

**BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DICTIONARY**

Many names will be encountered by the researcher using the records of Washington County. To assist the researcher, some of these individuals, places, or historical events are given brief sketches below.

\* Indicates the archive has a copy of this reference source in its book collection.

**A****Adler, Jacob** (?-1890)

This Jonesborough businessman was born in Bavaria and moved to the United States in 1848. He formed a business partnership with his brother-in-law Herman Cone and moved with his wife Sophia Cone Adler to town in 1853. The partners formed the firm of Cone & Adler, a prosperous dry goods and clothing store located on Main Street in Jonesborough (on the site of the present location of the Washington County Archives). The store operated until 1870, when the Cones moved to Baltimore. The store building burned in the great fire that struck downtown Jonesborough in 1873. With the dissolving of the store business in 1870, Adler occupied himself as a cattle trader, until he also moved his family to Baltimore in 1873 and renewed his business partnership with Cone. In 1860, Adler purchased the John Blair house as a home, where he and his family lived until they left town. The property today is known as "February Hill." Adler's son Samuel later wrote an unpublished reminiscence of the family's life in Jonesborough. The Washington County-Jonesborough Library has a copy. For more information, see Ned L. Irwin, "Cone & Adler: Old World Ways and New World Business," *Journal of East Tennessee History* 74 (2002), 38-57.

**Allison, John** (1845-1920)

Born in Jonesborough, Allison was an attorney, judge, and historian. From 1885-1889, he served as Tennessee Secretary of State and from 1902-1916 as chancellor in Davidson County. He wrote two works of history: *\*Dropped Stitches in Tennessee History* (1897) and *Notable Men of Tennessee* (1905). In 1886, he was instrumental in having the early records of Washington County transferred to Nashville by the Tennessee Historical Society for preservation. These records were returned to Jonesborough and the Washington County Archives in March 2017.

**Asbury, Francis** (1745-1816)

One of the two original bishops of the Methodist Church in America appointed by John Wesley in 1784, Asbury first visited Washington County in 1788. He would visit many times over the years, often staying at his friend William Nelson's home located in what is today Johnson City. He kept a journal of his travels that provides a contemporary insight into the area at that time. See Francis Asbury, *Journals and Letters*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1958), vol. 1.

**Atkinson, Matthew and William**

These Jonesborough residents designed and engraved the Tennessee state seal in 1801. The Atkinsons operated as silversmiths with a shop on Main Street. The seal had been authorized in the first state constitution of 1796, but it was another five years before the seal was actually created. It was first used by Tennessee's second governor Archibald Roane on April 24, 1802. The Atkinson silversmith shop was located on Town Lot 31 believed now to be in the vicinity of 137 East Main Street.

**Attakullakulla (Little Carpenter) (c. 1707- c. 1777)**

Also known as "Little Carpenter," this influential Cherokee leader served as chief of the tribe from about 1761 to around 1775. He was a member of the Cherokee delegation that traveled to England in 1730. He was among the Cherokee leaders who met with settlers at Sycamore Shoals (present-day Elizabethton, Tenn.) and signed both the Transylvania Treaty (March 17, 1775) that ceded Cherokee claims to Kentucky to Richard Henderson and his associates and signed the Watauga Purchase agreement (March 19, 1775) with local settlers in what became Washington County for lands already inhabited by the settlers. He is believed to have died in the early years of the American Revolution. His son Dragging Canoe later led the Chickamauga in raids against white settlement throughout East and Middle Tennessee. See James C. Kelly, "Notable Persons in Cherokee History: Attakullakulla." *Journal of Cherokee Studies* 3:1 (Winter 1978), 2-34.

**B****Banking and Trust Company**

This Jonesborough, Tennessee bank was chartered on April 8, 1886. John D. Cox was the principal stockholder and first president. The bank operated initially in space leased from James H. Dosser. Its eventual home (still standing at 115 West Main Street) was completed in 1891. The bank was later acquired by First Tennessee Bank.

**Bean, William (1721-1782)**

Bean and his family as traditionally considered the first permanent settlers in Tennessee, building a home in what became the Boones Creek community of Washington County. William was one of the original justices of the peace for the county. See Paul M. Fink, "Russell Bean, Tennessee's First Native Son," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 37 (1965): 31-48. Bean's will be found in Clerk and Master Records, Record Group 4.3, Series A.

**Bean, Russell (1769-1826)**

Son of William and Lydia Bean, Russell was the first child born to white settlers in Washington County and in Tennessee. He became a noted gunsmith. Bean had a temper and more than one run-in with the law. Once, returning from a two-year journey to New Orleans, he found his wife Rosamund with a new baby. Angered, he reportedly cut off both the child's ears "so I can tell it from my own." As a punishment for this crime, Bean was branded on the hand. See Paul M. Fink, "Russell Bean, Tennessee's First Native Son," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 37 (1965): 31-48.

**Bennett, Charles** (1896-1974)

A Jonesborough businessman and local historian, Bennett did much important historical and genealogical research on Washington County. His most significant work, involving years of research, was the three-volume set *Washington County, Tennessee Tombstone Inscriptions plus Genealogical Notes published in the 1970s*. He owned and operated the Chester Inn as apartments for many years. His daughter Loraine Bennett Rae continued much of his research interests.

