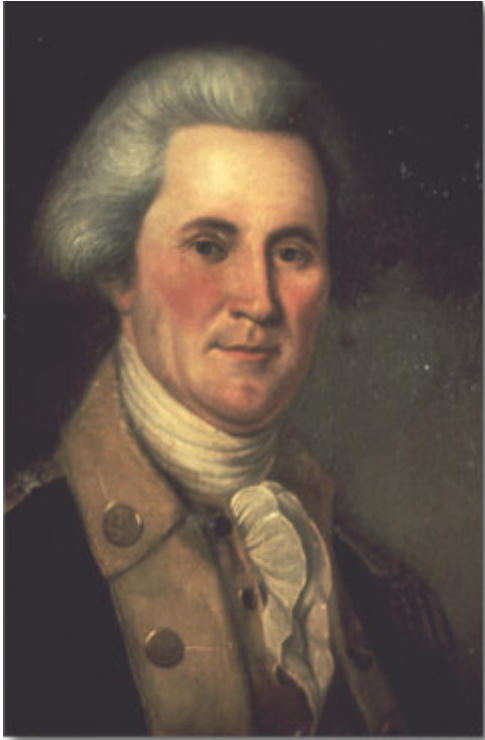


John Sevier



**Governor John Sevier, portrait by Charles Willson Peale,
Tennessee Historical Society Collection, Tennessee State Museum**



**John Sevier,
Statuary Hall, U.S. Capitol**

John Sevier, pioneer, soldier, statesman and a founder of the Republic, was Tennessee's first governor and one of its most illustrious citizens. Married and on his own at age sixteen, he was in the vanguard of frontier life and accomplishment from his late teenage years until his death. First and only governor of the aborted State of Franklin, six-term governor of Tennessee, and congressman for four terms from the eastern district, he was also a soldier of no mean accomplishment, having risen to the rank of general in the North Carolina militia.

Born near the present town of New Market, Virginia, Sevier was the oldest of seven children of Valentine and Joanna Goad Sevier. His forebears--the Xaviers--were of Huguenot religious persuasion who had fled France for England, anglicized their name, and become prosperous farmers. By 1740 Valentine had arrived in Virginia and settled in the Shenandoah Valley on Smith's Creek.

Not much is known of Sevier's early life. Educational opportunities were limited, but as a child he apparently learned to read and write; later his state papers and correspondence with Andrew Jackson and others exhibited a concise and direct style. Married in 1761 to Sarah Hawkins (1746-1780), a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Marlin Hawkins, the couple settled in the valley of his birth. There Sevier farmed, dealt in furs, speculated in land, ran a tavern, and fought

Indians--along with raising an ever-increasing family.

By 1773 he lived on the Holston River, but three years later he had moved to a farm on the Watauga River near the present town of Elizabethton. In the same year, North Carolina authorities created the Washington District, which included the Watauga settlements, and Sevier was sent to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina as representative.

The Revolutionary War began in 1775, and in the following year Sevier was named a lieutenant colonel of the North Carolina militia and assigned first to protecting the frontier settlements. He fought elsewhere but was confined primarily to the South. The encounter for which he became best known was the battle of Kings Mountain (1780), in which he and his fellow frontiersmen fought Tories and British soldiers at a location just north of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The British, having met with only moderate success in the middle and northern colonies, had turned in late 1780 to the soft underbelly of the rebellious provinces where they prevailed without difficulty in Georgia. Then they moved northward without serious opposition. Major Patrick Ferguson, assigned to the command of the British left flank, viewed the western settlements with disdain. Overconfident, he ordered frontiersmen to lay down their arms and give allegiance to the Crown; otherwise, he wrote, he would march over the mountains, "hang . . . western leaders and lay the country waste with fire and sword." Sevier and others, accepting the challenge, gathered at Sycamore Shoals late in September 1780, determined to engage Ferguson before he could reach Watauga. They soon found him on a narrow ridge in northwest South Carolina where he, with perhaps one thousand men, had ensconced himself, claiming that even "the Almighty" could not drive him off. But the backwoodsmen ascended the heights and assaulted him from both south and west, taking care to remain well camouflaged behind trees, logs, and rocks. Although forced to fall back several times, the westerners rallied each time, and, after about an hour of fighting, claimed victory. They had lost fewer than one hundred men while the British had lost three times that number, including Ferguson. The victory turned the British from the West and pushed Sevier forward as the foremost figure among the transmontane people. One of Sevier's biographers thought it "impossible to state just how great an influence this exerted upon his future political career."

