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## ULSTER IMMIGRANTS AND THE SETTLEMENT OF TENNESSEE

By Walter T. Durham\*

DURING THE 1770s EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS OR THEIR DESCENDANTS BEGAN THEIR settlement of Tennessee, then a corridor 110 miles at its widest point, stretching approximately 430 miles from the Unaka range of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River.<sup>1</sup> Some of them had explored and hunted in the area before. Among these men and women who pushed the frontier westward were many who had immigrated from the Irish province of Ulster or who were descendants of those who had preceded them from the same area. They were known in America as Scotch-Irish.<sup>2</sup> The name reflected the fact that most of them or their ancestors had immigrated from lowland Scotland to Ulster during the seventeenth century. Most were members of the Presbyterian Church. They had relocated to America in five periodic waves that started in 1717 and ended in 1775. The preponderant number of Ulster immigrants arrived at the ports of Philadelphia and Charleston. Many, including succeeding generations, ultimately made their way overland to Tennessee. By 1790 the Scotch-Irish represented from 10-15 percent of the nation's population. The proportion was surely higher for early Tennessee settlers as suggested by Michael Montgomery and Cherel Henderson in their study of the Scotch-Irish in the First Families of Tennessee files.

An examination of the early settlement period (1770-1820) will show that Ulster immigrants contributed more to building the foundations of this state than any other

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\* Walter T. Durham is the Tennessee State Historian, a position he has held since 2002. He has been active in researching and writing about Tennessee history for the past 35 years. Among his many publications are *Josephus Conn Guild and Rose Mont: Politics and Plantation in Nineteenth Century Tennessee*; *Volunteer Forty-Niners: Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush*; and *Before Tennessee: The Southwest Territory, 1790-1796: A Narrative History of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio*. Mr. Durham has written more than 100 articles for magazines, journals, and newspapers, and has contributed entries to the *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy* and the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.

<sup>1</sup> In the title and throughout this paper, Tennessee is referred to as if the state existed when the first settlements were made. From colonial times to 1790, Tennessee was in its entirety the western lands of North Carolina. In 1790 it became part of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio on the way to becoming a state of the Union in 1796. The boundaries of the land contained in Tennessee when it was a part of North Carolina were unchanged until after it was admitted to the Union and then the changes were largely inconsequential.

<sup>2</sup> The term Scotch-Irish is used here to identify immigrants from the Ulster province of northern Ireland once they have reached the United States, and sometimes for up to three or four generations of descendants. Unless otherwise identified, all early Tennessee settlers mentioned are Scotch-Irish; if their place of birth in Ulster is known, it is so stated.

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group of settlers. To reach such a conclusion, it is helpful to look at their interest in acquiring and defending their own land, in establishing their church and schools, in accepting the responsibilities of public office, in nurturing large families, and in their readiness to rally to the cause of the national government. And as Wilma Dykeman observed in her *Tennessee: A Bicentennial History*, their influence was so pervasive that "the dominant character of Tennessee came to be identified with that of the Scotch-Irish."

Similar expressions emanated from the first congress of the Scotch-Irish Society of America at Columbia, Tennessee in 1889. The congress agreed that the Scotch-Irish were "the earliest and most numerous of the pioneers" in Tennessee, that "the center of their blood in the United States" was in Tennessee, and that nowhere was "Scotch-Irish blood purer."

In 1776, throughout the colonies, the Scotch-Irish quickly embraced the American cause. Even before the war, they regarded themselves as so American that their Scotch-Irishness was no longer the most significant factor in their view of themselves.

