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

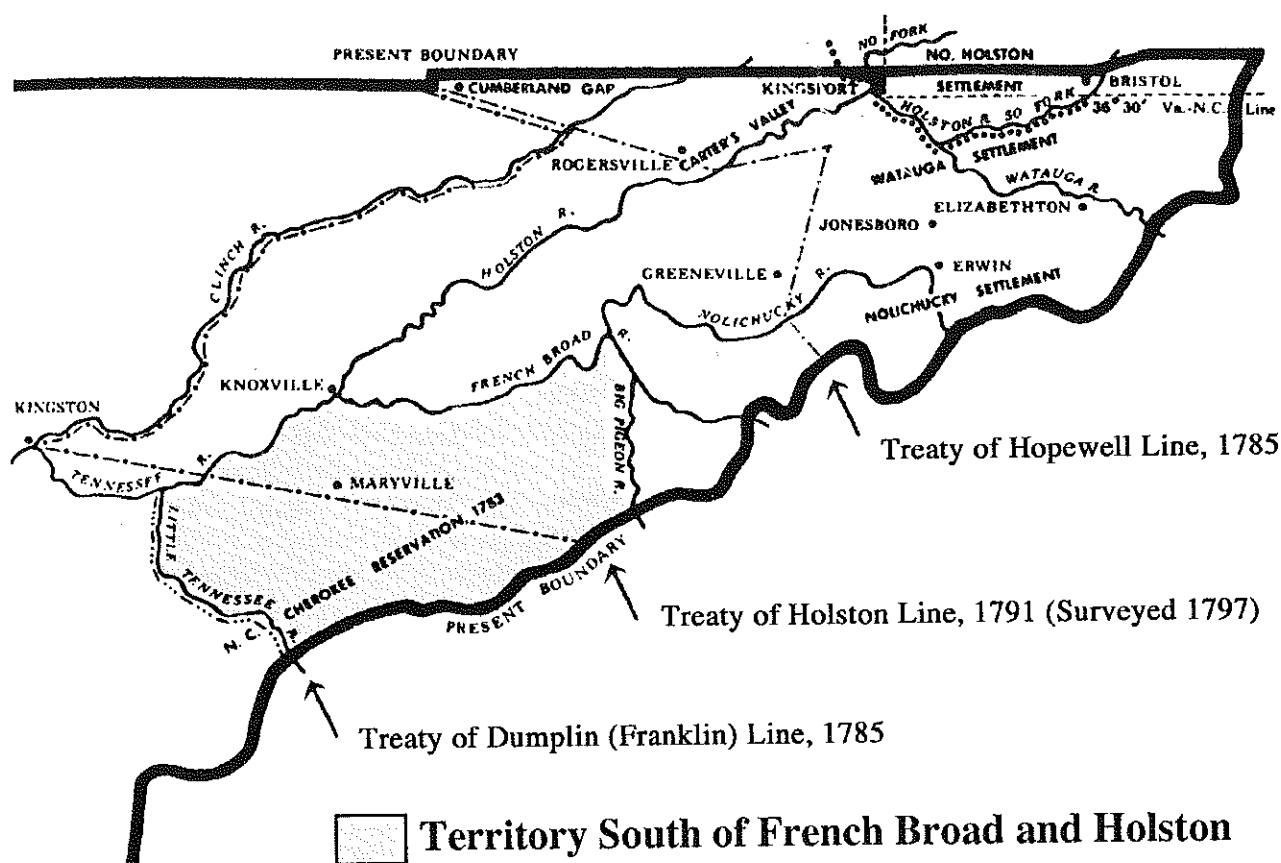
by Cherel Bolin Henderson

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 home-made 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 de-

mise 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-



Adapted from *Tennessee: A Short History* by Robert 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 a 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.

memorials 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..."²

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.³ 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

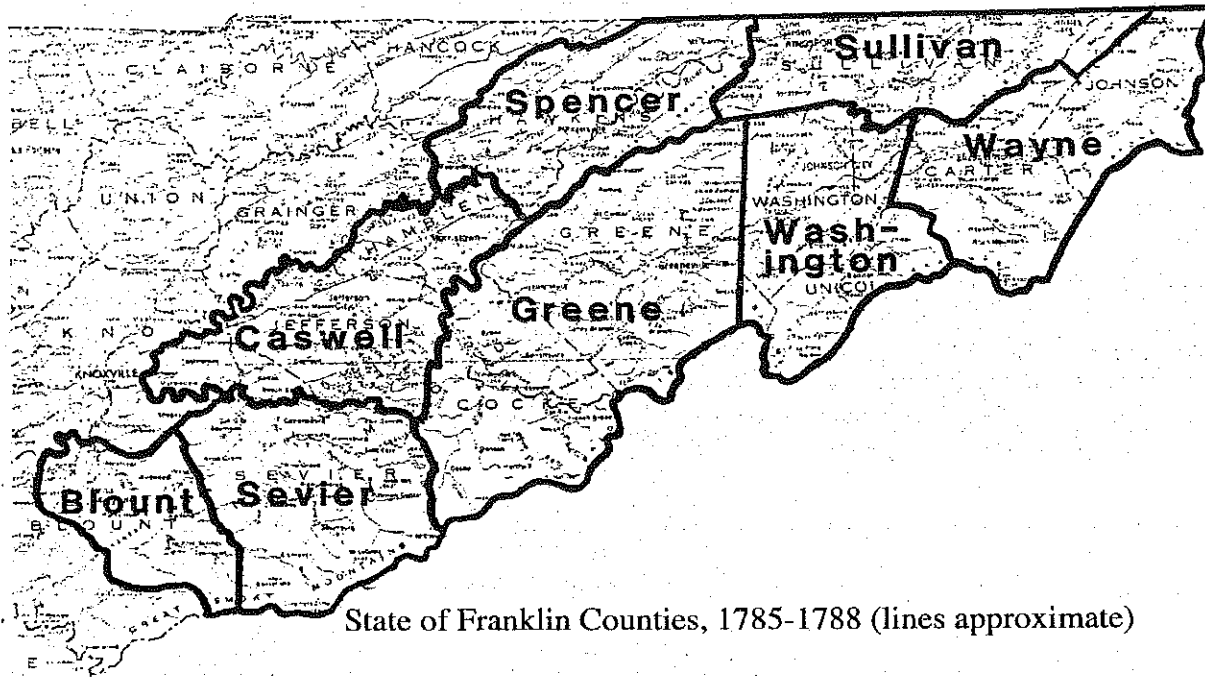
establish their own government and in August of that year met in convention to declare themselves "a separate and distinct state."⁷

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.

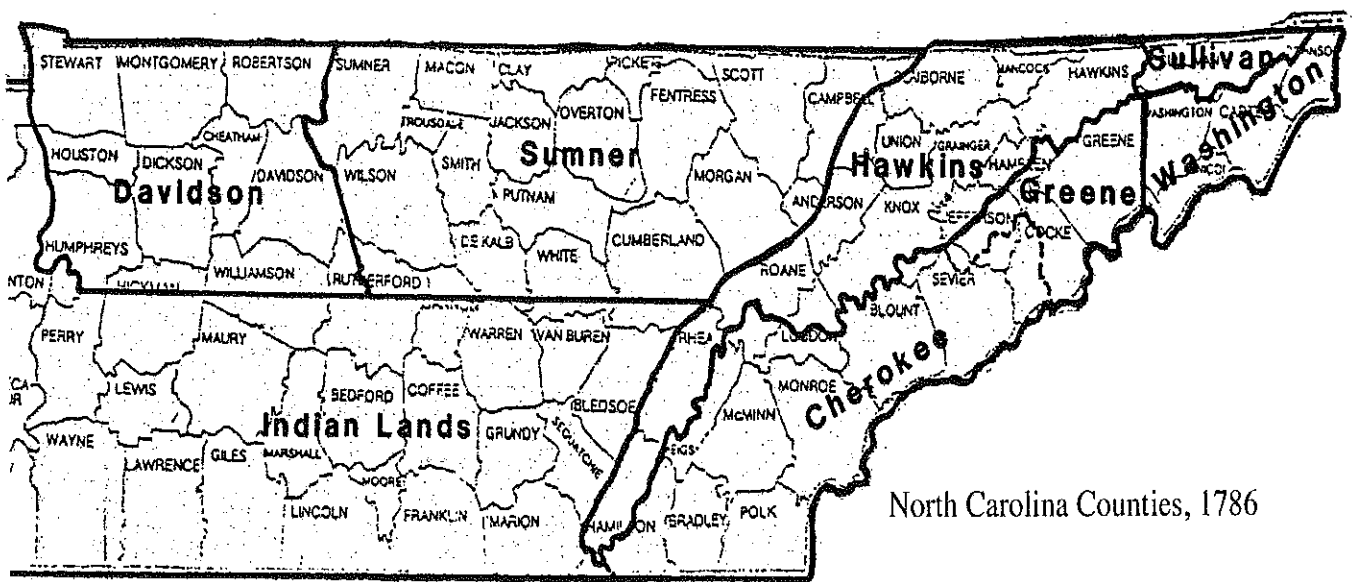
The first assembly of the State of Franklin met in March 1785 in Jonesborough and made a number of important decisions. They chose John Sevier as governor,

established a militia and new counties, and made provisions for money, a state seal, tax collection, and education.⁸