Several months before Kings Mountain, Sevier's wife of nearly twenty years died and was buried in an unmarked grave just outside Nolichucky Fort in Washington County. She and Sevier had raised ten children. Sevier later married Catherine ("Bonny Kate") Sherrill (1754-1838), whom he had rescued four years earlier during a surprise attack by the Cherokees. They reared eight children.

Soon after the Revolution, Sevier became involved in a movement designed to secure separate statehood for the people living in Washington, Sullivan, and Greene Counties. The Continental Congress in 1780 had urged that lands claimed by North Carolina and Virginia should become states soon after hostilities might end. Thomas Jefferson had presented a plan whereby eighteen new states might be carved from the western territories. But North Carolina authorities objected vehemently when western leaders assembled in Jonesborough in August 1784 to make plans for statehood. When they chose Sevier as governor and drafted a

constitution, claiming an "inalienable right" to form an independent state, Governor Alexander Martin threatened to "render the revolting territory not worth possessing" if North Carolina did not retain sovereignty over it. Attempts at conciliation divided the Franklin people into factions, and border warfare developed. Several men were killed or wounded, and two of Sevier's sons were captured, threatened, and held briefly.

Sevier's term as governor of Franklin expired in the spring of 1788, and for all practical purposes the state came to an end. Sevier was arrested and charged with treason but never tried. Within less than a year he had taken an oath of allegiance to North Carolina and was elected to the state Senate. A few months later he was restored to his rank of brigadier general in the North Carolina militia.

North Carolina permanently ceded its western lands to the central government in 1789, and in the following year President George Washington signed into law a measure for the governance of the region. Sevier probably was the choice of most of the western people for the post of territorial governor, but Washington appointed William Blount instead. Soon Sevier became a member of the Territorial Legislative Council--a group of five men provided for under the Congressional Ordinance of 1787 designed for the governance of territories. He was among those who urged Governor Blount to call the legislature into session to make plans for statehood as required under the ordinance. Blount complied, and early in 1796 leaders drafted a constitution and applied to Congress for admission. After several weeks of debate--at times acrimonious, as Federalists and Anti-Federalists haggled over terms and reasons for admission--Congress recommended statehood, and President Washington signed into law a bill creating Tennessee as the sixteenth state.

The new constitution had provided for a two-year term for governors with the right to serve "not . . . more than six years in any term of eight." The other qualifications to hold the office of governor were simple. One must be at least twenty-five years of age, possess a freehold of at least five hundred acres, and be a citizen for four years. Sevier met these requirements and became the only serious candidate.

For months before the admissions bill was enacted, Tennesseans had been conducting affairs as though the state had been legally admitted to the Union. Elections were held in late February and legislators convened in late March. On March 29 they examined the returns of the gubernatorial race and determined that Sevier had won. On March 30 Sevier took the oath of office at Knoxville. In a brief inaugural address, he thanked voters for the confidence reposed in him and he pledged to discharge "with fidelity" the tasks of chief executive. A sixteen-gun salute ended the brief ceremonies. When Sevier became governor, the total population of the new state was only about 85,000, but by the end of his gubernatorial service it had increased to nearly 250,000.

Although the office of governor was not considered a full-time task, still Sevier faced the usual problems which the foibles of human nature are sure to create. Indian problems were vexatious as any, and Sevier met them with characteristic vigor. The Tellico and Dearborn treaties, negotiated in 1805 and 1806 respectively, did much to clear Indian claims in both east and west, but the attitude and actions of the federal government in its strict policy of enforcement

angered Tennesseans.

