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Consider Our Distressed Situation and Grant Us Relief:
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829

by Cherel Bolin Henderson

More than two centuries ago, the pioneers of what is now East Tennessee waged a bold attempt to secede from the parent state of North Carolina. Born of a need for protection from Indian attack and a desire for political power and land, the new state movement began in the upper reaches of East Tennessee and spread with settlement down the French Broad and Holston rivers and eventually as far as the Little Tennessee River. Under a homemade government named Franklin, the settlers capably governed and defended themselves for three years. Later, as Franklin’s statehood prospects waned, those in the upper settlements gradually returned their allegiance to North Carolina. For many of the lower inhabitants, those living South of the French Broad and Holston, the demise of Franklin threatened ruin and annihilation.1

Settlers in the Territory South of the French Broad and Holston faced problems unique in Tennessee pioneer settlement. Overlapping government jurisdiction and laws instituted by North Carolina at the 1789 cession of her western territory ensnared these settlers in a legal tangle between the federal government, the Cherokee, North Carolina, the Territory South of the River Ohio, which later became Tennessee, and eventually involved even the state’s schools and colleges.

During the resulting, almost half-century struggle, the South of the French Broad citizens frequently availed themselves of the right to petition their government for a redress of grievances. In numerous petitions and me-

Treaty of Hopewell Line, 1785
Treaty of Holston Line, 1791 (Surveyed 1797)
Treaty of Dumplin (Franklin) Line, 1785

 Territory South of French Broad and Holston

Adapted from Tennessee: A Short History by Rebecca E. Corlew

The land referred to as the Territory (District) South of the French Broad and Holston was bounded by the Big Pigeon, Little Tennessee, and Holston rivers. It should be noted that the name Holston River (as indicated on this map) at that time referred to the present-day Tennessee River as far down as the confluence of the Little Tennessee and Holston, at which point it became known as the Tennessee River. This stretch was renamed the Tennessee River in 1889-1890. The present-day Little Tennessee River was then called the Tennessee River.
morials to North Carolina, and later to federal and Tennessee officials, these pioneers described their efforts to defend themselves against Indian attack and sought help in securing title to their land.

The thirteen petitions featured in this article, covering the period 1784-1789, are from the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh. This very significant collection provides first-person accounts of the problems and the prevailing attitudes of the time. Also, given the paucity of frontier records, the petitions supply the names of hundreds of the region’s pioneers, often in their own signature. Of equal importance to family researchers and historians, is the documentation of early settlers in two early counties that have suffered an almost total destruction of records (Sevier 1856, Cocke 1876).

The purpose of this article is twofold. The first half outlines the history of the Territory South of the French Broad and Holston and explains the issues that propelled the inhabitants to draft these petitions; the second part consists of transcriptions of the petitions and signatures. It should also be noted that many of the problems of the French Broad settlers were tied to the confusion surrounding early Tennessee land law, a situation exacerbated by the rules under which Tennessee inherited the land from North Carolina. This article is not intended to give a history of the complex and confounding subject of Tennessee land law, only to tell the story of our state’s citizens living South of the French Broad, and, hopefully, to encourage further research.

Over time, the term “Territory South of the French Broad and Holston” has fallen from use, but in the decades leading up to and following 1800, the topic was discussed by citizens and lawmakers across Tennessee and reached as far as North Carolina and the seat of the federal government. Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were drawn into the fray. Territorial Governor William Blount and every Tennessee governor from John Sevier to William Carroll were forced to deal with this thorny subject. Governor Joseph McMinn surely reflected the opinion of many when he told lawmakers in an 1815 address that he “should have been entirely contented without bringing that subject again to your view…”

The plight of the South of the French Broad citizens is best understood within the context of the State of Franklin and the political climate that drove the western inhabitants to separate from North Carolina and attempt to establish an independent government. The seeds for this dissension were sown at first settlement, when, about 1769, the pioneer settlers, ignoring an earlier British proclamation forbidding settlement, began clearing land and building cabins in what they believed to be Virginia. A later survey proved them actually to be in North Carolina.

Unable to garner support from either state, these “inhabitants on the western waters,” or “back inhabitants,” as they were sometimes referred to, took matters into their own hands. They organized an independent government in 1772 and wrote and adopted the Articles of the Watauga Association. The concept of a group of citizens forming their own free and independent government was so radical that the Virginia royal government warned that this “dangerous example” might spread to other frontiers. Far from being a lawless society, however, the settlers demonstrated a strong commitment to civil order by quickly establishing the functions of a responsible government, among them provisions for marriages, courts, deeds, and punishment for lawbreakers.4

In 1775, representatives of the Transylvania Land Company met with the Cherokee on the Watauga River at Sycamore Shoals and concluded the purchase of the Indian land between the Kentucky and Cumberland rivers for white settlement. On the same spot, two days later, March 19, the Watauga Association, with Charles Robertson as trustee, bought land along the Holston, Watauga, and New rivers from the Cherokee. The land was later sold to individual purchasers.5

The outbreak of the American Revolution brought an end to a fairly peaceful coexistence between the settlers and the native inhabitants. The Cherokee, with a glimmer of hope that they might drive the intruding frontiersmen from the land, sided with the British who incited them to violence against the settlements. Relations became more strained as settlers encroached further onto Cherokee land.

Alone and in the midst of the hostile Cherokee, the Wataugans, seeking military aid and governmental legitimacy, appealed by petition to North Carolina for recognition as part of that state.6 Although North Carolina recognized the area in 1777 as the Washington District, relations between the parent state and the western settlements were never close nor good. Those on the frontier had little in common with a distant government on the far side of the high mountains.

“A separate and distinct state”

Dissatisfaction with their lot, coupled with later actions by North Carolina, propelled the settlers to drastic and decisive action. In April 1784 the North Carolina Assembly voted to cede that state’s western lands to the federal government as a means of reducing her share of the nation’s Revolutionary War debt. Welcoming news of the cession, western leaders seized the opportunity to
establish their own government and in August of that year met in convention to declare themselves "a separate and distinct state."  

The frontier optimism was short-lived. Almost at the same time the westerners were forming the new state, North Carolina rescinded the cession act. But it was too late; the heady excitement of independence had swept the frontier.

The first assembly of the State of Franklin met in March 1785 in Jonesborough and made a number of important decisions. They chose John Sevier as governor, established a militia and new counties, and made provisions for money, a state seal, tax collection, and education.

At the time Franklin was formed, three North Carolina counties constituted what is now East Tennessee — Washington, Greene, and Sullivan. The Franklin Assembly established their own governments in these three counties and then divided them to create five additional counties. The eight counties of Franklin were Washington, Greene, Sullivan, Spencer (area that was Hawkins), Sevier (created from Greene), Caswell (roughly the area

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*From 1785 to 1788, both North Carolina and the State of Franklin claimed authority to govern what is now East Tennessee. Each created its own counties, appointed separate officials, and maintained separate records.*
that became Jefferson County), and Wayne (included today’s Carter and Johnson counties, and part of Wilkes County, N.C. west of the extreme height of the Allegheny Mountains).9

North Carolina did not recognize the new county governments nor the right of the western frontiersmen to create them. The parent state retained the counties of Washington, Greene, and Sullivan, and, to further complicate matters, in 1786 created the new county of Hawkins.

In some counties, each side established its own government. A protracted, political struggle ensued as Franklin adherents and opponents vied for control of the county governments.

**Battle of the State of Franklin during a Snowstorm**

Franklin enjoyed the support of the majority of the settlers, at least in the beginning, but a sizeable minority, especially in the upper counties of Sullivan, Washington, and Hawkins, wanted to remain with North Carolina. The most vocal opponent of the State of Franklin was Colonel John Tipton of Washington County. Initially a supporter, Tipton resented the appointment of Sevier as governor and turned his energies to crushing the new state.

Disagreements between Tipton and Sevier soon degenerated from a political difference to a personal feud. Matters brewing for years came to a head in February 1788 in what has become known as the Battle of the State of Franklin. John Tipton had confiscated Sevier’s slaves for what he claimed was nonpayment of taxes and then later captured and held two of his sons. Incensed, Sevier called for fifteen men from each captain’s militia company to aid him. The party rode to Tipton’s home and surrounded it. Two men, one of whom was Washington County Sheriff Jonathan Pugh, died in the skirmishes that followed. The wounded included a woman.

So, with a battle fought in a blinding snowstorm on Leap Year Day, February 29, 1788, and the expiration of Sevier’s term as governor the next day, the State of Franklin, for all practical purposes, ended, and with it the people’s hopes for a new state.

The skirmish with Tipton was the only battle that General Sevier ever lost—and surely one he did not want to fight. Sevier was esteemed for his loyalty to his men and to his friends. He had friends on both sides of the conflict; he had fought beside them at Kings Mountain and in protecting their homes from the Cherokee. He now found it demoralizing to oppose them in battle. Soon after the fight, Sevier wrote,

I never meant to spill blood on any occasion to the latest period of my time in office, their fate do sincerely lament..., I have supported the authority of Franklin during my continuance in office, and if the people have not spirit to support it further I shall not concern myself more than to secure my person and friends from the hands of ruffians and assassinations. It is my wish that a peace and good order may take place in this country.10

The concept of Franklin may have waned in the upper settlements, but John Sevier found “spirit enough to support it” aplenty in the loyalty of the inhabitants of the Territory South of the French Broad. Older settlements in Washington, Sullivan, Greene, and Hawkins counties were well established, and with the settlers in the lower region to serve as a buffer to Indian attack, the need for protection had lessened. With the demise of Franklin, however, citizens in the lower counties were in an even more perilous position. Making their plight even worse, the federal government ordered the South of the French Broad settlers from the land and told the Cherokee that for anyone who failed to move, “the Indians might punish him or not as they please.”11

The highly coveted South of the French Broad land was rooted in antiquity and confirmed in law as an Indian hunting ground. The Great Indian Warpath traversed its length and crossed the French Broad River at the Warford, providing a route for trade with northern tribes. Southwestward, it led to the Cherokee towns on the Little Tennessee River. Sadly for the Cherokee, the same trail that gave them access to the outside also led the white settler with his hunger for new and better lands, into the Indian domain.

For years, white encroachment had pushed steadily closer to the Indian towns. As early as 1782, Chief Old Tassel complained that “Your people from Nolichucky are daily pushing us out of our lands. We have no place to hunt on. Your people have built houses within one day’s walk of our towns.”12

A year later, North Carolina Governor Alexander Martin assured Old Tassel that he had ordered all the families settled beyond the French Broad to leave the land and if they failed to do so, he was prepared to order troops to drive them off.13

In 1784, Old Tassell again protested:

In your last talk to me you promised to have your people taken off our grounds, but it is not yet done. When one goes off two comes in his place. We are in a great deal of trouble about it. Our young men are afraid to go out hunting. Your people are always ranging through our country and marking our lands. We beg that you, our elder Brother who is the head of all your people, will have them moved off.”14
Despite Cherokee objections, immigrants continued to settle the forbidden lands. In 1785 Old Tassel complained at the Treaty of Hopewell, “If commissioners are not able to do me justice in removing the people from the fork of French Broad and Holston, I am unable to get it for myself. Are Congress, who conquered the King of Great Britain, unable to remove these People?”

Still, new settlers came with their hunger for land. Alexander Outlaw stated in October 1786 that 400-500 families were then settled south of the French Broad and predicted that the number would double that year.

Destitute of Regular Government and Laws

One of the most consequential actions taken by the State of Franklin was the negotiation of the Treaty of Dumplin (1785) in which the Cherokee ceded rights to the South of the French Broad River hunting ground. Other Cherokee later complained that the chiefs who signed the treaty did not speak for the tribe and had no right to sell the land. Six months later, the federal government ignored the Dumplin treaty and negotiated, instead, the Treaty of Hopewell, setting the Indian boundary so far north that Greeneville, the Franklin capital, was clearly in Indian territory.

The demise of the Franklin government threw the South of the French Broad into a precarious position as illegal squatters on Indian lands. The cabins they had built, the forests they had felled, the fields they had plowed, were legally theirs only if the State of Franklin existed. In alarm, the settlers appealed by petition to North Carolina, asking that she use her “ample power to relieve us from our present Dificulties and Dangers” and requested that the line between them and the Cherokee be extended to include the French Broad settlements, “by which means we will again Becom orderly Citizens and be Set in a situation in which government will take Notice of us and give us the protection of those Bening [benign] Laws Under whose Influence and Authoritation alone we Expect to Be secure and happy.”

Their pleas falling on deaf ears, the French Broad inhabitants waged a desperate attempt to save their lives and their lands and clung tenaciously to the leadership of their esteemed friend, John Sevier, and to the vestiges of the State of Franklin. So overwhelming and long lasting was their support that the Territory South of the French Broad has sometimes been referred to as “the Lesser Franklin.”

