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BEFORE THE GATES OF THE WILDERNESS ROAD

THE SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA.

BY JUDGE LYMAN CHALKLEY.

In speaking of the conditions existing in Virginia and North Carolina immediately preceding the trip of Boone, when he is supposed to have blazed a trail through the mountains to Kentucky, which, after his time, came to be called "The Wilderness Road," Speed, in his history of that road, describes somewhat carefully a thoroughfare and highway from Philadelphia, through Winchester, Staunton and other points in the Shenandoah Valley, extending "to an important station at the waters of New River which run to the west. At that point another road which led out from Richmond through the central parts of Virginia intersected the one just described. Thus were brought together two tides of immigrants. Near the forks of the road stood Fort Chissel, a rude blockhouse built in 1758, by Colonel Bird immediately after the British and Americans captured Fort Duquesne from the French." And the same authority says further: "Beside the road which passed along the Valley of Virginia, and the one which ran out from Richmond to the intersection at New River, there were other traveled ways or traces which led up to Cumberland Gap from the Carolinas and through the mountains of East Tennessee." He concludes: "Thus it appears that all the roads from the Atlantic States converged upon the points, Fort Pitt and Cumberland Gap." Of Fort Chissel [Chiswell] he says: "It is a point of great interest in studying the Kentucky immigration. It was there the immigrants reached the borders of the great wilderness. The wild, rough, dangerous part of the
journey commenced when New River was crossed at Inglis’ Ferry, and the travelers turned squarely toward the setting sun.”

Monette tells us, as of the year 1762, “the people from the sources of James were crossing the dividing ridges and descending upon the Greenbrier, New River and other tributaries of Kenhawa. Others from Roanoke and North Carolina were advancing westward upon the sources of the Stanton, Dan, Yadkin, Catawba and Broad, along the eastern base of the Blue Mountains, with wistful eyes upon the beautiful country of the Cherokees.” And again Monette says, as of 1767: “Settlements were now advancing rapidly from the eastern portions of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and emigrants were pressing forward upon the upper tributaries of the Monongahela and upon the great branches of Cheat River. On the south, the frontier counties of Virginia and North Carolina were pouring forth their hardy pioneers who were still advancing and already settling the fertile regions upon the headwaters of New River, as well as upon the sources of Greenbrier. Others full of enterprise and western adventure were exploiting the country drained by the great branches of Clinch River, and were forming remote, isolated settlements in Powell’s Valley, still further north and west, and also upon the waters of the North Fork of Holston, in the regions near the present towns of Abingdon and Wytheville.

“The counties of Rockbridge, Augusta, Greenbrier and Frederick were frontier regions, occupied by a sparse population, exposed to the dangers of savage massacre; the towns of Staunton, Lexington, and Winchester were remote frontier trading posts, inhabited by few persons, who formed a connecting link between the Indians and the eastern people of Virginia.”

So far, the references have been to that portion of the territory which lies within the present borders of the State of Virginia. To the south of the present Virginia-Tennessee line lay a narrow strip running northeast and southwest, mountain and valley, watered by the Holston, Clinch and Powell rivers. This is a continuation of the same fertile valleys and rugged mountains of the Virginia side, where all these rivers have their rise. This district north (that is, west) of the Holston
was at first believed to be within the boundaries of Virginia, and settlers acted accordingly. They pre-empted their lands under Virginia laws and protection. They formed the Watauga Association, according to Phelan, in 1772. He tells us: "But a still more serious trouble was impending over the infant communities. About 1769 Colonel Donelson had made a treaty with the Indians by which Virginia bought what was called the western frontiers. By this treaty, it was supposed that the Watauga region went to that colony. Believing themselves in Virginia, the Watauga people supposed themselves governed by Virginia laws, and looked to that State or colony for protection against Indian aggressions and the raids of horse thieves. North Carolina, herself, took no steps looking to the exercise of any authority over the settlements, many of which had been made in violation of the treaty with the Cherokees at Lochaber in 1770. It had everything to lose and nothing to gain by recognizing them as being on North Carolina territory, which recognition would carry with it the obligation of protecting them against the inroads of the Indians."