Many disputes over military rank tried Sevier's patience. Free men between eighteen and fifty were subject to military duty, and they elected their own officers. But allegations of fraud permeated the contests in many of the counties and at all levels, and the governor--who issued the commissions--had to decide who had been legally and duly elected. Although Sevier apparently handled these matters as judiciously as he could, he was frequently criticized in many counties for allegedly selecting political friends and favorites. His disputes with Andrew Jackson over these and other matters led to considerable bitterness between the two. Indeed, Jackson's charges that Sevier was guilty of forgery and bribery in his procurement of lands brought challenges to duels and bitter words.

Internal improvements such as wagon roads interested Sevier from his early days as governor. He also frequently mentioned a need for "the encouragement of education," and a measure chartering schools in most of the counties was enacted in 1806. Improving conditions in the state militia and the development of a better means of settling disputes over land titles were other matters of concern.

In March, 1809--a few months before his final term ended--Sevier ran before the legislature for the U.S. Senate but was defeated by Judge Joseph Anderson. Later in that year, voters in Knox County sent him to the state Senate. Then, in 1811, he was elected to Congress. His advanced years and his unfamiliarity with federal procedures resulted in his being an ineffective legislator on the national level, however.

Sevier died on September 24, 1815, while on a mission to the Alabama territory where he had gone with U.S. troops to determine the proper location of the Creek boundary. He was buried on the eastern bank of the Tallapoosa River near Fort Decatur.

Sevier was a product of the frontier and a hero to Tennesseans who understood and appreciated his varied career. When in 1887 his body was reinterred on the courthouse lawn in Knoxville, a monument was erected whose inscription well describes his life of public service: "John Sevier, pioneer, soldier, statesman, and one of the founders of the Republic; Governor of the State of Franklin; six times Governor of Tennessee; four times elected to Congress; a typical pioneer, who conquered the wilderness and fashioned the State; a protector and hero of Kings Mountain; fought thirty-five battles, won thirty-five victories; his Indian war cry, 'Here they are! Come on boys!'"

Source: Robert E. Corlew, <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net>

Suggested Reading(s): Carl S. Driver, John Sevier: Pioneer of the Old Southwest (1932).

Sir



Knoxville 25th December 1798

I am in suspense as to the probable, or improbability of being called into the Army, a Station I would prefer to any other that, of being in Arms to defend an injured and grossly insulted Country. Being under such impressions, I hope I shall be neither thought ambitious or restless as to Appointment, filling at present the most honorable, my Countrymen have in their power to confer; Nonetheless, permit me Sir, through the small acquaintance I have had the honor to cultivate with your Excellency, to solicit your interest in being brought forward if any vacancy should present itself, into the Army of the United States: provided, you should deem me adequate to such a task —

Should I be so happy as to merit your patronage, I flatter myself neither you nor my Country, would have any occasion to regret —

Nothing of moment have transpired in this Quarter. A Military Order & Permit

Washing

292-124

John Sevier to George Washington, December 25, 1798 (pg. 1) (Library of Congress)

149
Warmly diffuses itself throughout the State of Tennessee, And
as many as five companies of Cavalry have tendered their
services called upon, who are composed of such men, as
would in my opinion do honor to any Army in the Union.

I have the honor to be Sir

With sincere and very great esteem
Your Excellency,

John Sevier

His Excellency

Geo. Washington Esq.
Commander in Chief of
the American Army

Washington

John Sevier to George Washington, December 25, 1798 (pg. 2) (Library of Congress)

Transcript of John Sevier to George Washington, December 25, 1798

[Stamped with the seal of the Library of Congress]

Knoxville 25th December 1798

Sir

I am in suspense as to the probable or improbability of being called into the Army, a station I would prefer to any other that of being in arms to defend an injured and grossly insulted country. Being under such impressions, I hope I shall be neither thought ambitious or restless as to appointment, filling at present the most honorable, my countrymen have in their power to confer; nevertheless, permit me sir, through the small acquaintance I have had the honor to cultivate with your excellency, to solicit your interest in being brought forward if any vacancy shall present itself, into the Army of the United States: provided you should deem me adequate to such a task.

Should I be so happy as to merit your patronage, I flatter myself neither you nor my country, could have any occasion to regret.