Subsequent events in Sevier County are an example of the confusion that reigned following the failure of Franklin. Sevier had operated as a county for three years, with courts, militia districts, and a representative in the Franklin legislature. If there was no State of Franklin, there was no authority for Sevier County to exist. Overnight, citizens of the area went from living under a legitimate government to being regarded by the United

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**By the United States in Congress Assembled, A PROCLAMATION.**

WHEREAS the United States in Congress assembled, by their Commissioners duly appointed and authorized, did on the Twenty-eighth Day of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-two, at Hopewell, on the Conoes, and lately Amends of a Treaty with all the Cherokees, and among other things agreed and engaged by Article fourth, that the boundaries allotted to the Cherokees for their hunting grounds, between the said Indians and the Citizens of the United States, within the limits of the United States of America, shall be the following, viz. A line running from the mouth of French Broad river on the Tennesse, thence running northwest to the ridge dividing the waters running on Cumberland from those running into the Kentucky river, thence southerly along the said ridge to a northeast line to be run, which shall strike the river Cumberland, forty miles above Nolin's house, thence along the said line to the river; thence up the said river to the ford where the Kentucky meanders the river, thence to Campbell's Line east to Cumberland Gap; thence to the mouth of Clark's creek in Kentucky, thence to the Chimney-Top Mountain; thence to Camp Creek, near the mouth of Big Line creek on Nacheltack; thence southerly course six miles to a monumet; thence south to the North Carolina Line, thence to the South-Carolina Line, Boundary, and the Ohio River, thence to the mouth of French Broad river; thence a southerly line to the west of the Cherokee Line, from the south line of the Cherokee nation, and by the said Cherokee nation, and by the said Carolina Line, to the east of the Cherokee nation, and by the said Carolina Line, and thence to the west of the said Carolina Line, and thence to the east of the said Line.

And whereas it has been reported to Congress, that several seditiously advised persons, on the frontier of North Carolina, in the name of the United States, have entered into a compact, or compacted under the said compact, with the inhabitants of the said Cherokee nation, whereby the said inhabitants have engaged to remain within the United States, and to aid and abet in the promotion and execution of plans to disrupt the Union, and to assert the independence of the Cherokee nation, to form a government and a Constitution, and to withdraw from the Union, and to form a government and a Constitution, and to withdraw from the Union, and to form a government and a Constitution, and to withdraw from the Union, and to form a government and a Constitution, and to withdraw from the Union.

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Done in Congress, the 1st Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-two, and of our Independence, the Twenty-third.

Cyrus Griffin, President.

Charles Thomson, Secretary.

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Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

199

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Wisconsin
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829

States government as illegal squatters on Indian hunting lands.

Acutely aware of their danger and expressing a desire for “the preservation of peace and good order, and the security of life, liberty and property to individuals,” the inhabitants South of the French Broad, like the Wataugans before them, entered into a social compact and adopted a number of temporary measures. Under the Articles of Association, a written document stating their rights and rules of government, the citizens agreed to follow the constitution of North Carolina and that the officers appointed under the State of Franklin, both civil and military, should continue in office. The militia companies would be considered as districts, and each district was to elect a representative to the general committee.

The settlers had proven their ability to implement and operate a civil government, but were they of sufficient strength to face an enemy determined to drive them from their homes? Heretofore, the French Broad inhabitants had successfully defended themselves, but dissention caused by the Franklin dispute, Sevier’s weakened influence, and the lack of government support emboldened the Cherokee in their hope to at last rid their lands of the intruders.

The Kirk Family Massacre

Matters worsened in the summer of 1788 when word of the Kirk family massacre carried across the frontier. Of the hundreds of families then living South of French Broad, the Kirk family on Nine Mile Creek [in today’s Blount County] reportedly lived closest to the Cherokee towns. In May, one of the Kirk neighbors, Archibald Sloan, working in a field near his house, looked up to see an Indian standing in a fence corner with his gun resting on the top rail, taking aim at him. Attempting to hide his fear, Sloan jokingly asked the Indian, “Why, you don’t want to shoot me, do you?” The Indian laughed at his discomfort and walked away to join waiting companions.

The Indians went on to the Kirk house. John Kirk and his oldest son, John Kirk, Jr., had gone to the mill, and Mrs. Kirk was alone with her young children. Slim Tom, the Indian, went to the door and asked for food. Mrs. Kirk knew him well. She and the children considered the Cherokee a friend and had often given him food. Ascertaining that the family was alone, Slim Tom and his companions attacked the helpless mother and her children. When John Kirk returned from the mill, he found his wife, son, and four daughters massacred, and their bodies strewn around the yard.

The settlers were outraged. A party of men under the leadership of John Sevier, with James Hubbert of Sevier County second in command, marched for revenge. The settlers made strong and effective attacks against the Cherokee, destroying their towns and killing or taking many prisoners.

While camped on the Little Tennessee River near the Indian town of Chilhowee, the militiamen spied six or seven friendly, peaceable Indians on the far side of the river and invited them over. The Indians crossed under a flag of truce. Sevier, knowing the frontier to be a tinderbox of rage with only a spark required to ignite it, ordered the Indians placed in a house for their own safety and surrounded by a guard. According to accounts of the period, Sevier left camp to check on some of his men. But feelings of those remaining in camp were so strong that they ordered the guard to move or “we’ll make daylight shine through you.” The guard gave way. The men entered the cabin, and John Kirk, Jr., retaliating for the deaths of his mother and siblings, tomahawked the defenseless Cherokees to death. Word of this senseless act of revenge spread, and Sevier’s enemies used it to discredit him.

The tenor of rage and desperation among the French Broad settlers can also be gauged by events surrounding the capture of one of the prisoners, Charles Murphy, a half-breed translator and signer of the Treaty of Dumplin. When he was carried into camp, the men immediately wanted to kill him. Sevier faced a near revolt as he tried to save Murphy. He appealed to his men’s personal sense of regard for him, to please, for God’s sake, not to harm the captive. Sevier, himself, suffered the wrath of the men when he freed the half breed. Some even turned against their leader, murmuring that “It would be well done to kill any man that would save an Indian.”

“The hottest Indian war I ever witnessed”

The Kirk massacre and the retaliatory murder of the Indians turned the Tennessee frontier, and especially the South of the French Broad, into a raging battleground. No stranger to Indian warfare, John Sevier, Jr. called the summer of 1788 “the hottest Indian war I ever witnessed.” Outrage begat outrage, as each side sought revenge. Settlers were forced to spend the entire summer in forts. Colonel Daniel Kennedy wrote:

The Indians are a thousand strong and reinforced by a large body of Creeks; they intend driving all the white people out of this country. The stations are Chiefly evacuated on the South Side of the French Broad and the road crowded with women and children making their exetate numbers of them on foot.
who have lost all But their lives only and Seem Contended to Carry their Tender Babes in their Arms to make their escape The inhabitants are in great want of provisions. 26

Inhabitants South of the French Broad described their sufferings in a petition to congress in the fall of 1788: “We your Petitioners are now sufferers by a Most Cruel and Unhappy war with the Cherokee Indians. We have been closely confined in forts these six months past and many of our people barbarously massacred our farms not attended our horses and cattle drove from our stations and often we not able to do more than Defend ourselves from our Walls...” 27

John Sevier hastened to the aid of the French Broad settlements where he set up headquarters. If the former Franklin governor had not already enjoyed the undying loyalty and gratitude of the people South of the French Broad, he would have won it by his actions during this perilous period. At the time, he held no official office and was obligated only by his personal loyalty to these ardent supporters who were in dreadful danger. Day after day, for five months, Sevier was in the saddle — sometimes with 40 men, sometimes with four hundred, in defense of the French Broad frontier. 28

Preemption rights for South of French Broad settlers

In 1789, North Carolina voted once again to cede her western lands to the federal government, and thus the Territory South of the River Ohio was created. Contained in the cession act was a provision guaranteeing preemption rights for the South of the French Broad settlers, should a land office ever be opened. This was a welcomed first step, but it did not provide land title, and, in fact, complicated the process since the land was now under federal jurisdiction.

At gathering places, militia musters, and neighbor to neighbor, the alarmed French Broad residents signed their names to a series of six petitions asking the government of North Carolina to intervene in their behalf. Chief among the actions they pled were the appointment of an entry-taker and the extension of the Indian boundary so as to remove the French Broad settlements from Cherokee lands. They also asked for preemption rights, should a land office be opened and that they be allowed a reasonable time to raise the purchase price. Annoyed by the Indian forays onto their lands, more than 400 men signed a petition asking compensation for horses stolen by the Cherokee.

Title to the French Broad land remained a thorny issue for both the settlers and the government. President George Washington addressed the question in a written message to the Senate, August 1790. In his considered opinion, the federal government had but two choices: either honor the Treaty of Hopewell and remove the settlers from the land or negotiate a new treaty with the Cherokee. The Senate concurred and advised the president that should a new boundary be established, they would guarantee the terms. 29

The following year, Territorial Governor William Blount, on behalf of the United States, negotiated the Treaty of Holston, under which the Cherokee relinquished their claims to much of their ancient hunting ground South of the French Broad. The treaty guaranteed preemption rights to the settlers but did not make provision for granting titles to the land. Neither did it bring peace to the frontier. 30

Conflict with the Cherokee flared to new violence in 1792 to 1794. The French Broad settlers again battled on two fronts — on one hand besieged by the Cherokee and on the other, a fight to gain title to their land. With dogged determination, they kept an awareness of their plight before territorial and federal officials.

While the governments involved searched for a solution, new settlers continued moving into the area, confounding an already confused problem. To protect the interest of the individuals entitled to preemptions, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson ordered Governor Blount in June 1792 to prevent new settlement “in the mildest way which the law authorizes and which may be effectual” and suggested that “it would be proper for you to require every man to give in his name and a description of the spot of his settlement to prevent new settlers from confounding themselves” with those already settled there. 31

“If the people are compelled to abandon their possessions”

Further complicating the problem was the fact that North Carolina, under rights reserved by the 1789 cession act, continued to issue grants for the very land South of the French Broad where such grants were illegal. When pressed by Jefferson for an explanation, North Carolina Governor Alexander Martin responded that the grants had been made in error through the “artifice of the claimant or the surveyors” in disguising the actual locations. Martin then issued a proclamation declaring grants thus issued to be “utterly void.” 32

The citizens persisted in availing themselves of the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. A memorial was presented to the first Southwest Territorial Assembly in 1794. The Committee of
Propositions and Grievances, to which it was referred, advised that since the “disposal of the soil rests in Congress,” a petition should be sent to that body. On September 12, 1794, the Territorial Assembly complied by approving a petition to be sent to the United States Congress pointing out that the land in question had been granted to them by the Cherokee under several treaties, including the treaties of Dumplin and Coyatee, and later by treaties at Seneca and Holston. The petition further emphasized that many of the inhabitants claimed their land through North Carolina land grants, which, they believed, should be recognized so that “no stranger may, by such warrants, take from the holder and improver of the land, his possessions.”

On February 18, 1795, Samuel Wear of Sevier County presented another memorial to the U.S. Congress on behalf of himself and his constituents “praying that the right of preemption to certain lands which they purchased of the Indians... may be secured to the memorialists and they be permitted to settle thereon.” The petition was referred to a committee and then tabled.

The French Broad problem carried over into statehood. Recognizing the unique circumstances of the South of the French Broad settlers, the framers of Tennessee's first constitution made special provision for them. Not only were they guaranteed the right of preemption as stated in the cession act, but they were also invested with all the rights to which landholding was a requirement, such as voting and holding office.

While the French Broad inhabitants continued to keep the disputed land issue at the forefront of state and federal agendas, settlers along the southernmost line of the Holston Treaty became embroiled in new controversy. The line for this 1791 treaty was not surveyed for several years, and, when run, showed that dozens of families along the southern boundary were living on Indian lands.

A federal act, passed May 19, 1796, only days before Tennessee officially became a state, carried disturbing provisions for those people along the treaty’s southern border. The law reinforced what the settlers believed to be an incorrect survey, and, more ominously, decreed a fine and imprisonment for anyone occupying these lands. It further stated that it would “be lawful for the President of the United States to take such measures and to employ such military force as he may judge necessary” to remove intruders from the land. The French Broad settlers had weathered numerous such threats over the years, but this time, they found, the authorities were intent on enforcing them.

John Sevier in his second inaugural address, September 22, 1797, called the attention of the legislature to the plight of the unfortunate families south of the Indian line, who should “claim the sympathy of every friend to humanity.” He asked the lawmakers to draft a “respectful memorial” to the U.S. Congress. “If the people are Compelled to abandon their possessions, great Injury will result to Individuals and the public at large,” he warned.