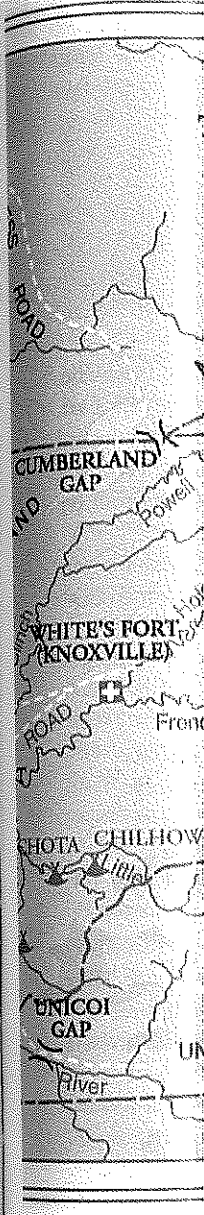
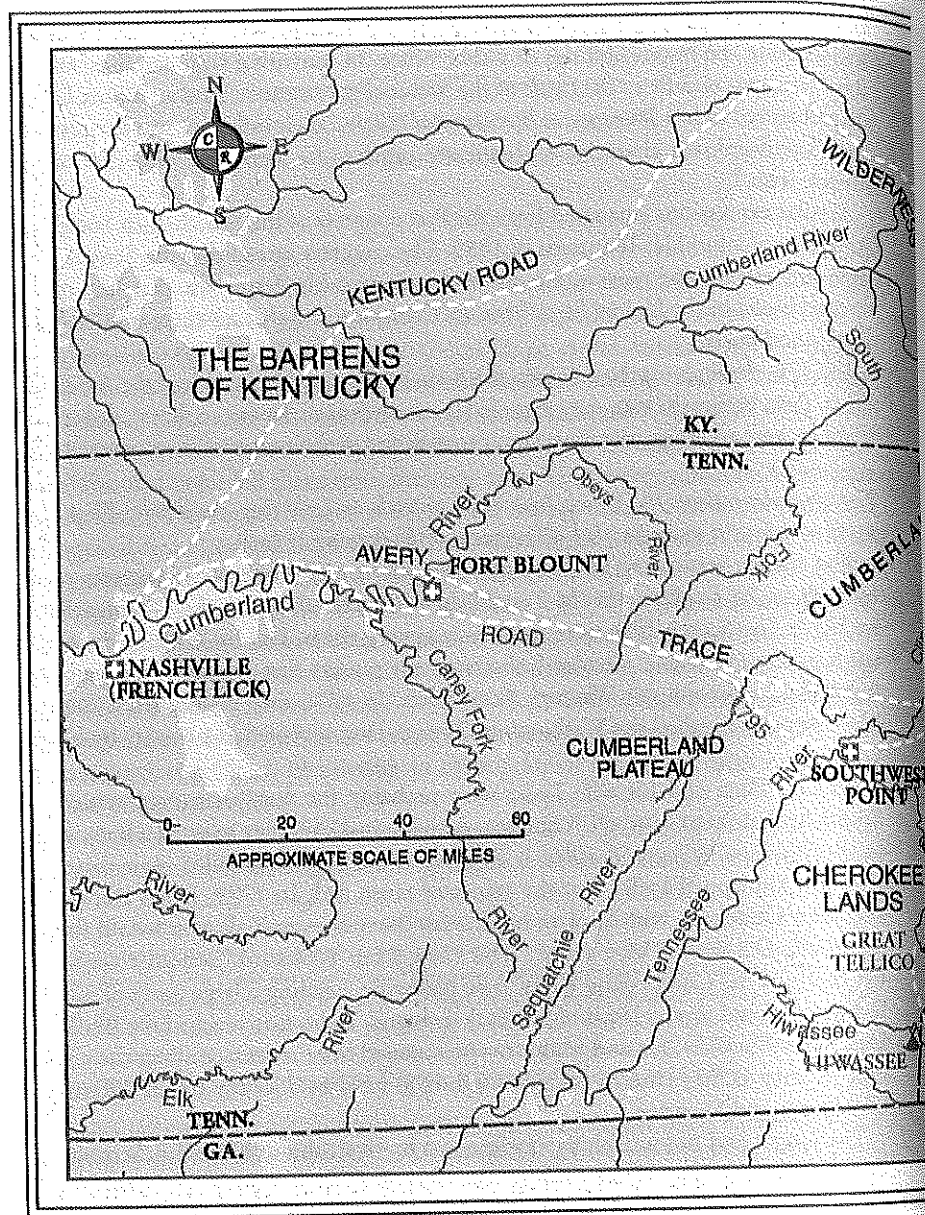
*Fiercely independent, the Scotch-Irish came to settle on land they could own. They were ready to defend it by organizing government or by fighting or both.*