Nothing of movement have transpired in this quarter. A military ardor & spirit warmly

[Page 2]

warmly diffuses throughout the State of Tennessee and as many as five companies of cavalry have tendered their service whenever called upon, who are compared of such men, as would in my opinion do honor to any army in the universe.

I have the honor to be, sir
with sincere and very great esteem,
your excellency,
most Obedient humble servant.

John Sevier

His Excellency
Geo. Washington Esq.
Commander in Chief of
the American Armies

Mount Vernon Jan^y 31. 1799



Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th of December, I must observe, that as the law for raising a provisional Army was not acted upon during the recess of Congress, I presume, from its tenor, that it becomes void of course. — And whether a ^{new} similar law will be passed in the present Session is ^{very} problematical. —

I have reason to believe that the President has already made his selection to fill the Offices which had become vacant in the Additional Army. ~~I have not~~
~~thought of sending a written order to you for any other purpose of con-~~
~~sidering your service as the best for the service of the~~
~~country further.~~

I am very happy to hear that a military Order prevails in the State over which you preside, and I trust it will be directed to the support of the true interest of our common Country if it should ever be called into action —

With due consideration

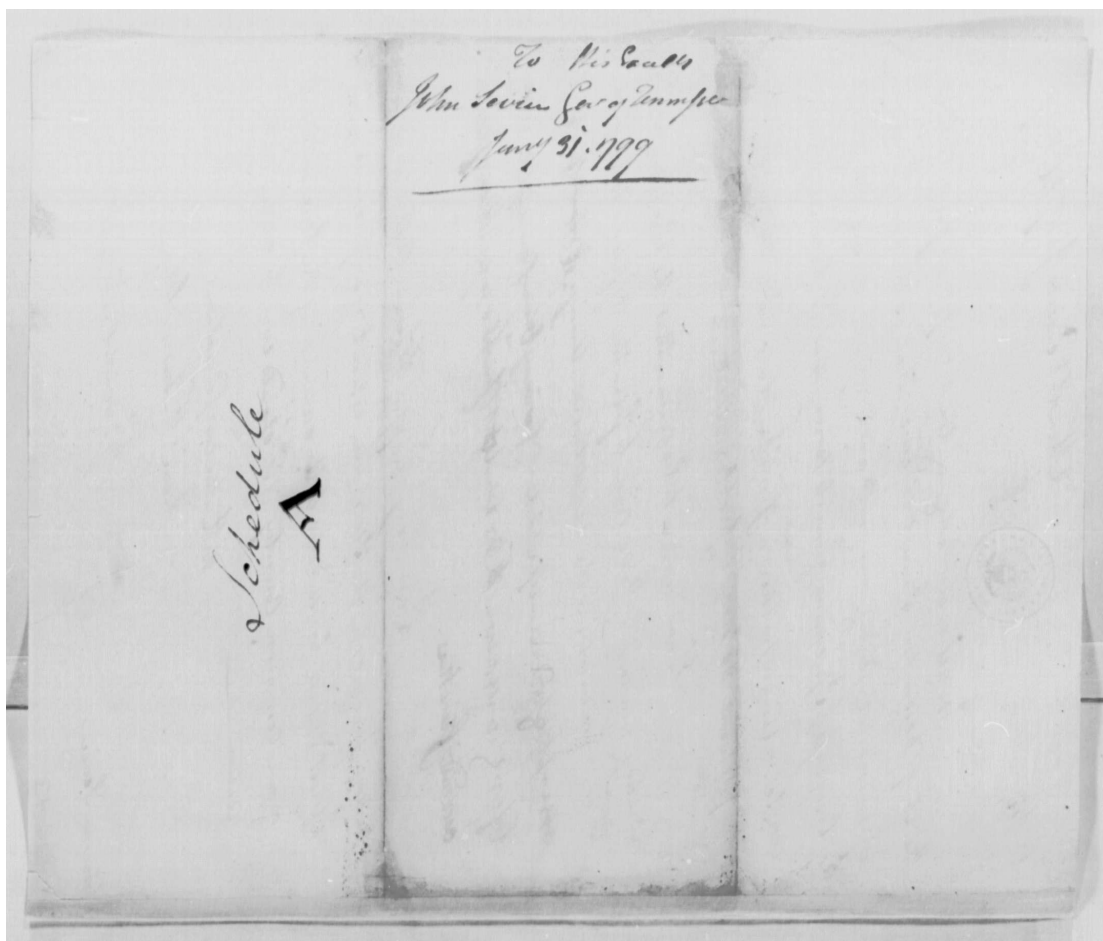
I have the honor to be

Sir,
Y^r most Obed^t Serv^t

George Sevier

294-43

749



George Washington to John Sevier, January 31, 1799 (pg. 2) (Library of Congress)

Transcript of George Washington to John Sevier, January 31, 1799

Mount Vernon January 31, 1799

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th of December, I must observe, that as the law for raising a provisional army was not acted upon during the recess of Congress, and whether or not a similar law will be passed in the present session is very problematical.

I have reason to believe that the president [John Adams] has already made his selection to fill the offices which had become vacant in the Additional Army. [four lines here are marked out.]

I am very happy to hear that a military ardor prevails in the state over which you preside, and I trust it will be directed to the support of true interest of our common country if it should ever be called into action.

With due consideration
I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant
[unsigned]

Governor Sevier

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Sir

Washington Jan. 31. 1809.

The extraordinary & critical situation of our foreign relations rendering it necessary, in the opinion of the National Legislature, that their next needs should be short, they have passed an act for a meeting on the 4th Monday of May, of which I inclose you a copy. as the election of representatives for the state of Tennessee would not, in the ordinary course, be in time for this meeting, I have thought it my duty to make you a special communication of this law. that every state should be represented in the