A resolution presented by Tennessee to the U.S. Senate pleaded that consideration be given to the “great and irremediable injury” and asking that the removal be “suspended until they have time to secure their crops and make the necessary arrangements to look out a new country.”

A legal remedy was not achieved, and in October 1797, federal troops under the command of Lt. Col. Thomas Butler forcibly evicted these settlers. Estimates of the number of people removed range from more than 200 families to some 2,500-3,000 men, women, and children. Some found shelter in houses; many others were obliged to camp in the woods. The removed families were permitted to travel back and forth to their farms to gather crops, tend livestock, and plant new crops for the next year, but first, they were required to obtain passports to cross Indian lands.

Under the Treaty of Tellico, concluded October 2, 1798, the Cherokee ceded the land along this disputed boundary, and the settlers were allowed to move back to their farms. While they no longer carried the stigma of “squatter,” these inhabitants along the southern border still could not obtain title to the land. Their only recourse was to join their fellow French Broad citizens to hammer the issue at every opportunity and to convince local and state officials to do the same.

"Final and amicable solution"

In 1804, Tennessee and North Carolina reached an agreement under which the latter state passed a law authorizing Tennessee to perfect titles to lands in Tennessee, a right the latter state had previously reserved for itself. Since some of the state’s land was still occupied and claimed by the Indians, however, the consent of the federal government was required before implementation of the agreement. The bill to accept the compromise of the two states passed in the U.S. House of Representatives but was defeated in the Senate on February 8, 1805.

A breakthrough came in 1806 when the U.S. Congress in a reversal of its previous position agreed to the North Carolina–Tennessee proposal. Governor Sevier called a special session of the Tennessee Legislature, July 29, 1806, to inform them of the “final and amicable
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829

solution" of the state's land problem that would soon come before them. If approved, he said, the proposed modifications would "ultimately ensure a permanent security in all [the state's] relations touching the claims of the state, and individual citizens holding lands under the laws of North Carolina." He asked special consideration for the French Broad settlers, who, he said, "are respectable and worthy inhabitants who have suffered by Indian depredations too deplorable to relate. They are justly deserving of the patronage and indulgence of a liberal and patriotic legislature..."41

The basis for the new legislation to which Sevier referred was an 1806 law enacted by the U.S. Congress, entitled "An Act to authorize the state of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands; therein described, and to settle the claims to the vacant and unappropriated lands within the same." As indicated by the title, this compromise made a number of provisions for Tennessee land, and included laws specifically applicable to the South of the French Broad tract, including authorization of the appointment of the long awaited entry-taker. 42

It was not yet time for celebration. While the act allowed French Broad settlers to now enter and obtain title to lands that many had settled twenty-five years before, it also carried provisions with unfortunate consequences for these same citizens. Under the act, Tennessee was required to set aside two 100,000 acre tracts to be granted in 640 acre parcels, with money from the sale used for education. Proceeds from one tract would fund two colleges (one in East Tennessee, the other in Middle—then referred to as West). Profits from the other

The surveys for the 1806-1807 grants in the District South of the French Broad and Holston were recorded in a special volume, "Surveyors Entry Book, September 1806-July 1807, May 1814." In addition to plat drawings and location, these records often include the names of adjoining landowners and of the chain bearers (C.B.), alternately referred to as chain carriers (C.C.)

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001
tract would be used to establish an academy in each of the state's counties.  

The act called for the two 100,000 acre parcels to be set aside in complete tracts and to sell for no less than $2 per acre; the price for preempts was to be $1 per acre.  

By 1806 the only ungranted tracts of this size were the newly-available South of the French Broad lands. Legislators chose to locate the 100,000 acres of college land in Blount County and the 100,000 acres of academy land in Sevier County.  

The decision was greeted by loud and immediate protests. Citizens South of the French Broad had hoped for a more favorable resolution. One dollar an acre was ten times the price they had expected to pay and ten times the price of land directly across the river at the time of settlement. Heretofore, they claimed, land in the state had never sold for more than 50 cents an acre, and much of it at this time was sold for as low as 25 cents. At the very least, their land price should be based on the value of the land at the time of the 1789 cession act, not the current market. Even if the price were to be set at $1 per acre, they added, surely they had already paid a portion of this in the coin of blood, suffering, and hardship.  

For the two decades following the passage of the South of the French Broad and Holston and academy land grant acts, the citizens kept their dissatisfaction before the state government. The legislators, caught between the insistent pleas of the inhabitants for a fair price and the influential voices of the educational community, made good faith efforts to appease both.  

Over the next few years, new laws provided increased leniency for the South of the French Broad grantees. With the ink barely dry on the 1806 law, the clamor convinced lawmakers to extend the first payment due date for a year. By the time this payment date came, lawmakers had voted to allow a delay in payment of both interest and principal. With dim prospects of soon receiving a portion of the anticipated college funds, the financially-strapped East Tennessee College was authorized to conduct a lottery scheme (which subsequently failed).  

An 1811 law suspended the payment of principal on the sum due and then appointed the state as security for the funds owed to the state. Interest was remitted altogether for 1810 and 1811 because lawmakers had failed to appoint anyone to receive payments. In 1813, payments on both interest and principal were postponed. An 1815 law provided a two-year extension for the filing of plats and surveys. In 1817, the general assembly voted to suspend until the next session the collection of all money from the occupants South of the French Broad, and in 1819 made it unlawful for the treasurer of East Tennessee to call for or collect any portion of the principal. After an 1822 act allowed the state to sell the land for unpaid interest, legislators voted an eight-month extension and the next year not only voted to delay interest payments but to reduce by one-third of the whole amount of unpaid debt and interest.  

After these adjustments, legislators thought it reasonable to require that claimants should pay to the treasurer one-fifth of the remaining amount due by May 1824 or the land would be advertised and sold for debt. The same act, however, made the state the purchaser for such sales and then allowed the grantees time to redeem their parcels. In 1825, lawmakers extended this time until November of the next year, provided the college trustees give their consent to such an arrangement. To infuse the starving academies, the state in 1827 set aside $35,000 of stock in the Bank of the State of Tennessee for the benefit of the schools, specifically stating that this was to be in lieu of money due them from the French Broad claimants and that these lands would not be released from the lien the academies held on them.  

For most of the French Broad settlers, failure to make payments on the land sprang not from obstinate refusal but from an inability to pay. They simply did not have the money; those who could pay, did. Education supporters tried to press, but gently, for fear of creating a backlash of sentiment against their cause. "We, who are their neighbors, know to a reasonable certainty, that a great portion of those people never will, never can pay for their lands," they acknowledged, and admitted further that "The resources of those people have been continually drawn from them until their means are now almost exhausted." Devastation, they said, would surely follow if the people were evicted from their lands. In answer to those who wanted a tougher stance, educators agreed with critics that the South of the French Broad inhabitants must share in the blame, as they "were too much inclined to slumber, rocked in the cradle of indulgences by the Legislature itself."  

Governor Sam Houston in his 1827 Legislative Message acceded the settlers were morally bound to pay and pay quickly but begged consideration of their distressed conditions. "The occupants of that country were with very few exceptions poor, and destitute... they had migrated from the older states because they were poor, they had made small improvements at the imminent hazard of their lives, and had for several years formed a barrier between the Holston settlements and their savage foes. The peace and prosperity to other parts of the country found them in possession of their humble log.
cabin, unable to leave them in the hope of procuring better..."50

Lawmakers many times pointed to the past contributions of the French Broad inhabitants in the settling the frontier. Governor Joseph McMinn expressed the sentiment for further lenience when he said, "If it be a virtue in people to love their country, I presume these citizens will scarcely have a rival—their promptitude in furnishing men and supplies in the late war, has been highly honorable to them and useful to their country. For which services and supplies the United States stands their debtor at this time—and all they ask now is further time to pay the sums due from them to the state."51

While heated debate roared, many French Broad residents who held occupant grants under the state of Tennessee faced court suits from some who had previously obtained grants from North Carolina for the same land. These suits dragged through the courts for years, exhausted the settlers' limited means. The courts eventually ruled the North Carolina grants void.52

The uncertainty hanging over the South of the French Broad inhabitants had deleterious consequences. As one citizen admitted, "Despairing of ever being able to pay this debt, we are discouraged from attempting any valuable, or substantial improvements upon our lands, under an apprehension of having finally to lose them; our farms are not cultivated to advantage, our lands are worn out, and we merely make a shift to live from year to year, anxiously awaiting the period, when something decisive may be done in our behalf."53

In the midst of already-roused passions, demagogues used the conflict between the educational community and South of the French Broad citizens for political purposes. A congressional candidate in a speech South of the French Broad denounced the college trustees for "having used the people's money to build light-houses of the sky...for the sons of a few great men to go up and star-gaze." Dr. John C. Gunn in his 1829 run for the state legislature declared, "Behold that great rotunda—that monument of folly—the college. That building for the rich man's son—that building which closes its doors against the poor man's child...why do they forget that the south-of-the-river people paid drop by drop of sweat to erect this tomb of extravagance..."54

As a result of the hostility, charges, countercharges, and demagoguery, wrote one historian, "prejudices were engendered against Colleges and Academies, which afterwards extended to schools and education generally," feelings that, he said, were still in effect to that day (1879).55

"Harmony and quiet" prevail

The long-standing conflict was finally resolved in 1829 when, weary and worn by the controversy, the Tennessee legislature passed an act to "forever acquit, discharge and release the citizens residing south of French Broad and Holston, and west of Big Pigeon Rivers, from all judgments, debts, dues, demands, claims, rents, issues, profits or suits of any kind, character or description whatsoever, either in law or equity..."56

The French Broad controversy, state lawmakers said, had burdened them with "much expense and perplexity" and had been before the legislature so often that it was "to the great detriment of other business." They hoped their actions would produce "harmony and quiet between a respectable portion of the citizens of this State, and the literary institutions therein" and avoid "all future legislation respecting said subject." To provide for the state's educational needs, as required under the 1806 act, the legislature transferred the academy and college tracts to lands south of the Hiwassee River, soon to be free of Indian title. Under the burden of financial need, the trustees of East Tennessee College agreed to the provision that they sign an agreement releasing all their claims and any rights they might have to any of the lands South of the French Broad and Holston.57

The 1806-1807 grants which finally gave title to the South of the French Broad settlers were entered in a special volume, titled "Surveyor's Entry Book, September 1806-July 1807, May 1814," the original of which is now in the Knox County, Tennessee Archives. The volume has been microfilmed and is available to researchers in the McClung Historical Collection and the Knox County Archives, Knoxville.58 David H. Templin of Maryville has made abstracts of these entries which are now being printed serially in The Blount Journal, published by the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society, Maryville. The abstracts include the names of chain carriers, witnesses, and adjoining landowners (when recorded).59

Notes

1 A change of names for the Holston and Tennessee rivers about 1800 may be confusing to those accustomed to present nomenclature. During the period covered by this article, the term Holston River referred to the present-day Tennessee River, all the way down to the confluence of the Little Tennessee River at Lenoir City, at which point the Tennessee River was formed. In 1889-1890, the stretch from Forks of the River above Knoxville to the mouth of the Little Tennessee was renamed the Tennessee River. See explanation by Tony Holmes in "Loudon County's Many Ferries,"Tennessee Ancestors (Knoxville, 2001), 17:2.
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829

Robert H. White, Ph.D., Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1796-1821 (Nashville, 1952), I:448. McMinn hastened to add that the attention was necessary because "the situation of many of those people is still more distressing than has or ever can be portrayed by either my predecessor or myself." 2For a history of the State of Franklin, see Samuel C. Williams, History of the Last State of Franklin (Johnson City, TN, 1924). Chapter 28, "The Lesser Franklin," 218-234, explains the Territory South of the French Broad and Holston. Also see J.G.M. Ramsey, Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century (Knoxville, 1853).

Two additional books by Samuel Cole Williams, Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History (Johnson City, TN, 1937) and Tennessee During the Revolutionary War (Nashville, 1944) are excellent and very readable histories of Tennessee from first settlement through the Revolution.

A list of the individual purchasers of Watauga land, along with land descriptions, drawn plats, and a large map of all the town can be found in Troy R. Keesee, The Watauga Land Purchases (Knoxville, 1997). Also see Lourie B. Rac, Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, 1775-1809, (Greenville, SC, 1991), 21-41.


Williams, History of the Last State, 41.

Ibid., 56-61.

Ibid., 59-60.

Ibid., 208.

