Blackburn Springs, a session of the county court having been held at his house prior to the erection of a county courthouse. He sold out to a man named Wood in 1814, and removed to Sumner County.

BOWEN, JOHN H., congressman, 1813-15; attorney general, third judicial circuit, 1809; began his legal career in Jackson County, where he lived prior to his removal to Sumner County. Died in October 1822 at Gallatin.

BOWEN, JEREMIAH, hatter; b. 1770 in Pennsylvania; settled at Carthage in 1800.

BROTHERS, R. E., lawyer, Sparta, 1825.

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BUCK, JONATHAN, school teacher; b. about the year 1765, in Pennsylvania; settled near White Plains, and was one of the founders of Andrew College - - better known as "Buck's College" - - located near White Plains.

BUCK, ISAAC, school teacher, associated with Jonathan Buck and other in the Andrew College enterprise.

BURRUS, JONATHAN, major, Overton County; served in the War of 1812.

BURRUS, WILLIAM, lieutenant, Overton County; served in the War of 1812.

BURRUS, BAILEY, first lieutenant, Jackson County; served in first West Tennessee Regiment in War of 1812.

CAMPBELL, JAMES, lawyer, Sparta, 1824.

CAMPBELL, WILLIAM BOWEN, governor; b. Feb. 1, 1807, in Mansker's Creek section of Sumner County; began the practice of law at Carthage in 1829; elected attorney-general in 1831; removed to Sparta and lived there until 1835, when he returned to Carthage, and was elected to the State legislature from Smith County; served as a captain in the Creek and Seminole Wars; elected to congress four times - - 1837, 1839, 1841, and 1865. Colonel, First Tennessee Regiment, in Mexican War, 1846, after as major general of Tennessee militia. Judge of Circuit Court, 1848. Governor of Tennessee 1851-53. Moved to Lebanon in 1853 to become president of the Bank of Middle Tennessee. Married in 1835 to Fannie I. Owen, dau. Dr. John Owen, of Carthage. Died Aug. 9, 1867, near Lebanon. (Caldwell, Bench and Bar of Tennessee.)

CARUTHERS, ABRAHAM B., circuit judge; b. Smith County, Jan. 4, 1803. Studied law and began practice in Columbia, Tenn., but later returned to Carthage. Judge of Third Circuit Court, 1833-35, and of the Fourth Circuit Court, 1841-47. Resigned to establish Cumberland University Law School at Lebanon. (Op. cit., p. 146.)

CARUTHERS, ROBERT L., governor; b. Smith County, Jan. 4 1803. Studied law and began a practice in Carthage. Was in partnership with J. G. Raulstone, 1824, in publishing a newspaper know as the Tennessee Republican, at Carthage. Member of congress, 1841-43. Presidential elector in 1845, when Tennessee cast its vote for Henry Clay, the unsuccessful candidate. Confederate Governor of Tennessee, 1863 (in exile).

CARUTHERS, WILLIAM, captain of an Overton County company in the First Tennessee Regiment, War of 1812.

CATHRON, JOHN, Justice, United States Supreme Court; b. Wythe County, VA, 1778. Removed to Overton County, TN, 1812. Served in War of 1812, and was at the Battle of New Orleans. Began practice of law at Monroe, Overton County, 1815, and later served a term as attorney general. Elected to the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1824, becoming that Court's first chief justice. Appointed to the United States Supreme Court March 8, 1837, by President Andrew Jackson. Died at Nashville, TN, May 30, 1865. He was a Democrat, but opposed secession.

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CHESTER, WILLIAM P., doctor, Carthage, before 1825.

CHILTON, WILLIAM, lawyer, Fentress County, 1830.

CHISUM, JAMES, State senator from Jackson, Overton, and White Counties, 1821-22.

CHRISTIAN, GEORGE, colonel; served in War of 1812 from Overton County.

CHRISTIAN, JOHN, major of North Carolina troops in the Revolution. Settled in Smith County, and was a pensioner.

CLEMONS, JOHN M., lawyer; justice of the peace, and first Circuit Court clerk of Fentress County. He was the father of Samuel L. Clemens, better known as "Mark Twain."

COOKE, RICHARD F., State senator; b. Culpeper County, VA, July 8, 1787, but reared in Greenville Dist., South Carolina. Settled in Jackson County, TN, 1812, and bought a large tract of land on the Sparta-Gainesboro road, a few miles north of the present town of Double Springs, where a settlement sprang up and had a post office known for a good many years as Cookeville. Later, however, when Putnam County was established (1852) the name Cookeville was transferred to its present thriving county seat, in honor of Mr. Cooke, who took an active part in the formation of the county. He served in the War of 1812 as an officer in Woodfolk's Battalion, and was at the battle of New Orleans; also served two terms in the State Senate. He died Oct. 15, 1870. (Mr. Cooke was the son of Robert Cooke, who settled at Milledgeville, White County, and died there Nov. 11, 1841.)

COPELAND, JOE, first sheriff of Overton County.

COPELAND, STEPHEN, colonel; b. in Virginia, and served in the Revolutionary War; captain of a Sullivan County company under Gen. Joseph Martin, in the Chickamauga Campaign of 1788. Commissioned Lt., Col., commander, Tennessee Militia, May 30, 1807. Colonel Third Tennessee Regiment, 1814; commandant, 25th Regiment, Overton County, 1818.

COX, PRENIX, preemptor, mentioned in the Act of 1784, his grant of 640 acres being located at the junction of Sulphur Fork and Mitchell's Creek in what is now Overton County. It included the site of the old hunting camp where Robert Crockett was killed by the Indians in 1767.

CRENSHAW, D. A. J., attorney, Carthage, 1835.

CRAGHEAD, ALEXANDER, attorney, Sparta, 1824.

CROSS, EDWARD, congressman; b. Nov. 11, 1798, Hawkins County, TN. Practiced law in Overton County. Removed to Arkansas in 1826, and was elected attorney general. Appointed Territorial Judge May 26, 1830, and served in that capacity until May 12, 1834. Member of Congress, 1839-45.

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CROSS, JOHN B., Overton County. Commissioned First Maj. Overton County militia, 1807.

CULLOM, ALVAN, congressman; b. Sept. 4, 1797, Clark County, KY. Migrated to Overton County, TN, as a young man; studied law and admitted to bar in 1823 at Monroe; attorney general, 1828. He was a Democrat. Representative to State legislature 1835-6. Removed to Livingston, the new county seat. Elected to 28th and 29th Congresses, Washington, D. C., 1861. Died at Livingston, July 20, 1877, and buried in Bethlehem Cemetery.