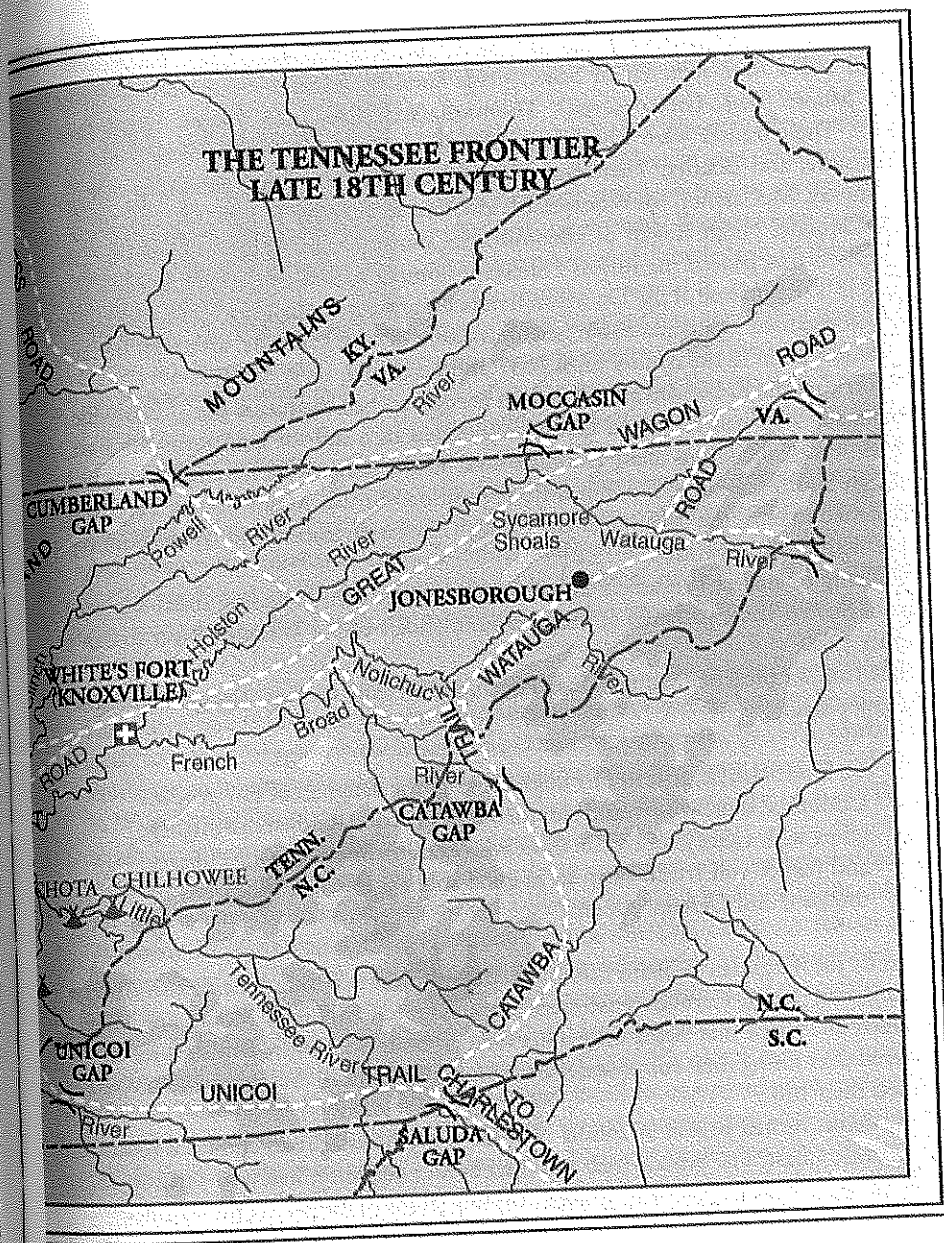
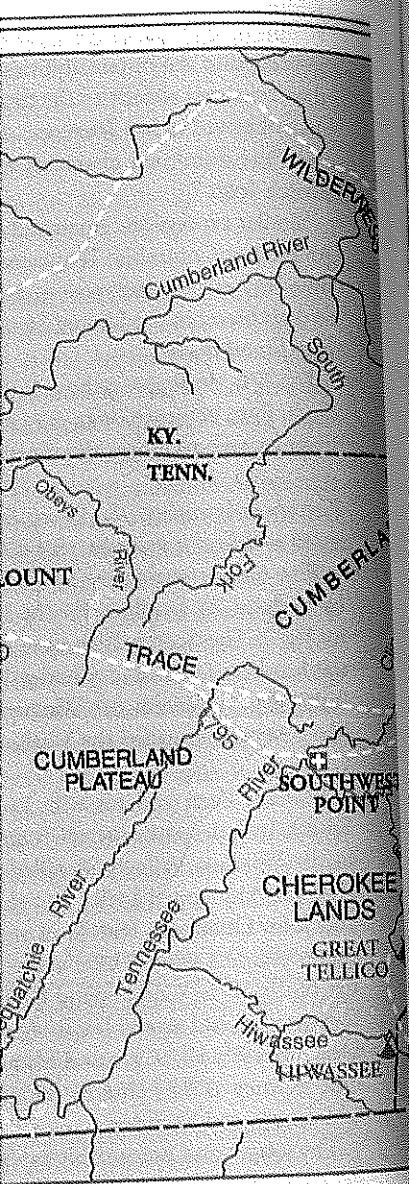
The earliest settlement in Tennessee by persons of European descent was made by perhaps 75 families who had established homesteads along the Watauga River by 1772. The Scotch-Irish were numerous among them. Led by William Bean and the brothers James and Charles Robertson, the settlers first set up a representative form of government, the Watauga Association. In 1776 they established a county-like government called the Washington District, later accepted as a county by North Carolina.

William Bean and his wife Lydia were probably the first permanent settlers of Scotch-Irish descent to reach Tennessee. Arriving in 1769, they selected a homestead in the Watauga Valley and called it Bean's Station. Cherokee killed their daughter Jane and kidnapped Lydia, but she was later ransomed. In 1779, James Robertson and John Donelson, with land ambitions for themselves and all who would follow them, planned what I have called "The Great Leap Westward," a bold crossing to the Bluffs of the Cumberland River, now Nashville. Leading a large party of men, a few women, and several herds of livestock overland, Robertson reached the Bluffs on December 25, 1779. He and his party encountered little resistance along their 350-mile journey as they entered the vast hunting ground held jointly by the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Shawnee.

The longer and presumably safer route was by river, about 900 miles. Setting out from the Long Island of the Holston on December 22, 1779, John Donelson led about 40 boats down the Holston and Tennessee Rivers en route to the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers and the Bluffs. Most of the passengers in the flotilla were women, children, and older men.

Surviving severe resistance by the Chickamauga along the lower reaches of the Tennessee River, Donelson's flotilla reached the Bluffs on April 24, 1780. Anxiously awaiting them was Robertson's overland party. Several days later, 255 men signed the





"The Tennessee Frontier, Late 18th Century,"  
from *First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and  
Their Present Day Descendants* (Knoxville, 2000).



