

WILLIAM WALTON

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**Captain William WALTON** was not for many years a citizen of Sumner County, but long enough to deserve mention here. He was born in Bertie County, North Carolina, a county that has given to Tennessee many of her prominent men, in 1760. He was of English Cavalier descent: attained his early manhood about the beginning of the Revolutionary war, and at the age of 17 enlisted in Major Hardy MURFREE'S battalion as a private. Later he was commissioned a Lieutenant, and then Captain. He was in many of the most important engagements of the war, and demeaned himself as a brave and gallant soldier. He was twice taken a prisoner. In December, 1783 he was married to Sarah JONES, and in 1785 removed to what is now Sumner County, Tennessee and settled on Mansker's Station near Goodlettsville. The next year he located a body of land in what is now Smith County, on a part of which the county seat was afterwards located (Carthage). Captain WALTON continued to reside in Sumner County until 1796, when he removed to his new home. At that time Smith County was a part of Sumner. When Smith County was formed he was one of its first magistrates, a position he had held in Sumner County. When the question of a county seat came up, through his influence it was located on his land, he giving a square in the center of the town for a courthouse and other public buildings.

Captain WALTON inaugurated the plan, and was the contractor who built what is known as "Walton's Road," which connects the Cumberland country with Knoxville and East Tennessee, and was for many years one of the most traveled roads in the State. The construction of this road was a great achievement at that day. The Tennessee Central Railroad closely follows its course from Lebanon to Kingston, across the Cumberland Mountains.

Captain WALTON died at his home in Smith County, March 6, 1816, leaving a handsome fortune and many descendants all of whom have, up to this day, been useful and honorable citizens.

**WILLIAM WALTON CEMETERY** : Photos Graciously Submitted by John Waggoner Jr.

Smith County, Tennessee Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsmith/>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsmith/cempics/waltonwillcem.htm>

The William Walton Cemetery is located east of the Carthage end of the new Veterans Memorial Bridge. Turn on road opposite the radio station and go under the bridge. At the first gap in fence walk east approx. 100 yards toward wooded area. Well maintained area is the cemetery of William Walton and his wife, Sarah, which are marked by stone boxes. DAR plaques are on each box. Other early settlers of Carthage are thought to be buried here.

Born in Bertie Co., NC, William Walton fought in the Revolution for that state. He settled in the Cumberland country in 1784 and came to Smith Co., in 1786. William Walton served in the legislatures of NC and TN and as a Smith Co. magistrate. Land for Carthage and Geneva Academy, Smith County's first school were given by him from his 3,806 acre land grant. He cleared farm land, operated a ferry and in 1801 opened the Walton Road from Carthage to Kingston. This cemetery is located near where his old homestead once stood. Said to be on of the first cemeteries opened in Smith Co. it contains the graves of a number of his family and descendants, old pioneer associates and other early day citizens of Carthage and vicinity. In 1978 the Caney Fork Chapter NSDAR restored this long neglected cemetery. On July 22, 1979 a re-dedication of this cemetery was held and a DAR marker was placed on the grave of Captain William Walton.

William Walton was a Revolutionary soldier serving in the Seventh Regiment of the Continental Line of North Carolina. After the war he received a land grant at the confluence of Caney Fork and Cumberland River. He sold fifty acres to start the city of Carthage. He was responsible for the Walton Road route over the Cumberland Mountains for the new settlers which was completed in 1801. He represented Sumner Co in 1788 in the North Carolina General Assembly and also in the 4th Tennessee General Assembly 1801-1803. He was in the Senate in 1807-1809 representing Smith and Jackson counties. In 1813-1815 he was representing Smith Co in the Senate. William Walton died Mar 6, 1816 and his wife, Sarah, May 30, 1840.

**WALTON, WILLIAM**

Service: North Carolina

Rank: Captain

Birth: 1760, Bertie Co., NC

Death: 6 March 1816, Carthage, TN

Service Description: 1) ALSO LT, NC LINE



**Source:** Smith County History, sponsored by: Smith County Homecoming '86, Heritage Committee, pg. 741 – Story by Sue W. Maggart.

“In person, Captain Walton was of commanding presence, firm and sincere, without authority, and so gently and genial in deportment as to win lasting friends. His house was ever open to friends and the friendless, to whom he dispensed hospitality with liberal hands. His life as a whole was phenomenally successful, beneficent and happy far beyond the great masses of his fellow.” This was the tribute made by W. B. Walton to his grandfather, William Walton.

William Walton was born in North Carolina in 1760. He married Sarah Jones in 1783. William and Sarah were the parents of five children: Rachel, born 1784, married A. S. Hogan; James, born 1787, migrated to Missouri; Isaac, born 1791, married 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_High, md 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_McKee; Timothy, born 1794, became a physician and married Susan McGee; Sarah, born 1795, married Judge Nathan W. Williams.

Walton, a Revolutionary soldier, served in the seventh Regiment of the Continental Line of North Carolina under General Lincoln. He was captured at the battle of Charleston and was later exchanged and promoted to Captain. After the war Walton moved his family to the Cumberland County, living at Mansker's station (Goodlettsville) until the Indian War made it safe to establish a home on his land grant at the confluence of the Caney Fork and Cumberland Rivers.

Captain Walton was instrumental in locating the county seat of Carthage on his property, selling fifty acres to the town for .01 cent per acre. He was a member of the first Smith County court and operated the first ferry across the Cumberland at Carthage. Through his efforts the Walton Road, which offered a more direct route over the Cumberland Mountains for the incoming settlers, was constructed and completed in 1801. Building and maintaining this road was no small achievement for those days.

Walton was active not only in county affairs but also in state politics. In 1788 he represented Sumner county in the North Carolina General Assembly and the same county in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly 1801-1803. He sat in the Senate in the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1807-1809, representing Smith and Jackson counties and in the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1813-1815, representing Smith county.

William Walton died on March 6, 1816, at the comparatively early age of fifty-six years. He is buried near his old homestead in the cemetery said to be the burying place of many of the oldest citizens of Carthage. Sarah Walton, who died May 30, 1840, is buried beside her husband.

The box tombs of Sarah and William Walton had crumbled and almost been destroyed by nature and years of neglect. In 1979 the Caney Fork Chapter, Daughter of the American Revolution, spent many days in loving restoration of the graves and old cemetery. Many of the citizens of Carthage, including high school students and the Town of Carthage crew who cut and hauled away limbs and debris, contributed to the restoration of the site. Now, the well kept cemetery in the beautiful grove of trees overlooking the rivers where he chose to make his home serves as a peaceful tribute to the man and his wife who dared to pioneer an new land.

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