great council of the nation, is not only the interest of each, but of the whole united, who have a right to be aided by the collective wisdom & information of the whole, in questions which are to decide on their future well being. I trust that Your Excellency will deem it incumbent on you to call an immediate meeting of your Legislature, in order to put it in their power to fulfill this high duty by making special & timely provision for the representation of their state, at the ensuing meeting of Congress: to which measures I am bound earnestly to exhort yourself & them. I am not insensible of the personal inconvenience of this special call to the members composing the legislature of so extensive a state. but neither will I do them the injustice to doubt their being ready to make much greater sacrifices for the common safety, should the course of events still lead to a call for them. I tender to Your Excellency, the assurances of my high respect & consideration.

H. E.

Governor Sevier.

Th. Jefferson

32921

Thomas Jefferson to John Sevier, January 31, 1809 (Library of Congress)

Transcript of Thomas Jefferson to John Sevier, January 31, 1809

Washington Jan. 31. 1809.

Sir

The extraordinary & critical situation of our foreign relations rendering it necessary, in the opinion of the national legislature, that their next recess should be short. They have passed an act for a meeting on the 4th Monday of May, of which I enclose you a copy. As the election of representatives for the state of Tennessee would not, in the ordinary course, be in time for this meeting, I have thought it my duty to make you a special communication of this law. That every state should be represented in the great council of the nation, is not only the interest of each, but of the whole united, who have a right to be aided by the collective wisdom & information of the whole, in questions which are to decide on their future well being. I trust that your Excellency will deem it incumbent on you to call an immediate meeting of your legislature, in order to put it in their power to fulfill this high duty by making a special & timely provision for the representation of their state, at the ensuing meeting of Congress: to which measures I am bound earnestly to exhort yourself & them. I am not insensible of the personal inconvenience of this special call to the members composing the legislature of so extensive a state. But neither will I do them the injustice to doubt their being ready to make much greater sacrifices for the common safety, should the course of events still lead to a call for them. I tender to Your Excellence, the assurances of my high respect & consideration.

Th. Jefferson

H.E.

Governor Sevier.

Inscribed on the monument in his honor, Knoxville Courthouse Lawn

Pioneer, Statesman, and one of the founders of the republic, Governor of the state of Franklin, six times Governor of Tennessee, four times elected to Congress, a typical pioneer who conquered the Wilderness and fashioned the State, a projector and hero of King's Mountain, fought thirty-five battles, won thirty-five victories, his Indian War Cry: "Here they are! Come on boys!"

