

Frontier Figures Bell Ringer

**Thomas
Walker**

He was a physician and land speculator who discovered Cumberland Gap in 1750 while exploring for the Loyal Company of Virginia.

**William
Bean**

He was the first settler in modern Tennessee. This man and his family settled along the Watauga River in 1769.

**James
Robertson**

He was chosen by Henderson to lead a group of men overland to establish settlement along the Cumberland River near French Lick in 1779.

Dragging Canoe

He was the son of Attakullakulla. He opposed the Transylvania and Watauga Purchases. He became leader of the Chickamauga, a group of Cherokee who fought against white settlements especially in Middle Tennessee.

Nancy Ward

She was also known as Nanye-hi. She became a “Beloved Woman” after picking up her husband’s gun and leading a charge against the Creeks. She later married a trader. She supported white settlement and warned Sevier of an impending attack by Dragging Canoe.

Oconostota

He was a Cherokee red chief or war chief. He was imprisoned at Fort Prince George in 1759 and later returned and had the fort’s commander killed.

He was also known as Little Carpenter. He was a Cherokee peace chief who played a key role at Fort Loudoun and supported the Transylvania and Watauga Purchases. He was the father of Dragging Canoe, uncle of Nancy Ward, and great uncle of Sequoyah.

Attakullakulla

He was an explorer who worked for Richard Henderson. His reports encouraged Henderson to negotiate Transylvania Purchase. He also led the team of men who blazed the Wilderness Road.

Daniel
Boone

He was a North Carolina land speculator who purchased 20 million acres of land in Middle Tennessee and Kentucky in the 1775 Transylvania Purchase. He also organized the Cumberland Settlement expeditions and the surveying of the Wilderness Road.

Richard
Henderson

He was chosen by Henderson to lead a group of settlers to the Cumberland Settlement by way of the Holston to the Tennessee to the Ohio Rivers and finally down the Cumberland River.

John
Donelson

He was along hunter who explored the Cumberland River region. He lived along the Cumberland River from 1776-1779. He spent the final winter in a hollow sycamore tree.

Thomas
Sharpe
Spencer

He was also known as Nolichucky Jack. He was a leader in the Watauga settlement. He helped organize and lead the Overmountain Men at Battle of King's Mountain. He was governor of the failed State of Franklin and was the first governor of Tennessee.

John
Sevier