**Blair, John** (1790-1863)

A Washington County native, Blair graduated from Washington College and became a prominent local attorney, businessman, and politician. He served in state senate from 1819-1823, as a United States congressman from 1823-1835, and as member of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1849-1851. See *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1989); Faye I. Bloomer, "The Legislative Career of John Blair." M. A. Thesis, East Tennessee State College, 1956.

**Blount, William** (1749-1800)

A native of North Carolina, Blount served in the Continental Congress and was a signer of the United States Constitution. In 1790, he was appointed governor for the Territory South of the River Ohio (Southwest Territory) and area that in 1796 became the state of Tennessee. He was one of Tennessee's two initial United States Senators. A land speculator, he became involved in the so-called "Blount Conspiracy," which led to his being expelled from the Senate. See William Masterson, *William Blount* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954).

**Boone, Daniel** (November 2 [October 22 Old Style], 1734-September 26, 1820)

The most renowned long hunter and frontiersman of his time, Boone's many explorations of the Appalachian region included travels and stays in Washington County. Born in Pennsylvania, he moved with his family to North Carolina in 1750. In the early 1770s, Boone moved his family to Watauga, where he was a witness to the historic events at Sycamore Shoals in March 1775 when agreements were reached with Cherokee leaders with Richard Henderson for the sale of Kentucky and with local settlers for the purchase of lands they already were occupying at the Watauga settlement (Carter County) and in what became Washington County. Boone later established the "Wilderness Road" from the frontier settlements into Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap, where he established Boonesborough. Eventually, moving further westward, he settled in Missouri where he died. He was the model for James Fenimore Cooper's fictional character Natty Bumpoo of "The Leatherstocking Tales." There is a rich bibliography on Boone. See, among other works, John Mack Faragher, *Daniel Boone: The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer* (New York: Holt, 1992) and Neal O. Hammon, ed., *My Father, Daniel Boone: The Draper Interviews with Nathan Boone* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1999).

**Bowman, Benjamin** (1815-1884)

A Washington County native and farmer, Bowman moved his family, along with the Blakemore family to Texas in 1859. A letter written to his brother about migrating westward is found in Record Group 3: Circuit Court Records, Series D, Miscellaneous Records.

**Brown, Jacob** (1736-1785)

A prominent early settler of the county, he purchased a large track of land in the Nolichucky River Valley from the Cherokee in 1775. Brown was an early county settler arriving in 1771 where he established a trading post on the Nolichucky River. He served as a captain with American forces at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. Brown was killed in a hunting accident. There is a plaque dedicated to him on the front of the Washington County Courthouse in Jonesborough. See Paul M. Fink, "Jacob Brown of Nolichucky," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 21 (September 1962): 235-250.

**Brownlow, Walter Preston** (1851-1910)

A native of Abingdon, Virginia and nephew of William Gannaway Brownlow, Walter Brownlow bought the *Jonesborough Herald and Tribune* newspaper in 1876 and became actively involved in politics. He served as Congressman from the First District of Tennessee from 1897 until his death. One of his most significant accomplishments while in Congress was having the National Soldiers' Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (Mountain Home) established in Johnson City in 1903. He is buried there. His former Jonesborough home is at 421 West Main Street. See Helen S. Beeson, "Walter P. Brownlow, Republican." M. A. Thesis, East Tennessee State University, 1967.

**Brownlow, William Gannaway** (1805-1877)

The controversial Brownlow, sometimes referred to as "Parson" Brownlow, was a Methodist minister, newspaper publisher, and politician. In 1840, he established a newspaper in Jonesborough, where he lived and worked until moving to Knoxville in 1849. He was Tennessee's post-Civil War governor (1865-1869) and then United States Senator (1869-1875). See E. Merton Coulter, *William G. Brownlow: Fighting Parson of the Southern Highlands* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1971 reprint of 1937 edition.)

**Broyles, Alvin Klason "AK", Jr.** (1934-1965)

Broyles was the first serviceman from Washington County to be killed in the Vietnam War. He was born in the Limestone community of Washington County, the son of Alvin Klason "Chalkie" Broyles, Sr. and Ruth Marie Copp Broyles. He graduated from Science Hill High School (1952) and East Tennessee State College (1956), where he was an ROTC cadet. After graduation, he served in the United States Army, rising to the rank of captain. Broyles was later dispatched to Vietnam as a military advisor, where he was killed in action in the Vinh Long Province on April 28, 1965. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, among other medals. He was married to Marjorie Blanche Creech, and they had three children. Note: His will is found in the probate records of Record Group 4 (Clerk and Master Records).

## C

**C.C.C. Railroad:** initials of the Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad.

**Campbell, Brookins** (1808-1853)

The Washington County native was a prominent attorney and political figure. He served in the Tennessee General Assembly in the 1830s-1850s and was elected in 1852 to the U. S. Congress from the First Congressional District but died before taking office. See *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, 1796-1861*, vol. 1.

**Carter, George L.** (1857-1936)

A native of Hillsville, Virginia, Carter was an important business figure in the region whose entrepreneurial efforts had a major influence on the economic and industrial development of southern Appalachia. He was president of the Virginia Iron Coal and Coke Company, the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, and the Carter Coal Company, among much else. He began the development of modern Kingsport, Tenn., and provided the land for the campus of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. From 1906-1916 he resided in Johnson City, where he owned and developed much property. He was still the city's largest landowner at the time of his death. For more on Carter, see Ray Stahl and Ned L. Irwin, *The Last Empire Builder: A Life of George L. Carter, 1857-1936* (Johnson City, Tenn.: East Tennessee State University, 2012).