Cumberland Compact, establishing the Cumberland Association and setting forth its terms of governance. To judge by their names, a majority of the persons who signed could have represented Scotch-Irish families. Surnames most often signed were Moore (ten), Green (seven), Thomson (six), Daugherty (four), and Drake (four). Their leaders were Robertson, Donelson, Buchanan, Montgomery, Hayes, Blackmore, and Bradley. There was McCutchan, McAdoo, McAdams, McMurrey, McMurtry, McCartney, McWhorter, McVay, and scores of others.

A Catholic, Hugh Rogan of Glentourne, County Donegal, was one of the few exceptions that proved the rule of Protestant dominated settlement. He came to the Bluffs in 1780 on one of the Donelson riverboats and settled later in Sumner County. He was regarded as a dependable neighbor and a devout Catholic, although he had no congregation in the county until 1837 and no church until 1844.

Soon after the Robertson and Donelson parties reached the future site of Nashville, Wataugans who had remained behind responded to a call for help from the East. British forces, including many colonists loyal to the King, were moving northward through South Carolina. Finding little opposition, British Major Patrick Ferguson threatened to cross the mountains and "hang . . . western leaders and lay the country waste with fire and sword."

Rallying to answer Ferguson's threat, western volunteers, including sizeable numbers of Scotch-Irish, gathered at the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River in September 1780.

The frontier preacher Samuel Doak concluded an impassioned sermon to the soldiers by praying:

O, God of battle, arise in Thy might. Avenge the slaughter of Thy people. Confound those who would plot for our destruction. Crown this mighty effort with victory, and smite those who exalt themselves against liberty and justice and truth. Help us as good soldiers to wield the sword of the Lord and Gideon. Amen.

Led by the Virginian William Campbell, the frontiersmen found the British Army in northwest South Carolina ensconced on a ridge called King's Mountain. They prevailed in a battle that lasted little more than an hour. The entire British force surrendered after losing their commander and about 300 soldiers; the western volunteers lost less than 100.

The defeat turned British attention away from the Appalachians and back toward the Atlantic Coast. The Scotch-Irish and their border neighbors had won a major victory; several historians have seen it as the turning point of the war in the South.

During the local Indian wars that ended in Tennessee in 1795, settlers were ready to defend their new lands. One example was Robert Lyles, Jr., son of the Ulster immigrant Robert Lyles, who reached Tennessee about 1777 and commanded a garrison of soldiers guarding against Cherokee attacks in Hawkins County. Another was a couple born in Ulster, Thomas Hamilton and his wife Jane McCracken, who came to America through the port of Philadelphia and moved to North Carolina in 1750. During



Rev. S. S. Presbyterian education East Tennessee Society

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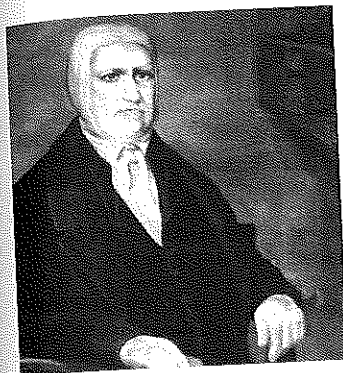
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Rev. Samuel Doak,  
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East Tennessee Historical  
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the 1780s, they relocated to Drake's Creek about twenty miles northeast of Nashville and erected Hamilton's fort to help defend the area.

*As settlers secured their places on the Cumberland and peopled the Watauga and Holston country anew, preachers and teachers came among them.*

At first most were Presbyterians reflecting, the large number of Scotch-Irish in the western border country. It was as if, in the words of historian John Walker Dinsmore, there was almost unanimous agreement that "the first necessity of life after the cabin was the meeting house and, forthwith, the schoolhouse." Probably the first preaching ministry in Tennessee was conducted by Charles Cummings, a Presbyterian minister

of nearby Abingdon, Virginia, who preached to two congregations in the Holston and Watauga settlements in 1772. Another Presbyterian minister, Joseph Rhea, born in County Donegal, joined Cummings on the frontier in 1775, and the next year they went as chaplains with an expeditionary force against the British sponsored Cherokee.

Exhorter of the King's Mountain volunteers, Samuel Doak was born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1749, the son of immigrants from County Antrim. Doak graduated from the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, in 1775. Ordained a Presbyterian minister the next year, he moved to the southwestern frontier and settled in Washington County. There he organized Salem Church, the first of many Presbyterian congregations that he founded in present East Tennessee.

Doak's passion for preaching and organizing congregations was equaled only by his interest in Christian academies and colleges. In 1780 he founded St. Martin's Academy in Washington County, which became the first chartered school in the region. It received a new charter from the General Assembly of the Southwest Territory in 1795 as Washington College. After 23 years as president of the college, Doak moved to his son Samuel W. Doak's Tusculum Academy near Greeneville and taught there until his death in 1830. John Whitfield Doak, his oldest son, had succeeded him at Washington College. Although it later faded from a position of leadership in frontier education, Washington College numbered among its graduates many men of distinction. Representative Zebulon Baird Vance of North Carolina recalled that when he was in the Congress (1858-1861), 22 of his fellow lawmakers had studied at Washington College.