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



Map courtesy of René Jordan



Map Courtesy of René Jordan

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 I 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 Tassel 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?"¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

The demise of the Franklin government threw the South of the French Broad inhabitants 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 Difficulties 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 Authorization alone we Expect to Be secure and hapy."¹⁸

Their pleas falling on deaf ears, the French Broad inhabitants waged a des-

perate 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."¹⁹

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

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-five, at Hopewell, on the Keowee, conclude Articles of a Treaty with all the Cherokees, and among other things stipulated and engaged by Article fourth, "That the Boundary allotted to the Cherokees for their Hunting Grounds, between the said Indians and the Citizens of the United States, within the limit of the United States of America, is and shall be the following, viz: "Beginning at the mouth of Back river on the Tennessee; thence running north-east to the ridge dividing the waters running into Cumberland from those running into the Tennessee; thence eastwardly along the said ridge to a north-east line to be run, which shall strike the river Cumberland, forty miles above Nashville, thence along the said line to the river; thence up the said river to the ford where the Kentucky road crosses the river, thence to Campbell's line near to Cumberland Gap; thence to the mouth of Claude's Creek in Holston, thence to the Chimney-Top Mountain; thence to Camp Creek, near the mouth of Big Line Stone on Nolachucky; thence a southerly course six miles to a mountain; thence south to the North-Carolina line, thence to the South-Carolina Indian Boundary, following the line south-west over the top of the Great Mountain, called a Bull, thence to the top of the Great Mountain, thence to the top of the Currawee Mountain, thence to the mouth of the south fork of the Oconee river. And by Article fifth, that "no any Citizen of the United States, or other person, for doing any thing which shall violate or infringe on any of the lands westward or southward of the said Boundary, which were allotted to the Indians for their Hunting Grounds, or having settled previously to concluding the said Treaty, and not removing from the same within six months after the ratification of the said Treaty, such person should forfeit the protection of the United States, and that the Indians might punish him or not as they please, provided, that the said fifth Article should not extend to the People settled between the fork of French Broad and Holston rivers, whose particular situation should be transmitted to the United States in Congress assembled for their decision thereon, which the Indians agreed to abide by." AND WHEREAS it has been reported to Congress, that several disorderly Persons settled on the Frontier of North-Carolina, in the vicinity of Cato, have in open violation of the said Treaty, made intrusions upon the said Indian Hunting Grounds, and committed many unprovoked outrages upon the said Cherokees, who by the said Treaty have put themselves under the protection of the United States, and whose proceedings are highly injurious and disrespectful to the authority of the Union, and it being the firm determination of Congress to protect the said Cherokees in their rights, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Treaty; THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, have therefore thought fit to issue, and they DO hereby issue the then Proclamations, in and by following all such unwarrantable intrusions, and hostile proceedings against the said Cherokees, and enjoin on all those who have settled upon the said Hunting Grounds of the said Cherokees, to depart with their Families and Effects without loss of time, as they shall answer their disobedience to the injunctions and prohibitions expressed in this Resolution at their peril: Provided, that this Proclamation shall not be construed as requiring the removal of the People settled between the fork of French Broad and Holston rivers, referred to in the said Treaty: Provided also, that nothing contained in this Proclamation shall be considered as affecting the Territorial Claims of the State of North-Carolina.

DONE in Congress, this Tenth Day of September, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-eight, and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Thirtieth.

CYRUS GRIFFIN, President,
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

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.²⁰

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 dissension 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.²¹

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.²²

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.²³

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."²⁴

"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."²⁵ Outrage beget 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 exeat. Numbers of them on foot

who have lost all But their lives only and Seem Contented 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 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."³³

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.³⁴

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.³⁵

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.³⁶

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.³⁷

John Sevier in his second inaugural address, Sep-

tember 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.³⁸

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."³⁹

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.³⁹

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, 1805.⁴⁰

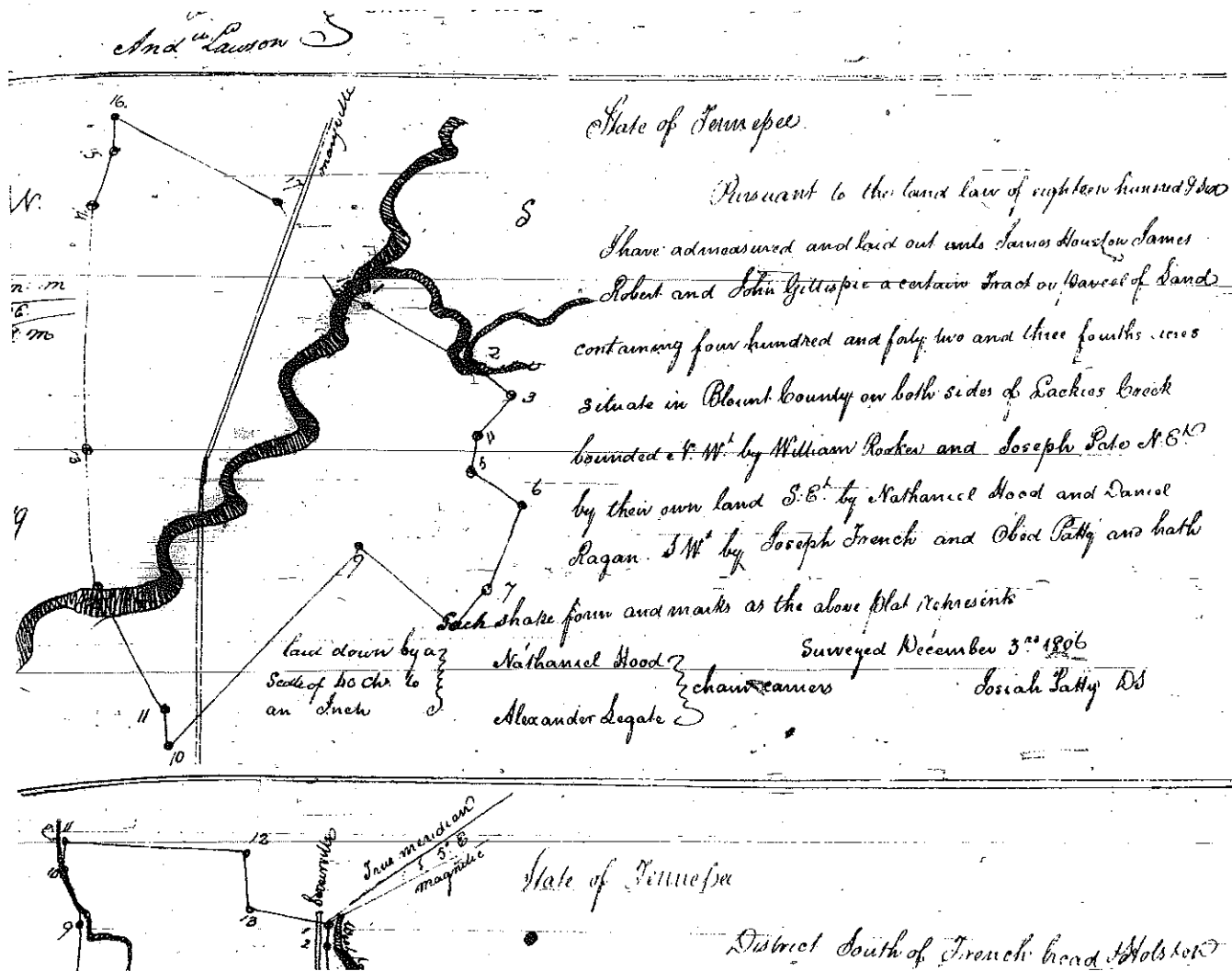
A breakthrough came in 1806 when the U.S. Congress in a reversal of its previous position agreed to the North Carolina-Tennessee proposal. Governor Sevier called a special session of the Tennessee Legislature, July 29, 1806, to inform them of the "final and amicable

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 un-

appropriated 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.)

tract would be used to establish an academy in each of the state's counties.⁴³

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 preemptors was to be \$1 per acre.⁴⁴ 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 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.⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸

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."⁴⁹

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

cabins, 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 those 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-aroused 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 lighthouses 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 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 "Surveyors 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 1890 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

- ² 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."
- ³ For a history of the State of Franklin, see Samuel C. Williams, *History of the Lost 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).
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ A list of the individual purchasers of Watauga land, along with land descriptions, drawn plats, and a large map of all plats can be found in Troy R. Keese, *The Wataugah Land Purchases* (Knoxville, 1997). Also see Loraine B. Rac, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, 1775-1800*, (Greenville, SC, 1991), 21-41.
- ⁶ See "1775 Petition of Inhabitants of Washington District to be Made a County of North Carolina," *Watauga Association of Genealogists Bulletin*; also "Petition of the Inhabitants of Washington District," Samuel Cole Williams, *Tennessee During the Revolutionary War* (Knoxville, 1974), 19-23.
- ⁷ Williams, *History of the Lost State*, 41.
- ⁸ *Ibid*, 56-61.
- ⁹ *Ibid*, 59-60.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid*, 208.
- ¹¹ September 1, 1788, *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, 477-478. 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.
- ¹² Chief Old Tassel to Joseph Martin at Chota, 25 Sept. 1782, "on behalf of the whole nation for his excellency the governor of North Carolina." Walter Clark, *North Carolina State Records (Wilmington, 1994)*, 16: 416.
- ¹³ *Ibid*, 810.
- ¹⁴ *North Carolina State Records*, 17:175.
- ¹⁵ *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 7: 18.
- ¹⁶ *North Carolina State Records*, 18:757.
- ¹⁷ Williams, *History of the Lost State*, 99-100.
- ¹⁸ "Memorial of the Inhabitants So of French broad," North Carolina General Assembly Records, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives.
- ¹⁹ Williams, *History of the Lost State*, 218-230.
- ²⁰ Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee*, 435.
- ²¹ Early Blount County historian Will A. McTeer 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.
- ²² United States Continental Congress, 177-89, Photostats of selected papers from Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (Washington, DC 1924), 5:461. Library of Congress Manuscripts Division. Photostats in the McClung Historical Collection, Knoxville, TN.
- ²³ *Papers of the Continental Congress*, 5:332. Cora Bales Sevier and Nancy S. Madden, *Sevier Family History with the Letters of General John Sevier* (Washington, DC, 1961), 97. Firsthand accounts are given in depositions now in the North Carolina State Archives, General Assembly Sessions Records, Box 1, Nov.-Dec., 1788, Folder 7. Typewritten transcripts are printed in Bales and Madden, *Sevier Family History*, 97-100.
- ²⁴ See Bales & Madden, *Sevier Family History*, 99.
- ²⁵ John Sevier, Jr., to Lyman Draper, Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collections, 35S210, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Transcript printed in Bales & Madden, *Sevier Family History*, 93.
- ²⁶ North Carolina Historical Commission, *Miscellaneous Papers I (1758-1788, September 20-November 30)*, 134. Quoted in Randolph C. Downes, "Cherokee-American Relations in the Upper Tennessee Valley, 1776-1791," *East Tennessee Historical Society Publications*, 8:49.
- ²⁷ "The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Green County," North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1788, Box 1, Folder 13, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
- ²⁸ Gilmore, James R., *John Sevier as a Commonwealth-Builder* (New York, 1887), 183.
- ²⁹ John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, January 1790-March 1792 (Washington 1939), 31:89-90.
- ³⁰ Clarence Edwin Carter, ed., *The Territorial Papers of the United States, The Territory South of the River Ohio, 1790-1796* (Washington, 1936), 5:60-65.
- ³¹ *Ibid*, 155-156.
- ³² *Ibid*, 191-194.
- ³³ *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.
- ³⁴ *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1789-1873*, Library of Congress, American Memory Website.
- ³⁵ Tennessee State Constitution, 1796, Article XI, Section 31. This section was also included in the 1834 Constitution, Article 1, Section 32.
- ³⁶ Inez Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: War Trail to Landing Strip, 1795-1955* (Nashville 1957), 35. T.W. Powell, *5th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary at the Smithsonian Institute 1883-1884* (Washington 1857), 166.
- ³⁷ White, *Messages of the Governors*, 1:28.
- ³⁸ *Ibid*, 24-25.
- ³⁹ *Journals of the Senate and House of the Second General Assembly of the State of Tennessee held at Knoxville (Kingsport 1933)*, 18.
- ⁴⁰ *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 inclement season of the year." For further explanation of the passports, see Burns, *History of Blount County*, 35-36, 290. Many of the individuals receiving passports are listed in Dorothy Williams Potter, *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823* (Baltimore, 1982), 307-334.
- ⁴¹ White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee*, 1:194.
- ⁴² *Ibid*, 709-710.
- ⁴³ Richard Peters, ed., *The Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America, from the Organization of the Government in 1789, to March 3, 1845* (Boston, 1850), 381-383.
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid*, 382.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ 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 faced by the French Broad citizens in the two Indian wars were taken into account, then the citizens 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.

⁴⁶ White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee*, 1:499-502. 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.

⁴⁷ Whitney, *Land Laws of Tennessee*, 376.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*, 382-83.

⁴⁹ Robert H. White, Ph.D., *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1821-1835* (Nashville, 1952), 2:97-98.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*, 219.

⁵¹ White, *Messages of the Governors of Tennessee*, 1:449.

⁵² George S. Yerger, *Tennessee Reports Supreme Court of Tennessee* (Columbia, MO, 1912), I: 8-89. *Proffit v. Williams*, 1825. Also, Reports of Cases Argued and Decided in the Supreme Court of the United States (Newark, NY, 1882), IV: 152-153, *Danforth's Lessee v. Thomas*.

⁵³ "An Address to the Citizens of Tennessee by a Citizen, South of French Broad and Holston," 21. (See footnote 45.)

⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁵ Moses White, *Early History of the University of Tennessee: Address before the Alumni Association, June 17, 1879* (Knoxville, 1879), 18-19.

⁵⁶ Whitney, *Land Laws of Tennessee*, 383.

⁵⁷ *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."

⁵⁸ 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.

⁵⁹ Blount County Genealogical & Historical Society, P.O. Box 4986, Maryville, TN 37802.

Dunham McKeeth
John Nicols
Joseph Willicins
Bro Willicins
James Willicins
David Nicols
Dan Nicols
George Gross jr
George Gross sr
Peter Bushey

Barnabas Anderson
David Campbell
And^r Jones
E Robertson
Andrew Crites
Nicht McFarran Sr

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 J^{os} and J^{as} 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**

[Petition #1] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, April-June, 1784, Box 1, Folder 8, “Joint Standing Committee,” North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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 aid 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 Inhabetants and Indians Shold be determined a considerable number of adventures of whowm 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 proseedings 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 obilidged 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 actualy 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 priveledgeses and Rights as Other Inhabitents of Lands under the same predicaments therefore they Exspected that a boundary Shold be so determined as to include their Settlements which before they had devided 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 Insted of being Included your Petitioners to their great Disappointment found them selves Left out they Exempted from the Common priveledges 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 Reperented 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 priveledges of free men let them be treated as these Characeters do Deserve but if your petitisoners Stand under the Character of good Citizens let them be treated as good Citizens deserve Our grevance 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 threatned 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 reperented let them have the previllege of other freemen or som sofficient 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 conveneent for them to Enter and pay for their Lands so that they May Obtain the sanction of the State for posing the same

And your petitioners [tape]

[over]

[Page 1, column 1]

W^m Willoughby
 James greenaway
 Sam^l Thomson
 Valontine Shuls
 Andrew Thompson
 Jesse Wallace
 Robert Thompson
 John Wallan
 [Wallace?]
 Isaiah Webb
 [name in fold]
 W^m Reno Mrs.
 Job Callam
 John Callan
 Abednego Hicks
 John Evins
 Hugh Barry
 William Tate
 Edward Crawford
 John Reno
 Nathanel Evins
 Willem heis
 Jacob Shole
 William Russell
 John Walker
 Cha^s Gentry
 Jesse Gentry
 Ja^s Walker
 John M^cCown
 Jesse Evans

Robt Henderson
 Andrew Henderson
 Alexander Sheddan
 Andrew Evins
 James Sheddan
 Alexander
 Montgomery
 [marked out]

[Column 2]

Alexander
 Montgomery
 Alex^r Montgomery
 Johon Montgomery
 James Hubbert
 Joshua Gist
 James Evins
 James anderson
 John Warrick
 John Blackburn
 William Boyd
 Thomas Mcferron
 Joseph Lyonse
 Jacob Jackson
 John finten
 Garge Egear
 James Carnes
 John M^cfarland Sene^r
 John M^cfarland
 Jecob Hoof [Hoss?]
 Samuel jeck