“Unearthed: The Remains of John Sevier”

***Knoxville Journal*, June 18, 1889**

Montgomery, AL, June 17. At six o'clock this morning Governor Taylor and party of Tennessee, accompanied by Governor Seay and members of his staff went to the depot under the escort of a battalion of the 2nd regiment of Alabama state troops. They boarded the special train provided by the Western railway of Alabama and the journey to old Fort Decatur, near which point ex-Governor Sevier was buried, was taken up. Governor Taylor was looking as fresh as possible and in his good humored off-hand open way was captivating Alabamians as fast as he met them. There was one sentiment which seemed to be entertained unanimously, and that was that Tennesseans might give Alabamians a few pointers on progress and push, but they would have to sit by and take a lesson in hospitality.

Forty minutes landed the party at a road crossing two miles west of Cowles station, the nearest station to Fort Decatur. This stopping place was only about 200 yards east of the old fort thrown up by Andrew Jackson during his wars with the Indians, and about one hundred yards west of the fort at the foot of the hill the Tallapoosa river winds like a silver thread on its course to the sea. The troops were drawn up alongside the country road leading eastward. The march to the resting place of Governor Sevier was taken up headed by Governor Taylor and members of his party followed by Governor Seay and his staff and a number of citizens of Montgomery who were mounted to participate in the ceremonies of recovering the remains. The road led up over a steep hill which the party climbed, thankful for the shade afforded by the trees growing on either side of the roadway. They came to a cultivated field stretching away for about a quarter of a mile and across this the advance scouts were scattered hunting for the grave. The discovery was soon announced by shouting and waiving of hats and handkerchiefs by the party of scouts on the crest of a little rise in the cotton field. This called for an advance of the governors and the dusty walk through the cotton field was begun, with the sun pouring down rays hot enough for August.

The party gathered about an enclosure eight feet square, sitting in the cotton field. The little plat was surrounded by an iron fence, which was apparently set up only temporarily. At the western end of this enclosure there was firmly fixed in the ground a white headstone about two feet wide and two inches thick, standing two feet in height. This stone bore the inscription:

“John Sevier, died September 24th, 1815.”

In the southeastern corner of the enclosure a sloe tree was growing, seeming to be one of the features marking the spot.

The photographer was on hand and before the arrivals of the two governors had made negatives of the grave as it stood when found by the party.

Another individual who was also early on deck was the relic hunter, and Tennesseans and Alabamians hastened to secure a twig or branch of the tree which stood beside Sevier's grave.

This tree contained a wasp's nest, which was discovered before the wasps were aroused from their noonday nap, and a Tennessean who had evidently been engaged with wasps before, lighted a piece of newspaper, and with the blaze drove them away from their home.

One of the laborers climbed into the enclosure and cut down the little sloe tree which stood a sentinel, watching at the foot of the heroes grave, and when the tree fell relic hunters took possession of it. The work of disinterment was under the supervision of two undertakers, Mr. Newman of Knoxville on the part of Tennessee and W. Campbell, of this city, appointed by Gov. Seay. The line of the grave was marked out and R.T. DeArmond of Knoxville broke the dirt. The labor of digging was commenced about 10 o'clock and after going down a foot or two the workmen, both of whom were practical grave-diggers, said the formation was distinctly the form of the grave and they pressed on hoping they would soon be rewarded. For more than an hour they toiled. Governor Taylor sat on a pine stump at the foot of the grave while Governor Seay rested on a seat near the head and watched interestedly the progress of the work. After the grave-diggers had cleared out the grave to a depth of about two feet the pick struck a hollow place and the crust through which its point had gone began to cave in. Then came the work of close investigation. A hole was opened, showing an arch or round crest of earth formed over the vault or receptacle for the coffin.

The soil thrown out from beneath this arch was submitted to Dr. Boyd of Gov. Taylor's staff and Prof. W.T. Lupton, of the Agricultural and Mechanical college at Auburn, both of whom pronounced it mixed with disintegrated animal matter.