These extracts from familiar authorities have been quoted in the hope that through their means would be recalled most readily that portion of the sources of the Ohio which lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the present State of Virginia and the extreme northeastern corner of Tennessee contiguous. This section had been known to the white, and a path marked out by travel certainly fifteen years prior to the earliest date that has been mentioned. It also appears that there was an established traffic over this district between the whites of the eastern settlements and the Cherokees as early as 1740. Heyward is authority for it that: "A Mr. Vaughan, of Amelia County, Virginia, went, in 1740, as a packman with traders to the Cherokees. He found the country west of Amelia sparsely inhabited, the last hunter's cabin he saw was on Otter River, a branch of Stanton (Roanoke) now in Bedford County (which lies east of the Blue Ridge). He described the trading path from Virginia, crossing New River, English's Ferry, Seven Mile Ford on the Holston, Grassy Springs, Nolichucky and the French Broad." In 1741, John Smith, Zachariah Lewis, William Waller, Benjamin Waller, Robert Green and
James Patton were granted an order of Council of Virginia for one hundred thousand acres on James River and Roanoke, and extending to and including waters of the Indian or New River. Patton was manager and employed Smith, who was the Colonel John Smith who was captured by Indians and had many experiences which are familiar. These two were occupied in inducing immigration until 1751. Patton eventually bought out all the patentees except Smith and Lewis. These were the worthies of the land in their generation, and many incidents in their careers might be detailed. They were of the Scotch-Irish settlers in the Shenandoah, the center of which was Augusta County, from whose records the data here presented will be mainly taken. This county was formed in 1745 and until 1769 included all the territory that has been mentioned. The records of the District and Superior Courts having jurisdiction over practically the same territory until nearly 1800 are also there. Prior to 1745 there are perhaps additional data of record in Orange County and at Richmond which have not been carefully examined, but the writer had not had access to them. Perhaps, also, much could be gathered from the files of the courts of Fincastle, Botetourt and Washington counties, which were all erected early from the territory of Augusta, but they are not readily accessible. No doubt, the papers of Lunenburg and other counties adjacent on the east, on the other slope of the Blue Ridge, would contain material and incident. The investigator is confined for the present to the movement of that body already mentioned, who migrated in mass from Pennsylvania into the Shenandoah Valley, blazing the way, settling and cultivating the soil, driving out the Indians, establishing churches and schools and a distinctive civilization, making clear and safe the avenue right up to the very entrance of the wilderness. These hardy, courageous, prudent, foresighted people were fortified and prepared by long tradition of migration and colonization, of coveting the land and driving out the Canaanites. The conditions were somewhat analogous in America and in Ireland. Their historian in Kentucky says: "After the subjugation of Ulster, in the reign of James I, the semi-barbarous natives were replaced by a colony of tenants from Great Britain, attracted thither by liberal grants of land."
Smyth says of them: "The more decidedly a man is Presbyterian, the more decidedly is he a Republican." Davidson says: "The Presbyterians of Virginia, like the rest of their brethren were marked by an inextinguishable love of liberty, and during the Revolution were staunch Republicans to a man. At the very first meeting of the Presbytery of Hanover after the Declaration of Independence, they sent a memorial to the House of Delegates identifying themselves with the common cause. They presented others in 1777 and 1784, protesting against a general assessment for the support of religion. And still another petition in 1785, signed by 10,000 persons, was argued before the House of Delegates for three days. The main object of all these petitions was to complain of the partial and peculiar privileges still continued to the Episcopal, late the established church, and its vestrymen."

The Synod of Philadelphia, before the erection of the Virginia and Transylvania Synods (the Transylvania Synod included the churches and communities in Kentucky) had these worthy people under its immediate charge. The ecclesiastical patriarch of the flock was the Rev. John Craig. He has left a name and character of honor and a memory of worthy service. At an early time he was sent to visit the brethren on New River and Holston. On his return, he reported such a surprisingly large list of elders whom he had ordained in that sparsely settled region, that the Synod remonstrated and asked questions. He defended himself by saying, "Where I cudna get hewn stones, I tuk dornaks." Wherever they established a church they established a school. In 1774 those of the faith established two academies, one, Hampden-Sidney, in the eastern, and Liberty Hall (now Washington and Lee University) in the western part of the State, giving each a name indicative of their desire to be free.

The authorities of the colony of Virginia, in looking to the protection of its western frontier, had erected a series of forts on the "Western Waters," as this district was called. There were local stockades where the people gathered in time of peril, at various places. Indeed, nearly every early settlement seems to have been at some time looked upon as the fort of its own immediate vicinity. But they were not continuously occupied
for any considerable period by royal troops. Of these, the most prominent was Fort Lewis, a few miles east of the present town of Salem, in Roanoke County. At the time of Colonel Bird's [Byrd's] expedition against the southwestern Indians, this was the frontier settlement of Virginia. In August, 1760, Colonel John Smith, of the Virginia regiment under Byrd, sent out against the Cherokees, was in command at Fort Lewis. Captain John Blagg commanded a company under Smith. Joseph Ray was contractor and commissary for the army. In 1763, colonization had progressed so far that it was necessary to build a road between New River by Fort Chiswell to Fort Lewis. Notwithstanding the statement from Heyward that this was the frontier settlement in 1759, we should not take it that the country had not been settled before that time; for, in the records of the vestry of Augusta Parish, we find that William Bryan and Jas. Neiley were appointed processioners in 1747 for the country contiguous to the fort.