John Nelley [Kelley?]
 Andrew nelley
 John M^cnytel[?]
 Jeames M^cCall
 John Goones
 John ClenkenBerd
 Thomas Bevors
 Jeams Nikelson
 [Mikelson?]
 Mickal yockam
 Allexander Calcey
 Huey Calcey
 John Balch
 Henry hegerd
 Sutherland Meyfeld
 Jeames Randolph
 Evin Edwerds
 John Bradshaw
 Andrew Cowan
 Jeams gelaspey
 thomes Biges
 Joseph Evins

[Column 3]

Alex^r Montgomery
 Sen^r
 Silas George
 John Fryer
 Stoute Charmbrien
 Thomas vance
 Jos^b Leth

James Vance
 William Henderson
 John Alison
 Jno Wood
 W^m Henrey
 Wm Celemanies
 James White
 William Hines
 John Singleton
 George Ewing
 John Hutchens
 Ala^d Cuninghame
 Paul Cuninghame
 James flowrer
 Edward MCnew
 Edward acons
 Mickeal Hoffakear
 Ezekiah Jurden
 Esaiah Bowman
 Samuel Lowgan
 William Lowgan
 James Hogen
 Gebrel Murphy
 Georg Princkl
 George Hoffakear
 Peter Hoffakear
 Hugh Beard
 Moses Johnston
 James Richardson
 Adam Willson
 Tho^s Stockton
 Cristiford Eles

**“Petition of the people Settled Over french Broad river on the pidgen rivers”
April-June, 1784**

[Petition #2] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, April-June, 1784, Box 1, Folder 8, “Joint Standing Committee,” North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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.

<p>[Column 1] Robert Stuart Thomas Wallace Robert Gray Tho^s Stuart W^m Wallace William dunnam Adam Ciffell John blevings Jun^r James Blevings John Gorsuch John Aronwine Richard Collans Henry Cabbage Edward Sterling Jacob bealor Robeart Jackson Hugh Jackson</p> <p>[Column 2] John pemberton Capt William Pemberton Thomas Jeeves John Cawood jun^r Edmund Waring[?] Elijah Smith William Hicks John Blevins ABednego Hicks William Hicks Mashack Hicks</p>	<p>Shadrek Hicks Charles Philllips George Webb Isaac Thomas Elijah Cross William Blevings</p> <p>[Column 3] George Webb Jo^s Burnet James Dyer James Cross John Scott Wall [no other name] Drury Roberson John Burk George Melone W. Hartley[?] John Wood Joseph Cole Joshua Cross Steven Rentfro</p> <p>[Column 4] Joseph Wallace John Wallace George Hines Abraham M^cClelan Matt Caritheers Thos Moss Isack Thomas</p>	<p>Jacob [Moisjrez?] Steven[?] Rinfro Moses Webb Benjamin Webb John Baitty John Seers Benjamon Money george Moss Walter Greer Matthew Cole</p> <p>[Page 2, column 1] David Shelby Alex^r Campbell John Long Am^{br} yancey Wm Birke W^m Clary Gideon Morriss John Yancey James Mitchel Barney Haney George Gambell Eleckander More John Laughlin Robert Cowan Tho^s Gibson William Carr John Blevin Sen^r William Bleven William Bleving Sen^r</p>	<p>Peter Hughs W^m Hughs</p> <p>[Column 2] Jesse Vawter James Laughlin Stephen Majors John Scott Joseph Delaney John Dyer W^m Dyer Daniel Lambert Michail Niseley Tho^s Laughlin James Harris John Sharp</p> <p>[Back of page, column 1] James Mitchell Barney Hanery George Gambell Elexander more John Laughlin Robert Cowan Thomas Gibson W^m Carr</p> <p>[Column 2] Elijah Smith</p> <p>[Endorsement]</p>
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Petition of people settled over French Broad River in the House Commons 28 Ap 1784 referred to 2^d 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**

**[Petition #3] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Apr-June 1784, Box 1, Folder 8,
“Joint Standing Committee,” April 21-May 11, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.**

To the Hon^{ble} the gen^l 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 preceeding 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^d 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 y^e world into this country, with a view to settle, and, as matters are now circumstanced, 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 y^l [that] it would be greatly to y^e advantage of this country, y^l the boundary be extended, by a line runing with the deviding Ridge, between the waters of Holston, & Tenessee; hereby devesting the Savages of y^l 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 y^r councils; we hope that y^r honours will readily observe the propriety & fitness of our petition, & grant us a favourable answer, & y^r petitioners, as in duty bound shall ever pray —

[column 1]	John M ^c Kain	Robert Stevenson	Asahel Rawlings
Thomas Woodward	James Wilson	Sam ^l Moore	James Todd
Robert Weer	George Wilson	Moses hanah[?]	Thos M ^c Mackin
Rob ^t Campbell	David Harkwood	James Kennedy	Lanty Armstrong
James Campbell	Alex ^t Campbell		Jn ^o Williams
Alexander Campbell	Barnabas Anderson	[Column 2]	Noah Newthorn
James Robinson	David Campbell	John Toole	John Wear
David Campbell	A ^{ndw} Greer	Joseph Taylor	John Gelihan
Alex ^t M ^c Laughlin	E Robertson	Tho ^s Jonson[?]	John Wood
John Dixon	Andrew Greer	David Taylor	
	Meik ^l M ^c Connole	Anthony Kelly	
	Mich ^l M ^c Connole		

[Endorsement and Report]

A Pet^e 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 Clk

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^d Caswell Sp
By Order John Haywood Clk

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**

**[Petition #4] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1788, Box 1, Folder 13,
North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh**

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Green County Humbly Sheweth

That we labour under Great Disadvantages and Difficulties by Reason of the great distance we lie from the Courthouse it being att least ninety miles from our lower Settlements and no Civil Officer Residing in less then forty miles by which means Viliany 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 petitioners that the County be bounded As follows (viz) Beginning att the main Dividing Ridge on Apalachain 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 uper 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 Petitioners Are now Sufferers by A Most Cruel And unhapy war With the Cherokee Indeans We have been Closely Confin^d 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 Milita 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 Entring 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 Community 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 petitioners
As in Duty Bound Do Ever Pray

[Column 1]	[Column 2]	[Column 3]	[Column 4]
John Gillespy	John Hanna	James Beard	Samuel M ^c murrey
Ja ^s Ewing	William Woods	Andrew Giffin	William M ^c murray
Tho ^s Dixon	Robert Hanna	John Lowery	James Donehew
William Gillespie	Joshua Hanna	George Ewing	Charles Reagan
John Gillaspie	Calvin Jonsten	George Berry	John Reagan
John Hanna	Ephraim M ^d owel	Tho ^s M ^c Collough	Henry Reagan
William Hanna	W ^m Hanna	Sam ^l M ^c Collough	Peter Doshier
John Liddy	W ^m Woods	John M ^c Collough	Jacob Thomas
James Witherspoon, Sen ^{or}	Ephram M ^d owel Jun ^r	James Alexander	Henry Thomas
David Loveless	Tho ^s Brown	James M ^a lister	Joseph Rosson
James Witherspoon	John Thompson	George Caldwell	Jonathan Cuninghame
Nicholess Bartlet	Jacob Riffe	Samuel ____y	Levy Jones
James Gillespie	William Henry	[Henry?]	Alex ^r Kelley
Georg Rondel [?]	Robert Hanna	William Lowery[?]	W ^m Gillesty
John M ^a lister	Alexd ^r Ewing	William Reagan	W ^m Henderson
Robert Daniel Pearcy	John Kelley	Robert M ^c murey	Ja ^s Gillespy Jun ^r
Andrew Hanna	Thomas Caldwell		Stephen byrd

[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 & referd to the
committee on Indian Affairs

By Order
J. Hunt, Clk

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

[Petition #5] North Carolina General Assembly Session Records Nov-Dec 1788, Box 2, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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 Experiance felt the inconveniance 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 Tinnasee 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 considar us in opning 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 prohibatory 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 dispositon, but only followed the practice of the different states, who had unapropriated lands to settle - Who from time immemorial confirmed the actual settlers in their settlements upon their paying the price settled by Law: We hope your Honourable House will take s^d premises undar your serious Consideration and your petitioners Shall pray &c.