CULLOM, WILLIAM, congressman; b. June 4, 1810. Settled at Carthage. After serving in the State legislature and as State senator, he was elected as a Whig to the 32d and 33d Congresses, 1851-55. Clerk of the National House of Representatives, 34th Congress, 1856-58. Died at Clinton, TN, Dec. 6, 1896, and buried there. (Note – William and Alvan Cullom, above, were brothers. Shelby M. Cullom, another brother, settled in Illinois, where he served as a representative to the State legislature, congressman, governor, United States Senator, etc.)

DALE, ADAM, captain in War of 1812, from Smith County. Came from Maryland and settled on Smith Fork in Smith County, 1797.

DERGEN, JOHN, first registrar of White County, 1806.

DIBRELL, ANTHONY, clerk and master of Chancery Court, White County, 1824.

DILLARD, JOHN L. (1793-1881), Presbyterian preacher, Overton County. He has been called "one of the fathers of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church," and was a promoter of Alpine Institute, an educational institution of that church.

DILLON, JACOB D., lawyer, Overton County, 1825; m. Jane Caroline, dau. William and Elizabeth (Young) Marchbanks, Feb. 3, 1828; d. Aug. 21, 1836.

DIXON, DON CARLOS, first lieutenant, War of 1812, from Smith County. Son of Tilman Dixon.

DIXON, TILMAN, captain in Revolutionary War. He was associated with Richard Henderson and others in the Transylvania Purchase. He was a veteran of the Battle of King's Mountain, and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. Settled in Smith County, TN, 1786, at the place known thereafter as Dixon Springs, where he built, and operated a tavern for many years. Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, was entertained there in 1797. The first session of the Smith County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was held there in 1799. Mr. Dixon married Maria Don Carlos.

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DOUGLAS, JONATHAN, representative in the State legislature, from Overton and Fentress Counties, 1825-6.

DYER, JOEL, State senator. Son of John Dyer. Representative from Smith County, 1811; State senator, 1815-16, and 1821-22.

DYER, ROBERT, colonel of the First Tennessee Mounted Gunmen in Seminole War, 1818.

EVANS, JOHN, sheriff, Fentress County, 1824-27.

EVANS, NATHANIEL, major. He was a captain under Colonel John Sevier in a campaign against the Cherokees in 1788, and in 1793 commanded a battalion of troops sent by the United States from Southwest Point to scout the country south and east of the Cherokee Line, in an effort to discourage further Indian attacks on the Cumberland settlements. He afterwards settled in White County.

FANE, DABVID, preemptioneer, who settled in Smith County.

FERGUSON, A., lawyer, Carthage, 1835.

FERRELL, LARKIN, sheriff, Warren County, 1831. He served in the War of 1812.

FERRELL, WILLIAM, captain; b. about 1757. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and was wounded in battle. Also served as a captain in the Creek War, and was with Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. Lived at Granville, Jackson County.

FISK, MADISON, doctor. Came from Massachusetts, and was practicing his profession in White County as early as 1824.

FISK, MOSES, land speculator; b. 1759, Grafton, MA; d. 1843. Graduated from Dartmouth College, 1786, where he was a professor from 1788 until 1795, when he was sent to the Southwest Territory "to learn how schools might be begun among the Indians." (S. C. Williams, Early Travels in the Tennessee Country, pg. 467.) He was once offered the presidency of the University of North Carolina, but declined it. He settled at Fort Blount, where he lived with Sampson Williams prior to 1806. He was elected clerk, pro tempore, of the first session of the Smith County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Dec. 16, 1799. He and Sampson Williams promoted Fisk Female Academy at Hilham, Overton County, 1806, each contributing 1,000 acres of land to the institution. Fisk surveyed and opened a number of early roads in the Upper Cumberland, as follows: Hilham to the mouth of Roaring River; Hilhma to Butler's Landing; Hilham to Standing Stone; Hilham to Sparta (sometimes spiken of as the Meridian Road, and the Fisk Road); and the old Tennessee and Kentucky stock road running form Huntsville, Alabama, to Danville, KY.

GABBERT, BENJAMIN, lawyer, Livingston, 1835.

GABBERT, MICHAEL, doctor, practicing medicine at Monroe as early as 1825.

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GIBBS, GEORGE W., senator; early Sparta lawyer; was State senator when he raised a company and served as its captain; was with Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans; Presidential elector, 1841, for William Henry Harrison.

GILLELAND, JAMES, ensign of an Overton County company, War of 1812.

GILLESPIE, WILLIAM, captain, Davidson County, 1791; commandant of the garrison at Fort Blount, 1795; also licensed to operate the lower ferry across the Cumberland River, below Fort Blount, 1795.

GOODBAR, W. P., Sheriff of Overton County, 1843.

GORDON, GEORGE, land speculator, Overton County. Opened what was known as "Gordon's Road," from Wolf River to Blackburn Springs about 1796. He donated 5,000 acres of land, lying along this road, on which to erect Monroe, the first county seat of Overton County.

GORDON, JOHN, captain of a company of mounted spies (scouts) in the War of 1812. Operated a ferry across the Caney Fork River, 1814. State senator, 1817. Presidential elector, 1837, when Tennessee cast its vote for Hugh L. White, the unsuccessful candidate.

GORE, WILLIAM, sheriff of Overton County, 1813; surveyor; appointed in 1825 to survey boundary of Fentress County.

GRAHAM, DAVID, representative from Jackson County, 1825.

GREEN, JOHN, minister, Baptist Church, White County, 1832.

GREGG, JOSIAH, explorer; son of Harmon and Susanna Gregg, was born July 19, 1806, in what is now Pickett County, TN; d. Feb. 25, 1850. He was a famous pioneer, scout, Indian fighter, Santa Fe trader, traveler, explorer, and guide on the Western plains. Also a war correspondent during the Mexican War. Author of "Commerce of the Prairies," a classical history of the settlement of the Southwest. Guided many wagon trains across the plains from Fort Independence, MO, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, by way of "Gregg's Route," which was the favorite southern branch of the Santa Fe trail, leading along the south bank of the Canadian River.

GRISSOM, JAMES, State senator, Jackson, Overton and White Counties, 1821.

HAGGARD, NATHAN, lawyer, Sparta, 1835.

HALL, ADAMS, doctor, practicing in Jackson County in pioneer times.

HALL, WILLIAM, teacher, Hilham, in early times.

HARGIS, WILLIAM, ensign, Continental Line of North Carolina during the Revolution. Settled in White County.

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HARPER, MILES, Methodist minister on the Roaring River Circuit in 1806.

HARRIS, THOMAS K., congressman; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced at Sparta and McMinnville. First solicitor of White County, 1806. State senator, 1809-11. Elected to the 13th Congress, 1813-15, by one vote, his election being unsuccessfully contested by his opponent, William Kelly. Died from wounds received in an encounter with Col. J. W. Simpson, March 18, 1816, on the old Kentucky Road at Shell's ford of Collins River.