**Carter, John** (c. 1736-c. 1781)

An early Tennessee settler, Carter moved from Virginia in 1770 and established a trading post on the Holston River. Two years later he moved his family to the Watauga settlement and was a leader of the government there established under the Watauga Compact. He served as a senator to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1778-1779. He married Elizabeth Taylor and was the father of Landon Carter. John Carter died from smallpox in 1780 or 1781 and is buried in Elizabethton, Tennessee. See Zella Armstrong, *Notable Southern Families*, vol. 2.

**Carter, Landon** (1760-1800)

Son of John Carter, Landon Carter was born in Virginia and moved to Tennessee with his family in 1770. He studied at Liberty Hall in North Carolina and became a lawyer. He is believed to have served as a lieutenant at the Battle of King's Mountain. He served as Secretary of State and Speaker of the Senate in the state of Franklin. In 1796, he was a member of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention. He married Elizabeth MacLin in 1784, for whom Elizabethton, Tennessee is named. The Carter Mansion still stands in Elizabethton. See Zella Armstrong, *Notable Southern Families*, vol. 2.

**Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad**

Forerunner of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, the train line was organized and headed by General John T. Wilder in Johnson City, Tenn., in 1886. It was commonly referred to as the "3 C's" railway. Before the company failed in the Panic of 1893, about 171 miles of rail line was constructed and opened between Camden, South Carolina and Marion, North Carolina. In 1902, George L. Carter and fellow investors acquired

remnants of the railroad and renewed construction, completing what came to be known at the CC&O or Clinchfield Railroad in 1911.

### **Chester Inn**

One of Jonesborough's oldest existing structures, the inn lot (number 26) was bought by Dr. William P. Chester on May 15, 1797. He proceeded to construct the two-story framed structure. An addition to the east end was completed circa 1836. The inn became an important stage stop and entertained many notable guests, including Tennessee's three United States Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. The inn was on the main east-west road from Washington, D. C. to Memphis. Over the years it has been known also as the Jonesboro Inn and the Planters House. In 1950, Charles Bennett bought the structure and converted it into apartments. In 1987, later owners Charles and Louise Martin sold the property to the state of Tennessee. A portion of the space is now used for offices, while the Chester Inn Museum is housed on the ground floor. For many years, the Jonesboro Public Library was housed in this space prior to moving to a new library building in 1986. For more on the inn, see Paul M. Fink, "Jonesboro's Chester Inn," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 27 (1955).\*

### **Chester, William Patterson (1770-1826)**

A native of York County, Pennsylvania and a physician, Chester moved to Washington County about 1794. About 1797, he built an inn on the north side of Main Street in Jonesborough that still stands and today contains the Chester Inn Museum. See Paul M. Fink, "Jonesboro's Chester Inn," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 27 (1955): 19-38\* and Fink's *Jonesborough: The First Century of Tennessee's First Town, 1776-1876* (1989 edition).\*

### **Cobb, William Benjamin (1732-1803)**

This early settler built his home, Rocky Mount, in 1770. He supplied provisions to the American force going to fight the British at the Battle of King's Mountain. In 1790, his home served as the first capitol of the Territory South of the River Ohio (Southwest Territory). Cobb served as a member of the Washington County Court. He moved to Grainger County in 1795, where he died.

### **Cocke, William (1748-1828)**

A native of Virginia, Cocke was an earlier Tennessee settler and frontier leader. A lawyer, Cocke was sent to plead the Franklin movement's request for statehood from the Confederation Congress. That effort failed by one vote. When Tennessee did become the 16<sup>th</sup> state, he was selected as one of its' first two United States Senators. In 1814, he served as an officer with General Andrew Jackson in the Creek War. Settling in Mississippi, Cocke served in that state legislature and an Indian agent to the Chickasaw. He has the distinction of having served in the legislature of four states: Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Cocke County, Tennessee is named in his honor.

### **Cone family**

Herman (1828-1897), Moses (1857-1908), Ceasar (1859-1917), Claribel (1864-1929) and Etta Cone (1870-1949). The family patriarch, Herman Cone was born in Bavaria and

moved to the United States in 1846. In 1853, he settled in Jonesboro, along with his sister Sophia and brother-in-law Jacob Adler. Cone and Adler operated a dry goods and clothing store on Main Street in town until Cone moved his family to Baltimore in 1870. Cone married Helen Guggenheimer. They lived above the store on Main Street and had several children while living in town. The two most famous were the sons Moses and Ceasar. The Cone brothers would go on to form the Cone Mills Corporation in Greensboro, North Carolina, that became the largest denim producer in the world. Sister Claribel Cone became one of the first female physicians in the United States. She and her sister Etta were close friends of Gertrude Stein and using their share of the family wealth befriended many of the leading 20<sup>th</sup> Century artists early in their careers, amassing a significant collection of works by the Impressionists, as well as Cezanne, Matisse, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Picasso, among others. Their private collection forms a major part today of the Baltimore Museum of Art. The Cone and Adler store stood on the site of the present Washington County Archives building. It was destroyed in the great fire that struck downtown Jonesboro in 1873. For more information, see Ned L. Irwin, "Cone & Adler: Old World Ways and New World Business," *Journal of East Tennessee History* 74 (2002), 38-57.