September 1, 1788, Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789, 471-478. This broadside proclamation reiterated the terms of the Treaty of Hopewell, 28 November 1785 and further ordered the secretary of war to have troops in readiness to march from the Ohio to Chota (Cherokee town on the Little Tennessee River) to disperse whites who had taken up residence near the Cherokee towns and greatly disturbing the Indians.


Ibid., 810.

North Carolina State Records, 17:175.

U.S. Statutes at Large, 7:18.


Williams, History of the Last State, 99-100.


Williams, History of the Last State, 218-230.


Early Blount County historian Will A. McRear interviewed descendants of many early settlers. He wrote about the Kirk massacre in an article entitled "Indian War Trail Once through East Tennessee and Virginia," published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel, February 1, 1925. Also see John Buchanan, Jackson's Way: Andrew Jackson and the People of the Western Waters (New York, 2001), 43-44 for an account of the Kirk massacre and an excellent study of Tennessee frontier settlement.


See Bales & Madden, Sevier Family History, 99.

John Sevier, Jr., to Lyman Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collections, 358210, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Transcript printed in Bales & Madden, Sevier Family History, 93.


Gilmore, James R., John Sevier as a Commonwealth-Builder (New York, 1887), 183.


Ibid., 155-156.

Ibid., 191-194.

Journal of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Territory of the United States of America, South of the River Ohio, Begun and Held at Knoxville, the 25th Day of August 1794 (Nashville, 1852 [1794]), 12.


Tennessee State Constitution, 1796, Article XI, Section 31. This section was also included in the 1834 Constitution, Article 1, Section 32.


Ibid., 24-25.

Journals of the Senate and House of the Second General Assembly of the State of Tennessee held at Knoxville (Kingsport 1933), 18.

Ibid., 73, 118. A report in the Tennessee Senate from the House of Representatives states that the exact number of settlers on the southern boundary could not be determined, and best estimates were that there were 68 families at the time of the 1789 North Carolina cession and "at present there are about three times that number." A petition from the Tennessee House of Representatives puts the number at 2,500 to 3,000 "men, women & children to remove at an unusual short notice, and at an inseason season of the year." For further explanation of the passports, see Burns, History of Blount County, 35-56, 290. Many of the individuals receiving passports are listed in Dorothy Williams Pottier, Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823 (Baltimore, 1982), 307-334.

White, Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1:194.

Ibid., 709-710.


Ibid., 382.

206

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829

64 Henry D. Whitney, The Land Laws of Tennessee (Chattanooga, 1891), 341-352. This entire section of the book (340-385) is devoted to laws dealing with the South of the French Broad situation.

65 A rare pamphlet (author unknown) entitled "An Address to the Citizens of Tennessee by a Citizen, South of French Broad and Holston" (Knoxville 1823), a copy of which is in the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, estimates that if the losses paid by the French Broad citizens in the two Indian wars were taken into account, then the citizen had already paid a price equivalent to the $1 per acre. The author recalled that about 1794 Governor Blount instructed captains of the ten militia companies located South of the French Broad to survey their members to calculate the amount of property loss attributable to the Indian wars of 1788 and 1792-1794. George Ewing, captain of a company on Little River in Blount County, stated that his company had suffered less than others, yet their loss still totaled about $65,000. Rounding this to $60,000 and multiplying by the ten companies, he estimated that the total loss for the two wars was about $600,000. Divided equally between the two Indian wars, the amount would total $300,000 each, roughly the same as the number of acres of occupancy land South of the French Broad, or $1 per acre.

66 White, Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, I:499-502. Also see pages 96-111 for two reports to the Tennessee General Assembly in 1925, one by educators and the other by South of the French Broad citizens, in which each side gives well-reasoned and compelling arguments.

67 White, Land Laws of Tennessee, 376.

68 Ibid, 382-83.


70 Ibid, 219.


73 "An Address to the Citizens of Tennessee by a Citizen, South of French Broad and Holston," 21. (See footnote 45.)

74 Edward T. Sanford, Blount College and the University of Tennessee. An Historical Address delivered before the Alumni Association and Members of the University of Tennessee, June 12, 1894 (Knoxville, 1894), 55-56.

75 Moses White, Early History of the University of Tennessee. Address before the Alumni Association, June 17, 1879 (Knoxville, 1879), 18-19.

76 Whitney, Land Laws of Tennessee, 383.

77 Ibid, 382-83. Also, White, Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, I:277. The release deed from East Tennessee College to the citizens South of French Broad and Holston is recorded in Blount County Deed Book 24, page 9 and includes the following disclaimer: "We hereby protest against anything in this act or in this deed contained from being construed to operate as a release to the State from its obligation to pay this institution the balance of its proportion of the congressional donation."

78 The original volume has been rebound and is 18"x12". The 494 pages include the surveyor's land and boundary descriptions and plat drawings, as well as an index. Robert Wear was the district surveyor.

79 Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society, P.O. Box 4986, Maryville, TN 37802.

Columns of names, all in the same handwriting, indicate that men often signed the names of their friends and neighbors, as well as their own.

At other times, the handwriting changes from signature to signature.
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

transcribed by Cherel Bolin Henderson

This work was begun about ten years ago. The initial transcriptions were made from copies of the original manuscripts obtained from the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh. Later work has involved many hours of transcribing, typing, checking, cross referencing, and three trips to the Archives. While the original manuscripts for these petitions are in the North Carolina State Archives, the copies used for the transcriptions are available to researchers in the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville.

These thirteen petitions from the inhabitants South of the French Broad, dated 1784-1789, are a very important body of records. First, they represent a time and a place in Tennessee history when record keeping was haphazard and, if recorded at all, may not have survived turbulent frontier conditions or the ravages of time. Second, they provide names of inhabitants of parts of five early counties, two of which, Sevier (created 1794) and Cocke (created 1797), have suffered almost complete destruction of early records by fires in 1856 and 1876, respectively. For an expanded definition of the Territory South of the French Broad, please see the accompanying article (pp. 195-207).

Although yellowed and faded by the passing of more than two centuries, the original pages record the names of hundreds of Tennessee's pioneer settlers and help us understand the dangers and problems they faced as citizens caught in crossfire of purposes between the State of Franklin, the Cherokee, the state of North Carolina, and the fledgling territorial and United States governments, and later the State of Tennessee.

While it is rewarding to bring these pioneer settlers from obscurity into light, it can also be quite vexing. Experienced researchers will recognize the quandary of trying to decide between I" and Iⁿ or Daniel and David or simply between the letters r and n, or capital S and F. Most of the time, these are minor differences that do not affect the understanding of the word. Yet, at other times, subtle differences will alter the name beyond recognition. So we urge the user to carefully evaluate the names, especially those marked by [?]. In the case of a name followed by a [?], an underline indicates the letters in question. (Example: Edmund Waring[?])

These petitions were likely taken to militia musters, the courthouse, and other frontier gatherings to obtain signatures. Many of the signatures were written in long columns of names on continuing, scroll-like pages. Some of the names are beautifully written, while the cramped handwriting of others indicates an untutored hand. A few simply made a mark (X). Sometimes the handwriting is the same for dozens of names in a row, indicating that one person signed his own name and then listed the names of all his neighbors and acquaintances. This may account for the occasional duplication of names. More often, the handwriting is different for each name, a clue that this is likely the original signature. At times, writing too faded to show on a photocopy was readable on the original in the North Carolina Archives and has been included here.

Over the years, some of the pages of signatures have become separated from the petitions. Readers should be aware that there is a slight possibility that some of the pages of signatures may not currently be attached to the correct petition.

I would like to thank those who have helped to proof this work and to decipher the old handwriting. With a skill and familiarity gained from his research on the First Families of Tennessee project, Ray Sears has meticulously gone through the petitions numerous times and has checked and rechecked and researched. Bob Goff has also helped to proofread, organize, and research, as have Forrest Conklin and Diane Bohannon.

The settlement of the South of the French Broad has long been a subject of special interest to former McClung Historical Collection head, Pollyanna Creekmore. I would like to here acknowledge her contributions to our area's historical and genealogical research.
The following petitions are numbered here (1-13) to facilitate identification and use of these transcriptions. These numbers do not correspond to any numbers in the original files.

"Petition of the People Settled Over french Broad river on the pidgen rivers"
April-June, 1784


There are two original manuscripts of this petition in the North Carolina State Archives, and except for minor differences the text is the same. Each petition has a separate set of signatures. The body of the petition is printed here only once. Signatures from both manuscripts are transcribed.

To the Honorable the general Assembly of the State of north Carolina
The petition of the people Settled Over french Broad river on the pidgen rivers and adjacent places
Humbly Sheweth
That a Considerable time before any Land Law was Made any Office for the same opned or any probable or ratinoal presumtstein where a Boundary between the Inhabitants and Indians Shold be determined a considerable number of adventures of whom your petitioners are a part being pressed upon by want of Comfortable Settlements Sett out with the Intention to Improve and Cultivate as prescribed by the Old Land Law Such Lands as they should find unsettled and uncultivated your petitioners did not Sett out with a design to ingross or Monopolise Land as their proceedings will Fully testify but purely with the design before mentioned in their progress they found the Lands on this side french Broad all Settled or improved and therefore were oblied to cross that river in sarch of habitations Your petitioners having found Land Convenient Laying on the South Side of the said river an Little pidgen and Boids Creek and som contiguous improved them and shortly after actually settled upon the said Lands Your petitioners were not under the Least fear or doubt but that when the Office was opned the shold be considered as Deserving the Same priviledges and Rights as Other Inhabitants of Lands under the same predicaments therefore they Expected that a boundary Shold be so determined as to include their Settlements which before they had devide by Lot to each Adventeuer in Such small portions that Som of the said Settlements will not Include more than Two hundred and fifty Acres Instead of being Included your Petitioners to their great Disappointment found them selves Left out they Exempted from the Common priviledges of freemen their Improvements Set aside the Indians the natural Enemies of the State prefered before them and not Satisfied with all this them selves Repesented to the Legeslative as a Sett of Bandits, if it can be proved that the[y] Stand out Saved if it can be proved that the Indians defended the state and so deserve the Land better than your petitioners do or if it can be proved that they are banditi in the proper sence of the word then let your petitioners be struck out from the priviledges of free men let them be treated as these Characteres do Deserve but if your petitioners Stand under the Character of good Citizens let them be treated as good Citizens deserve Our gревance is that by the Last Land Law we are Left Out not Only so but heavy fines denounced against us our selves our wives and Children threatened to be drove off and all for no reason if the above Allegations can not be proved Against us if your petitioners are found unwilling to pay the State price for the Land let them not have it if they are willing and if they be good Citizens as above repersented let them have the previledge of other freemen or som sofficent Reason Asertained why they shall not Your petitioners do therefore pray that the present Boundary be obliterated, a new one fixed Extending so as to Include all the waters of little river or so as they May be Included also that the above mentioned Impositions may be taken of, that they may be Considered Citizens of this State that an office may be opned where it will be Most convenent for them to Enter and pay for their Lands so that they May Obtain the sanction of the State for possesing the same

And your petitioners [tape]

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

209
[Page 1, column 1]
Robt Henderson
Andrew Henderson
Alexander Sheddan
Andrew Evins
James Sheddan
Alexander
Montgomery
[marked out]

[Column 2]
Alexander
Montgomery
Alex' Montgomery
John Montgmerry
James Hubbert
Joshua Gist
James Evins
James Anderson
John Warrick
John Blackborn
Wlliam Boyd
Thomas Mcferron
Joseph Lyonse
Jacob Jackson
John finten
Garce Egear
James Carnes
John Mcfarland Scne'
John Mcfarland
Jacob Hoof [Hoss?]
Samuel jeck

[Column 3]
John Nelley [Kelley?]
Andrew nelley
John Mcnute[?]
Jeanes McCall
John Goones
John CienkenBer
d Thomas Bevors
Jeams Nikelson
[Mikelson?]
Mickal yockam
Allexander Calcey
Huey Calcey
John Balch
Henry hegerd
Sutherland Meyfeld
Jeannes Randolph
Evin Edwards
John Brashaw
Andrew Cowan
Jeams gelaspey
thomes Biges
Joseph Evins

James Vance
William Henderson
John Alison
Jno Wood
Wm Henrey
Wm Celemynes
James White
William Hines
John Singleton
George Ewing
John Hutchens
Ala' Cuningham
Paul Cuningham
James flower
Edword MCrew
Edword acons
Mickal Hoffakear
Ezekiah Jurden
Esaih Bowman
Samuel Lowgan
William Lowgan
James Hogen
Gebrel Murphy
Georg Pinckl
George Hoffakear
Peter Hoffakear
Hugh Beard
Moses Johnston
James Richardson
Adam Willson
Tho' Stockton
Cristiford Eles
"Petition of the people Settled Over french Broad river on the pidgen rivers"
April-June, 1784


The text for this petition is almost exactly the same as the text in Petition #1. The text is not repeated here. The handwriting in the two petitions appears to be different.