The work of further uncovering the grave continued till the arch was entirely destroyed, revealing beneath a vault dug in clay, almost flinty hard and shaped exactly like the old style homemade coffin, small at the head, broad at the shoulders and tapering toward the feet.

The party about the grave closed in watching with interest the proceedings, and the formation of the arch of solid earth over the pit where the coffin originally lay, was the wonder of everyone who saw it. The handsome metallic case was brought to the side of the grave as soon as the hollow was found, and the dust found in the portion of the vault first opened was placed inside it. This was at the head, exactly under the headstone, and a sharp lookout was kept, as it was expected that the skull of the deceased would probably be discovered, but a close search failed to reveal it. There was some disappointment at this, and the party was loath to return with nothing more than a casket half filled with earth which scientists pronounced decayed animal matter.

This feeling of disappointment did not prevail long, when the laborer in the grave reached the centre of the vault, his shovel grated against something, and an examination of the shovel full of the dirt brought up showed two or three nails badly corroded, but still with a firm center. These nails were carefully examined by Dr. Boyd, who pronounced them hand-forged. A little nearer the foot the shovel brought up a whitish object covered with that peculiar substance noted on things undergoing what is termed dry-rot. Dr. Boyd took the object and pronounced a piece of bone. The doctor examined it carefully and said it was a portion of the thigh bone. This piece was about fourteen or fifteen inches in length and the remnant was from the center of the bone, a little shorter, but the same in every particular. A little nearer the foot of the coffin-shaped vault a

few more nails were found and another piece of bone about six or eight inches long but smaller in diameter than the first one.

Next the shovel threw up a piece of wood. It was a small bit, about six inches long, an inch wide and not more than an eighth of an inch thick. Its exterior showed that from all sides of it other wood had decayed away. It was broken in two, and proved to be a sliver of pine so fat that the rosin in it stuck to the fingers of those who handled it. The remainder of the crust of arch was broken away, and when the loose dirt was thrown off a quantity of white particles, evidently bits of bone, were taken up and placed in the casket.

The grave had been carefully cleared from about the shoulders to the feet and the negro engaged in the work turned towards the head. The first shovel full revealing nothing, before he took another he stooped and picked up something and handed it to Dr. Boyd saying "here's a tooth." Dr. Boyd took the little object handed him and on looking at it confirmed the assertion. Every shovel full taken from the head of the grave after this find was carefully examined, resulting in finding ten or twelve of the teeth of the deceased. The grave was cleaned out, leaving the coffin-shaped vault with its bottom, while the bones and teeth filled the casket. Every one about the grave was satisfied with the results, and none more so than Governor Taylor and the descendants of Governor Sevier, who were present. The latter say that every circumstance revealed by the search confirms the history of the burial of Governor Sevier at that spot now almost 74 years ago. The party reached this city at 3 PM. At the depot tonight speeches were made thanking Montgomery for the cordial reception tendered to the party. They left at 6:30 for Calera amid booming of cannon.

At Last! Sevier's remains at rest

Knoxville Journal, June 20, 1889

How little or how much of the common clay it matters not. Tennessee has at last discharged a duty incumbent upon her citizens for three quarters of a century.

Knoxville has been greatly honored in being the final resting place of the first governor of Tennessee. All that is mortal of John Sevier lies beneath the sod in the court house square.

The city was thronged with visitors from different parts of the state as well it might have been. Descendents of "Nolichucky Jack" were here, military companies paraded the streets, bands discoursed sweet music suitable to the occasion; the sturdy yeomanry, all classes of citizens of East Tennessee and other parts of the great state braved the storms and honored themselves in honoring the memory of John Sevier.

It was Sevier day.

At 9:45 yesterday morning a heavy train pulled out of the Union depot at Chattanooga. Two cars were set apart for the committee appointed to disinter the remains of Sevier, the governor and his staff and descendants of the Sevier family. These two cars were draped in black

and white and the national colors. Another car contained detachments from the three military companies of Chattanooga, acting as a guard of honor.

As the train swept along through Cleveland, Charleston, Athens and other towns along the route, hundreds of people stood in silent reverence and in many instances with uncovered heads. The funeral drapery that hung limp and wet on the sides of the cars attracted the attention of the curious and made a sign to the knowing ones that the revered dust of John Sevier was speeding to its final resting place.