Vaux's Fort lay on the Roanoke, higher up. In 1756 it had been devastated by Indians and twenty-seven people were killed or taken prisoners. Heyward says that after this massacre there were left no settlers west of the Blue Ridge except a few men who worked at the lead mines. Shortly after Colonel Byrd's expeditions, however, that is in 1763, John Smyth, William Grymes, James Nealey and Israel Christian were appointed to view the roads that led from Vaux's over the New River on the lands of John Buchanan and likewise by Ingles' Ferry to the lead mines. And in 1767 James Neely, Philip Love, William Christian and William Bryan were appointed viewers of a road from Vaux's by Ingles' Ferry to Peak Creek on the north side of New River. The petitioners were all men of note in the development of the country: Frederick Stern, Isaac Job, Thomas Grayson, John Bell, Henry Skaggs, Joseph Hix, John Draper, George Baker, Joseph Hord, Levy Smith, Erasmus Noble, Samuel Peffer, James Coudon, Edward Vansell, Humphrey Baker, Anthony Bledsoe, James Newell and Alexander Page.

Colonel Byrd, in 1758, built two forts at the command of the Colonial Government, Fort Chiswell, near the forks of the roads from Pennsylvania, and from Richmond, on the waters
of New River, and the fort at Long Island, on Holston River, in the present County of Sullivan, Tennessee. Monette states that this was the first fort established on the Holston. The year before, that is in 1757, Fort Loudoun was established by Andrew Lewis on the Tennessee River at the mouth of Tellico. It was afterwards known as Watauga. The next year, in 1758, 200 settlers went there in a body. Phelan states: "Fort Loudoun was garrisoned by royal troops, and the Cherokees, regarding it as a protection against the vengeance of the French offered donations of land to artisans as an inducement to come there. The warfare between the English and the French which raged in all parts of the world, was too far from the region of East Tennessee to affect it, otherwise than indirectly." It was the scene of a terrible massacre immediately after the reduction of Duquesne, the Cherokees captured it and all in the fort were destroyed. This fort has the distinction of having been manned by twelve cannon, which will testify to its importance. It was near the present city of Knoxville, the center of a district tacitly under the protection of the colony of Virginia, although none of the county governments exercised jurisdiction.

The most northerly limits of the section lying before Cumberland Gap and the entrance to the Wilderness Road are along the divide which separates the waters of the James and Roanoke (or Stanton) rivers, both of which take their rise west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and break through that range, flowing east and southeast; the sources of the Shenandoah and New Rivers (or Woods River) flowing north and northwest; and the Holston and its tributaries flowing south and southwest. The tide of migration had been steady from the beginning southwards from the Shenandoah Scotch-Irish settlements of Augusta. There was here the usual course of settlements following the streams and valleys. The leaders of this migration had kept in close touch with the authorities at Williamsburg, with which place communication was open and constant. Its general course seems to have been directed from the capital with decision, promptness and wisdom. Indeed, these leaders were men of large caliber and great force, and had a motive sufficiently exciting to keep them active. It must be admitted
that the main object of the leaders was self-aggrandizement. A bureaucracy and cabal were in complete control and there was the opportunity to establish families and fortune through grants of large tracts of land, which were no sooner marked out than they were taken under the military protection of the colony. The grant to Jas. Patton, Smith and Lewis and others of 100,000 acres in 1741 has already been mentioned. This lay upon the headwaters of the Roanoke and James, and Monette says: “In none of the provinces had the infatuation for western lands been carried to a greater extent than in Virginia. Blair reported in 1757 to the Executive Council of Virginia that the quantity of lands then entered to companies and individuals amounted to three millions of acres, a large portion of which had been granted as early as 1754”. The most important of these grants within the borders of the section now under consideration was that to the Loyal Company on the 12th of July, 1749. It was 800,000 acres beginning on the North Carolina (Tennessee) line and running westward, on condition that it should be divided into plats and surveys made and returned to the secretary's office within four years. It was not completed in four years, and in June, 1753, the Council granted four years' further time. This was interrupted by the French and Indian War, and at the close the Council was restrained by the British Government. Afterwards, the officers and soldiers entitled to lands under the proclamation of 1763, began to make settlements, and the agents and settlers under the company petitioned the Council that they might hold of the company and soldiers might be restrained from interfering with them; and, in 1773, the Council allowed the settlers to make surveys and return them to the office. In 1753, a survey was made under this grant for Timothy Cole, of 190 acres in Washington County, in Rich Valley, on the waters of the North Fork of Holston River. The company gave titles upon payment of surveyor's fees and £3 for every one hundred acres. Dr. Thomas Walker had the management of the affairs of the company, as well as being a member, and he appointed William English his agent. Cole abandoned his land, and then in 1768 Joseph Scott and Stephen Trigg paid the fees on the same tract and they conveyed to David Ross in 1775. The affairs of the
Loyal Company were before the Supreme Court of Virginia and, in 1783, the title of the company to all lands surveyed under it prior to 1776 was established. In 1803, action was brought by Edmund Pendleton and Nicholas Lewis, surviving partners of the Loyal Company, against one of the earliest settlers, John Crunk.