[Page 1, column 1]

Alex^r Ward
 George M^eNutt
 Geo^r Hardan [Wardan?]
 Evan morgan
 John Shavar
 Henry Netherton
 Mathew Matthews
 James turman
 John Cordar
 William Thrift
 Chas Bright
 John Huff
 John Nave Sen^r
 Jeremiah Woods
 Charles m^eglohlen
 John Nave J^{ner}
 W^m thornten
 Richard Gros
 John Tylor
 Jacob groce
 Ja^s Siducus
 Jacob Siducus
 Rob^t Henry
 W^m Stuart
 Jacob Woodward
 Geo^r Henry
 Edward Stephenson
 Daninl [Edwards?]
 Edward Clingan
 Benjamin Odell
 Rob^t Taylor
 W^m Bell

John M^efarland
 George M^eFarland
 Alex^r Rodgers
 W^d[?] Campbell
 Samuel Jack
 Sam^l Horn
 Joseph Huff
 Joseph Keeney
 Ja^s Netherton

[Page 1, column 2]

James Morris
 Benj M^eFarland
 Alex^r Campbel
 David Henderson
 Moses Ashbrook
 G[?] Ashbrook
 Samuel Wilson
 Ephraim manning
 William Horn
 Andrew Horn
 Jasper Manning
 Richard Maning
 Hugh Brown
 thomas Christian
 Anthony Christian
 Abijah foster[?]
 Leonard Huff
 Peter Huff
 David Staurt
 thomas Moon
 Thomas Fowler
 Lanty Armstrong
 Jonnathan Wood
 Hennery Johnes

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

[Column 3]

Jonah Denton
 Rich^d Pryer
 Dannel Mur[?]
 John Denton
 Phillip Chavis
 Gilbert Chavis
 William Eryar [Pryar?]
 Joseph White
 Eward lovday
 James ashworth
 Jeremiah Odle
 William Chavis
 Phillip Chavis
 Thomas Gooing
 James Dial
 John M^eKissick
 Calep Odle
 Isaac Odle
 John Evens
 Jo^s English
 James English
 Ja^s Staler [Stater?]
 W^m Sims[?]
 William Henery
 Georg Henery
 Joseph English
 John Brickey

Jesse Wilson [Nilson?]
 Joseph Preyor
 John Tulley
 W^m Dun
 John Williams
 G^o [Geo?] Williams
 Tho^s 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 Houk
 John Whilefor
 Capt Robertson
 Tobias Wilhelm
 John manning
 Bengemen manning
 John anderson
 John Neelley
 Andrew Neelley
 Ab^t Denton
 William English
 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**

[Petition #6] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1788, Box 1, Folder 13, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh

We the Inhabitants Living south of french broad River on the frontiers of Green County Within the Bounds of the Teritoriall Jurisdiction of N^o Carolina Being assembled under the Constitutional Bill of Rights held out in the county of S^d State to the Citizens thereof for Instructing their Representitives in petitioning to the Honorable 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^d Lands peacably and unmolested But contrary to their agreement We suffered many Injuries and losses by S^d Indians Which we Bore Without Resentment untill the Began to murder and had actualy murdered and taken Seventeen persons and finding the made no Differance Between persons Settled on lands claimed and sold By the State of N^o Carolina and those on the Unapropriated lands We were at length oblidge 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 Sensive Arms of protection around us and as a number of our citizens fell Victoms to the savage Barbarity In Defence of the counterey 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 companion and familiarly Shake hands with the cold hand of poverty————

2^d We would also shew to your Honourable 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 succesfull in obtaining protection of Government We assure your Honours that the Bounds Below S^d Boundarey line allredy 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 opesite the head of Beaver dam creek then a direct line to the Ridge Dividing Little Pigeon and flat creek waters thence along S^d 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 preferance 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]	Patrick Woods	John Minnis	Rob' Hanna
W ^m Hamilton	Hugh Dickson	James Cage	John hanna J ⁿⁿ
W ^m Stephens	James Cameron	John keewood	Jeremiah Jack
Wam Duggan	Samuel Cantebury	John Crage	Archable Teah
James oDam[?]	John Hooks	Samuel Hogg	Rober Teah
James Willson	danal M ^o Kinny	James Hogg	John Blak
Joseph Woods	John Duncan	Joseph mconel	Robert Blak
Tobias Wilhelm	Joseph Wear	James Anderson	[name covered]
Anthony Lawson	Samuel Wear	John bealy	
John Woods	James Wear	James Aanderson	[Column 2]
W ^m Kennedy	Josep mcredels	John Chamberlein	W ^m Price
Samuel Moore	Hugh forgison	John Wheeler	John Duggan
James Stevenson	Robert forgison	Thomas Aanderson	Joseph Dickson
James Dicson	John Wear	John Thomas	John Dickson
James Woods	Iseah Boman	Ja ^s King	John Reno

George Hallmark	John Miser	William Henderson	William Woods Juner
Richard Shields	[Column 3]	Matthew Russel	William hanah
W ^m Simpson		James Conner	William Martan
William Moon	Robt Shields	James Caldwell	James martan
Jesse Moon	James Shields	Alx Milican	Josiah martan
John Mannng	David Stockton Shields	An ^d Lackey	Jamas Waler
Beniamin Manning	John Shields	John Lackey	Jame Donnahow
Job Manning	W ^m Shields	John Bird	William Por _____
Jo ^s Manning	Thos Shields	Stephen Birg	Isiah Web[?]
Elijah Rogers	James Smith	Amos Bird	John Johnson
Mikel Swshser	Joshua Tipton	Umphrey Montgomery	George vennerd
Henery Swshser	mordecai Tipton	Jonothon Coanham	James Major
Charles Gouge	meshak Tipton	Licey Jones	Henry Rogers
John Allexander	Laban Edwards	Gorge caldwell	Richard Manas
Eb ^t Allexander	Joshua Simpson	Thomas Pate	[Manan?]
Heney forgison	John Lovlaty (his x mark)	John Tiler	Tho ^s Wallace
James Crage Sen	Reuben Simpson	[Column 4]	Joel Wallace
James Scot	Adam Willson	W. Wallace	David Emmons
moses cunninham	Richard Manas	Sam ^l Thompson	Benj Hamilton
James Greenay	David Emmons	T Wallace	Elijah Rogers
Bartlet Mcgeeh	Benj hamilton	Robert Thompson Jun ^r	John Wallace
Samuel Jacson	George Tedford	Robert Thompson Sen ^r	Alexander M ^c Cormack
James Telford	John Telford	Olover Wallace	Samuel Canterbury
William Read [smudged]	Henry forgeson	M Wallace	William Cowan
Roger Oates	John Lowry	James Thompson	David Cowan
Sam ^l Browne	Samuel paxton	Andrew Thompson	Alx ^r Cowan
Samuel M ^c murry	Andrew Jaison	John Johnson	Andrew Cowan
Robert M ^c murry	John Dalzell	George vennerd	Martinno Atchley
John Lowry Sr [Jr?]	Robert hambel	Th ^{os} Wallace	James Tylor [Taylor?]
William M ^c murry	Thomas Calwell	Joel Wallace	James Tiller
Andrew Evens ^{senr}	David Caldwell	Thomas Brown	Laven Romines
Andrew Evens	Thomas Dickson	Calven Johnston	[On^r back cover]:
John M ^c Croskey	John Shelby [Kelly?]	Samuel glass	Martino Atchley
James evans	Ja ^s Beard	Joshua Hannah	James Tylor
David Cowan	John Singleton	James M ^c Collaster	Thomas Paite
John Johnson	Robert Gillaspie	John hannah	John Tiler
John Hicks	William Gillaspie	Wilm Woods	James Tiller
William Johnson	James gillaspie	Andrew hanah	Laden Romines
Elija hicks		Robert hanah	
hugh Johnson			

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

In Senate 14 Novem 1788 Read & referred as by the House of Commons

J. Haywood Clk

**"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^f Gov^r 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 teritory 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 experianced the clemancy 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 inliteded council.