[Column 1]
Robert Stuart
Thomas Wallace
Robert Gray
Tho' Stuart
Wm Wallace
William dunnam
Adam Ciffell
John blevengs Jun'
James Blevings
John Gorsuch
John Aronwine
Richard Collans
Henrey Cabbage
Edward Sterling
Jacob beator
Robeart Jackson
Hugh Jackson

[Column 2]
John pemberton Capt
William Pemberton
Thomas Jeeves
John Cawood jun'
Edmund Waring
Elijah Smith
William Hicks
John Blevins
Abednego Hicks
William Hicks
Mashack Hicks

[Column 3]
Shadrek Hicks
Charles Phillips
George Webb
Isaac Thomas
Elijah Cross
William Blevings

[Column 4]
Joseph Wallace
John Wallace
George Hines
Abraham McClean
Matt Carithers
Thos Moss
Isack Thomas

[Page 2, column 1]
Jacob [Moisirez?]  
Steven[?] Rinfro
Moses Webb
Benjamin Webb
John Byalty
John Seers
Benjamom Money
George Moss
Walter Greer
Matthew Cole

[Back of page, column 1]
Peter Hughes
Wm Hughes

[Column 2]
Jesse Vawter
James Laughlin
Stephen Majors
John Scott
Joseph Delaney
John Dyer
Wm Dyer
Daniel Lambert
Michail Niseley
Tho' Laughlin
James Harris
John Sharp

Petition of people settled over French Broad River in the House Commons 28 Ap 1784 referred to 2d committee of propositions and Grievances By Order Hunt CMC In Senate April 28 1784 Read referred as by the House of Commons by order J Haywood Cl
“Petition of a number of the inhabitants of the County of Greene”
April-June 1784


To the Hon[ble] the genl assembly of No Carolina

The petition of a number of the inhabitants of the County of greene, humbly sheweth that, whereas by an act of the proceeding general assembly, the River, French broad, was establishd as a boundary line, between the white inhabitants, & the Cherokee Indians, And whereas it appears that so large a river being the boundary, is a great disadvantage, as it prevents us from discovering their plots & designs against any of our people, And whereas S't River divides the best of our lands, it hinders us from forming into compact societies; And whereas numerous & reputable families are almost daily moving from other parts of ye world into this country, with a view to settle, and, as matters are now circumstances, cannot obtain convenient settlements; And whereas, by the present boundary, a number of our fellow Subjects are much expos'd to the incursions of the savages, because it leaves them in possession of a narrow scope of country, between the above mention'd river, & the mountains, extending many miles above our settlements, by which means a great number of our inhabitants are almost surrounded by them;

From these considerations, we cannot but conceive ye [that] it would be greatly to ye advantage of this county, ye boundary be extended, by a line running with the deviding Ridge, between the waters of Holston, & Tenessee; hereby devesting the Savages of ye small scope of territory above mentiond, which is to them an affair of but small moment; but to us, of very great consequence, as it would tend greatly to secure us from the ravages of the Indians— Trusting in the wisdom of ye councils; we hope that ye honours will readily observe the propriety & fitness of our petition, & grant us a favourable answer, & ye petitioners, as in duty bound shall ever pray —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[column 1]</th>
<th>[column 2]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Woodward</td>
<td>John M'Kain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Weer</td>
<td>James Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob't Campbell</td>
<td>George Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Campbell</td>
<td>David Harkwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Campbell</td>
<td>Alex' Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Robinson</td>
<td>Barnabas Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Campbell</td>
<td>David Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex' M'Laughlin</td>
<td>A'New Greer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| John Dixon | E Robertson | Tho' Jonson[?]
|               | Andrew Greer | David Taylor |
|               | Meik' McConole | Anthony Kelly |
|               | Mich'l McConole | |

[Endorsement and Report]

A Pet' from a Number of the Inhabitants of Greene County. In Senate april 28th 1784. Read & referred to the 2nd Committee of Propositions & Grievances By order J. Haywood C. In the House of Commons 29 April 1784 read & referred as by the Senate. By Order J. Hunt Clik

Your Committee to whom was Referred the Petition of a Number of the Inhabitants of Greene County praying that a Boundary be extended by a line running with the dividing Ridge between the Waters of Holston and the Tenessee, which will take a small Territory of Land from the Indians. Report as follows.

That it is the opinion of your Committee that a Bill be brought in to impower the Governor of this state to appoint Commissioners to treat with the Cherokee Indians for the lands prayed for in the Petition and that such Commissioners be directed to lay their Proceedings before the next General Assembly. May 12th, 1784.

John Johnston

In Senate 11th May 1784. Read and Concurred with R's Caswell Sp. By Order John Haywood Clik

In the House of Commons 12 May 1784. Read and Rejected. J. Hunt C.
"The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Green County"
November-December 1788


The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Green County Humbly Sheweth

That we labor under Great Disadvantages and Difficulties by Reason of the great distance we lie from the Courthouse it being at least ninety miles from our lower Settlements and no Civil Officer Residing in less than forty miles by which means Villainy often goes unpunished and the Honest and good Citizens Wronged of their Right——
It is therefore our Earnest Request that your Honourable body would take into Consideration our distressed Situation and Grant us Relief by laying us off a County and appointing officers for the administration of Justice By which means the Benefits and Blessings of Government may be Extended to us——

It is Also the Earnest prayer of your petitionersthat the County be bounded As follows (viz) Beginning att the main Dividing Ridge on Apalachin mountain Where the Waters of little Pidgeon and little River interlocks from thence along the Divide between S'd two Rivers to the waters of Boyd Creek Thence along the Divide between Boyds Creek and little Pidgeon to the upper point of a large Island In French Broad Known by the name of Sevier's Island Thence A N West course to the Hawkins line Which Bounds Would Include A Compact County and large As Necessary and Good Ways may be had for the most Distant Settlers To attend att Courts and other public meetings which would be much to our Advantage & Satisfaction

We your Petitioner Are now Sufferers by A Most Cruel And unhappy war With the Cherokee Indeans We have been Closely Confined in forts these six months past. And many of our people Barbarously Massacred our farms not Attended our Horses and Cattle Drove from our Stations And often We not Able to do more then Defend ourselves from our Walls, under these our distresses We have been often Without Assistance from the more Secure parts of the District, the Divisions and Controversies Among the people Render'd it often out of the power of the Militia Officers to assist us. And Also Some of your petitioners Are Settled on unappropriated land and it is our Earnest Desire to be Conformable to your Government and laws. We have Defended our Contry As Far As in our power, Att the Risque of Both life And property——

It is therefore the Earnest prayer of your petitioners that your Agust Body would take our Distressed and Local Situation under your Wise Consideration and grant us a preference to our Claims to land When A land Office Shall be opened for that purpose of Entering Such lands, that is to Each Settler or Residenter a Survey of Six Hundred And forty Acres Att as low Rates As possible Not Incompatible With the Interest of the Comunity Att larg.

These our Complaints And Reasonable Requests we hope you will acquiesie With as far as you in your Wisdom may Judge Convenient. And your petitioner

As in Duty Bound  Do Ever Pray
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

[Column 1]  [Column 2]  [Column 3]  [Column 4]
John Gillespy  John Hanna  James Beard  Samuel McMurrey
Ja* Ewing  William Woods  Andrew Giffin  William Mc'Murray
Tho* Dixon  Robert Hanna  John Lowery  James Donehew
William Gillespie  Joshua Hanna  George Ewing  Charles Reagan
John Gillespie  Calvin Jonsten  George Berry  John Reagan
John Hanna  Ephraim McDowel  Thor* McCollough  Henry Reagan
William Hanna  Wm* Hanna  Sam'l McCollough  Peter Disher
John Liddy  Wm* Woods  John McCollough  Jacob Thomas
James Witherspoon,  Ephraim McDowel Jun'  James Alexander  Henry Thomas
Sen''  Tho* Brown  James M'Alister  Joseph Rosson
David Loveless  John Thompson  George Caldwell  Jonathan Cuningham
James Witherspoon  Jacob Riffe  Samuel ___ y  Levy Jones
Nicholess Bartlet  William Henry  [Henry?]  Alex' Kelley
James Gillespie  Robert Hanna  William Lowery[?]
Georg Rondel [?]  Alex* Ewing  William Reagan
John M'Alister  John Kelley  Robert Mc'murey
Robert Daniel Pearcy  Thomas Caldwell  Righting
Andrew Hanna

[following petition]:

Petition from Greene County In the House of Commons read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs
by order of J. Hunt, Clk In Senate 20 Nov 1788 read & refered as by the House of Commons

By Order
J. Haywood

Petition of Inhabitants of Greene County & South of French Broad river In the House of Commons 20 Nov 1788 read & refered to the
committee on Indian Affairs

By Order
J. Hunt, Clk

Petition of Inhabitants South of the French Broad
November-December 1788


To the Honourable the General Assembly
of the State of North Carolina,

The Petition of those whose Names are hereunto subscribed humbly sheweth that your petitioners having settled
themselves within the Chartered limits of your state but without the limets prescribed by law for Extending the settlements
of this Commonwealth; have from painfull Experience felt the inconveniency of living without the protection of the Laws.
we therefore beg; you would include all that tract of Country on the East side of the Tinnieee River; within your Government
And if you find it convenient to open An Office; to dispose of those lands, that you would give the Settlers a pre-emption for
their settlements; at A moderate price or compensation. And time to make up the money; as we have been and still are
greatly distressed by an Indian War; many of us having had all our property plundered by the Enemy; and as the poor and
distressed are our general Carectors; we hope that your honourable Body will considus us in oping the office on this side the mountain. We hope that our having settled ourselves contrary to the Authority of Government; will Not Operate Against us as thos prohibitory Laws; are nevar sufficiently promulgated and have never hither to been put in Execution. permit us then to implore you not to suffer us to be the Objects of the Resentment of Government; as we did not Transgress your laws from a refractory disposition, but only followed the practice of the different states, who had unappropriated lands to settle - Who from time immemorial confirned the actual settlers in their settlements upon their paying the price settled by Law: We hope your Honourable House will take s'd premises under your serious Consideration and your petitioners Shall pray &c.

[Page 1, column 1]

Alex' Ward
George McNutt
Geo Hardan [Wardan?]
Evan morgan
John Shavar
Henry Netherton
Mathew Matthews
James turman
John Cordar
William Thrift
Chas Bright
John Huff
John Nave Sen'
Jeremiah Woods
Charles m'glohlen
John Nave J'ner
Wm thorn ten
Richard Gross
John Tylor
Jacob groce
Ja' Siduscus
Jacob Siducus
Robt Henry
Wm Stuart
Jacob Woodward
Geo' Henry
Edward Stephenson
Daninl [Edwards?]
Edward Clingan
Benjamin Odell
Robt Taylor
Wm Bell

John McFarland
George McFarland
Alex' Rodgers
w[sp?]. Campbell
Samuel Jack
Sam' Horn
Joseph Huff
Joseph Keeney
Ja' Netherton

John Wood
George Adams
Reuben Ridner [Pieder?]
David Johnson
George Stivenson?[
Michal Ya Come
[Yoakam]

[Column 3]

Jonah Denton
Rich'd Pryer
Dannel Muf?]
John Denton
Phillip Chavis
Gilbert Chavis
William Eyrar [Pryar?]
Joseph White
Eward lovdail
James ashworth
Jeremiah Odle
William Chavis
Phillip Chavis
Thomas Goong
James Dial
John M'Kissick
Calep Odle
Isaac Odle
John Evans
Jo' Inglish
James Inglish
Ja' Staler [Stater?]
W'm Sims[?]
William Henery
Georg Henery
Joseph Inglish
John Brickey
Jesse Wilson [Nilson?]
Joseph Preyor
John Tulley
W'm Dun
John Williams
G'o [Geo?] Williams
Tho' Williams
John Keeney
thomas Keeney
fredreck mabarrey

[Page 2]

John Moon
James Turner
John Siscoe
John Parker
John Davis
Joseph Lovlady
John Webb
John Layman
Mikel Hous
John Whilefor
Capt Robertson
Tobias Wilhelm
John manning
Bengemen manning
John anderson
John Neelley
Andrew Neelley
Ab' Denton
William Inglish
John Lamb
John English
James English
Spencer Graham
Joseph Sharp
Petition of “Inhabitants Living south of french broad River on the frontiers of Green County”
November-December 1788