Among the very early settlers under the Loyal Company, were members of the Harman family. The general course of business under that company and the trials of settlers may be gathered from depositions relating to their early settlement. In 1751, Henry Harmon and his uncle, Valentine Harmon, were on a hunting expedition when they camped on Sinking Creek of New River, in the present Giles County, and Valentine made what was called an improvement by killing trees. In 1754 he procured a survey under the Loyal Company. In the same year Valentine made a contract with a Dunker, George Hoopaugh, who, it was alleged, was poor and lived on Valentine's charity, that George should go and live on the place as tenant. In 1757 Valentine was killed by Indians, in the presence of his nephew, Daniel Harmon, and Daniel was taken prisoner, but escaped. No one but George Hoopaugh (Hoopack) lived on Sinking Creek at the time. He continued living there until 1775, when he moved off because of fear of the Indians. He returned, however, when he claimed the land as by settlement and made a conveyance of it. Although the grantees of the large tracts were speculators on a large scale, yet the same was not generally true of the settlers. While they were, no doubt, influenced by the prospect of rich lands at a small price, yet as a rule they were looking for a place for bona fide settlement, to make their abiding place, establish their households and pursue their fortunes. They were following upon the footsteps of numerous traders, hunters and trappers who had traversed the wilderness, back and forth, named its hills and streams and acted as prospectors and guides, but their mission was ended with the coming of population. The land speculator was not popular. The titles were but badly recorded and became matter of dispute as the lands became more valuable. These troubles became frequent about 1800, when nearly every piece of land was subject of controversy in the
courts in some form. One of the most frequent causes of complaint was that officers and soldiers had located bounty warrants for service in the French and Indian wars so as to conflict with the prior rights of actual settlers. In 1770 James Anderson made a settlement on Cove Creek of North Fork of Holston in Washington County. The next year Samuel Lammie (Lamie, Lamme, Lamb) settled and improved near him and then brought out Anderson. He continued to live there until 1774, when he was killed by Indians, whereupon his brother, Andrew Lamie, took possession and lived there until 1805, when action was brought against Arthur Campbell, who set up a claim. Arthur Campbell claimed that Andrew made no lawful settlement because he had no family, and claimed that in 1770 Andrew and Samuel Lemmie settled three or four miles higher up Cove Creek. In 1774 Samuel was captured by Indians and carried to Canada. Previous to that time the belief prevailed in the new settlement that single men, by what was called “taking up land,” might hold the same, and this taking up was commonly designated by marking trees with the initial letters of the claimant’s name, making a few brush heaps near the center of the land, and sometimes a log pen or small cabin. Andrew Lammie continued on the place, according to Campbell, during the Revolution, and was an avowed adherent to the enemies of the country and spurned the offers of the Commonwealth. After the Revolution Andrew moved to the place his brother had claimed and settled on it. Arthur Campbell says further: “The law itself that gave occupants a privilege to obtain donation lands was extorted from the legislature by the representations of a numerous band of emigrants which the affairs of America at the time made it good policy to conciliate, although not a few of them were deserters from the danger their eastern brethren were then involved in.” Of Arthur, himself, it was said that he was “land mungering,” for it was reported that he “was a surveyor himself and had white and black persons chain carriers with a chain, part made of rope and part of leather wood bark, and running as he pleased through other persons’ claims, making corners and measuring lines at will, that a number of his marks
were about the land in controversy." The land involved in this suit is that locally known as "Campbell's Choice."

It was customary for the large proprietors to give distinctive names to their own lands. James Patton named his "Smithfield." Dr. Thomas Walker gave the name "Wolf Hills," which is the site of the present town of Abingdon. "Burke's Garden" was the seat of James Thompson in the present county of Tazewell. It had been originally that of Thomas and John Ingles, who settled there in 1749.