To take us undar ther 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 Eaders [aiders] or incouragers 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 benifits 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 greicious and unmerited reception into the Bosom of Civil Government. at which time we Shall Considar ourselves as the most distinguished objects of the Clemancy and unbounded liberality of a free and independant State and Shall Considar ourselves doubly bound to Reverance her laws and Support her interests

[Column 1]

John Ward Jun^r
John M^rfarland
James Nickels
Thomas Keeny
George M^rnuttt
Mical yockam
James turman
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^r Rodgers
John Calfee
John Nave
Alex^r Ward
David Stuart
John Shever
Alex^r Campbel
James Campbel

David Tate
David Fine
Spencer Coleman
Jacob Job
John ___ley
Jonah Denton
Samuel Odell
Benj^m Odell
John Brickey
George Adams
Spencer Graham
William Whitson
B___ May [strike out]
Thomas May
Siman odell
Thomas davis
Thomas Abell
Thomas Stephens
nemiah odill
Benedick Lord
William Fryar
John M^rKessak
Philip Chavin
John Stephenson
Joseph Pryar
Edward Stephenson
John Oston
Nicholis Woodfin
Ritchard Litral

James Graves
Joseph Pryar
Edward Loveday
Philip Chais[?]
William Mocokis[?]
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^r
John Cordar
Henry Neightherton
Benjemine M^rfarland
George M^rfarland
George Ashbrook
Francis Rowin
Jonathan Wood
John Denton
Daniel Ma___

John Evans
Isaac Odell
Calleb odell
Simon odell
Richard gross
W^m Sims[?]
thomas Will
G M^rCown
Daniel [David?] Luttrell
W^m Job
Samuel Job
Joseph Whit
Richard Priar
William Inghish
James m^rInis
Joseph m^rInis
Thomas m^rInis
David morekhed
Linky[?] Gones [Jones?]
John Denton
James slorles[?]
William Fordner
Joseph Inghish
James Inghish
John Keeney
James Whitson [marked
out]
James Whitson
Isaac Job

Thomas Evins
John M^cCown
G M^cCown Jun^r

Edward _____
Benja MCFarland
George parke

Geo M^cfarland
Sam^l Jack Jun^r
Isham Harris
George Douglass

John M^cCallie
John Neelly
Andrew Neelly
Francis Hunter

**“Petition Sundry inhabitants south of french Broad”
November-December 1789**

[Petition #8] General Assembly Sessions Records, North Carolina, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

To the Honourable the Gen^l Assembly of the State of No. Carolina the petition of Sundry inhabitants 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 trusted [visited?] with occasioned by the want of the Regular administration of government as which gieves opurtunity to the wicked and desining to invent & carry on Schemes of the most Ruinous Nature & attend with the most destructive Consequenses to the peace & hapiness as well as the interest of our infant Settlements likewise the daly depradation committed by the Cherokees is no less oppressive & unjust which difficulties & many others we are Endavouring to bear with all the fortitude and patience we are possessed 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 social 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- emtions 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^d claims of land but ware urged on us undar a Severe penalty for neg^{lct} with the most flatering promises of protection & Security in possession of the Same Your petitiononers also begs leave to mention that [torn] have Not in a disorderly forcable manner taken possession of the before mentioned land from the indians we have had thier consent for setling [line missing] & has uniformly Endavoured to cultivate the Strictest friendship and if at any time there have appeared anything unjustifyable 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 Cherokees 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 verry instant of Ratifycation in the first place it was stipulated by the Articles of the treaty betweat Virginia NC and the Cherokee indians in the year 1777 that the S^d 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 complyd with but on the contrary the[y] have not only detaind the property taken during the war above mentioned but had Evar 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 demanand in June last the[y] have not disisted 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 unhapy people that have fell into the hand of the indians as captives are yet detained and can only be Redeemd by Extravegant Ransom combinations of Speculaters 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 imnence expence of blod & treasure holds posession of them . it is therefore the Humble prayer of your petitioners that your Honourable body would pass an act fixing a line betweat us & the Cherokees that will include our settlements undar the protiction of your Gov^l and Secur us against the Barbarity and oppression of the heathen The s[] s[] of our more unnatural enemies that call themselves Christians & the disorders that the want of Regular Gov^l 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

for the lands that we Reside on that you would grant to each actual Settler a pre-emption of the land has Settled undar 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 cumply with the most moderate terms of purchase—

At many [illegible—in fold] advantage that will naturely 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 penotration but what will leave the most lasting scensations on Every illustrious & generous mind is that of Relieving a multitude of their fellow citizens from the most distressing circumstances & communicating lasting blessings to them which will leave the most gratefull 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 M^cCain
 [McLain?]
 William Clopton
 Joseph Keeney
 Richard Fry
 John Smith
 John Wood
 Daniel Luttrell
 Elexander Ramey
 Elijah Wood
 Charls Ramey
 Thomas Abal
 William Pryar
 Fransis Johnston
 Thomas Going
 Zekeel Ray
 Jossuway Mories[?]
 Danial Job
 Joseph Pryar
 Isaac Odell
 _____nal Mann[Marr?]
 William M^cCussick
 Jame Mackissac
 Johen Machisac
 William Cumpton
 Rob^t Taylor
 Dan^t Adams
 W^m Adams
 James Siduscus

Jacob Siduscus
 W^m Huston[?]
 Hugh Doogan
 Andrew Horn
 Samuel Main
 Alex^r Ward
 Alex^r Rodgers
 Sam^t Wilson
 William Guinn
 Moses Ashbrook
 Thomas Moon
 John M^efarland
 Benjamin Marland
 George McFarland
 John Gilliland
 R. Douglas
 W^m Allen
 John Maybery
 Fredireck Maybery
 Mical Yockim
 Thomas Beavers
 John Beavers
 John More[?]
 Parmenus[?] Taylor
 Craven Duncan
 James Nickels
 Samuel Litterl
 Joseph Hough
 Sam^t Lowrey
 W^m Rusell
 John Haley
 J [or H?] Carlock
 Abr^m Carlock
 Isaac Carlock
 Coonrod Good
 Jn^o Lewis
 Jacob Lewis
 []
 Samuel Jack
 Geo M^eNutt
 Tho^s Rogers

Seth Rogers
 Isaac Rogers
 William Thrift
 Evin Morgan
 John Calfee
 W^m Morgan
 Henry Netherton
 John Shaver
 James Thurman[?]
 Ja^s Adams
 John Ceto[?]
 W^m Richeson
 Able Richison Sen^r
 Able Richison Jun^r
 W^m Isbell
 Zachria Isbell
 W^m Bell
 Mathew Bell
 Richard Vernal Sen^r
 Richard Vernal Jun^r
 Spenser Clack
 David [Daniel?]
 Cmmons
 Rolley Clack
 James Bavours
 John Beavours
 John Clack
 Joseph Beavours
 James Bavors sener
 Samuel thomson
 John Wallice
 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 Reevel[?]
 Ela^x Montgomery
 Peter Every
 Samuel paxton
 Barkley Magee
 Mathew Wallis
 Robert hammel
 John telford
 George telford
 John Devil
 David Egleton
 Daniel M^cCimsey
 John Clark
 Alx^r hooks
 John hooks
 Rob^t hooks
 James Ewing
 W^m Ewing
 Jacob Shul
 John Jamison
 Tobias Grimmit
 Philamen Higgan
 [Riggan?]
 Tho^s Millar Sen^r
 Jo^s Millar
 Tho^s Millar
 [Bariur?Berein?] Millar
 Tho^s Caldwell
 Tho^s Dixon
 John M^eMahan
 Tho^s M^eColloch
 W^m Sneed
 Nicholas Bartlet
 John Casteel
 John Gillespy Sen^r
 John Gillespy Jun^r
 W^m Gillespie
 Ja^s Wethershon
 Ja^s Gillespie