Samuel Doak's example as a preacher and educator was followed by other Presbyterian divines of the period. Thomas Craighead, son of the Ulster-born Presbyterian minister Alexander Craighead, established Davidson Academy in Davidson County in 1785. The academy was re-chartered successively as Cumberland College in 1806, the University of Nashville in 1827, George Peabody College in 1875, and

the Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 1979. Another institution-building Presbyterian minister was Hezekiah Balch. Like Doak, he came to Tennessee after graduating from the College of New Jersey. In 1794 the Southwest Territory granted Balch a charter for Greeneville College, but he did not open its doors until 1802. After the Civil War, Greeneville College merged with Tusculum under the latter's name. The Presbyterian preacher Samuel C. Carrick opened a seminary in his home in Knoxville in 1793 and a year later the Southwest Territory chartered it as Blount College. Reorganized as East Tennessee College in 1807, it took the name East Tennessee University in 1840 and became the University of Tennessee in 1879.

In 1805 an entire Presbyterian community began moving to Tennessee. The male heads of four Scotch-Irish families from Williamsburg District, South Carolina, emigrated to Williamson County, Tennessee, and in 1806 their families and several others followed from the same place. Together they purchased 5,120 acres of General Nathanael Greene's 25,000 acre tract in Maury County and called their new church and community Zion. Located about seven miles west of Columbia, Zion Church nears its bicentenary in the sanctuary built in 1849 at the original site. The first four men to make the crossing were James Armstrong, Moses G. Frierson, James Blakely, and Paul Fulton. The next year the spouses of Frierson and Blakely came with their families. They were accompanied by the families of John Dickey, Thomas Stephenson, Samuel Witherspoon, John W. Stephenson, George Dickey, and Samuel, William, and Elias Frierson.

Methodist ministers of Scotch-Irish descent, focused on traveling to preach at widely scattered places, did little to foster schools and education. Circuit rider Jeremiah Lambert was assigned to the Holston Circuit of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee in 1783, and by 1787 Benjamin Ogden was riding a circuit in northern Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky.

Leaving school responsibilities to others, Baptist preachers of Scotch-Irish origins had been with the earliest Presbyterians on the frontier. Jonathan Mulky and Matthew Talbot were in Carter's Valley and the Watauga settlements about 1775.

A shortage of educated Presbyterian ministers became apparent about 1800. A breakdown of intense internal debate in the church about the requirement for educated ministers, adherence to the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the use of revivals as a valid way to evangelize led to the breakaway organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Ministers Finis Ewing, Samuel King, and Samuel McAdow formed the independent Cumberland Presbytery at Dickson, Tennessee in 1810. In all, about 41 men constituted the first generation of Cumberland Presbyterian preachers, a few of whom came from the mother church. They, like most of their members, were Scotch-Irish and the Cumberland Presbyterians grew rapidly.

Educated or not, several powerful Scotch-Irish preachers led a series of revivals in Southern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee in the early 1800s that, to judge by the number of those attending, seemed to minister to the spiritual needs of the settlers. James McGready, who had moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in 1799 on his way to Logan County, Kentucky, was a leading minister in the meetings.

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Another institution-building effort, he came to Tennessee after the Southwest Territory granted it to open its doors until 1802. The Tusculum under the latter's auspices opened a seminary in his home territory chartered it as Blount College in 1807, it took the name East Tennessee College in 1879.

Moving to Tennessee. The male emigrants from the District, South Carolina, emigrated with their families and several others. They purchased 5,120 acres of General Blount's land and called their new church the First Church of Columbia, Zion Church, after the original site. The first four members were G. Frierson, James Blakely, John and Blakely came with their families. John Dickey, Thomas Stephen, George Dickey, and Samuel, Wil-

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Preachers led a series of revivals in the early 1800s that, to judge by the spiritual needs of the settlers, were a boon to Tennessee in 1799 on his minister in the meetings. The Presbyterian Church, the members

of both held to their historic views from the earlier days in Ulster: they doggedly opposed the English, the British Empire, and the taxpayer supported Church of England, known there as the Church of Ireland. Their hostility was so widespread on the frontier that no Episcopal congregation, the American church of Anglican descent, appeared in Tennessee until 1827. At that time the church had less than 50 communicants statewide.

*Acknowledging a need for local government to enact and enforce laws to protect the peace and their property, Scotch-Irish settlers readily accepted the responsibilities of public officeholders.*

From experiences with their own church government and its book of order, many, perhaps most, Presbyterians coveted an orderly society and recognized their responsibility for it. They held many of the offices of the earliest counties and towns and contributed significantly to respect for law and order on the frontier. When the first General Assembly of the Southwest Territory was convened at Knoxville, 13 representatives were present. Most of them were Scotch-Irish and to judge by their names, all could have been. Three of the five-member Territorial Council—Stockley Donelson, Parmenas Taylor, and Griffith Rutherford—were Scotch-Irish, as were two of the three original judges for the territory, David Campbell and John McNairy.