One of the difficulties of determining accurately the dates and circumstances of the first settlement of any of these regions is that frequently a whole district in which a community established itself would be entirely depopulated by an incursion of the Indians, those of the settlers who were not killed, abandoning their improvements, which were then relocated by those who came in after the Indians had retired. These later claimed by their own, a new right, all trace of the former being wiped out. It was characteristic of the people that after each Indian attack, not only fresh adventurers came and occupied the land, but in larger numbers than before. But at times there would be several years before the recovery. That there were settlers in considerable numbers before the grant to Patton and others in 1741, and the Loyal Company, south and west of that, in 1749, is sufficiently evident from many sources; but they were frequently and disastrously driven back. In 1753 and 1754 all the settlements were disturbed, but there was a return tide immediately after. After Pontiac's war and the treaty with France, there was a very large migration.

Among the very early settlers on Roanoke (or Stanton) River was John Robinson, who came in 1743. He was killed by the Indians in 1756. His brother, Thomas Robinson, lost his life at the Big Defeated Camps on the west of the Cumberland Mountain, and all his family were destroyed. In 1753 he qualified as captain of a company of foot, which would indicate that his section was fairly well settled in that year. He was the son of James Robinson, of Pennsylvania, and was sent by his father to purchase land upon Roanoke as a settlement for the children of James, who followed John, and they together with their friends and relatives, the Crockettts, the Loves,
the Pattersons, the Calhouns, the Pattons and the Montgomerries, were prime agents in the establishment of civilization. As is usual in such communities the neighbors were very apt to fall out and say unkind things about each other, but, fortunately, these people took their troubles into court, which became a clearing house of bad feeling. James Patton, who was president of the County Court, vestryman, member of the General Assembly, coroner, sheriff, county lieutenant, and a captain of cavalry in the militia service, all at the same time, could give and take hard knocks. In 1746 he haled into court all the Calhouns—Hames, Ezekiel, William and Patrick, on the charge that they were divulgers of false news, to the great detriment of the inhabitants. Apparently the Calhouns were in the habit of "crying wolf." In 1750 James Calhoun started the "news" that Colonel Patton had made over all his estate to his children to defraud his creditors, and that Patton could give no good title to purchasers. Patton instituted proceedings immediately against Calhoun for slander, which hung fire by reason of hung juries in the county court until 1754, when a mandamus was issued by the General Court to dismiss the cause. In the same year, 1750, James Calhoun contracted with Patton for two surveys of land, but before they were made out and signed by the governor the law was changed so as to give the governor a fee of one pistole for signing each patent. This Patton charged to Calhoun, but Calhoun refused to pay. Suit was brought by Patton in 1752 and a trial had. The jury, having been four days in retirement, asked to be discharged, but Patton's attorneys objected and they were ordered to consider further and if they could not agree, to return next court. In March, 1753, the same jury was called and John Smith, being absent, was fined. Defendant's attorney moved the court to dismiss the jury and impanel a new one, but Patton in person objected and the court was of opinion that the cause be continued and the same jury try the issue. The cause of John Smith's absence was that when the jury were called by the sheriff to take their places in the box, John jumped out of the back window of the courthouse and escaped. At the succeeding court none of the jurors appeared, and an order was entered to summon them to the next court, and at the next court, August,
1753, a mandamus was received from the General Court to dismiss the jury, which was done and the case continued. Shortly afterwards the matter was submitted by parties to arbitration and the finding was that each party pay one pistole, which was entered by the court as its judgment in August, 1754.

By November, 1746, the settlements southwest of the Roanoke had become so important that on the 19th of that month four roads were ordered to be built leading from the Roanoke settlements. The first was to run from Reed Creek to Eagle Bottom and thence to the top of the ridge that parts the waters of New River and those of the South Fork of the Roanoke, and these settlers were ordered to work it: George, Ezekiel, William and Patrick Calhoun, Bryant White, William Hanlow, Peter Rentfro and his two sons, George and Tinker, Jacob Woolman and two sons, John Black, Simon Hart, Michael Claine, John Stroud, Samuel Stalkner and all the Dunkers. James Calhoun and Charles Hart were to be overseers. The second road was ordered from Adam Harmon's on the New River, to the north branch of Roanoke, with these workers: George Draper, Israel Lorton and son, George Harmon, Thomas Looney, Jacob Harmon and three sons, Jacob Castle, John Lane, Valentine Harmon, Adren Moser, Humberston Lyon, James Skaggs, Humphrey Baker, John Davis, Frederick Sterling and his two sons. The third road was ordered to run from the ridge above Tobias Bright's that parts the waters of New River from the branches of Roanoke to the lower ford of Catawba Creek, with these workers: William English and two sons, Thomas English and son, Jacob Brown, George Bright, Benjamin Ogle, Paul Garrison, Elisha Isaac, John Donahy, Philip Smith, Mathew English and others to be nominated by George Robinson and James Montgomery. The fourth road extended from the ridge dividing the waters of New River from the waters of South Branch of Roanoke to end in a road that leads over the Blue Ridge, which was the state highway to Richmond, James Campbell and Mark Evans were the overseers, with these workers: Old Mr. Robinson and his sons, Thomas Wilson and his two sons, William Beus and his brother, all the Ledfords, Admuel and Henry Brown, Samuel Niely, James Burk, James Bean, Francis Estham, Ephraim Voss and ser-
vants, Francis Summerfield, John Mason, Tasker and Thomas Tosh, John and Peter Dill, Uriah Evans' sons, Methyselah Griffiths and sons, John Thomas, Peter Kinder. These names belong among those of the fathers, whose homely virtues and faithful manhood were the foundation of a free and virtuous people. Peace to their ashes.