David Craig	Jesse Nelson[?]	John turnley	David Walden
James Craig Sen ^r	David Job	W ^m Cathey	Joseph Tayler
James Craig Jun ^r	William Coleman	Jacob Dobkins	anthony Lason
John Craig	Soloman Coleman	Jo ^s Davis	John Parker
James M ^c Kimey	Charles Denney	Adam Lowrey	A nd Thompson
James Scott	John Coleman	Ja ^s Lowrey	Thomas Wallace
Henry Fergeson	John Denten	Amos Lewis	Edmond _aneil[?]
Joshuah Hanna	Tho ^s Keney	Ge ^o Lewis	John Ominet
Nicholas Hail	James Stater[?] [Slater/ Hater]	Jn ^o fulfer	Robert Thompson
W ^m Henry	William Sims [Lims?]	[name in fold]	James Thompson
John Tool	Dunken M ^c Kessick	William Moon [Moore?]	John Thompson
John Caldwell	John Nicols	James Wilson	Alaxander M ^c Cormick
John Houston	Joseph Williams	Joseph Wilson	Heanrey Rogers
Ja ^s Houston	Tho ^s Williams	Alex ^r Anderson	Elijha Rogers
Sam ^l Houston	James Williams	Jn ^o Dekson	William Heanderson Sen ^r
Matthew Huston	David Nicols	Adam Wilson	William Heanderson Ju ^r
Lammis M ^c Carty	Dan ^l Nichols	Sam ^l Kerr	Robert Heanderson
Jacob Thomas	Georg Gross Jn ^r	Jacob Boughman	John Heanderson
Phelly thomas	Georg Gross Sn ^r	Jacob Dicson	Charles Regin
W ^m Overstreet	Peter Brickey	Sam ^l Hamelton	Henry Regin
Adam peck	James Drinnen	Sam ^l Hendarson	W ^m Ragin
Hugh Cox	Calep Odle	Ja ^s Sims	John Ragin
Sam ^l Glass	Thom ^p Odle	Stephen Tence	Charles Regin
Lenoard pfouts	Moses M ^c Kay	Tho ^s Clerk	Tho ^s Waler
George pfouts	Thomas Woodfin	Ja ^s Creton	W ^m pohom
Sam ^l Newell	Nikles Woodfin	Jo ^s _ercher[?]	William M ^c Murry
Benjamin Tipton	William henery	John Shields	Robert M ^c Murry
John Cusick	Henery Jones	Geo ^f Bush	Samuel M ^c Murry
Jn ^o [____] Cusick	George henery	Ja ^s St_ nr[?]	James paul
Joseph Cusick	Georg Parks	Pat Hamelton	Joseph Rosson[?]
John M ^c Ain	[name in fold]	Ja ^s Smith	Henry tarewater
John Wiliams	Weslay White	Jesse Moon	Lewis Tarewater
James Dunlop	James White	Edmand Dirge[?]	Jacob niman
John Dunlap	Alex Morrow	Jn ^o Nave	Tho ^s Hardon
Ambress Legg	John M ^c Roberts	Tho ^s Doget	William Stockdin
Adam Dunlop	Samuel M ^c Roberts	Sam ^l Tomkins	Michal Carter
Samuel Henery	William Winton	Pat Woods	Peter Douser
Samuel Paxton	Zacceas Coplin	Abram Manning	Isaac White
James Houston	John Peery	Jo ^s Moon	Alex ^r Kelly
George Moss	Jn ^o Sehorn	Stephen Sims	John Witherspoon
Sam ^l Houston sn ^r	Ambros Goare	Stephen Sims	David Caldwell
Joseph Bogle Jun ^r	Rob ^l Syfores	Jn ^o Jamison	Mathew Russell
Samuel Newell Sn ^r	R_ kets[?] Copland	Ja ^s Dukes	Robert Hanna
John Coats	Jo ^s Copeland	Jn ^o Wilson	William Gaut
William Hines	Ja ^s Cuningham	Aduson Wilkins	John Byrd
Alexander Sloan	W ^m Cuningham	Elaxander M ^c Laughlin	John M ^c Colloch
	John Wintin	Fredreick Ice [or Lee?]	David Caldwell
[Column 2]	Jo ^s Wintin	William mellor	John Hicklin
Jamiah Odaal	Evan Lewis	_laylee Nekels	Fervines Conner
Thomas Stepens	Ja ^s Ruddell	John Wallece	Humphreys montgomery
William Whitson		William hacher	William Gillespie

James Gillespie	James Ruder[?]	John Finley	James Heanderson
Stephen Byrd	John Singleton	George Ewing	Mach Tipon
Amos Byrd Sen ^r	Josiah Hamilton	Stephen Graves	Thomas Heanderson
Amos Byrd Jun ^r	Robert Fergeson	Jerimiah M ^c Carter	Mordecai Tipton
John Kelley	William Sproul	Thomas Smith	Jesse Wallace
John Ewing	Henry Ferguson	Jo ^s Black	Jjoel[?] Wallas
Ja ^s M ^c Colock	David Caldwell	John Johnston	Zibal Willmes
Warren Martin	Samuel M ^c Coloch		Olever Wallace[?]
And ^r Giffen [Gipson?]	James pierce	424	John Clack
Joseph _ant [Gant?]	Robert pierce	Know all Men By these	James Rogers
Ja ^s Gillespy jun ^r	John [faded]	Presents that I Rawleigh	Gorge Viners
James Gillespey Sn ^r	Archabald Sloan	[missing]	John Clack
James Hillis [or Willis?]	W ^m Houston		

**“Petition of Sundry inhabitants South of French broad river”
November-December, 1789**

[Petition #9]” North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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 depredations Committed on us by the Cherokee Indians within these few months passed there has been a great number of horses Stolen. It is tharefore 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 lossed 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
W^m Upton
W^m Houston
John Kerr
Mathew Houston
Jo^s Black
Charles Logan
Littlepage Sims
Sam^l Newell Sn^r
Benjamin Tipton

[Column 2]

William Reagan
Charles Reagan
John Reagan
Jacob Thomas
Henry Thomas

George Ewing
William Lowry
Wm M^cmurrey
Samuel M^cmurrey Sen^r

[Column 3]

Samuel M^cmurrey Jn
Robert M^cmurrey
John Caldwell
John Caldwell [marked
out]
George Berry
James Scott
John Lowry
George Caldwell
Thomas Waller
Samuel Weir
Hugh Weir

[Page 2, column 1]

John Menis
Joseph M^cReynolds
Enos Bowman
Olr Alexander
John Alexander
Ebr Alexander
John Dunkin
James Maginly
John Jackson
James Telford
Geo Telford
James M^cKenny
John Tedford
Barclay M^cGhee
James ____ [very faint]
James ____ [very faint]

Adw Jackson
Joseph Tedford
Samuel Cookson[?]
James Houston
Matt Houston
Samuel Henery
James Houston
Patrick Young
Alexander M^cEwen
Samuel Houston

[Column 2]

John Houston
Robt Wilson
David Caldwell
Thomas Dickson
John Kelley

Thomas Caldwell	Calvin Johnson	John Henderson	John Wallace
Alexander Ewing	James M ^o alister	Thomas Henderson	Samuel MC ^o lelan
James Beard	W ^m M_____ [very faint]	Jesee Wallace	Sam ^l Thompson
John Coid	Ja ^s Gillespy	W ^m Henderson Jun ^r	[W ^m or A ^o ?] Thompson
Matthew Russell	John M ^o Cain	Robert Henderson	
Ezekiel Cloyd	John Coats	Meshick Tipton	[Column 2]
John Singleton		James Majers	J Wallace Sen ^r
John Thompson	[Page 3, column 1]	David Emmens	Robert Thompson
Robert hanna	John Clack	James Rodgers	James Thompson
Joshea Hannae	W ^m Wallace	Henery Rodgers	Thomas Wallace
James Gillespie	W ^m Henderson sen ^r	Robert Carr	Joel Wallace
Tho ^s Brown	Joseph Beavers	Ollipher Wallace	John Beavers

**“Memorial of the Inhabitants S^o 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.

[Petition #10] North Carolina General Assembly Records, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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

The Memorial of the Inhabitants S^o 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 teretory toward the first adventurers taking posession of the land have Imigrated from Diferent quarters of the Empire and setteled ourselves in the teritory above mentioned as we beleive not only with the countinance and protection But Even upon the solecion of Government so farr as Gives our Setteling 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 futere Determination of Government But as Events Unforeseen By Your Memorilists have taken place Which Renders our lives and properties Unsecure and government 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 atention 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 fare as to take the Settlements 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 hapy 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 Distrasses Well asured that no Exertion on Your part will be wanting in our favour knowing that Vertue is its own Rewarder 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 atachment to their Intrest and as in Duty Bound Shall Ever pray.

[First set of signatures]

[Column 1]	James Beavers	Adam Willson	peter Adam
Spencer Clack	W ^m Hamilton	Alexand anderson	W ^m Millor Jun ^r
Jesse isbell	Patrick Hamilton	James Willson	Jams Bird
William Isbell	Patrick [Woods?]	Joseph Dickson	James [Tomas?] Bird
Joseph Byrd	Joseph Woods	Hugh Dickson	[illegible]
Jesse Byrd	James Woods	James Dickson	Wm Millor
John Blare	John Woods		Zachariah Isbell
John Byrd	Tobias Wilhelm	[Column 2]	Moses Renfro Ju ^{sr}
James Cameron	William Moon	W ^m Addoms	Obediah Clack
Larkin Rogers	Jesse Moon	Samuel Addoms	Roland Clack
Alexander Reed	W ^m price	Sam Secsco	Roles [Toles?] Goor
James Cameron Sen ^r	John [only name]	David preah __[?]	James Tomson[?]
Josiah Rogers	Joseph Willson	Ja ^s Fox	Abram Moon [Moor?]
			James Davis

**“Memorial of the Inhabitants S^o of french broad”
November-December, 1789**

[Petition #11] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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]	Richard fanshire	[Column 2]	Hugh Johnson
Alex ^r M'gomery	David fanshire	John M ^c Clellan	Robt Magill
[illegible]	George Hallmark	John Mahan	Vollentin Shooltz
[illegible]	David Norton	Burton Prid	James oldam
Edmund Varnal[?]	William Smallwood	Anthony Lawson	John Brian
Isaac Skilman	Alx ^r Meglalin June ^r	Jesse Rentfro	W ^m Millor
Alex ^r Mcglalin sen ^r	Joseph Tayeler	John parker	John Moon
Daniel Mcglalin	Flayl Nichols	James handy	John parker
Barefoot Runyan	William hatcher	Woolsey pride[?]	James Turman
John Hiser	Ja ^s Walker		[illegible] Hoof
Benjamen fanshire			

"Memorial of the Inhabitants S° of french broad"

November-December, 1789

[Petition #12] North Carolina General Assembly Sessions Records, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

The text to this petition is almost exactly the same as the text to petition #11. The text is not repeated here. The handwriting in the three petitions appears to be different.