We the Inhabitants Living south of french broad River on the frontiers of Green County Within the Bounds of the Teritoriall Jurisdiction of N° Carolina Being assembled under the Constitutional Bill of Rights held out in the county of S° State to the Citizens thereof for Instructing their Representitives in petitioning to the Honerable the General Assembly for the Redress of greivenses &c. We your petitioners Humbly Sheweth to Your Honourable Body that we Were settled on Lands afterwards allotted for the cherokee Hunting grounds Before the Lines were Extended Between The Whites & Indians By the treaty at [illegible] after Which time the Indians Gave us free Liberty to live and Enjoy our Livings on S° Lands peacably and unmolested But contrary to their agreement We suffered many Injuries and losses by S° Indians Which we Bore Without Resentment untill the Began to murder and had actually murdered and taken Seventeen persons and finding the made no Difference Between persons Settled on lands claimed and sold By the State of N° Carolina and those on the Unapropriated lands We were at length obliged to Raise arms in our own Defence or otherwise Submit to the Bloody Hatchet We therefore hope that you will take these Matters into consideration and Extend your Sensitive Arms of protection around us and as a number of our citizens fell Victoms to the savage Barbarity In Defence of the countrye Whose Widows and fatherless children calls Loudly to Heaven and you to consider their case and Extend Mercy Being Reduced to So low a circumstance as to have no other alternative to Support their families But their Small claims of land on Improvement and those Who have Escaped their Bloody fingers are Reduced By loss of Stock of all kinds and crops that they must take up with hunger for their companions and familiarly Shake hands with the cold hand of poverty

2° We would also shew to your Honerable Body that the Inhabitants adjacent to us have formed and prescribed to themselves Bounds Sufficient for a county and have petitioned your Honourable Body for the Same Which Boundaries Leaves us out and Should we Be successfull in obtaining protection of Government We assure your Honours that the Bounds Below S° Boundarey line already settled is fully sufficient for a large county We therefore hope that you In your Wisdoms will Redress these our Greiveenses. By granting us a county Bounded as followeth Viz on the west By Hawkins line untill opes the head of Beaver dam creek then a direct line to the Ridge Dividing Little Pigeon and flat creek waters thence along S° Ridge to Robert poags on the Little East fork of pigeon then south to the mountain We therefore submit this our Information and petition to your Honours Wise consideration hoping that you will fulfill these our petitions and When your Wisdoms see convenient to open a land office that You would grant the Settlers some preference of their Improvements and in such a manner as to Enable the Inhabitants to secure their claims and we your petitioners as in Duty Bound shall Ever pray

[Column 1]
Wm Hamilton
Wm Stephens
Wm Duggan
James oDam[?] James Willson
Joseph Woods
Tobias Wilhelm
Anthony Lawson
John Woods
Wm Kennedy
Samuel Moore
James Stevenson
James Dickson
James Woods
Patrick Woods
Hugh Dickson
James Cameron
Samuel Cantebury
John Hooks
danal McKinny
John Duncan
Joseph Wear
Samuel Wear
James Wear
Joseph mcrcdels
Hugh forgison
Robert forgison
John Wear
Isaeh Boman
John Minnis
James Cage
John keewood
John Crage
Samuel Hogg
James Hogg
Joseph mcconel
James Anderson
John bealy
James Aanderson
John Chamberlin
John Wheelar
Thomas Anderound
John Thomas
Ja' King
Rob' Haana
John hanna Jn
Jeremiah Jack
Archable Teah
Rober Teah
John Blak
Robert Blak
[name covered]

[Column 2]
Wm Price
John Duggan
Joseph Dickson
John Dickson
John Reno

216 Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

George Hallmark
Richard Shields
Wm. Simpson
William Moon
Jesse Moon
John Manning
Benjamin Manning
Job Manning
Jo' Manning
Elijah Rogers
Mikel Swisher
Henery Swisher
Charles Gouge
John Allexander
El'Allexander
Heney forgison
James Crage Sen
James Scot
moses cunningham
James Grceuy
Bartlet Megeeh
Samuel Jackson
James Telford
William Read [smudged]
Roger Oates
Saml Browne
Samuel M'tmurry
Robert Mc'murry
John Lowry Sr [Jr?] 
William M'tmurry
Andrew Evens "em"
Andrew Evens
John M'Croskey
James evans
David Cowan
John Johnson
John Hicks
William Johnson
Elija hicks
hugh Johnson

[Column 3]
John Miser
Robt Shields
James Shields
David Stockton Shields
John Shields
Wm Shields
Thos Shields
James Smith
Joshua Tipton
moredecai Tipton
meshak Tipton
Laban Edwards
Joshua Simpson
John Lovlaty (his x
mark)
Reuben Simpson
Adam Willson
Richard Manas
David Emmons
Benj hamilton
George Telford
John Telford
Henry forgeson
John Lowry
Samuel paxton
Andrew Jaison
John Dalzell
Robert hambel
Thomas Calwell
David Calwell
Thomas Dickson
John Shelby [Kelly?]
Ja' Beard
John Singleton
Robert Gillaspie
William Gillaspie
James gillaspie
William Henderson
Matthew Russel
James Conner
James Caldwell
Alix Milican
An' Lackey
John Lackey
John Bird
Stephen Birg
Amos Bird
Umphrey Montgomery
Jonothon Coanham
Licey Jones
Gorge caldwell
Thomas Pate
John Tiler

[Column 4]
W. Wallace
Sam'Thompson
T Wallace
Robert Thompson Jun'
Robert Thompson Sen'
Olover Wallace
M Wallace
James Thompson
Andrew Thompson
John Johnson
George vennerd
Th' Wallace
Joel Wallace
Thomas Brown
Calven Johnston
Samuel glass
Joshua Hannah
James M'Collaster
John Hannah
Wilm Woods
Andrew hanah
Robert hanah
William Woods Juner
William hanah
William Martan
James martan
Josiah martan
Jamas Waler
Jame Donnabow
William Por
Isiah Web[?]
John Johnson
George vennerd
James Major
Henry Rogers
Richard Manas
[Manan?]
Tho' Wallace
Joel Wallace
David Emmons
Benj Hamilton
Elijah Rogers
John Wallace
Alexander M'Cormack
Samuel Canterbury
William Cowan
David Cowan
Abx'Cowan
Andrew Cowan
Martinno Atchley
James Tylor [Taylor?]
James Tiller
Laven Romines

[On back cover]:
Martino Atchley
James Tylor
Thomas Paite
John Tiler
James Tiller
Laden Romines

In Petition of sundry the Inhabitants of French Broad River In the House of Commons
12th Nov 1788 read & referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs
By order J. Hunt Clik

In Senate 14 Novem 1788 Read & referred as by the House of Commons
J. Haywood Clik

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001 217
"Petition of Sundry inhabitants of the Indian territory"
November-December, 1789

[Petition #7] North Carolina General Assembly Session Records, Nov.-Dec., 1788, Box 1, Folder 11, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh

To his Exc Sam'l Johnson Esq' Gov'Com. and Chief in and over the State of No Carolina and the Honourable Council of State
The Petition of Sundry inhabitants of the Indian territory Humbly Sheweth
That fully Sencible we are that we have too long been the objects of the Just displeasure of the State of North Carolina by violating her laws and Rejecting her Just injunctions in not removing ourselves agreeable to the laws of our country but having long experienced the Clemency and parental Tenderness of a parent State whose interest we have Ever held as Sacred to us, we are thereby Encouraged to address a patriotic Chief Magestrate and an inlinement council.

To take us under their protection and deliver us from the Hands of those who by their rebellion and unjust Revolt from the tendarest of parents Justly merits the frowns of Government. at least we humbly pray that we may not be considered as Eadders [aiders] or encouragers of Revolt and Rebellion against the Just authority of no Carolina and altho it is with the greatest pain [torn] consider ourselves destitute of the benefits of Civil Government. we are ready with our lives and fortunes to Support her laws and Constitution looking with an assured hope that we Shall meet with a most grecious and unmerited reception into the Bosom of Civil Government. at which time we Shall Consider ourselves as the most distinguished objects of the Clemancy and unbounded liberality of a free and independant State and Shall Consider ourselves doubly bound to Reverence her laws and Support her interests

[Column 1]
John Ward Junr
John Mcfarland
James Nickels
Thomas Keeny
George M'nutt
Mical yoekam
James turnman
Frederick Mayberry
Thomas little
Moses Ashbrook
Samuel Horn
Richard Manning
Andrew Horn
Ephraim Manning
Gesper Moon
Gesper Manning
William Horn
Thomas Moon
William thornten
John Campbell
Alex' Rodgers
John Calfee
John Nave
Alex' Ward
David Stuart
John Shever
Alex' Campbel
James Campbel

David Tate
David Fine
Spencer Coleman
Jacob Job
John ___ley
Jonah Denton
Samuel Odell
Benj' Odell
John Brickey
George Adams
Spencer Graham
William Whitson
B___ May [strike out]
Thomas May
Siman odell
Thomas davis
Thomas Abell
Thomas Stephens
nemiah odifl
Benedick Lord
William Fryar
John M'Kessak
Philip Chavin
John Stephenson
Joseph Pryar
Edward Stephenson
John Oston
Nicholis Woodfin
Ritchard Litral
James Graves
Joseph Pryar
Edward Loveday
Philip Chais[?]
William Mocokia[?]
Jeremiah Denton
Dunkun Mkor [Mkoi?]
John odell

[Column 2]
Samuel Dikson
peter Huff
Adam Scot
Thomas Rogers
Seth Rogers
Thomas Giffy
Benjamin Allen
Soloman Allen
John Keeny
John Ward Sen'
John Cordan
Henry Neightherton
Benjemine Mcfarland
George Mcfarland
George Ashbrook
Francis Rowin
Jonathan Wood
John Denton
John Denton
Daniel Ma___

John Evans
Isaac Odell
Calbe odell
Simon odell
Richard gross
W' Sims[?]
thomas Will
G M'Cown
Daniel [David?] Luttrel
W' Job
Samuel Job
Joseph Whit
Richard Priar
William Inglish
James m'nInis
Joseph m'nInis
Thomas m'nInis
David morekheid
Linky[?] Gones [Jones?]
John Denton
James solors[?]
William Fordner
Joseph Inglish
James Inglish
John Keene
James Whitson [marked out]
James Whitson
Isaac Job
“Petition Sundry inhabentants south of french Broad”
November-December 1789


To the Honourable the Gen'd Assembly of the State of No. Carolina the petition of Sundry inhabentants south of french Broad Humbly Sheweth that your petitioners hath for sometime past Experienced the utmost distress & greatest evils that a frontier can possibly be tristed [visited?] with occasioned by the want of the Regular administration of government as which gives opurtunity to the wicked and desining to invent & carry on Schemes of the most Ruinous Nature & attend with the most destructive Consequences to the peace & happiness as well as the interest of our infant Settlements likewise the daly depriviation committed by the Cherokee is no less opressive & unjus which difficulties & many others we are Endavouring to bear with all the fortitude and patience we are possesed of with ardent hopes that your Honourable body will take undar your wise consideration the distressed Situation of your petitioners & grant us Relief by extending to us those socil blessings which we only Expect to feel undar the influence & operation of your mild Constitution & laws — Your petitioners beg leave to inform your Honourable body that the improvements on which we first claimed our lands was mad undar Similar circumstances and at the Same time with those for which pre-erptions was granted by the legislature of N Carolina for lands inhabited N of french B & also the laws of franklin which at that time we put full faith in not only countenanced us in SETLING our S't claims of land but ware urged on us under a Severe penalty for neg'ed with the most flatering promises of protection & Security in possession of the Same
Your petitioners also begs leave to mention that [torn] have Not in a disorderly forceable manner taken possession of the before mentioned land from the Indians we have had thier consent for setting [line missing] & has uniformly Endavoured to cultivate the Strictest friendship and if at any time there have appeared anything unjustifiable on the Side of the White people towards the Indians it has neither been countenanced nor approved by a large Majority of the inhabitants South of french Broad Your petitioners further beg leave to mention to your Honourable body that the Cherokee have at all times been Reguard less of their Engagements to the State they have wantonly broke through the stipulations of treties & Violated the peace (in a manner) in the very instant of Ratification in the first place it was stipulated by the Articles of the treaty betweent Virginia NC and the Cherokee indian in the year 1777 that the S't Indians Should Return or make Restitution for all the property taken in the war from the white the preceeding year and continue to live in peace & friendship with the Citizens of the United States which the[y] have Never complied with but on the contrary the[y] have not only detain the property taken during the war above mentioned but had Ever Since practiced the most inhuman unprovoked murders & oppressive Roberies on the Good Citizens of this & the Neighbouring States & Ever Since their most Solemn Engagements to the Commissioners of Congress as demanaded in June last the[y] have not dissited in the least from their former practices but have continued their Roberies in all Quarters within their Reach on the western Side of the mountain and Some of our Citizens have fell a sacrifice to their Savage Cruelty also Some of those unhappy people that have fell into the hand of the Indians as captives are yet detained and can only be Redencd by Extravagent Ransom combinations of Speculators have also formed with intentions to deprive us of Those lands in the defence of which we have had so many Sufferings & only at an immense expence of blod & treasure holds possession of them. it is therefore the Humble prayer of your petitioners that your Honourable body would pass an act fixing a line betweent us & the Cherokee that will include our settlements undar the protiction of your Gov't and Secur us against the Barbarity and opression of the heathen The s[_] s[____] of our more unnatual enemies that call themselves Christians & the disorders that the want of Regular Gov't Expose us to on Every side it is likewise the prayer of your petitioners that at whatsoever time you may in your wisdom think proper to open an office