The ranking county militia office of lieutenant colonel commandant and the office of sheriff were two of the most powerful and desirable at the local level. Among the sheriffs and colonels from 1783 to 1796, most seemed to be of Ulster descent. The names Harrison, Rutledge, Hayes, Berry, Donelson, Williams, Robertson, Weakley, Craig, Taylor, Hardeman, Roberts, Conway, Ore, and Houston are examples.

When a committee of 22 delegates, representing the 11 counties, was appointed on January 12, 1796, to draft a constitution for the new state of Tennessee, Ulster names appeared aplenty: Craig, Black, McNairy, Jackson, Rankin, Cocke, Henderson, McClung, Claiborne, Rhea, Wear, Clack, Tipton, and Stuart.

Settlers almost instinctively gave themselves to public service. Entry taker for Sullivan County in 1779, justice of the peace for Kentucky in 1792, member of the first board of trustees for Blount College in 1794, and member of the Constitutional Convention of 1796, John Adair had brought his family to America in 1771 from County Antrim. They reached Tennessee by way of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

The willingness of the Scotch-Irish to shoulder the responsibilities of government on the frontier did not stop at staffing town and county governments. They rose to state and national levels in ways that inspired further settlement. The first of the early settlers in Tennessee to become President of the United States was Andrew Jackson, the South Carolina-born second son of Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson who came to America in 1765 from Carrickfergus in County Antrim. Jackson's rise in Tennessee from frontier lawyer, merchant, planter, judge, congressman, and U.S. senator had called new attention to the possibilities of life on the frontier. When, as General Jackson, he led Tennessee and Kentucky volunteers to decimate the Creek and rout the British Army at the Battle of New Orleans, he became the international personi-

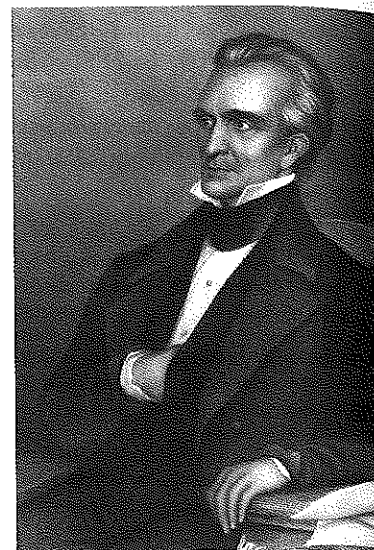
fication of the military power of the United States. His fame was not lost on American voters who elected him the first president from west of the Appalachians.

President James K. Polk came to Tennessee from North Carolina with his parents as an eleven-year-old in 1806. A descendant of Robert Polk who had come to America from Londonderry about 1680, James K. was schooled by local masters before graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1818. Seven years later he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and subsequently served as its speaker. Tennessee voters elected him governor in 1839 and in 1844 voters nationwide elected him president. Drawing on the enthusiastic western orientation of the early settlers, President Polk acquired by war and a cash consideration the Mexican Cession, settled the Oregon boundary dispute with Great Britain, and annexed Texas. His acquisitions increased the land size of the United States by more than a million square miles and extended its western boundary to the Pacific Ocean.

Sam Houston fought for settlers' rights in Tennessee and beyond. Born in Virginia in 1793 of County Antrim forebears, he came to Blount County with his widowed mother and eight siblings in 1807. One of General Jackson's bravest at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, he moved soon after to Middle Tennessee, served two terms in Congress, and in 1829 was elected governor of Tennessee. After a mysteriously short first marriage, Houston resigned the governorship and began a new life in the West. From it he emerged as an unmatched Texas hero: victor in the battle of San Jacinto and first president of the resultant Republic of Texas.

Following Houston's resignation as governor of Tennessee, Speaker of the Senate William Hall, whose mother Thankful was a sister of Samuel Doak, served the remainder of his term. At the age of ten, Hall had come to Sumner County from North Carolina with his parents in 1785. A busy public life placed him in the State House of Representatives from 1797 to 1805, in the State Senate from 1821 to 1829, and in the U.S. Congress from 1831 to 1833. During the Creek War of 1813 he had been a brigadier general of Tennessee volunteer infantry.

Andrew Roane, a weaver of Ulster who came to Pennsylvania in 1739, was the father of the American-born governor of Tennessee Archibald Roane. After moving to Tennessee in 1788, Archibald represented Jefferson County in the Constitutional Convention of 1796. He served a single term as governor 1801-1803, and was a judge of the superior court of the state for six years.



James K. Polk, eleventh president of the United States. Courtesy of the Special Collections Library, University of Tennessee.

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James K. Polk, eleventh president of the United States.  
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It was not unusual for early Tennessee settlers to have had their first political experience serving the state of North Carolina. A son of the Reverend Joseph Rhea of County Donegal, John Rhea served in the North Carolina House of Commons. Later he was a Sullivan County delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1796, and still later represented the First District in the U.S. Congress for 18 years.

The founder of Knoxville, General James White, was yet another of the early public servants. Although proof of his often alleged Scotch-Irish ancestry is still elusive, he had many of its symptoms. Two of the most obvious were his fidelity to the Presbyterian Church and his willingness to undertake public responsibilities. He was a founder of the Lebanon in the Forks Church, and when he laid out the town of Knoxville, he gave a building lot for a Presbyterian Church there. He was elected to terms in the legislature of the state of North Carolina and the Tennessee Senate. A delegate to the North Carolina convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution, he was later a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1796. He served as a brigadier general under General Jackson in the Creek War. He and his wife Mary Lawson were the parents of Hugh Lawson White, a U.S. senator and unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1836.