**Courthouse:** see Washington County Courthouse.

**Cox, John D.** (1828-1903)

Prominent Jonesborough businessman, Cox was born on April 28, 1828 in the Boones Creek community. He traveled in 1849 to the California gold fields, where he apparently made his fortune before returning to settle in Jonesborough. He opened a store in 1853 upon his return. In 1886, he established the Banking and Trust Company and served as the bank's first president until his death. He built a large mansion that sat on the hill above where the International Storytelling Center now stands. His son John, Jr., later served as bank president. His daughter Virginia Cox Roach donated the stained-glass windows in the First Baptist Church.

**Cox, Thad A.** (1871-1950)

Born Thaddeus Abraham Cox in Sullivan County, Cox graduated from Cumberland University School of Law in 1891, where a classmate and good friend was Cordell Hull. Settling in Johnson City, Cox became a prominent attorney, businessman, and civic and political figure during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The large mansion he built there known as "The Castle" still stands. His surviving personal and family papers are housed at the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University. His will is found in Clerk and Master Records (Record Group 4.3: Probate Records, Series A.2).

**Crawford, John H.** (c. 1814-?)

Crawford served as Circuit Court Clerk in Washington County from 1852 to 1861. He married Susan K. Blair (the daughter of John Blair) in 1833. In 1862, he was commissioned a colonel and organized the 60<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment for the Confederate Army. The unit served during the fighting at Vicksburg, Mississippi. After his pardon, Crawford served in General John C. Vaughn's Brigade in East Tennessee and southwestern Virginia until his retirement in 1864. After the war, he worked in the office

of Clerk and Master. Crawford's papers found among the Circuit Court records detail his service during the Civil War. The papers are stored in Record Group 3: Circuit Court Clerk Records, Series D, Miscellaneous Records.

**Creekmore, Pollyanna** (1920-May 3, 2009)

Creekmore was born in Jellico, Tennessee and grew up in Knoxville. She graduated from Knoxville High School, the University of Tennessee, and received her master's degree in library science from Columbia University. For many years she headed the McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library and later served as a librarian at the Sherrod Library at East Tennessee State University. She was a noted genealogical researcher and local historian. Among her works were *Early East Tennessee Taxpayers* (1980) and *Tennessee Newspaper Extracts and Abstracts: marriage, death, and other items of genealogical/historical interest: the Knoxville Press* (1995). Some maps compiled by her are found in the Map Collections.]

**Crockett, David** (August 17, 1786-March 6, 1836)

Colorful frontiersman and congressman, Crockett was born near the Washington County-Greene County line during the midst of the state of Franklin movement. He was the son of John and Rebecca Hawkins Crockett. He grew up in East Tennessee, later married Polly Finley, and migrated west to Middle Tennessee. After Polly's death, he married the widow Elizabeth Patton. Crockett served under General Andrew Jackson during the Creek War and the War of 1812. Crockett served two terms in the Tennessee legislature before being elected to Congress in 1826. Failing to be re-elected, Crockett in 1835 left Tennessee, saying "I told the people of my district that I would serve them as faithfully as I had done; but if not, they might go to hell, and I would go to Texas." He did so, leading a group to help Texas fight for its independence from Mexico. Crockett was killed at the battle of the Alamo in San Antonio at the age of 49. He became famous in his own life-time through larger than life stories of his frontier exploits published in newspapers, almanacs, and stage plays. He was commonly called Davy (though he preferred David) and was nicknamed "The King of the Wild Frontier." There is an extensive Crockett bibliography. See, among other works, Davy Crockett, *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee* (Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1973 reprint of 1834 edition); Michael A. Lofaro, *Davy Crockett: the Man, the Legend, the Legacy, 1786-1986* (Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1985); and Michael Wallis, *David Crockett: the Lion of the West* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2011).

**Cunningham, Samuel Blair** (1797-1867)

A native of Washington County, Dr. Cunningham graduated from the medical school of Transylvania University. His medical and civic contributions to Jonesborough and the county were significant. He was the principal promoter in bringing the railroad to Washington County. In 1848, he helped organize and was elected president of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. The railway connected Knoxville with Bristol, reaching Jonesborough in 1857 and being completed the following year. See Paul M. Fink *Jonesborough: The First Century of Tennessee's First Town, 1776-1876* (1989 edition)\*; S. R. Bruesch, "Samuel Blair Cunningham (1797-1867): Physician and Teacher, Jonesboro, Tennessee," *Proceedings of the Appalachian History of Medicine Society* 1 (1979): 1-10.

## D

**Deaderick, David** (1754-1823)

An early resident of Jonesborough, Deaderick operated possibly the first store in town in the 1780s. He served in the Tennessee General Assembly 1799-1801. His son John Franklin Deaderick constructed three brick buildings, each three stories high, on the site of his father's store in 1865. This so-called Deaderick Block burned in 1929. The corner building at the intersection of North Cherokee Street and East Main Street was rebuilt and stands today.

**Deaderick, David Anderson** (1797-1873)

A Jonesborough native, Deaderick was a prominent merchant in Jonesborough and later in Knoxville. From 1859-1870, he was Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knox County. He kept a diary that is very informative for local history on the area. It is housed in the McClung Historical Collection in Knoxville.

**Deaderick, James William** (1812-1890)

A Jonesborough native, Deaderick was a prominent lawyer and judge. He served in the Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly from 1851-1853. In 1870, he was elected to the Tennessee State Supreme Court, being selected Chief Justice in 1875. On his retirement from the bench in 1886, Deaderick returned home to Jonesborough. His wife Adeline Shelby McDowell was a granddaughter of Isaac Shelby, a hero of the Battle of King's Mountain and first governor of Kentucky. See *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, 1796-1861*, vol. 1.