HART, WILLIAM, lawyer, Carthage, 1835.

HENSHAW, GEORGE, representative from Overton County, 1815.

HILL, ISAAC, delegate to the constitutional convention of 1834 from Warren County.

HOLLEMAN, JAMES, captain of Jackson County company in War of 1812.

HOGG, SAMUEL, lieutenant, served with Virginia troops in the Revolution, and settled in Smith County.

HUBBARD, O. B., lawyer, Carthage, 1835.

HUGHES, LITTLEBERY, representative, Smith County, 1815-16.

HUNT, ANDREW H., lawyer, Carthage, 1825.

HUNTSMAN, ADAM, congressman; b. circa 1793 in Virginia, and settled at White Plains, White County. Studied law, admitted to bar, and practiced at Monroe and Sparta. State senator from Overton, Jackson, and White Counties, 1815-20. Defeated David Crockett for congress for the term 1835-37, from West Tennessee. He was also a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1834. Huntsman lost a leg during his service in the Creek War, and was known as the “wooden-legged pioneer statesman.” During their heated campaign for congress, David Crockett referred to him as “Old Black Hawk.” Politically, Huntsman was a Whig.

ISAACS, JACOB C., congressman; b. Montgomery County, PA; settled at Winchester, TN; lawyer; circuit judge, 1819; representative to the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22d congresses, 1823-33.

JARED, WILLIAM, early school teacher of White County; b. 1707; d. 1860; trustee, White County, 1850.

JENKINS, JAMES H., Postmaster, Sparta, 1829.

JENNINGS, JONATHAN, preemptioneer. Came to the Cumberland in 1780 with John Donelson and party. Settled in Smith County.

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JETT, JOHN, sheriff, White County, 1824.

JOHNSON, ROBERT, tavern keeper of pioneer times at what was known as Johnson’s Stand, on the Cumberland Road.

KENNEDY, JOHN, captain of a company of Overton County riflemen in the War of 1812.

LANE, ALEXANDER B., lawyer, Sparta; also clerk and master of Chancery Court, 1824.

LEFTWICH, ISAAC J., lawyer, Sparta, 1824.

LEFTWICH, WAMON, postmaster at Sparta in 1830.

LITTLE, SIDNEY H., teacher at old Overton Academy in Monroe.

LOCKE, WILLIAM, representative, Jackson County, 1815-16, 1821-22; commandant 48th regiment of state militia, Jackson County, 1818.

LOONEY, PETER, pioneer; came to the Cumberland with Capt. John Donelson's party; settled in what is now Smith County.

LOWRY, ALEX, colonel, War of 1812, from White County; commandant of 34th regiment, White County, 1816.

LYON, JAMES, editor of Carthage Gazette prior to 1811.

MCCLAIN, WILLIAM, representative from Smith County in State legislature, 1825. He was a lawyer; b. Lincoln County, NC.

MCCLELLAND, WILLIAM, sheriff, Fentress County, 1828.

MCCONNELL, JAMES, captain of Overton County company in the War of 1812.

MCCOMICK, JOHN B., lawyer, Sparta, 1824; attorney general, 1836.

MC GEE, JOHN, Methodist preacher, came from North Carolina and settled near Dixon Springs in 1798. Took part in many camp meetings in the Cumberland during the Great Revival.

MC GEE, WILLIAM, Presbyterian minister of early times in the Upper Cumberland. One of the founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Lived near Dixon Springs.

MACKAY, THOMAS, early settler, whose old cabin, located on the south side of Spring Creek, below the mouth of (Russell's) Mill Creek, was mentioned in the earliest records of that section.

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MARCHBANKS, ANDREW J., judge; b. Nov. 21, 1804, in Jackson County, the son of William and Jane (Young) Marchbanks. Studied law, was admitted to the bar, and began practice at Monroe, Overton County. He was also postmaster there in 1824. Removed to McMinnville in 1825 to continue his law practice. He was a presidential elector for Andrew Jackson in 1829. In the practice of law he gained outstanding success in suits pertaining to land titles, and, in 1837, was elected judge of the Thirteenth Circuit by the State legislature, which office he held with distinction for a quarter of a century. He died in 1865.

MARCHBANKS, COLUMBUS, lawyer of Sparta bar; represented White County in legislature; son of William Marchbanks, of Jackson County.

MARCHBANKS, WILLIAM, representative from Overton County in State legislature. Came to Tennessee from South Carolina and settled on Turkey Creek. He was an enterprising citizen, planter, and turnpike operator. He was also a justice of the peace; and a trustee of Overton Academy in 1812. Married Jane, dau. William and Elizabeth Young.

MARSHALL, DIXON, lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. Died in Smith County, August 22, 1824.

MARTIN, JOHN L., clerk of Smith County Court, 1801.

MARTIN, WILLIAM, colonel; son of Gen. Joseph Martin, of North Carolina, was born in 1765, and died in 1846. He first settled in Sumner County and was captain of a company in the "Cumberland Battalion," of 1787; removed to Smith County about the time that county was formed. Was a Presidential elector for Thomas Jefferson in 1805, and for James Madison in 1809. Served in the Creek campaign and War of 1812.

MATLOCK, GEORGE, sheriff of Smith County; 1810; and a director of the Farmers Bank of Tennessee, 1817.

MATLOCK, Valentine, sheriff, Overton County, 1824-27. Son of William and Catherine (Sevier) Matlock.

MAXWELL, SAMUEL, captain of a Jackson County Company in War of 1812, and was with Jackson at New Orleans.

MAYFIELD, ISAAC, preemptor, named in the act of 1784. Had a tract of 640 acres adjoining the Phenix Cox preemption in Overton County.

MEBANE, GEORGE, captain of a company of the First Regiment of West Tennessee, War of 1812, from Overton County.

MITCHELL, DAVID L., sheriff of White County, 1829-32. Called "Colonel."

MOORE, WILLIAM, colonel; served in the North Carolina Volunteer Militia during the Revolution. He was a printer, and worked on the Knoxville Gazette, published by **George Roulstone**, the first printer in Tennessee. After Roulstone's death Col. Moor married his widow, Elizabeth. The removed to Carthage in 1808 and began publishing the Carthage Gazette.

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MONTGOMERY, R., doctor, practicing in White County as early as 1824.

NELSON, RICHARD, lawyer, Sparta, 1825; delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1834.

OVERTON, ARCHIBALD W., lawyer, Carthage, 1835.

OWEN, JOHN, doctor, practicing at Carthage in 1835.

OWEN, WILLIAM, lawyer, Carthage in 1835.

PARK, J. G., lawyer, Carthage, Clerk of Chancery Court, 1834.

PERKINS, ISHAM, sheriff, Warren County, 1825.