Traditionally regarded as having been of Scotch-Irish ancestry, David Crockett was born in East Tennessee, married in 1806, and moved to Middle Tennessee in 1811. He served two terms in the Tennessee legislature and, although a political adversary of Andrew Jackson, won election to the U.S. Congress from 1827 to 1831 and from 1833 to 1835. Rejected at the polls for another term, Crockett moved to Texas, where he died the next year at the siege of the Alamo. The true David Crockett has been obscured by the legendary Davy Crockett, created by 25 years of Crockett Almanacs and, more recently, film and television portrayals. Legends



Sam Houston, governor of Tennessee and president of the Republic of Texas, shown here in Cherokee clothing.  
Courtesy of the Special Collections Library, University of Tennessee.



David Crockett, legendary frontiersman and politician.  
From the East Tennessee Historical Society Collection.

notwithstanding, David boasted an independent spirit and a readiness for adventure, characteristics that appeared prominently in the lives of the early Tennessee Scotch-Irish.

It is important to remember that the Scotch-Irish were cast in a variety of leader-

ship roles. Born Robert J. McChesney was an attorney and a delegation secretary of the Civil War.

Many more Scotch-Irish lived in Knox County and justice of the peace of the state's first.

Another famous man acquired a large tract of land at Wear's Cove and was a member of its first general assembly. He commanded

*A recurring theme in the strong, McGowan.*

Robert and his family arrived in 1737 and by 1740 as Robert A. Crockett, County, Tennessee, Holston and by his cousin, southeast Tennessee. He was known as a strong, farm owner, about five miles from County survey.

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were cast in a variety of leader-

ship roles. Born in County Londonderry and brought to America by his parents, Robert J. McKinney settled with them at Rogersville in 1809. A Presbyterian, he was an attorney and later a justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court. He was one of a delegation sent to the nation's capital on an unsuccessful peace mission on the eve of the Civil War.

Many more can be mentioned. Robert Houston, born in South Carolina of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian parents, came to Tennessee about 1790. He held many Knox County offices, among which were sheriff, tax assessor, tax collector, trustee, and justice of the peace. He was Tennessee Secretary of State 1807-1811 and was one of the state's first bankers.

Another future public servant, Samuel Wear, came to East Tennessee in 1780 and acquired a large tract of land on the west side of Little Pigeon River, known since as Wear's Cove in Sevier and Blount Counties. He was clerk of the State of Franklin, member of its first convention, and colonel of its militia. Later he served in the general assembly of the Southwest Territory. In 1796 he was a member of the constitutional convention and a member of the committee to draft the state constitution. He commanded a regiment of East Tennessee volunteers in the War of 1812.

*A recurring growth pattern that early settlement generated in Tennessee is seen in the Armstrong, McGavock, Ramsey, and Miller families.*

Robert and Alice Calhoun Armstrong of County Antrim arrived in Philadelphia in 1737 and by 1768 had relocated to South Carolina. In 1784 one of their sons, known as Robert Armstrong II, brought his family from South Carolina to Washington County, Tennessee. Three years later they moved to a place near the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers. Robert Armstrong III, a surveyor, was appointed by his cousin, Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, to survey the lands abandoned in southeast Tennessee by the Cherokee under the terms of Calhoun's Treaty of 1819. He was Knox County surveyor for 42 years and his son was Addison Wear Armstrong, farmer and deputy county surveyor, who lived on his parents' farm Woodville about five miles east of Knoxville. Addison's son Robert A. J. Armstrong was Knox County surveyor from 1879 to 1882 and again from 1891 until 1926.

Even more important than the contributions they made as surveyors and farmers was their large Tennessee family. Most descendants remained in the state. An indexed manuscript genealogy, prepared in 1848 by Drury P. Armstrong and later brought into the twentieth century by Robert A. J. Armstrong, lists 369 different family surnames in addition to a single heading for all the Armstrongs. The index refers to 991 persons who were members of the Armstrong family.

Another family of distinction developed when James McGavock from County Antrim reached Philadelphia in the mid-1750s, married Mary Cloyd of Londonderry, and moved south to acquire an extensive property in Fincastle County, Virginia, that included Fort Chiswell. Operating the fort as an outfitting stop for hunters and settlers about to take the Wilderness Road to Kentucky and Tennessee and as a warehouse for products of the nearby lead mines, the McGavocks were entranced by stories of the Cumberland country. They promoted immigration to the area and



at the end of the local Indian wars sent their sons Randal and James to Nashville. Others of the family soon followed. Randal became mayor in 1824, and his grand-nephew Randal W. was elected to the same office in 1857. Randal's son John and wife Caroline Winder McGavock perpetuated the name of the McGavock homestead in Ireland by giving its name Carnton to their plantation in Williamson County. James and Mary Cloyd McGavock had 72 grandchildren who spread the family ever deeper in Virginia and Tennessee.