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

219
for the lands that we Reside on that you would grant to each actual Setler a pre-emption of the land has Settled under such Regulations as your Honourable body may think most Just and Equitable and also allow Reasonable time for us to Raise the price of our land as many of your petitioners are so impoverished by the last war that it will be with the greatest Difficulty that we can comply with the most moderate terms of purchase—

At many [eligible—in fold] advantage that will naturally arise from proper encouragements being given to emigrants from different Quarters of the Empire to Settle in your State the immense Sum that will be paid into your treasury for the purchase of lands &c we will not Escape your penetration but what will leave the most lasting sensations on Every illustrious & generous mind is that of Reheving a multitude of their fellow citizens from the most distressing circumstances & communicating lasting blessings to them which will leave the most grateful impressions on the harts of your petitioners who as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Column 1]
[___] Tulley
Rich Gross
Georg Adams
Joseph White
Jonathan Wood
Nicholas Woodfin
John Evins
Henry Nave
John Brickey
Robert menely
William Dun
Andrew McCain
[McLain?] Wm. Clopton
Joseph Keeney
Richard Fry
John Smith
John Wood
Daniel Luttrell
Alexander Ramey
Elijah Wood
Charls Ramey
Thomas Abal
William Pryar
Fransis Johnston
Thomas Going
Zekeel Ray
Josusway Mories[?] Danial Job
Joseph Pryar
Isaac Odell
[___]nal Mann[Marr?]
William McCussick
Jame Mackissac
Johen Machisac
William Cumpton
Rob' Taylor
Dan' Adams
Wm Adams
James Sidusicus
Jacob Sidusicus
Wm Huston[?]
Hugh Doogan
Andrew Horn
Samuel Main
Alex' Ward
Alex' Rodgers
Sam' Wilson
William Guinn
Moses Ashbrook
Thomas Moon
John Mcfarland
Benjamin Marland
George McFarland
John Gililand
R. Douglas
Wm Allen
John Maybery
Fredireck Maybery
Mical Yockim
Thomas Beavers
John Beavers
John Moore[?]
Parmenius[?] Taylor
Craven Duncan
James Nickels
Samuel Litterl
Joseph Hough
Sam' Lowrey
Wm Rusell
John Haley
J [or H?] Carlock
Abra' Carlock
Isaac Carlock
Coonrod Good
Jn' Lewis
Jacob Lewis
[___] Samuel Jack
Geo M'Nutt
Tho' Rogers
Seth Rogers
Isaac Rogers
William Thrift
Evin Morgan
John Calfee
Wm Morgan
Henry Netherton
John Shaver
James Thurman[?]
Ja' Adams
John Ceto[?]
Wm Richeson
Able Richison Sen'
Able Richison Jun'
Wm Isbell
Zachria Isbell
Wm Bell
Mathew Bell
Richard Vernal Sen'
Richard Vernal Jun'
Spenser Clack
David [Dani?] Cnmons
Rolley Clack
James Bavours
John Bavours
John Clack
Joseph Bavours
James Bavors sener
Samuel thomson
John Wallace
Cornalus Archer
John fansher
James Bavours Joner
[Juner]
Jesse Isbel
Josiah Rodgers
James haney
Gorge halmark
Richard fansher
James Magors
John fansher
John Mahan
Doneely Reevell[?]
Ela' Mongomery
Peter Every
Samuel Paxton
Barley Magee
Mathew Wallis
Robert hammel
John telford
George telford
John Devil
David Egleton
Daniel McCumsey
John Clark
Aix' hooks
John hooks
Rob' hooks
James Ewing
Wm Ewing
Jacob Shul
John Jamison
Tobias Grimmit
Philamen Higgan
[Riggan?]
Tho' Millar Sen'
Jo' Millar
Tho' Millar
[Bariu?Berein?] Millar
Tho' Caldwell
Tho' Dixon
John McMahan
Tho' M'Clooch
Wm Sneed
Nicholas Bartlet
John Casteel
John Gillespy Sen'
John Gillespy Jun'
Wm Gillespie
Ja' Wetherson
Ja' Gillespie
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

David Craig
James Craig Senr
James Craig Junr
John Craig
James McKimney
James Scott
Henry Ferguson
Joshuauu Hanna
Nicholas Hail
Wm Henry
John Tool
John Caldwell
John Houston
J. H. Houston
Sam. Houston
Matthew Huston
Lammis McCarty
Jacob Thomas
Phelly Thomas
Wm. Overstreet
Adam Peck
Hugh Cox
Sam. Glass
Lenoard Pfoots
George Pfoots
Sam. Newell
Benjamin Tipton
John Cusick
Jn. [ ___ ] Cusick
Joseph Cusick
John McAin
John Wiliams
James Dunlop
John Dunlap
Ambress Legg
Adam Dunlop
Samuel Henery
Samuel Paxton
James Houston
George Moss
Sam. Houston snr
Joseph Bogle Junr
Samuel Newell Snr
John Coats
William Hines
Alexander Sloan

[Column 2]
Jamiah Odaal
Thomas Stepens
William Whitson

Jesse Nelson[?]
David Job
William Coleman
Soloman Coleman
Charles Denney
John Coleman
John Denten
Tho' Keney
James Stater[?] [Slater/ Hater]
William Sims [Lins?]
Dunken McKessick
John Nichols
Joseph Williams
Tho' Williams
James Williams
David Nichols
Dun. Nicholls
Georgs. Gross Jr
Georgs. Gross Snr
Peter Brickey
James Drinnen
Caleb Odle
Thomp Odle
Moses McKay
Thomas Woodfin
Nikles Woodfin
William henery
Hetery Jones
George henery
Georg Parks
[name in fold]
Wesley White
James White
Alex Morrow
John McRoberts
Samuel McRoberts
William Winton
Zacceas Coplin
John Peery
Jn. Sehorn
Ambros Goare
Rob' Syfores
R. [kets?] [Copland
Jo' Copeland
Ja' Cuningham
Wm. Cuningham
John Wintin
Jo' Wintin
Evan Lewis
Ja' Ruddell

John turnley
Wm Cathey
Jacob Dobkins
Jo' Davis
Adam Lowrey
Ja' Lowrey
Amos Lewis
Ge' Lewis
Jn. fulfer
[name in fold]
William Moon [Moore?]
James Wilson
Joseph Wilson
Alex' Anderson
Jn. Dekson
Adam Wilson
Sam. Kerr
Jacob Boughman
Jacob Dicson
Sam. Hamelton
Sam. Henderson
Ja. Sims
Stephen Tence
Tho' Clerk
Ja' Creton
Jo' _ercher[?]
John Shields
Geo' Bush
Ja' St._nr[?]
Pat Hamilton
Ja' Smith
Jesse Moon
Edmand Dirge[?]
Jn' Nave
Tho' Doget
Sam. Tomkms
Pat Woods
Abram Manning
Jo' Moon
Stephen Sims
Stephen Sims
Jn. Jamison
Ja' Dukes
Jn. Wilson
Aduson Wilkins
Elahedter M'Laughlin
Fredreick Ice [or Lee?]
William mellor
laylee Nekels
John Wallce
William hacher

David Walden
Joseph Tayler
anthony Loson
John Parker
A'd Thompson
Thomas Wallace
Edmond _aneill[?]
John Ominet
Robert Thompson
James Thompson
John Thompson
Alexander McCorrnick
Heanrey Rogers
Elijha Rogers
William Heanderson Senr
William Heanderson Jr
Robert Heanderson
John Heanderson
Charles Regin
Henry Regin
Wm. Ragin
John Ragen
Charles Regin
Tho' Waler
Wm. pohom
William McMurry
Robert McMurry
Samuel McMurry
James paul
Joseph Rosson[?]
Henry wareter
Lewis Tarewater
Jacob niman
Tho' Hardon
William Stockdin
Michal Carter
Peter Douser
Isaac White
Alex' Kelly
John Witherspoon
David Caldwell
Mathew Russell
Robert Hanna
William Gaut
John Byrd
John McColloch
David Caldwell
John Hicklin
Fervines Comner
Humphreys Montgomery
William Gillespie
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

James Gillespie    James Ruder[?]
Stephen Byrd      John Singleton
Amos Byrd Sen't    Josiah Hamilton
Amos Byrd Jun't    Robert Fergusen
John Kelley        William Sproul
John Ewing         Henry Fergusen
Ja' M'Colock       David Caldwell
Warren Martin      Samuel M'Coloch
And' Giffen [Gipson?]  James pierce
Joseph _ant [Gant?]  Robert pierce
Ja' Gillespy in'  John [faded]
James Gillespey Sn'  Archabald Sloan
James Hillis [or Willis?]  Wm Houston
John Finley        George Ewing
Stephen Graves     Jerimiah McCarter
Thomas Smith       Jo' Black
John Johnston      424

Know all Men By these
Presents that I Rawleigh
[missing]

James Heanderson    Mach Tipon
Thomas Heanderson    Thomas Heanderson
Mordecai Tipton      Jesse Wallace
Joo'l[?] Wallas     Zibal Willmes
Olever Wallace[?]
John Clack
James Rogers
Gorge Viners
John Clack

"Petition of Sundry inhabitants South of French broad river"
November-December, 1789


To the Honourable the general Assembly of the State of N Carolina the petition of Sundry inhabitants South of French broad river humbly Sheweth:

That Amongst the repeated depretrations Committed on us by the Cherokee Indians within these few months passed there has been a great number of horses Stolen. It is therefore the earnest prayer of your petitioners that if a Treaty is held with that nation and a purchase made of the lands we reside on that a deduction be made from the Sum promised them for their lands to the amount of the value of the horses that they have taken from the white people and that each person may receive a Certificate for the sale of their horses thus losted which will be received by government in the purchase of lands, yet to be entered in this State and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

[Page 1, column 1]
Sam'l Newell
Wm Upton
Wm Houston
John Kerr
Mathew Houston
Jo' Black
Charles Logan
Littlepage Sims
Sam'l Newell Sn'
Benjamin Tipton

George Ewing
William Lowry
Wm M'murrey
Samuel M'murrey Sen'

[Column 3]
Samuel M'murrey Jn
Robert M'murrey
John Caldwell
John Caldwell [marked out]
George Berry
James Scott
John Lowry
George Caldwell
Thomas Walter
Samuel Weir
Hugh Weir

[Page 2, column 1]
John Menis
Joseph M'comyns
Enos Bowman
Ohl Alexander
John Alexander
Ebr Alexander
John Dunkin
James Magingly
John Jackson
James Telford
Geo Telford
James M'Kenny
John Telford
Barclay M'Ghee
James ____ [very faint]
James ____ [very faint]

[Column 2]
Adw Jackson
Joseph Teford
Samuel Cookson[?]
James Houston
Matt Houston
Samuel Henery
James Houston
Patrick Young
Alexander M'Ewen
Samuel Houston

[Column 2]
John Houston
Robt Wilson
David Caldwell
Thomas Dickson
John Kelley

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

Thomas Caldwell                   Calvin Johnson                   John Henderson
Alexander Ewing                   James McAlister                   Thomas Henderson
James Beard                       Wm. M. [very faint]               Jese Wallance
Matthew Russell                   John M'Cain                      Robert Henderson
Ezekiel Clond                    John Coats                        Meshick Tipton
John Singleton                   [Page 3, column 1]               James Majers
John Thompson                    [Column 2]                         David Emmens
Robert Hanna                     John Clack                        James Rodgers
Joshea Hanne                      Wm. Wallace                      Henery Rodgers
James Gillespie                   Wm. Henderson sen'                 Robert Carr
Tho' Brown                        Joseph Beavers                      Ollipher Wallace
John Wallace
Samuel MClelan
Sam'l Thompson
[Wm. or A*?] Thompson
J Wallace Sen'
Robert Thompson
James Thompson
Thomas Wallace
Jocel Wallace
John Beavers

"Memorial of the Inhabitants S° of French broad"
November-December, 1789

There are three original manuscripts of this petition in the North Carolina State Archives, and except for minor differences, the text is the same. Each petition has a separate set of signatures. The body of the petition is printed here only once. Signatures from all three manuscript petitions are transcribed here. The handwriting appears to be different in all three petitions.