PHILLIPS, WILLIAM, first sheriff of White County, 1806. Also operated a tavern on the Walton Road a few miles east of White Plains.

PILLOW, GIDEON and WILLIAM, early settlers on Plunket's Creek, in Smith County, where they owned 2,421 Acres of land. Both were soldiers in Major Ore's campaign in 1794. They also serviced with distinction in the Creek campaign, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. Gideon was a Smith County justice of the peace in 1803. They removed to Franklin County about 1810. William was a Presidential elector for Andrew Jackson in 1833.

PRIESTLEY, HEZEKIAH, teacher at Priestley Academy, White County, after it was chartered in 1815.

PYLE, CONRAD, turnpike operator. "Pyle's turnpike" branched off the old Walton and Emory road at Montgomery, Morgan County, and connected with the Gordon road at Monroe, Overton County.

QUARLES, JARMES T., lawyer, Gainesboro, 1835; b. VA, 1796.

QUARLES, WILLIAM P., lawyer. Came from Bedford County, VA, and settled at White Plains. Served in the Revolution with the rank of lieutenant.

RAWLINGS, ASAHUEL, clerk, court of pleas and quarter sessions, Jackson County, 1804.

RAY, JOHN H., doctor, Carthage, 1825.

REGAN, HENRY, lawyer, Overton County, 1835.

RHEA, BYRD S., Clerk and Master, Chancery Court, White County, 1843.

RICHARDSON, WILLIAM, lawyer, Jamestown, 1835.

RIDLEY, BROMLY L., Attorney General, 1831.

RIDLEY, NATHANIEL, doctor, Jackson County, in early times.

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RODGERS, JOHN B., lawyer, Sparta. Married Louisa Clark. Was an officer under Jackson in the Seminole War, 1818. Adjutant, 1823. Attorney General, 1823. Commandant, 8th Brigade of Cavalry, 1825. Brigadier General in Texas War. Lincoln elector, 1860. State senator, 1867. Congressman. Died 1873.

ROSS, COL. RANDOLPH, from Rockbridge County, VA; operated a mill at or near Rock Island, on Caney Fork River, about 1810. Also mined saltpeter from Arch and Big Bone Cave, in what is now Warren County.

ROWAN, STOCKLEY D., lawyer, Sparta, 1824.

RUSSELL, WILLIAM, major. Settled on "Russells Mill Creek," in what is now the northern part of Putnam County, his home place being called "Major Russell's" in early land records.

SAVAGE, JOHN H., congressman; b. in Warren County; pvt. under General Gaines in Texas frontier defense; also served in Florida campaign. Studied law and began practice at Smithville in 1837. Attorney General, Fourth Judicial Circuit, 1841-47. Colonel of Tennessee Militia. Appointed major, 14th inf., April 9, 1847, by President Polk, during service in Mexican War; wounded at Chapultepec; promoted to Lt. Col., 11th Inf., September 8, 1847. Elected to Congress 1849-52, 1855-57.

SEVIER, CHARLES, representative from Overton County, 1815-16. He was a hatter by trade.

SEVIER, GEORGE W., circuit court clerk, Overton County; son of Gen. John Sevier. He was with his father at Southwest Point in 1803 when the latter came so near having a violent encounter with General Jackson. Colonel of State militia, 1814. Married Katherine Chambers. Removed to Nashville.

SEVIER, SAM, doctor. Son of Gov. John Sevier, settled near the mouth of Wolf River in what is now Pickett County.

SHAW, BASIL, adjutant. Settled in Smith County at an early date. Was the county's first ranger, and a justice of the peace in 1803. He served as first adjutant of Tennessee Volunteers in 1812. Maj. Gen. Wm. Carroll, of the State militia, in a letter

to General Jackson, dated March 6, 1815, wrote as follows: "The venerable Basil Shaw, Asst. Adjutant General, was a Revolutionary officer; has now been fighting for the maintenance of those liberties which were the boon of that great event; and has, by his knowledge, industry, and zeal, been of great importance to the arms."

SIMPSON, JOHN W., born 1789 in North Carolina; captain of a White County company in the War of 1812, and was with Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans; afterwards elected lieutenant colonel of militia. Operated the Sparta Turnpike in 1818.

SMARTT, WILLIAM, first sheriff of Warren County; soldier of the War of 1812; delegate to Constitutional Convention of 1834.

SMITH, BIRD, flatorial representative, 1811, from White County.

SMITH, JAMES W., clerk and master, Jackson County, 1824. Delegate to State Constitutional Convention in 1834. Resided at Beech Hill.

SMITH, THOMAS, lawyer, Gainesboro, 1835.

SNODGRASS, JAMES, representative, White County, 1835. Born in Washington County, VA.

SPOONER, JACOB KUHN, teacher; president of Priestley Academy, Sparta, 1829.

STEWART, THOMAS, judge, circuit court, 1810-35.

TAYLOR, ISAAC, representative, White County, 1815, 1821, and 1824.

TERREL, JESSE, operated a stand at Drowning Creek, on Cumberland Mountain, sometimes referred to as "Terry's."

THOMAS, ISAAC, congressman; b. Sevierville, TN, November 4, 1784. Settled at Winchester, 1800. Studied law, and admitted to bar in 1808, practicing in Sparta and Winchester. Elected as a Democrat to the fourteenth congress, 1815-17. Migrated to Alexandria, LA, 1819, where he became a holder of extensive land interests and slaves. He is said to have initiated the raising of sugar cane in that state. State senator of Louisiana, 1823-27. Died February 2, 1859, and buried at Pineville, LA.

TIPTON, JONATHAN, an officer of the North Carolina Line in the Revolution, was born about 1756. Settled in Overton County, and received a pension.

TOTTEN, ARCHIBALD, W. O., justice. An early lawyer of Overton County, who removed to Troy, West Tennessee, and afterwards became a justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

TOTTEN, BENJAMIN, sheriff, Jackson County, 1804. First county court clerk of Overton County, 1806, the first session of that court having been held at his house on Beaver Creek.

TOTTEN, J., lawyer, Livingston, Overton County, 1835.

TOTTEN, JOHN E., doctor; d. October 5, 1824, at Sparta, age 24 years, 1 month, and 20 days.

TRENT, C. C., clerk of Supreme Court, 1834, at Sparta.

TUBBS, JAMES, colonel; served in the war of 1812; extensive land holdings in DeKalb County.

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TUBB, JOHN B., lawyer, and early circuit court clerk, DeKalb County.

TURNER, JAMES, captain of an Overton County company in the War of 1812.

TURNEY, HOPKINS L., senator; b. in Smith County, Oct. 3, 1797. Served in Seminole War. Studied law, and was very successful at the bar. Representative in State legislature, 1828-38. Congressman, 1837-43. United States senator, 1845-51. Removed to Winchester and died there August 1, 1857.