In 1747 Valentine Sevier petitioned for license to keep an ordinary at his own house, alleging that "he is very much infested with travelers." He was probably living at that time to the north, on the waters of the Shenandoah. In 1746 his lands were processioned in that section. 1747 he was indicted for swearing six oaths, and at the same time appointed inspector of pork and beef. In 1747 he was arrested for raising a riot in the court yard, whereupon he begged fitting pardon and was discharged. He owned about 1600 acres in the present counties of Rockingham and Shenandoah.

On the third of September, 1747, Captain James Campbell and Erwin Patterson were appointed processioners of lands on the waters of Roanoke. These were the most southern bounds for which processioners were appointed, so that it must be taken that there were few settlers actually living upon New River, Holston, Clinch and Powell on that date. In July, 1748, Michael and Augustine Price purchased land on New River from Israel Lorton. In 1749, Thomas and John Ingles settled at Burke's Garden, now in Tazewell County. At that time Samuel Akerling owned lands in Dunker Bottom on New River, and in 1750 sold to Garrett Zinn, who moved almost immediately to Carolina to escape massacre at the hands of the Indians. In the same year Adam Harmon entered four hundred acres on New River, six miles above Wolf's Creek. The population must have been there, however scattered, as there was a justice of the peace, Thomas Ingles and a constable, William Ingles. In the same year, 1750, a road was ordered from Ezekiel Calhoun's to Woods (New) River, John McFarland and Joseph Crockett were to be surveyors and the following were the workers: Henry Batton, Mordecai Early, Jacob Goldman, John Downing, John Goldman, Charles Sinclair, Nathaniel Wilshire, William Sayers, William Hamilton, Humbertson Lyon, Frederick Carloch, Robert Norris, James
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Miller, James Cove, Samuel Montgomery, Steven Lyon, John Conley, Andrew Linam, James Willkey, Samuel Stanlick, James Maies, Robert McFarlin, James Harris, John Vance, John Stride, Robert Miller, Alexander Sayers, John Miller, Jacob Castle, Robety Alcorn, John Forman, William Miller.

In 1752 Samuel Stalnaker, after whom a fort was named qualified as a captain in the militia. William Richey and John Vance were living on Reed Creek. The same year, Obadiah Garwood and two sons, Noah and Samuel (or Samuel Garwood and two sons, Noah and Obadiah) made a settlement on Clinch River in the present Tazewell County. Shortly afterward they returned to the north to bring their families, but the Indian war broke out and the country became untenable. Jeremiah Pate helped the Garwoods improve their land.

In 1753, William Leeper was appointed constable on New River in the place of Adam Harmon, who had already served one year, so that during this troubous period the government was kept in operation nominally even if the reign was not tight. This Adam Harmon had qualified as a captain of foot in 1747; had been the accuser in proceedings against Jacob Castle in 1749, charged with threatening to aid the French, and in 1752 had qualified as captain of a troop of horse. In the same year, 1753, a road was ordered from Samuel Stalnaker's on Holston River, to James Davis', with these workers: James Davis and his sons, Frederic Garlock, David, George and Conrad Carlock, Frederick Stern, Jacob and Adam Stalnaker, Jacob and Henry Goldman, Isaiah Hamilton, Hamilton Shoemaker, Timothy Cole, Humphrey Baker and son, George Stalnaker, Adam Andrews, Mathias Larch, Michael Hook, Martin Counce and Jacob Mires.