**Doak, Samuel** (1749-1830)

This Presbyterian minister brought both religion and education to the Tennessee frontier. Graduating from what became Princeton University, Doak established the first Presbyterian churches in Washington, Sullivan, and Greene counties. In 1780, he opened the first school in Tennessee at Washington College. In 1818, he was co-founder of Tusculum College in Greeneville. See Howard Ernest Carr, *Washington College: A Study of an Attempt to Provide Higher Education in Eastern Tennessee* (1935) and Joseph T. Fuhrmann, *The Life and Times of Tusculum College* (Greeneville, Tenn.: Tusculum College, 1986).

**Dosser, James H.** (1823-1891)

A prominent Jonesborough businessman, Dosser operated a store at 117 East Main Street from 1854 until his death. Eventually, his three sons (Robert N., Albert T., and Frank F.) joined him in the business. They continued to operate the store as Dosser Brothers following the father's death. The building was sold to W. I. Vines in 1908.

**Dosser, Robert N.** (1856-1927)

Son of Jonesborough businessman James H. Dosser, Robert N. followed his father into the mercantile trade. In 1889, he married Nellie Fain. They had four children: Fannie, Margaret, Mary Nell, and Robert N., Jr. Nellie died in 1901, and her husband remarried

in 1904 to Laura Bell Bruner. In 1908, Dosser sold his business and opened a new store in Johnson City.

**Dulaney, Miriam Fink (1904-1996)**

Daughter of Jonesborough businessman John M. Fink, Miriam taught at East Tennessee State College and Jonesboro High School, where she also served as principal. She was a respected historian, producing a master's thesis at the University of Tennessee on her hometown titled "Some Phases of the Social and Economic History of Jonesboro, Tennessee, prior to the Civil War" (1934) and later wrote *Humor, Rumor and Romance in Old Jonesborough* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 1991).\* She married Richard Wesley Dulaney in 1949 and lived away from Jonesborough for a number of years before returning in her retirement.

**Dungan, Robert**

Former Confederate Colonel Robert H. Dungan of Virginia came to Jonesborough in 1867 after being hired to lead the Holston Male Institute. This private school opened in the building that had housed the Holston Baptist Female Institute before the Civil War. Dungan was a popular educator, and the school soon came to be commonly known as "Dungan's School." The school was successful for several years until the town began a public school in 1875. With declining enrollment, Dungan was forced to close the Institute in 1876, selling the building to a group of Philadelphia Quakers led by Yardley Warner, who converted it to a school for the town's African-American students.

## E

**East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad**

Incorporated in 1848, this railway connected Knoxville and points west and south with Bristol and points north and east. The line reached Jonesborough in 1857 and was completed the following year. Dr. Samuel B. Cunningham served as president until 1859.

***Emancipator, The***

Published in Jonesborough in 1820 by Elihu Embree, this periodical, along with Embree's earlier *Manumission Intelligencer* (1819) were the first abolitionist publications in the United States. *The Emancipator* has been reprinted and the archives has a copy in the Book Collection.

**Embree, Elihu (1782-1820)**

Born in Frederick County, Virginia, Embree came with his family to Washington County about 1790. The Embrees were a Quaker family and became involved in the iron mining and manufacturing business in the Embreeville-Bumpass Cover area of Washington County. In later life, Embree became very active in the abolition of slavery. He was a leading member of the state manumission society and published the first publications devoted to this cause in the United States: the *Manumission Intelligencer* (1819) and *The Emancipator* (1820). See Embree Family Papers at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University.

**Embree, Elijah** (1784-1846)

Younger brother of Elihu Embree, Elijah was born in Frederick County, Virginia, and came with his family to Washington County in 1790. He expanded the family iron business in the Embreeville-Bumpass Cover area of the county becoming one of the region's most important early industrialists. See Embree Family Papers at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University.

**Embree, Thomas** (1755-1833)

Father of Elihu and Elijah Embree, Thomas was born in Orange County, North Carolina. He married Esther Coulson in 1781 and worked in the iron industry in Pennsylvania and Virginia before moving his family to Washington County about 1790. He built a rock house that still stands in Telford. Embree was a devout Quaker and strong supporter of the anti-slavery cause. Discouraged by the lack of progress toward the abolition of slavery, he moved to Greene County, Ohio, where he died. See Embree Family Papers at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University.

**Emmerson, Thomas** (1773-1837)

A native of Brunswick County, Virginia, Emmerson served as a judge and as mayor of Knoxville (1816-1817) before moving to Jonesborough in 1822. Here he was editor and publisher of the *Washington Republican and Farmer's Journal* and *The Tennessee Farmer*.

**F****Faw, Walter Wagner** (1867-1956)

A Johnson City native, Faw was a prominent attorney and civic leader there, where he served as mayor (1896-1898). He later became a judge on the Tennessee Court of Appeals (1918-1940) and moved to Franklin, Tennessee.

**Fink, John M.** (1860-1846)

Born in Virginia, Fink settled with his wife Lula (born 1863) in Jonesborough and became a prominent businessman and civic leader. Among other activities, he operated a grocery store for many years (at 111 East Main Street) and served as cashier of the Banking and Trust Company. He built a residence at 210 West Main Street that still stands. He and his wife had three children: Marshall, Paul, and Miriam. Paul and Miriam became noted local historian of the town. Fink and his wife are buried in Jonesborough's Maple Lawn Cemetery.