TURNEY, SAMUEL, lawyer, Sparta, 1825. Served in Seminole War.

WALLACE, DAVID, State senator, Smith County, 1819-20.

WALTON, ISAAC, first lieutenant, Smith County, 1812. Delegate to Constitutional Convention of 1834.

WALTON, TIMOTHY, representative, Smith County, 1821-22.

WALTON, WILLIAM, captain; b. 1760, in Bertie County, North Carolina; m. December 1783, Sarah Jones; d. March 6, 1816. Served in Revolutionary War with the rank of captain. Came to the Cumberland in 1784, and settled first at Mansker's Station, 1785. The next year he located on Caney Fork, where he built a house and moved into it in 1796. he operated a ferry across the Cumberland River here, beginning about the year 1787, and about the year 1795 opened what was variously known as "Walton's Road," "The Caney Fork Branch Road," and "The Ridge Road," leading from his ferry up the Chestnut Mound hill and along the winding hill crests to the flatwoods, thence to a point on the mountain known thereafter as the "Forks of the Road," until 1806, when it was named Mount Granger. At this point it joined the old North Carolina Military Trace, which, from this point eastward, was at the same time improved by William Emery, and extended to Southwest Point. Mr. Walton was one

of the incorporators of the Cumberland Turnpike of 1802. He was State senator from Smith and Jackson Counties in 1807. During the War of 1812 he was lieutenant of a company of "Smith County Revolutionary Volunteers," which was accepted for home duty.

WALKER, JACK, captain of a Jackson County company in the War of 1812. Lived on Walton's Road, near the present town of Baxter.

WHITE, JOHN, preemptioneer, and veteran of the Revolution. One of the first settlers in White County, and in whose honor the county was named.

WHITE, WOODSON, P., State representative; b. 1783, in Virginia, the son of John White. Represented White County in legislature of 1823-27.

WHITESIDE, JOSEPH A., lawyer, Sparta, 1825.

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WILLIS, ABEL, captain of an Overton County company in the War of 1812.

WISEMAN, JOHN, Baptist preacher of pioneer times in the Upper Cumberland; resided in Sumner County, 1825.

WILLIAMS, NATHANIEL W., judge, third judicial circuit, from 1809 until his death, June 10, 1833. *Elizabeth Williams divorced him in Act of Tennessee, 1809, Chapter 9, p. 180.*

WILLIAMS, SAMPSON, captain; son of Capt. Daniel Williams, Sr., a veteran of the Revolutionary War, who brought his family to the Cumberland from South Carolina. Sampson was appointed sheriff of Davidson County, December 15, 1790. Soon afterwards he began operating a ferry at the Cumberland River crossing on the North Carolina military trace, being granted a license for that purpose by the Sumner County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, dated January 5, 1791, the location of the ferry to be "at the upper end of the first bluff on the Cumberland River, on the south side." The undertaking apparently prospered, and, in 1793, he bought of Spencer Mayfield (a Revolutionary War veteran) a 220-acre tract of land on the south (left) side of the river, the grant being recorded in General Land Grants of West Tennessee, Book F5, p. 122, and describing the property as "Beginning a little below the upper crossing of Cumberland River."

Brig. Gen. James Robertson, in 1794, sent Williams, then an officer of the militia, on an important mission to Col. Wm. Whitley, Governor of Kentucky, to induce him to raise and send 150 volunteers to aid the Cumberlanders in Maj. James Ore's impending campaign against the Creek Indians, whose depredations in the Cumberland, as well as in Kentucky, had reached a point which the settlements could

no longer tolerate. Williams was successful in his mission, and, after returning home, joined in the campaign, with the rank of captain.

In 1796 Gov. Blount commissioned Williams a lieutenant and put him in command of the "Big Lick" garrison. He had also been a justice of the peace in Sumner County, and when Smith County was established became the first clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Was State senator from Sumner, Wilson, Smith and Jackson Counties in 1805; and again in 1811-12 from the counties of Smith, Jackson, Overton, White, Warren, and Franklin.

WOODFOLK, WM. W., representative, Jackson County, 1835. Resided at Beech Hill.

YOUNG, JAMES, sheriff of Jackson County for 14 years; also represented the county in the State legislature. Was a captain in the War of 1812.

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PART IV:

GAZETTEER

ALEXANDRIA. A town in DeKalb County established in 1820 on lands of **Daniel Alexander**, located on the Sparta-Lebanon road.

ALLENS FERRY. Across Caney Fork River at Sligo, on the Sparta turnpike.

BAGDAD. A former post office and village on the Fort Blount branch road in Smith County, 6 miles west of Fort Blunt.

BARRENS. The "Barrens" of early time were prairies, of level to rolling terrain, which the Indians kept free of brush and trees by periodical burning. They bore a heavy growth of "native clover, wild rye, buffalo grass, and pavine," thereby providing abundant pasturage for the large herds of buffaloes that formerly grazed there. In early times they comprised most of the Cumberland plateau, and the entire flatwoods section from Sparta to Livingston.

BEECH HILL. A former post village near the mouth of Martin's Creek in Jackson County; the residence of Col. Jas. W. Smith.

BENNETTS FERRY. Across Cumberland River, below the mouth of Roaring River, in Jackson County.

BIG LICK, BIG SALT LICK, or FLYNNS LICK. A salt lick on Flynn's Creek, near Fort Blount, Jackson County.

BLACKBURN FORK. The south fork of Roaring River. So named about 1798 for Benjamin Blackburn, the pioneer, who lived at its head springs.

BLACKBURN SPRINGS. Same as the “two springs,” or “double springs,” frequently mentioned in early writings. It was a post office from 1806 until 1818, with Benjamin Blackburn as postmaster. Blackburn settled there about 1796 and operated an ordinary there for several years. It was three-fourths of a mile west of the Cherokee line, and the first lodging place afforded travelers inside Mero District. It was located at the head of Blackburn Fork, near the two springs, and just off the Fort Blount branch road.

BUFFALO PATH. The bison liked high ground, hence his paths were to be found following the easiest grades and along ridgetops between watersheds. They were utilized by the Indian and afterwards by the white man.

BUTLERS FERRY. Across Cumberland River at the mouth of Mill Creek in Jackson County. Also known as Butler’s Landing.

BYRDSTOWN. County Seat of Pickett County, established in 1879.

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CALFKILLER RIVER. Rises in the Cumberland Mountains above Sparta and empties into the Caney Fork above Rock Island. Its principal tributaries on the east are Bridge, Brush, Bluespring, and Wildcat Creeks, while those on the west are Plum, Cherry, and Town Creeks. The river was named for the Indian chief, Calfkiller, who formerly lived in the upper part of the valley.