[Column 1]	Hugh Forgeson	John Lesley [Sefley?]	John Philips
Jn° Sharky (Stockton?)	Joseph M°Reynold	William Hutton[?]	John Dearmond Sen'
William Stockton	John Hanna	David White	John Dearmond Jun'
Joshua Hanah	John Hanna Jun'	Benjamin Allen	Samuel Dearmond
Robert Hanah	Joseph _ant [Hart/Gant/ Kant?]	Andrew Bogle	James Dearmond
John M°alister		William Upton	David Dearmond
Jn° Clark		John H__e [Hise or Hine?]	David Caldwell
Tho° Brown	[Column 2]	Jo° Scott	Paul Cuninghame
Jn° Burden	David Cloyd	Joseph M°Connol	David Caldwell
William Gillespy	James Witherspoon	Sam ^l Henry	David Caldwell [marked out]
James Gillespy	James Witherspoon	Bartley M°Gee	John M°Culeth
Matthew Russell	John Witherspoon	Oliver Alexander	W ^m Beard
John Singleton	John Witherspoon	John Duncan	John hooks
John Cloyd	Hugh Cox	Ja° M°Ginley	Joseph M°Reynold
Davis Stockton	John M°mahon	John Alexander	Ja° Ewing
James Stock ⁿ	Nicklolas Bartlet	Ebenezer Alexander	Ja° McCuleth
Samuel Stockton	Robert Perie	John Craig	James Carr
Isaiah Hamilton	Adam Peck	Ja° Craig Sen'	David Caldwell, Sen'
Will ^m Lee	James Mitchel	Ja° Craig Jun'	James Upton
George Ewing	Benjamin Litle	Ja° Roddy	John M°fain
Alex ^r Ewing	William Tipton	John Minnes	Jo° Bogle ^{Jr}
John Kelly	John Wheier	John Thermon	John Williams
Ja° Gillespie	Nichodemus Keelor[?]	Edward Casteel	Jonathan Cunanham
Thos M°Colloch	John Burden		Jacob Cunanham
Warner Martin	John Thermon	[Column 3]	David Linsey
Sam ^l Glass	Edmond Casteel	Francis Casteel	John Reagan
John Cowan	William Overstret	Morriss Mitchell	Sam ^l Bogle
Thomas Caldwell	John hook	Jacob Meek	James M°Kenney
Eze ^l Cloyd	John Clark	Philip Varnel[?]	Ja° Tedford
John Caldwell	James Beard	Cunrode Hugson	Joseph Tedford
Charles Reagan [Jn ^r or Sn ^r ?]	Andrew Giffen	James Willson[?]	John Tedford
William Reagan	David Caldwell	Patrick Slatry	George Tedford
James Ray	W ^m Stres_el	James Perie	John Lowrey
Page Sims	Alexander hooks	Benjmain Burden	Moses Cuninghame
Benjamin Tipton	Sam ^l M°Collech	Leonard Pfouts	John Pe_ll [De_ll?]
Sam ^l Newell S ^m	George Caldwell	John Casteel	Henry Fergeson
Jeremiah M°Carter	Thomas Losson [?]	William Burden	Robert Hamble
James Dunlop	W ^m Ewing	Anthony Buley	John Jackson
Robert Fergeson	[name in fold]	John Doyl	And ^m Jackson
Henry Fergeson	John _____	John Lashley	
	Adam Dunlap		

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

Sam ^l Jackson	Thomas Wray	John Carson Sen ^r	Richard Williams
	William Wray	John Carson Jun ^r	John Williams
[Column 4]	John Wray	W ^m Henry	John Dun
Soloman M ^c Campbell	John Hitchcock	John M ^c Comb	____ Wilson
James Snodgrass	William Hitchcock	[M ^c Conole?]	W ^m Caveniug[?]
Joseph Shadon	Lammas M ^c Carty	Nicholas Hail[?]	David Craig
Calvin Johnston	John Gillespy Sen ^r	David Eagleton	John Houston
David Loveless	John Gillespy Jun ^r	James M ^c Kinzy	Ja ^s Houston
William _____	William Cowan	Jo ^s Black	Robert Wilson
Micajah Carter	Alexander Gillespy	John Cussick	Sam ^l Houston
James Anderson Jun ^r	John Reynold	John Coates	Matthew Houston
James Anderson Sen ^r	Humphrey Montgomery	Jo ^s Bogle Jun ^r	Edward Eagins[?]
Thos Anderson	Jas Gillespy Jn ^r	W ^m Houston	Archib ^d Sloan
John Bayle	John Walker	Henry Ragan	John Sloan
William Sneed	Ja ^s Gillesie	Isham Harris	Alex ^r Sloan
John Thomas	Robert Gillespie	Peter Avery	Ja ^s Sloan
Charles Thomas	John Ish	W ^m Pohorn[?]	James Cuningham

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

[Petition #13] North Carolina General Assembly Records, North Carolina, Nov.-Dec. 1789, Box 4, Folder 81, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

To the honourable the General Assembly of the State of N Carolina the petition of Sundry inhabitants on the unappropriated Tarritory 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 Desirus to Submit to laws and Conform to the requisitions of government, and to live in that orderly manner that would insure to us the Countenance and portection of Just and Equitable laws formed only to insure [word illegible] virtue and suppress the vicious. And your petitioners being fullingly 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 commissarate our present Distress and grant Us releif by extending to us the protection of government that we may with other Citizens participate of those blessings Common to all Christian and enlightned people Under the influence of Just laws and the auspices of a well ragaulated Commonwealth—

And whareas your petitioners has in the Course of their settling and defending the tarritory they now possess experienced Numberless hardships and difficultys perticularly in a Dissolate Indian war by which they are much impoverished. 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 government 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 entrys 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 government or Some interior part to enter their lands as thare is many who may posobly be able to enter a Small tract on which they Could mentain a helpless family would nevertheless fail 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

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

[Page 1, column 1]	Henry Thomas	Eb' Alexander	David Caldwell
Sam' Newell	George Ewing	James maginly	John Kelley
Jo ^s Black	John Caldwell	George Tedford	Thomas Dickson
Sam' Newell Sen ^r	William M ^c murrey	James Cunningham	Thomas Caldwell
Benjamin Tipton	Samuel M ^c murrey Sen ^r	James Telford	James Beard
Jo ^s Bogle	Samuel M ^c murrey Jun ^r	Barclay M ^c Ghee	Alexander [Ewing?]
John M ^c kain	Robert M ^c murrey	Andrew Jackson	John Cloid
Adam Dunlap	Thomas Wallor	John Jackson	Ezekiel Cloyd
John Kerr	John Menis	Jeames _____ny	William Russell
James Dunlap	Joseph M ^c Reynolds	James M ^c Kemy	[Column 3]
John Dunlap	Enos [or Elias?]	Joseph Tedford	John Singleton
page Sims	Bowman	Samuel Jackson	James Gillespie
Mathew Houston	Samuel Weir	John Tedford	John Thompson
John Cusick	Hugh Weir	James Houston	Tho ^s Brown
William Upton	James Houston	Matt Houston	Calven Johnson
W ^m Houston	Matthew Russell	Samuel Henery	James M ^c alister
Charles Logan	[Column 2]	Alexander M ^c Ewen	Robert hanna
Charles Reagan	Oliver Alexander	Patrick Young	William Massey
John Reagan	John Dunkin	Samuel Houston	James Gillespy
Henry Reagan	John Dunkin	John Houston	John M ^c Cain
William Reagan	John Alexander	Rob' Wilson	John Coats
Jacob Thomas			

[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__ted 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 peacc 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 Entrys 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

said district who have made an improvements be intitled 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 expenditures with interest.

All which is submitted. W^m Lenoir ch^m
North Carolina In Senate 30th Novem 1789
The foregoing report was read and concurred with ~~~~ Chas Johnson Sp[eaker]
By order J. Haywood Cl[erk]
In House 5th Dec^r 1789
Read and concurred with
S. Cabarrus SHC

By order J. Hunt
Report of the Com. On Petⁿ of Inhabitants
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.