In March, 1754, a road was ordered on Reed Creek, on Holston River, and on Craig's Creek. Immediately after the clouds burst and the Indians committed frightful massacres in all the settlements, in some cases destroying all the inhabitants. The Holston River community was almost annihilated. James Patton was killed; members of the Draper and English families were murdered or taken prisoner. Fort Vause was taken. Valentine Harmon was killed. The list through 1745, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, is well known. In 1755 Court pro-
cess was returned "not executed by reason of the murder done on New River by the Indians." But there was returned to the court in 1755 the valuation of the improvements on the "naked farm" on Roanoke, the property of Peter Evans, which is quite interesting. The improvements consisted of 18 acres cleared and well fenced, under corn and rye, and ten acres of clear meadow; 100 fruit trees value at £1; one hay house, 15x10, £1.10; one corn crib, fifteen by four feet, £0.10; one spring house, 18 feet by 12 feet, £0.15; five head of horses and one breeding sow, £40.15; one wagon and gears, one axe and grubbing hoe and two plows and gears, £33/. During the years 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, there is not a single entry in the current orders of the court relating to these settlements.

In 1760, Captain John Blagg commanded a company of the Virginia Regiment under Col. John Smith and Colonel Byrd at Dunkard Bottom on New River. Among the soldiers were Lieutenants Hansley, John Smith, John Lukis, Samp Evans, Richard Dodd, Richard Newport, Thomas Deigs, John Contrel, Captain Blagg commanded at Long Island in 1761. James Huston was armorer, and Frederick Elphistone was purveyor to the army at Reed Creek, Stainaker's and Long Island. In the same year effort was made to serve judicial process, but without success.

On November 19, 1762, John Wiltshire, Alexander Sayers and Jacob Castle were appointed to view and report as to the valuation of the improvements made by John Staunton on New River, and three days afterwards John Thompson, Henry Ferguson and Hugh Mills were appointed to view the nearest and best way from the Stone House to the Bedford line. In the same year, James Robinson, whose relations had been, some taken prisoners, some killed and some dispersed, returned to the Roanoke country from Pennsylvania.

In 1763, the country had been freed of the enemy and settlers began to return. In March, William Beard was there. In April, William Grymes, Jas. Neilly and William Robinson were appointed road overseers from Grymes' clearing to Madison's; John Craig, thence to New River, on the lands of John Buchanan; Alexander and William Sayers, thence to Fort Chiswell; William Preston, to apportion the tithables as far as
Fort Lewis and William Thompson, thence to Fort Lewis. In November, John Smith, William Grymes, James Nealey, Israel Christian were appointed to view the roads that lead from Vause's over the New River on the lands of John Buchanan and likewise by Ingles' Ferry to the lead mines. In this year Michael Kimberling's father made a settlement on Walker's Creek in the present county of Tazewell, and was there killed by the Indians.

In 1764 the most southern district for which processioners were appointed was Roanoke.

In 1765 William Robinson, James Neeley, William Bryans were appointed to view a road from Vause's by Ingles' Ferry to Peake Creek. William Bell was living at Colonel Chiswell's mines. Andrew Baker settled on land in the present county of Grayson, within the grant to the Loyal Company. It was originally surveyed in 1753 for Peter Jefferson, Thomas and David Meriwether and Thomas Walker. It was the Peach Bottom tract. John Cox settled there the same year. George Collins and George Reeves settled there in 1767.

In March of that year Samuel Moody, Thomas Goodson, John Richards, William Ward, Hugh Crockett, Jacob Kent, Robert Crockett, Philip Love, Joseph Crockett petitioned for a road from Vause's to Samuel Woods'. In May, John Buchanan appealed to the General Court against the establishment of the road from Vause's to Peak Creek on the ground that it is on the land of the western waters and it is contrary to His Majesty's proclamation to grant any order for clearing any road thereon. In November, Joseph McMurtry and George McAfee reported that there were not enough tithables to make a wagon road from McMurtry's Mill through McAfee's Gap to the wagon road; and it was only practicable to clear it for carrying loads on horseback until the country is better settled. In that year Anthony Bledsoe built a mill at Fort Chiswell.

But by 1768 the settlers were beginning to petition the County Court of Augusta to assume jurisdiction over the territory which had been disputed land and by treaties recognized as belonging to the Indians. In that year the inhabitants of Reed Creek, of Holston, filed their petition: "That, whereas we, your petitioners, for some time past, have been
debarred settling and improving and cultivating our patent lands on the western waters, the reason whereof is best known to our legislators, but by virtue of the late treaty held to the northward, we hope we may, without offense, petition your worships to give orders that there may be alterations and amendments made on the old road leading from Captain Ingles' Ferry to James Davis' on the head of the Holston River, and appoint such surveyors as you in your wisdom shall think fit, and your petitioners, as in duty bound will pray. Joseph Black, James Holice, John Montgomery, Robert Montgomery, James Montgomery, George Breckenridge, Alexander Breckinridge, Robert Breckinridge, Robert Campbell, Robert Doack, William Doack, William Sayers, Arthur Campbell, William Davis, James Hayes, Samuel Hopes, William Leftwich, Jasper Gender, George Gender, Jacob Kinder, William Phips, John Houncal, Barnet Small, John Smith, John Bets, Robert Buchanan, Robert Davis, Samuel McAdam, James Davis, Nicholas Buchanan, Alexander Buchanan.