CANEBRAKES. Dense canebrakes formerly covered the rich creek bottoms, river bottoms, and mountain coves. The stalks grew 15 and 20 feet high, and “so close together as to exclude all other plants.”

CANEY FORK RIVER. (First known as McClurer River.) Rises in Cumberland Mountains, and enters the Cumberland River above Carthage. Light boats formerly ascended as far south as Shippingsport, below the falls.

CARTHAGE. Although Smith County was established in 1799 it was not until about five years later that the site for a permanent county seat was chosen. During this period the court of quarter sessions was held at Dixon Springs, Walton’s, Fort Blount, and perhaps Liberty. In Draper, James Gwinne, John Gordon, Joseph Collins, and Henry Tooley, were appointed commissioners “to fix a place to erect a courthouse, prison, and stocks in Smith County, somewhere between Bledsoeborough and the mouth of Caney Fork River.” These commissioners, due to a controversy, failed to settle the matter, so by Chapter 40, Acts of 1804, the Legislature repealed the above act and stipulated that a popular “vote be taken to choose between the lands of William Sanders and William Walton.” The act further stipulated that the town

should be known as "Carthage," and named Grant Allen, Benj. Cage, John Cage, and William Cage as commissioners. The result of the vote was the selection of the lands of William Sanders as the site of Carthage. The town was incorporated in 1817, and again in 1819. In 1834 there were 700 inhabitants, including 3 doctors, 8 lawyers, 1 minister, 2 tailors, 2 blacksmiths, 1 hatter, 1 cabinet maker, 2 carpenters, 1 saddler, 1 tanner, 1 painter; there were also 13 stores, 4 tavern, 1 grocery, a printing office, a church, a steam mill, and an academy. (Hunt's Tennessee Gazette, 1834).

CELINE. County seat of Clay County, established in 1831 of lands of John F. vass, at the confluence of Cumberland and Obey Rivers.

CHEROKEE LINE. Sometimes mentioned as "the Indian boundary," "the Indian line,"ect., was the legal boundary between the wilderness hunting grounds of the Cherokees and the Cumberland settlements. It was officially run and marked in 1797 by Gen. James Winchester, surveyor, representing the Untied States, and a commission of Indians. The line was run N. 45 degrees E. (See description and map elsewhere in this book.)

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CLAY COUNTY. Established in 1870 from Jackson and Overton Counties. It was named for Henry Clay, U. S. Senator and Statesman. The principal early settlements were around Celina, Boles, Butler's Landing, Clementsville, Mouth of Wolf, and Willow Grove. The principle trading and business center for this section was Glasgow, KY, 38 miles north of Celina, the county seat.

CLIFTY. A post office on the Knoxville road, where it crosses Clifty Creek, twelve miles east of Sparta. Name later changed to Eastland.

COLLINS RIVER. A stream flowing in a northerly direction through Warren County, and entering the Caney Fork River between Rock Island and the falls.

COOKEVILLE. Formerly a post village around the residence of Maj. Richard F. Cooke on the old Sparta-Gainesboro road, three miles north of Double Springs, in Putnam County. It was not until after Putnam County was reestablished in 1854 that the present flourishing little city of Cookeville was laid off as its County seat on 40 acres of land purchased from Charles Cook. It was named in honor of Maj. Richard F. Cooke, who was the leading proponent of the new County.

CUMBERLAND RIVER. First known by such names as "Ouasioto," "Shawano," "Shawnee," and "Chauvanon." It rises in the mountains of eastern Kentucky and empties into the Ohio River a short distance above the mouth of the Tennessee.

DEFEATED CREEK. A stream flowing in a southerly direction through Smith County and entering Cumberland River on the north side, several miles east of Carthage. It was on an island in this creek that the John Peyton party of surveyors

was encamped on night in 178_ when attacked and defeated by some of Hanging Maw's warriors. Such was the origin of the name.

DEKALB COUNTY. Established in 1837 from White, Warren, Cannon, Wilson, and Jackson Counties. Named for Baron DeKalb (Maj. Gen. Johann Kalb). McMinnville and Lebanon were the business centers for this section. Early settlements were at Alexandria, Liberty, Doweltown, Laurel Hill, Forks of the Road, and Smithville.

DIXON SPRINGS. The residence of Maj. Tilman Dixon, who settled there in 1786, and operated an ordinary for many years. It was the center of a considerable settlement on the old Cumberland Road, about twenty miles west of Fort Blount.

EASTLAND. Site of Eastland's stand. Known also as Clifty.

FALLING WATER. A branch of Caney Fork River. First known as "Little Caney Fork."

FENTRESS COUNTY. Established in 1823 from Overton and Morgan Counties. Names for Hon. Jas. Fentress, Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Legislature of Tennessee. Early settlements at Jamestown and Pall Mall. William Gore, of Overton County, was appointed to survey and mark the county's boundary.

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FORT BLOUNT. A territorial military post (1792-96), consisting of a large log blockhouse, located on the old North Carolina military trace about two miles east of the Cumberland River crossing, near the big salt lick in Jackson County. After it ceased to be a military post in 1796 Capt. Sampson Williams converted it into a residence and operated an ordinary there for several years. When Jackson County was established in 1801 the post village of Fort Blount was renamed "Williamsburg" and designated as the first county seat.

FLAT ROCK. "So named from a great rock shelf that here juts out into the open" (Steiner and Schweinitz, 1799). This place was, in early times, a well-known camping place on the wilderness road leading from Southwest Point to Fort Blount. It was located four miles west of Drowning Creek, about 18 miles from the Forks of the Road.

FLUTE RIVER. Early name for the South Fork of Cumberland River.

FLYNN'S LICK. Settlement and post office on Flynn's Creek in Jackson County.

FORKS OF THE ROAD. "On the last mountain there is the parting of the ways. The road to the left goes to Caney Fork and the one to the right to Fort Blount" (Steiner and Schweinitz, 1799). It was about four and a half miles east of the present town of Algood. (See Mount Granger.)

GAINESBORO. Established in 1815 to replace Williamsburg as the county seat. Named in honor of Gen. Edmond P. Gaines, a military hero of the War of 1812. Commissioners to select the site of the new town were Joseph Bennet, Philip Mulkey, William Scantling, James Terry, James W. Smith, James Vance, Joseph Hawkins, and Joseph Shaw.

In 1817, after building the courthouse and jail, the seat of government was officially moved to its present location, under the supervision of Philip Mulkey, Thos. Butler, Wm. Scantling, Jas, Terry, Jos. Hawkins, James Vance, Alex Keith, Esq., Jos. W. Smith, and Wm. Rash, Esq.

Gainesboro was incorporated in 1820, with the following as its first town council: Francis McConnell, Robert Jennings, S. Burris, John Matthews, George Cox, Alfred Murray, Andrew White, Alexander Montgomery, and Samuel G. Smith.