The train was pulled into the Union depot at 1:15. A large crowd was gathered in the vicinity. The members of the committees to receive the descendants of the illustrious and distinguished dead were present and carried out their part of the program with befitting dignity and exceeding great courtesy.

The detachment of Chattanooga soldiers who had acted as guard of honor on the way up were relieved by a detachment of the Greeneville rifles who were in turn relieved by detachments of other visiting military organizations. The casket was removed from the train and the soldier boys stood guard in the waiting room until it was placed on the catafalque, nearly two hours later.

Thousands of people, estimated by some at thirty thousand, thronged the streets. Thousands of flags fluttered in the cooling breezes, though considerably drabbed by the terrific rainstorm. Every train poured its hundreds into the city. The special train from Chattanooga brought in hundreds from below. But for the threatening aspect of the weather hundreds more would have come to pay homage to John Sevier.

By 2 o'clock the streets were alive with soldiers and civilians in carriages, on horseback and afoot. There was hurrying to places assigned for the different sections of the great parade.

About three o'clock the pageant was ready to move. The elegant casket had been wrapped in a silken banner loaned by Rev. J.H. Frazee. The Knoxville Turn Verein had placed at the head a magnificent wreath of flowers with the letters T.V. worked in colors. The Ladies' Memorial association had placed a basket of magnolias at the side of the casket. On the center lay a wreath of immortelles with the figures of a sword and tomahawk worked in small dark flowers. This was brought from Montgomery on the top of the casket, and was presented by Mrs. R. M. Barry, formerly of Tennessee. Captain Allison, of the Knoxville rifles, had placed a large floral cross at the foot of the casket. Mrs. B.L. Wyman, of Montgomery, contributed flowers.

With all these floral offerings the casket was borne to the catafalque by the regularly chosen pallbearers. The catafalque had been wreathed with magnolias and the choicest flowers of the conservatory, and when the flower-laden casket had been placed in position the order was given to move.

From a window halfway down Gay street the pageant could be seen at its best. It was magnificent in every respect. The street was teeming with thousands of sight-seers. Every window and other point of vantage was occupied.

The procession extended from the corner of Depot and Gay to Gay and Main.

Nothing could better show the love of the people for their first governor.

When the head of the monster procession arrived at the court house, the military companies preceding the catafalque marched past the east gate and allowed the carriage of the dead to be drawn up to the sidewalk. Gov. Taylor's staff dismounted from their horses, and took their place at the head of the funeral cortege. As soon as the handsome case was removed from the catafalque, the procession moved toward the stage erected for the speakers. There the casket was deposited, and the burial exercises begun.

Fully ten thousand people were in attendance—so many in fact that it was impossible for those on the outskirts of the assemblage to hear a sentence that was pronounced by any of the speakers. As far as eye could reach it was one human mass. The big platform erected immediately in front of the east steps of the court-house was jammed with people. Even the roof over the east court-house porch was covered, and many occupied seats on the parapet of the same.

On the speakers' platform, besides many citizens, were the Sevier committee, Governor Taylor and staff, the speaker of the day and the great grandchildren of the famous hero to whose memory the day was being observed, occupied several scores of chairs. It was a big crowd and it had been waiting such a length of time that many of them were becoming impatient, and even after the exercises commenced were noisy, and it was quite a long time before quiet reigned.

Hon. Joshua W. Caldwell acted as chairman and introduced, as the first speaker, His Excellency Robert L. Taylor, governor of Tennessee. The governor was received with applause. In his true, statesmanlike manner he delivered the address in which he turned over to the Sevier committee all that was mortal of ex-Governor John Sevier.

The concluding exercises were conducted at the grave by Rev. James Park, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church. The services were quite solemn and impressive. After the casket had been lowered into its windowless palace, and the huge marble slab placed over the top of the sepulcher, it was magnificently decorated with beautiful flowers by the ladies of Rebecca, degree lodge I.O.O.F. Many handsome floral tributes were from descendents of the dead hero who were thus given an opportunity to do honor to one held in memory.