**Fink, Paul M.** (1892-1980)

The first official county historian for Washington County, Fink wrote numerous works on his native Jonesborough and Washington County, notably *Jonesborough: The First Century of Tennessee's First Town*.\* He was the son of prominent businessman John M. Fink. Fink played an important role in the early historic preservation movement in Jonesborough in the late 1960s and 1970s. He was also an early promoter in the development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. His sister, Miriam Fink

Dulaney, was also a noted local historian. His will is found in Clerk and Master Records (Record Group 4), Sub-group 4.3, Series A, Wills.

### **First Baptist Church (Jonesborough)**

Baptists first organized a church in Jonesborough in 1842. Soon afterwards, they constructed a one-story brick building at the corner of Spring and Lincoln Street as a meeting house. In 1849, the present Greek Revival style brick church was built at the corner of East Main Street and Boone Street. For more on the church, see James F. Thomas' thesis "The History of the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Tennessee." (East Tennessee State College, 1955).

### **First National Bank of Jonesboro**

This Jonesborough bank organized originally in 1889. In 1894, the Merchants and Traders Bank merged into it. The bank originally was located on Cherokee Street. In 1915, a new bank building opened facing on to Main Street. This building still stands at 103 West Main Street and now houses the Department of Records Management and Archives (Washington County Archives). In 1945, the bank was acquired by Congressman B. Carroll Reece. It merged in 1956 with Peoples Bank of Johnson City and was renamed the First People's Bank. In 1987, the bank was acquired by First American National Bank. In 1993, Washington County government acquired the building and converted into a county office building. When these offices removed to the downtown courthouse in 2015, the building was renovated to house the archives.

### **Franklin, State of**

Following the end of the Revolutionary War, settlers in North Carolina's territory west of the Appalachian Mountains felt themselves isolated and ignored by the distant state government. A movement began in 1784 to create their own state, which was formalized at a convention held in Jonesborough in 1785. They called the new state Franklin in honor of Benjamin Franklin. John Sevier was elected as governor. The first capital was in Jonesborough and later it was in Greeneville. This statehood movement split residents in the region into two groups, those supporting the new state and those remaining loyal to North Carolina. Sevier headed the Franklin faction and John Tipton led the anti-Franklin movement. Conflicts arose between the two sides throughout the mid-to-late 1780s that grew into something of a local civil war. Efforts by Franklin's leaders to win recognition of the new state from both the national government and the North Carolina government failed. The conflicts culminated finally in a siege battle at John Tipton's farm at the end of February 1788. Sevier and his troops eventually lifted the siege and retreated, his term as Franklin's governor ended in March, and the effort at statehood fizzled out. Two years later, North Carolina ceded the western lands to the federal government, which established a territorial government to manage it until statehood was finally achieved in 1796 as the state of Tennessee. For more information, see Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tenn.: The Watauga Press, 1924)\* and Kevin T. Barksdale, *The Lost State of Franklin: America's First Secession* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009).\*

## G

**Gifford, Lawson**

Gifford was a 19<sup>th</sup> century Jonesborough newspaper publisher. Among the newspapers he operated at various times were the *Washington Republican and Farmer's Journal* (1832-1834), the *Tennessee Sentinel* (1835-1846), and the *Jonesborough Union* (1859-1860).

**Gillespie, George** (1735-1794)

An early settler of Washington County, Gillespie came to the area in 1771. He fought at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780 and was a state of Franklin supporter. He brought stonemason Seth Smith from Pennsylvania in 1791 to build the first stone house in Tennessee. This house still stands.

**Grisham, George Edgar** (1833-1873)

Grisham was a newspaper publisher and civic leader in Jonesborough. He published the *Jonesborough Express* (1862-1863) and the *Jonesborough Union Flag* (1865-1873). He was a captain in the Eighth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, U.S.A. during the Civil War. He died during the Asiatic cholera epidemic that struck the town in 1873.

## H

**Hankal, Hezekiah B.** (1825-1903)

A Washington County native, Hankal was a prominent African-American figure in the county in the decades following the Civil War. He served as a minister, a physician, and a teacher. He established Christian churches in several communities and led the establishment of a school for African-Americans in Johnson City that became Langston School. He was the first member of his race elected to the Washington County Court.

**Harris, Hugh** (c. 1755 or 1756-1855)

A Revolutionary War soldier from North Carolina, Harris moved in the early 1820s to the Flag Pond area (in present-day Unicoi County), where he was an original member of the Indian Creek Baptist Church. Eventually, he settled in the Limestone area of Washington County, where in 1834 he married his second wife Elizabeth Jackson. Harris enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment in Orange County, N. C., serving in Captain Roger Moore's Company for three years. His war service included fighting in the battles of Germantown and Monmouth and in encampment at Valley Forge under General George Washington. Harris is buried in New Salem Baptist Church cemetery. According to the tombstone, he was 106 at the time of his death on February 13, 1855. In the Washington County census of 1840, his age is given as 84, placing his birth about 1756. His will written on October 5, 1853 is found in Record Group 4, Clerk and Master Records, Sub-group 4.3, Series A.

**Haynes, Landon Carter** (1816-1875)

Haynes was a Methodist minister, attorney, and political leader in Washington County. He represented the county in the Tennessee General Assembly and was speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1849-1851. During the Civil War, he served as one of Tennessee's senators in the Confederate Congress. During this period, Johnson City was known as Haynesville in his honor. His farm and law office are now the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site in Johnson City.