GILLESPIES FERRY. The upper ferry across Cumberland River above Williams' Fort Blount ferry.

GORDONSVILLE. A post office in Smith County, established in 1804, and named for John Gordon, its first merchant.

GRANVILLE. A post office at the junction of Martin's Creek and Cumberland River. It replaced the old post office of Beech Hill.

HILHAM. A town in Overton County, established in 1806 by Moses Fisk and associates. It was the site of Fisk's Female Academy. Leading citizens of 1820 included Moses Fisk, Thos, S. Lea, Littleton Jenkins, Titus T. Barton, and Jacob W. Barton.

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JACKSON COUNTY. Established in 1801 from Smith County. Names for Superior Court Judge Andrew Jackson. The first county seat was at Williamsburg (Fort Blount), but was moved to Gainesboro in 1817. Early settlements were around Fort Blount, Flynns Lick, Granville, Roaring River, and Cummins Mill.

JAMESTOWN. First known as Sand Springs. Established 1827, as the county seat of Fentress County, the site having been selected by Woodson P. White of White County; John Graham and Daniel Keith of Jackson County; Gordon Finely and Joseph Graham and Daniel Keith of Jackson County; Gordon Finley and Joseph Bates of Overton County. The town was also named for Hon. James Fentress. It is on Cumberland Mountain.

LANCASTER. A town in Smith County established in 1817 on lands of Richard Lancaster, on Smith Fork River, near its junction with the Caney Fork.

LIBERTY. A town on Smiths Fork, in what is now DeKalb County, established in 1817 and incorporated in 1831. There was a settlement here as early as 1797, among the first-comers having been Capt. Adam Dale, on whose lands the town was largely built.

LILYDALE. An old settlement near the junction of Wolf and Obey Rivers in what is now the eastern part of Clay County. It dates back to about 1786, when six families from New York State settled there. One of these was the family of Simeon Barber.

LIVINGSTON. The county seat of Overton County. The site for this town was chosen and laid out pursuant to Chapter 62, Acts of 1831, to provide "a permanent central seat of justice....pursuant to a survey made by Burchet Douglass, under the Act of Dec. 30, 1829....the new town to be called Livingston in honor of Hon. Edward Livingston." The commissioners appointed were Isham Perkins and John Cain of Warren County; William Simson, Isaac Taylor, and S. Johnson of White County; Richard F. Cooke and David Apple of Jackson County. The town was built on lands deeded by Joseph and Ambrose Gore on Aug. 10, 1833. It was incorporated by Chapter 37, Acts of 1855.

MCMINNVILLE. The county seat of Warren County, established in 1809, on lands of Joseph Colville, John A. Wilson, and Robert Cowan, situated on Collins River. The commission appointed to select the site for the town consisted of James Taylor, Thomas Matthews, Benj. Lockhart, John Armstrong, and Jas. English. The town was incorporated in 1813.

MERIDIAN LINE. The eastern boundary line of the First Land District. It began on the east side of Cumberland River where the Kentucky-Tennessee State line crosses the river, and ran S. 5 degrees E. to a point some distance south of Caney Fork River, which it crossed at or near the mouth of the Calfkiller. The Fisk, or Meridian Road of 1824, from Hilham to Sparta, followed this line in part.

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MERO DISTRICT. One of the three original civil and judicial divisions of Tennessee under the constitution of 1796. In 1804 it comprised the counties of Davidson, Sumner, Robertson, Montgomery, Williamson, Wilson, Smith, and Jackson, with a population of 24,109 whites and 8,174 slaves. There were two sessions of the supreme judicial court held in the district each year.

MILLEDGEVILLE. A former post village established in 1821 on lands of J. C. Dew and Jas. K. Eason on Falling Water River, about ten miles northwest of Sparta. Commissioners named in the Act of the State Legislature were Zack Sellers, John G. Barret, J. C. Dew, and Jas. K. Eason. Robert Cooke, father of Maj. Richard F. Cooke, was an early settler there.

MINE LICK. A large salt lick on a creek of the same name in DeKalb County, where, in early times, William King, William Terril, and others maintained a hunting camp. A path led from this lick northwardly across the flatwoods to the Great Salt Lick on Flynn's Creek in Jackson County.

MONROE. By Chapter 16, 1807, the town of Monroe was established as the seat of justice in Overton County, with the following men appointed as commissioners to select and lay off the site: John McDonald, Henry Reagan, John B. Cross, Joseph Chisholm, and George Christian. In 1809 (Ch. 38) Henry Reagan resigned and John Coons was added to fill the vacancy. Other early commissioners were Geo. W. Wallace, William Armstrong, William Chilton, Adam Huntsman, Charles Sevier, James Whiteside, Joseph Hanes, Henry H. Atkinson, John W. Fleece, George Waters, and Simeon Huddleston. George Gordon donated 5, 000 acres of land to Monroe. (Ch. 27, 1825.) Geo. Wallace built the first store there. By Chapter 78, Acts of 1815, the country was authorized to erect a jail and stocks at Monroe. The county seat was moved to Livingston in 1833.

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT. See Land districts.

MOUNT GRANGER. The western terminus of the Cumberland Turnpike, earlier known as "The Forks of the Road," where the Fort Blount Branch, and Walton Roads joined, the toll gates being located there. It was located on Cumberland Mountain, near the present village of Brotherton, in Putnam County. It was named, "Mount Granger" in honor of Hon. Gideon Granger, Postmaster General, who, in 1806 designated it as the western distribution point for all mails to the Southwestern frontiers. Postmasters and carriers for communities farther west had to go to Mount Granger to receive and dispatch their mail.

MOUNT RICHARDSON. **James Raulston** settled on Waltons Road at an early date. His house was located about 15 miles east of Carthage. The place was named "Mount Richardson" when it was made a post office. **Mr. Raulston** was the postmaster, and also operated an ordinary.

NETTLE CARRIER. A creek in Overton County emptying into West Fork of Obey River. Also the name of a post office at that place. It was so named for the old Indian chief, Nettle Carrier, or Tala-dane-giski, brother of Double head.

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NORTHWEST FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN. A place on the Fort Blount Branch Road in the vicinity of the present town of Algood in Putnam County. It was nine miles east of Blackburn Springs.

OBED RIVER. A branch of the Emory. "On this river, and within one mile of the main road leading from Southwest Point to Fort Blount, is a remarkable cataract. The sheet of water is about 18 feet wide and falls from a projecting rock about 80 feet.

About 50 yards from this fall is a similar cataract.” - - Morse, *Universal Geography* (1804).

OBEY RIVER. An eastern branch of Cumberland River, rising in the Cumberland Mountains, flowing through Overton, Fentress, Pickett, and Clay Counties, and entering the Cumberland at Celina.