To the honourable the commissioners appointed on behalf of the United States to treat With the Charokie Indians

The Memorial of the Inhabitants S° of french broad humbly seweth that Your Memorialists Being Indused By the Laudable Intention alone of promoting publick as well As private intrest and incouraged By the Uniform liberal conduct of States holding vacant teritory toward the first adventurers taking possession of the land have Imigrated from Different quarters of the Empire and seted in our selves in the teritory above mentioned as we beleive not only with the countaince and protection But Even upon the solecion of Government so far as Gives our Settling here to us Every apearance of Being Strictly Legal the salutary Efects of which has been felt by us and observed By forenars and as our Settlers have the apearance of Legality so our conduct toward the Cherokees has been Just and Equatable we have had their consent for setteling the land Repeatedly the price and purchase Being By Both parties Referd to the future Determination of Government But as Events Unforeseen By Your Memorilists have taken place Which Renders our lives and properties Unsecure and goverment Rather Seems to frown on us then to Extend protection In Distress which hase given us a great alarm as fully Sencible of our precarious Situation we now Gentlemen turn our attention to you knowing you to Be vested with ample power to releiv us from our present Dificulties and Dangers that is to have the line Dividing the Citizens of the United States from the Cherokee Indians Extended So far as to take the Settlemnts by which means we will again Becom orderly Citizens and be Set in a situation in which goverment will take Notice of us and give us the protection of those Bening laws Under whose Influence and otration[?] alone we Expect to Be secure and happy Your Memorialists Beg Leave to Inform you that from your humane and patriot Carecters We have the most flattering hops of Relief from our present Dristresses Well assured that no Exerition on Your part will be wanting in our favour knowing that Vertue is its own Rwarde and no action is more Meretores then to Releive a multitude of the humane famely from Distress and Ruin the purity of whose Intentions Whatever May be their Mistakes will plead for them Your Memorilists Desire that You Would Do them the Justice to rest assured that the Repose an unbounded Confidence in Your Integrity and attatchment to their Intrest and as in Duty Bound Shall Ever pray.
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

[First set of signatures]

[Column 1]
Spencer Clack
Jesse isbell
William Isbell
Joseph Byrd
Jesse Byrd
John Blare
John Byrd
James Cameron
Larkin Rogers
Alexander Reed
James Cameron Sen'
Josiah Rogers
James Beavers
Wm Hamilton
Patrick Hamilton
Joseph Woods
James Woods
John Woods
Tobias Wilhehn
William Moon
Jesse Moon
Wm price
John [only name]
Joseph Willson

[Column 2]
Adam Willson
Alexand anderson
James Willson
Joseph Dickson
Hugh Dickson
James Dickson

[Column 2]
peter Adam
Wm Millor Jun'
Jams Bird
James [Tomas?] Bird
[illegible]
Wm Millor
Zachariah Isbell
Moses Renfru Ju"
Obediah Clack
Roland Clack
Roles [Toles?] Goor
James Tomson[?] 
Abram Moon [Moor?]
James Davis

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"Memorial of the Inhabitants S° of french broad"
November-December, 1789


The text to this petition is almost exactly the same as that of Petition #10. The text is not repeated here. The handwriting in the three petitions appears to be different.

[Column 1]
Alex' M'gomer
[illegible]
[illegible]
Edmund Varnal[?]
Isaac Skillman
Alex' Meglaln sen'
Daniel Meglalin
Barefoot Runyan
John Hiser
Benjamen fanshire
Richard fanshire
David fanshire
George Hallmark
David Norton
William Smallwood
Abx' Meglalin June'
Joseph Tayeler
Flayl Nichols
William hatcher
Ja' Walker

[Column 2]
John Mc'Clellan
John Mahan
Burton Prid
Anthony Lawson
Jesse Rentfro
John parker
James handy
Woolsey pride[?] 
Hugh Johnson
Robt Magill
Vollentiv Shooltz
James oldam
John Brian
Wm Millor
John Moon
John parker
James Turman
[illegible] Hoof
Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789

Sam' Jackson
[Column 4]
Soloman M'Campbell
James Snodgrass
Joseph Shadon
Calvin Johnston
David Loveless
William ______
Micajah Carter
James Anderson Jun'r
James Anderson Sen'r
Thos Anderson
John Bayle
William Sneed
John Thomas
Charles Thomas

Thomas Wray
William Wray
John Wray
John Hitchcock
William Hitchcock
Lammas M'Cart
John Gillespy Sen'r
John Gillespy Jun'r
Wm Henry
John M'Combs
Nicholas Hall[?]
David Eagleton
James M'Kinzy
Jo' Black
John Cussick
John Coates
Jo' Bogle Jun'r
Wm Houston
Henry Ragan
Isham Harris
Peter Avery
Wm Pohorn[?]

Richard Williams
John Williams
John Dun
Wm Wilson
David Craig
John Houston
Ja' Houston
Robert Wilson
Sam'l Houston
Matthew Houston
Edward Easing[?]
Archib'l Sloan
John Sloan
Alex' Sloan
Ja' Sloan
James Cunningham

Petition of "Sundry inhabitants on the unappropriated Taritory South of French Broad river"
November-December, 1789


To the honourable the General Assembly of the State of N Carolina the petition of Sundry inhabitants on the unappropriated Taritory South of French Broad river humbly Sheweth

That your petitioners having seated themselves on the above tarritory with views to promote publick economy. Equely with Domestic advantage Desirous to Submit to laws and Conform to the requisitions of goverment, and to live in that orderly manner that would insure to us the Countenence and protection of Just and Equitable laws formed only to insure [word illegible] virtue and suppress the vicious. And your petitioners being fullingy scenceably how Destructive the Disorders that has of late pervaded this District has been to publick as well as private hapiness and how much We are both as a Community and individually exposed to the savages as well of internal as external enemies, humbly implore the interposition of your honourable body that you would commissarnate our present Distress and grant Us relie[?] by extending to us the protection of goverment that we may with other Citizens participate of those blessings Common to all Christian and enlightened people Under the influence of Just laws and the auspices of a well ragualated Commonwealth—

And whereas your petitioners has in the Course of their settling and defending the tarritory they now possess experienced Numberless hardships and difficulty particularly in a Dissolate Indian war by which they are much impoverishd. It is their humble petition to your honourable body that when you in your wisdom thinks proper to open a land office for the tarritory before mentioned that you would grant to each actual adventurerer a pre-emption of the land on which he lives, on as moderate terms as you may Judge consistant with Justice and Sound polocy. Also reasonable time for each settler to raise the Severel Sums required of them by goverment for the purchase of their lands

It is farther the earnest prayer of your petitioners that an Entritaker be appointed amongst us to take in the entries of S'd lands which will Save to the poor inhabitants the enormous expence that will nasasarily occur if they have to travil to the seat of goverment or Some interior part to enter their lands as there is many who may posibly be able to enter a Small tract on which they Could mentain a helpless family would nevertheless fall in raising money to Support them to and from the entritakers office if it was to be fixed in some distant part of the State.

And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001
[Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, 1784-1789]

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<td>Henry Thomas</td>
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<td>George Ewing</td>
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<td>William M'murray</td>
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<td>Samuel M'murray Sen'</td>
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<td>Samuel M'murray Jun'</td>
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<td>Robert M'murray</td>
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<td>Thomas Wallor</td>
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<td>John Menis</td>
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<td>Joseph M'Reynolds</td>
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<td>Enos [or Elias?]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowman</td>
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<td>Samuel Weir</td>
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<td>Hugh Weir</td>
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<td>James Houston</td>
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<td>Matthew Russell</td>
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<td>Alexander M'Ewen</td>
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<td>John Dunlap</td>
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<td>Rob' Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver Alexander</td>
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<td>John Dunkin</td>
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<td>John Alexander</td>
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<td>John Singleton</td>
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<td>James Gillespie</td>
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<td>John Thompson</td>
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<td>Tho'o Brown</td>
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<td>Calven Johnson</td>
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<td>James M'alter</td>
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<td>Robert Hanna</td>
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<td>William Massey</td>
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<td>James Gillespy</td>
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<td>John McCain</td>
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[Editor's Note: The above six petitions (8-13) were in Senate November 24, 1789, at which time they were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, who issued the following report]:

Nov. 30 1789

Your Committee to whom, the call of the people residing south of French Broad River was referred, report

That previous to an Act of the General Assembly passed in 1783, reserving certain lands to the use of the Indians, near an hundred families were settled on the Territory South of French broad—

That by the above re__ed Act those families were left in that part reserved to the Indians, for hunting grounds—that as early as 1782, His Excellency Governor Martin did appoint John Sevier, Charles McDowell and Waightstill Avery esquires, or any two of them commissioners to hold a Treaty with the Cherokee Indians.

That on the 31st of May 1785, John Sevier did Treat with Several of the head men of the said Nation in a fair and open manner for all lands below Browns line south of Holston and low as the dividing Ridge between Tennessee and Little River, for which lands, the Indians were to receive a compensation, which compensation from unavoidable accidents has not been yet paid your Committee therefore Report it advisable that a law be passed to comply with, the said Treaty

And upon the above Your Committee are of opinion it would be expedient for its assembly to pass an Act for extending the boundaries of Greene County so as to include these settlers, and erect them into a separate and distinct Battalion of Militia, the officers of which shall be appointed in the usual mode, and also so many Justices of the peace as may be necessary which Justices shall be considered as Members of the Court of Greene County—

Your Committee further recommend to this General Assembly that some person be appointed to pay the said Indians agreeable to the same Treaty who shall be furnished with a sum of money not exceeding L600 to be laid out in goods which shall be paid down to the Indians or so much thereof as he shall find necessary to satisfy them for the purchase of said lands—that an Entry Taker be appointed by this General Assembly for the District south of French Broad and the said Entry-taker so appointed shall not enter upon the duties of his said office until the Treaty herein alluded to be complied with and after such compliance the said Entry Taker shall proceed to take Entries for the lands aforesaid, and shall take and receive for the use of the state the sum of eight shillings in the current money of this state and Ten pounds in specie Certificates for each and every 6 hundred Acres of land entered in his office—And that each and every person in the

Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001 227
said district who have made an improvements be intited to a right of preemption and shall be allowed twelve months to enter the same.

Your Committee further report that upon the lowest calculation upon the quantity of land eight shillings per hundred will produce the sum of L1200 which will fully reimburse the Treasury all the cash advanced for goods and expenditure with interest.

All which is submitted. Wm Lenoir chn
North Carolina in Senate 30th Novem 1789
The foregoing report was read and concurred with Chas Johnson Sp[eker]
By order J. Haywood Cl[erk]
In House 5th Decr 1789
Read and concurred with
S. Cabarrus SHC

By order J. Hunt
South French Broad

Jane Swan Obituary
From the
Knoxville (TN) Register dated June 7, 1855

Died on the night of the 28th May, at the residence of her brother, Major William Swan, Jane Swan, after a protracted illness of several years continuation.

The deceased was a native of Pennsylvania but has been for a number of years a resident of Knox county, Tennessee. She was kind, social, amiable, and intelligent, modest, unpretending and sincere. Confined to a sick-bed, as she has been for many years and suffering as she did, almost constant pain for the greater part of that period, she exhibited in a remarkable degree, a patient, quiet, and submissive spirit, indeed, she was a model of submission and resignation, under affliction long continued, and under suffering and pain almost intolerable and excruciating. Seldom, if at all, was she ever known to murmur or repine.

The deceased has been long a consistent professor of religion, and at the time of her death was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville.

Samuel Greer Obituary
From the
Knoxville (TN) Register dated June 7, 1855

A Death of an Editor

We regret to learn, from the last Jonesboro Railroad Journal, that Samuel Greer Esq., Senior Editor of that paper, died on Wednesday morning, the 23d ult., of Paralysis. He was a native of Pennsylvania, though the greater part of his life was spent in Washington Co. He filled several public offices, and for four or five years was connected with the Journal. He was afflicted about twelve months.

The paper will continue in the hands of Mr. Sparks, who now becomes sole proprietor.

C. H. Coffin Obituary
From the
Knoxville (TN) Register dated June 21, 1855

We have barely time this morning to record the death of C. H. Coffin, Esq.; of the firm of C. H. & D. L. Coffin & Co. of this city, who died at Columbia, Tenn. on Monday last. His remains reached here last evening, and will be interred in Gray Cemetery at 4 o'clock this evening.