John Campbell, on his way to the Holston, in 1768, overtook a number of persons, who informed him they were coming to settle on a tract owned by Dr. Thomas Walker, known as the Wolf Hill Tract. In 1768, Robert Doack sowed turnips on Reed Creek, but made no settlement. In the same year constables were appointed on New River. In that year Michael Hoofacre settled in Rich Valley, a north fork of Holstein. When he came there was no improvement nor anything like an improvement except a hunter's cabin.

In 1769 the whole section embracing the head waters and sources of the New River, Clinch, Holston and Powell Rivers was erected into a separate county, and the surveyor was ordered to run the dividing line between Augusta and Botetourt as far as the western waters. Robert Doack was Dr. Thomas Walker's agent for the Wolf Hill Tract, and Thomas Armstrong was one of the earliest settlers. In the same year, John Smith, John Morgan and a large party settled on Moccasin Creek. Daniel Smith and Josiah Gamble succeeded Doack as agent for the Wolf Hill Tract. Daniel Smith was the school teacher of the community.
In 1770, William Herbert settled on Cubb Creek, in the present Washington County. The first settlement on the land had been by James McCarthy. Patrick Porter moved to Clinch in 1770. In the same year Jacob Young, who had settled on Reed Creek in the present county of Wythe, soon moved to Holstein. William McGhee (McGaughey) made a settlement in 1771 in Turkey Cove of Powell's Valley in the present Lee County. Peter Cloud and Thomas Lovelady had been living there some time before. McGhee moved in from Holston River, where he had been living. In the same year Valentine Harmon improved a piece of land on Clinch in the present Tazewell County. Samuel Walker came at the same time, and William Wynne was then living there. In 1771 Colonel James Dysart and Joseph Ray made a tour of nine months through Kentucky and of eleven months in 1772. In 1769 they made a similar tour of six months. Isaac Blangy (or Ballinger) had settled in App's (Abb's) Valley prior to 1771. It has borne that name since 1760. Robert Poage bought land there in the fall of 1771. Colonel James Maxwell and James Peerey settled on Clinch in 1772 and the same year John Stutler and Uriah Stone came. Maxwell lived there until 1784, and during that time two of his daughters were killed by Indians. The same land had been improved in 1760 and was called Ingles' Crabb Orchard, settled by John Ingles. In this year, 1772, Francis Fugate settled on Big Moccasin Creek. John Montgomery had gone there in 1771 with his father, Alexander Montgomery. The same year, John Tate settled. Francis Cooper settled there in 1770. Big Moccasin, about this time, became totally vacated for fear of Indians, and remained so about one year. In 1771 there was not a family on the north (west) side of Clinch Mountain, for a distance of ten miles. Henry Dougherty made a settlement on Laurel Fork of Holstein River in 1773. Mrs. Nancy Tate, Robert Fowler and James Crabtree followed soon after.

The Indians became troublesome in 1774 and continued so for several years. William McAfee settled on Sinking Creek of New River in 1774. In the same year Andrew Cowan settled on the North Fork of Clinch, which was called Stim's
Creek. Hugh Gullion had a settlement on Walker's Creek in 1774. He was killed at Point Pleasant. In 1775, William Fitzgerel made a crop of corn at Martin's Station in Powell's Valley and made an improvement near Cumberland Gap on a creek called Station Creek. William Herbert was living on Reed Creek in 1776.

The Indians attacked the settlement on Cubb Creek in 1776 and killed some people. They were very troublesome in Washington County from 1776 to 1779. Titus and John Benton were killed in Rye Cove in 1777. Charles Carter had settled there in 1775. This settlement was broken up by the Indians for several years. Felty Hoover and his sons, John and Abraham, settled on Black Water at the Flat Lick, a north branch of Clinch, in 1777. Thomas Rodgers was living on the land in 1765 when he was driven off by the Indians. The land lies in Lee County near Cumberland Gap, it had been originally improved by John Wallen about 1760. In 1778 Joseph Drake, who had moved from Sinking Creek to New River, on account of the Indians, moved to Kentucky, where he was killed by the Indians.

In the spring of 1781 all the settlers in Turkey Cove, in Powell's Valley, moved out because of Indians.

And thus the tide again receded. But when it returned, the breach in the barrier had been accomplished, the channel was open, the floods flowed in whirling and swirling and seething to the vortex from north, east, southeast; hordes of Presbyterian Irish, of Welsh and Dutch, of English Baptists and Episcopalians, of Carolina refugees, seeking surcease from persecution and convention in the land of freedom and fatness—Kentucky.