***Herald & Tribune***

This Jonesborough newspaper began publishing in August 1869 and is still continuously published as a weekly newspaper today. The original owners were town doctors C. Wheeler and M. S. Mahoney. For much of its existence it operated from a building on the east side of Courthouse Square. It later moved to a new building on Highway 11-E. The *Herald & Tribune* is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Tennessee. Earlier issues of the newspaper are available on microfilm at the Washington County-Jonesborough Library.

**Holston Male Institute** (See the entry on Robert Dungan.)

**Hoss, Elijah Embree** (1849-1919)

A native of Washington County, Hoss was an important religious leader and educator. He was a teacher and later president of Emory & Henry College, served as editor of the *Christian Advocate* (1890-1902), and was a professor of theology at Vanderbilt University. He served as Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South from 1902-1918. For more on Hoss, see Isaac Patton, *Elijah Embree Hoss, Ecumenical Methodist* (1942).

**Hoss, Henry** (1789-1836)

A Washington County native, Hoss graduated from Washington College and became an educator and civic leader. He represented the county in the Tennessee General Assembly (1817-1819) and served as president of Greeneville College (1828-1836).

**I****J****Jackson, Alfred Eugene** (1807-1889)

A native of Davidson County, Jackson moved with his family to Washington County in 1810. He became a significant merchant, farmer, and railroad promoter in the years prior to the Civil War. During the war, he served as a brigadier general in the Confederate army. For more on Jackson, see James W. McKee, Jr., "Alfred E. Jackson: A Profile of an East Tennessee Entrepreneur, Railway Promoter, and Soldier, Part I," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 49 (1977): 9-36.

**Jackson, Andrew** (1767-1845)

The seventh president of the United States, Jackson moved to Jonesborough in the spring of 1788. Here he was admitted to the bar to practice law and boarded with the Christopher Taylor family. (The original Taylor log house was moved into town and rebuilt in 1974, where it remains.) In the fall of 1788, Jackson joined a party moving to Nashville. It was there he would gain fame as a lawyer, judge, political figure, and military leader. As a judge of the state's highest court, Jackson frequently returned to hold court in Jonesborough. Jackson was elected as Tennessee's first congressman in 1796 and became a U. S. Senator in 1797. During the War of 1812, he commanded American forces in the Creek War and at the Battle of New Orleans, where he defeated the British army. Jackson was elected president of the United States in 1828, serving two terms. Jackson's admission to the bar is found in the County Court Minutes, volume 1. For more on Jackson, see John Allison, *Dropped Stitches in Tennessee History* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 1991 reprint of 1897 edition)\*; John Buchanan, *Jackson's Way: Andrew Jackson and the People of the Western Waters* (New York: John Wylie & Sons, Inc., 2001); and Jon Meacham, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* (New York: Random House, 2008).

**Jobe, Tipton** (?-1890)

Tipton Jobe's farm included much of the land on which downtown Johnson City would eventually be built. In 1857, he donated land for a railroad depot and in 1867 land for the Science Hill Male and Female Academy. Later, he constructed Jobe's Opera House near Fountain Square that served as an important entertainment and event venue for several years.

**Johnson, Henry** (1810-1874)

Prominent businessman and civic leader, Johnson purchased land in 1854 prior to the construction of the first railroad into Washington County. He built a store and water tank to service the trains that began operating through the area in 1857. The community grew into Johnson City, Tennessee named in his honor. He served as the first mayor.

**Johnson City**

This small farming community began to grow into a town after the railroad arrived in 1857. The community had various names in its early years, including Blue Plum, Johnson's Tank, Johnson's Depot, and Haynesville. It was finally chartered as Johnson City on December 1, 1869 as Johnson City, being named in honor of Henry Johnson, who established the first depot in town and served as the first mayor. Today it is a commercial, retail, educational, and healthcare center for upper East Tennessee. For more information, see Mary Hardin McCown *Brief Chronological History of Johnson City, Tennessee* (Johnson City, Tenn.: privately printed, 1963)\* and Ray Stahl, *Greater Johnson City: a pictorial history* (Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1983).

**Jones, Carl A.** (1912-1992)

Jones was a prominent newspaper publisher and civic leader in Johnson City. From 1934 until his death, he owned the *Johnson City Press* (known into the 1980s as the *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*). He also founded WETB radio and owned a chain of Tennessee

newspapers in addition to the one in Johnson City. Jones was active in civic and political affairs on both the local and state level. He was a proponent of various laws providing open records access and greater transparency in state government and was an early supporter for establishing the medical school at East Tennessee State University, among many other issues. Jones' surviving papers are housed at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

**Jones, Willie (1741-1801)**

A North Carolina planter and legislator, Jones served in both the state General Assembly and in the Continental Congress. He was a supporter of those settling in North Carolina's western country (which would become the state of Tennessee). For this support, the town of Jonesborough, Tennessee was named in his honor. As a side note, Jones assisted a young Englishman named John Paul on his arrival in America. Influenced by Jones' efforts on his behalf, John Paul added the name Jones to his own, thereafter being known as John Paul Jones, the father of the United States Navy.