The outstanding Presbyterian family of Francis A. Ramsey and his wife Naomi Alexander came to Knox County in 1791. Educated to be a physician, their son J. G. M. also engaged in banking, railroad building, and historical research. In 1853 he published *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, a volume still invaluable to students of Tennessee history. He and his wife had eleven children. His brother, Samuel G. Ramsey, the father of six children, was a Presbyterian minister who came to Knoxville in 1793, founded several churches in the area, and ministered to them until his death in 1817. Their half brother was Frank A. Ramsey, physician, surgeon, scholar, and the father of eleven children.

Inheritances attracted families who would be important to settlement of the state. Jane Miller Gray, her daughter, and three sons came from County Antrim to Knox County after her brother James Miller, an Antrim immigrant of the 1790s, died in 1817 and left her more than 4,000 acres in and around Erin, more recently called Bearden in West Knoxville. In 1816 an inheritance of 73,000 acres brought Henry Middleton Rutledge and his wife Septima from Charleston, South Carolina, to Franklin County where most of the land was located. Henry's grandfather Dr. John Rutledge had come to South Carolina from County Antrim in 1735.

These families reflect only a few of the countless Scotch-Irish men and women who settled the frontier. In those uncertain times nothing guaranteed their survival more than having large families. The women bore the children, managed the family, assisted the men at times of planting and harvesting, and stood in for them when they were away hunting, fighting the British and Indians, or attending to business public or private. When their fortified homes were attacked, women molded bullets, loaded rifles, and on one occasion poured scalding water on the attackers as they attempted to scale the wall. But men were the fighters, the patriarchs, the voters, and the political leaders. It was a man's world.

*A patriotic quality found among the early Scotch-Irish settlers was their readiness not only to defend their frontier settlements but to rally to the cause of the national government.*

They had volunteered for King's Mountain, the Creek War, the War of 1812, and the Seminole War of 1836. When 10 times the number requested by the president volunteered for the Mexican War, they were there as well. Who were these volunteers?

The Lauderdale family is a good case in point. James Lauderdale, Jr., whose parents had emigrated from Ulster to Pennsylvania in 1714, came to Sumner County about 1793 with several of his sons and daughters. One of his sons, Col. James Lauderdale, survived wounds received during the Creek War, but lost his life on the night of December 23, 1814, in the battle of New Orleans. Another son Samuel D. Lauderdale,

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sons Randal and James to Nashville. Randal became mayor in 1824, and his grandson in 1857. Randal's son John and wife were the name of the McGavock homestead in Williamson County. James was the son who spread the family ever deeper

Francis A. Ramsey and his wife Naomi were educated to be a physician, their son J. was a lawyer, and historical research. In 1853 he wrote *The Eighteenth Century*, a volume still in print and his wife had eleven children. His youngest child, was a Presbyterian minister and churches in the area, and ministered there was Frank A. Ramsey, physician, and son.

So important to settlement of the state. Henry came from County Antrim to Knox County as an immigrant of the 1790s, died in 1812 and around Erin, more recently called Henry, of 73,000 acres brought Henry from Charleston, South Carolina, to Tennessee. Henry's grandfather Dr. John was in County Antrim in 1735.

Without Scotch-Irish men and women there was nothing guaranteed their survival. For the children, managed the family, and stood in for them when they were away, or attending to business public affairs, women molded bullets, loaded powder on the attackers as they attempted to kill the patriarchs, the voters, and the politi-

Scotch-Irish settlers was their readiness not only to fight but also the cause of the national government.

During the Creek War, the War of 1812, and the number requested by the president was as well. Who were these volunteers? James Lauderdale, Jr., whose parents came to Sumner County about 1714, came to Sumner County about the age of his sons, Col. James Lauderdale, but lost his life on the night of December 1812. Another son Samuel D. Lauderdale,

a lieutenant colonel in General William Hall's brigade, survived the War of 1812 and later returned to service as director of transportation for the Choctaw removal of 1833. A third son was William Lauderdale, a captain of volunteers during the War of 1812 and a major in the Seminole War of 1836. He returned to military duty in 1838 and commanded a company that penetrated southeastern Florida and established a post on New River. In his honor, it was called Fort Lauderdale, now the location of the city of the same name. Major Lauderdale died at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the way home from Florida. His son, Samuel Winslow Lauderdale, died on the battlefield at Cerro Gordo in the Mexican War.

The early settlers must be recognized for overcoming nature, twice driving off the British, and destroying the power of Native American Indians in the region. Yet we may wonder about the outcomes had the Scotch-Irish among them failed to rally to the national standard. Their influence was disproportionately large for their numbers.

They were effective for several reasons. First, they were part of a Protestant Christian population with little to divide them. They believed in the Presbyterian tradition that schools follow churches, and they assumed the responsibilities of a representative government. They defended their land against its original occupiers, they spawned large families, and they rallied to the call of the national government.

There is no question that the contributions of Scotch-Irish men and women toward building the foundations of the state of Tennessee were unequalled by any other group. By their example they showed the way for later generations to explore and people the farther West, all the way to the Pacific coast. And they did it as Americans, eager citizens of a new land.

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\* Jonathan B. historian, teaching the department lectured in his standard work