OVERTON COUNTY. Established in 1806 from Jackson County and Indian lands ceded to the United States by the Third Treaty of Tellico in 1805. It was named for Judge John Overton. The county seat was at Monroe for about 30 years, after which it was moved to Livingston. The first session of the County Court was held at the house of Benj. Totten, on Eagle Creek, Mr. Totten serving as the first County Court Clerk. John B. Cross was the first sheriff, and Jas. Turney the first circuit court clerk.

PEA RIDGE. The western rim of the barrens, or first bench of the Cumberland Mountains. So-called from the fact that the country at this level was originally a treeless plain covered largely with wild peavine.

PICKETT COUNTY. Established in 1879 from Overton and Fentress Counties. Named for Hon. H. L. Pickett of Wilson County.

PRINCETON. A former post office at or near Butler’s Landing on Cumberland River.

PUTNAM COUNTY. Efforts to establish this county were begun in 1811, but not realized until 1842. Monticello was to be the name of the county seat, when laid out. Meanwhile White Plains served the purpose, the first sessions of the county court having been held there. There was a lot of opposition to the creation of this county, and in 1845 the opponents took the matter to court and succeeded in having the county “quashed” and its officers enjoined from further performing their duties. This came from a session of Chancery Court held in Livingston. However, under the leadership of State Senator Richard F. Cooke, the county was re-established in 1854. It was named for General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary War fame. The new county seat was to be Cookeville named in honor of Maj. Cooke.

ROCK ISLAND. A town on Caney Fork River. It was the first county seat of White County, the first session of the county court having been there in 1806 at the house of Joseph Terry, the first settler.

RUSSELLS MILL CREEK. Now known as “Mill Creek” in the northern part of Putnam County. There was an early settlement in this section, including Maj. William Russell, William Bowen, Thomas Mackey and others.

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SALINE. A place where salt was extracted from brine. Usually a well was dug 30 or 40 feet deep in a salt lick bottom, where upon the brine would seep into the well, from which it was drawn and the salt extracted.

SALT LICK. A salt spring bottom where the earth was moist with salt water. In the process of drying, a salt residue would be left on the surface of the ground. Animals frequented these places in large numbers to lick up the salt. Hunters concealed themselves near these licks and ambushed game with ease.

SHELLS FORD. Across Collins River, near its confluence with the Caney Fork River, in Warren County. The old Kentucky Road crossed the river here, and it was also here that Congressman Thomas K. Harris was killed in 1816, in an encounter with Col. Simpson. James Shell had a mill near the ford.

SHIPPINGSPORT. Formerly the “head of navigation” below the falls of Caney Fork River.

SINKING CANE. A settlement and post office on the headwaters of the West Fork of Obey River, at the foot of Cumberland Mountain north of the present town of Monterey.

SMITH COUNTY. Established in 1799 from Sumner County, and named in honor of Gen. Daniel Smith, a citizen of Sumner County and former secretary of the Territory South of the River Ohio. The first session of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was held at the house of Tilman Dixon in Dixon Springs, Moses Fisk serving as clerk, pro tempore. The following regular officials were then elected: Sampson Williams, clerk; John Martin, sheriff; Chas. F. Mabias, coroner; Benj. Seawell, State attorney; Daniel Bunford, registrar; and Amos Lacy, constable. Garret Fitzgerald was elected chairman of the court.

SMITHVILLE. County seat of DeKalb County. Named for John “Smith” Bryan, an early settler. Laid out as a town in 1838, on 50 acres of land donated by Bernard Richardson, and located on the Sparta Turnpike, near the center of the county.

SNOW CREEK. A creek and pioneer settlement on Walton’s Road in Smith County.

SPARTA. When White County was established in 1806 Rock Island was contemplated as the county seat, but in 1807 Warren County was cut off from the southern part of White County, making a new and more central location necessary. As a result a town to be known as Sparta was ordered to be laid out by an Act of the Legislature in 1809. The commissioners appointed to select the site were Thomas Bounds, Benjamin Weaver, Aaron England, Turner Lane, James Fulkerson, Alexander Lowry, and Nicholas Gillentine. A log courthouse was built in 1810. The town was incorporated in 1813, with the following men as commissioners: Wesley W. Kears, William Gless, Jacob A. Lane, Thomas Herbert, George Ailsworth, David

Smith, and Lawson Nourse. Sparta was on the Nashville-Knoxville turnpike, which was rock-surfaced in 1827.

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STANDING STONE. An early settlement on Cumberland Mountain, now known as Monterey in Putnam County. It was so named from an old Indian monument that stood near the Cumberland Turnpike.

TROUSDALES FERRY. Across Caney Fork River east of Gordonsville. It was first known as Gordon's Ferry.

TWO SPRINGS. Same as "Blackburn Springs," and "Double Springs."

WALTONS FERRY. Operated by William Walton across Cumberland River just above the mouth of the Caney Fork.

WARREN COUNTY. Established in 1807 from White County and named for Gen. William Warren who fell at Bunker Hill. The first session of the County Court was held at the home of Joseph Westmoreland.

WHITE COUNTY. Established in 1806 from Overton and Smith Counties. At first it extended from the Walton Road to the southern boundary of the State. The first session of the County Court was held at the house of Joseph Terry in Rock Island, the first county seat.

WHITE PLAINS. Early settlement and post office located on the Walton Road about four miles east of the present town of Cookeville. The post office was at William Burton's store.

WILDERNESS. Between the Holston and Cumberland settlements "lies a spacious wilderness, which the Cherokees claim and hunt over, and which, from one side of their claim to the other, as the road goes, is about 70 miles wide. This is an inconvenience severely felt by the western settlers, but which time will undoubtedly remedy. The first wagon road across this wilderness was opened in 1795." (Moses Fisk (1804), in Morse's *Universal Geography*).

WILLIAMSBURG. Same as "fort Blount." When Jackson County was established in 1801, Fort Blount was made the county seat, but the name was changed to Williamsburg. Commissioners named in the act of the legislature were Henry Brooks, Jacob Baker, James Cook, Jonas Bedford, **Nathaniel Haggard**, Nathaniel Ridley, Nathan Smith, **James Raulstone**, James Roberts, and Matthew Rogers. They county seat was moved to Gainesboro in 1817, and Williamsburg became known as "Fort Blount" again. It was the home of Capt. Sampson Williams.

WILLIAMS' FERRY. Sampson Williams, sheriff of Davidson County, obtained a license from Sumner County, dated Jan. 5, 1791, to operate a ferry "at the upper end of the first bluff on Cumberland River, on the south side, above the salt lick." (Sumner County Court Minutes, Vol. 1, p. 41.) It was known as the lower ferry.

THE END

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