**Jonesborough (Jonesboro)**

Tennessee's oldest town was established by act of the North Carolina General Assembly in 1779. Since that time, the town has served as the county seat for the state's oldest county, Washington. The town was named for Willie Jones, a North Carolina legislator and early supporter of the western settlements that became Tennessee. Originally spelled Jonesborough, the "ugh" was gradually dropped by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, and the town was known as Jonesboro until the "ugh" was added back May 10, 1983 under town ordinance. For more information, see Paul M. Fink, *Jonesborough: the First Century of Tennessee's First Town* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 1989).\*

**Jonesborough Presbyterian Church**

In 1816, members of the Hebron Presbyterian Church moved from Knob Creek to Jonesborough on property located between Second Avenue and Washington Drive. In 1847, construction of the current church building began just west of the Chester Inn. For more on the church, see Judith Haws Hash's thesis "A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, Tennessee." (East Tennessee State University, 1965).\*

**Jonesborough United Methodist Church**

Methodists had met in people's home and at camp meetings for many years. About 1824, the first Methodist church in Jonesborough was constructed. When it was outgrown, a new church was constructed in 1845-46 on West Main Street. This is the present building. For more on the church, see Paul Fink, "Methodism in Jonesboro, Tennessee," *East Tennessee Historical Society Publications* 22 (1950): 45-59.

**Junior Order of United American Mechanics**

This fraternal organization began as a youth affiliation of the Order of United American Mechanics in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This latter group was founded in Philadelphia in the mid-1840s. Eventually, the JOUAM seceded to become its own organization and later absorbed its parent order. It began as an anti-Catholic, Nativist group but eventually abandoned this position to become a general fraternal organization open to individuals

regardless of creed, race or sex. The organization offered insurance to members, operated homes for orphans, and was involved in other benevolent work. By the 1920s, it had over 250,000 members with chapters in most states nationwide but membership declined in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the 1980s, there were only about 8,500 members. A volume of this organization's minutes is found in Record Group 3, Circuit Court Clerk Records, Administrative Records, Series D: Miscellaneous Records.

## K

### **Keen, Lilbern Wilkerson** (1823-1907)

Keen was the first photographer in Jonesborough, where he opened for business in 1847. This was only eight years after photography had been invented in France. Many of the early images of people and places in town and around Washington County were taken by Keen. After suffering a stroke in 1901, he was forced to close his gallery on Main Street.

### **Kozsuch, Mildred Spaulding**

A professional librarian and archivist by training, Kozsuch was active throughout her adult life in the preservation and promotion of Washington County and local history and genealogy. She worked for many years at East Tennessee State University's Sherrod Library and Archives of Appalachia. She served as County Historian for Washington County and as chair of the county's Public Records Commission. She was a prominent early proponent of the need for a county archives to preserve the public records of Tennessee's oldest county. Kozsuch was a founder of several local historical and genealogical societies, including the Washington County Historical Society, the Watauga Association of Genealogists, and the Jonesborough Genealogical Society. She received the Samuel Cole Williams Award and the Ramsey Award. She was the author of several books and articles and frequently helped people in their research. She died on June 8, 2017.

## L

### **Lane, Tidence** (1724-1806)

A native of Maryland, Lane moved to Tennessee in the 1770s and established the earliest Baptist churches in the state, the first being Buffalo Ridge in Washington County. For more information, see Samuel Cole Williams, "Tidence Lane—Tennessee's First Pastor," *Tennessee Old and New: Sesquicentennial Edition, 1796-1946*, vol. 1 (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission and Tennessee Historical Society, 1946).

### **Lucky, Seth J. W.** (1799-1869)

Lucky was a lawyer, judge, and newspaper publisher in Washington County. From 1836-1841 he was clerk and master of the chancery court, served as circuit judge (1841-1954), and served as chancellor (1854-1869). He was a publisher of the Jonesborough newspaper the *Washington Republican and Farmer's Journal* in the 1830s. His home still stands at

139 East Main Street in Jonesborough. His will is found in Clerk and Master Records, Sub-Group 4.3, Series A.2 (Wills), Box 73, folder 55.

## M

### **Matson, Thomas E.** (1848-1921)

A railroad engineer and industrialist, Matson was originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was superintendent and chief engineer of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad and later chief engineer for the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad. He was co-founder of the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works. He served as mayor of Johnson City, 1892-1894.

### ***Manumission Intelligencer***

Published in Jonesborough in 1819 by Elihu Embree, this periodical, along with Embree's *The Emancipator* the following year were the first abolitionist publications in the United States.

### **Mason, A. G. (Archibald Green)** (1813-1895)

Mason was a prominent Jonesborough businessman and civic leader. He was married first to Lucinda Ryland and, after her death, married Lucinda's sister Angelina Cosson Ryland. Mason was the father of 14 children. He was a blacksmith who left his family for the California gold rush. He returned a couple of years later. Maybe he struck it rich because thereafter he was a prominent businessman in Jonesborough. He started out running a blacksmith shop but ended up a merchant who sold hardware and other goods. He was a constable for the county, also. Mason, both wives, and several of their children are buried in the Jonesborough Cemetery. His coffin cost \$38 and was purchased from Milton Keen's store. (Receipt found in Chancery Court miscellaneous records.) Mason's business records are found in Clerk and Master Records, Sub-Group 4.3, Series G.3.

### **McCown, Mary Hardin** (1891-1985)

Noted local historian and genealogical researcher, McCown spent a lifetime preserving Washington County history and prompting access to it. She supervised a Works Progress Administration project to organize and preserve loose county records in the courthouse in Jonesboro in 1935. From that project, she later compiled and published a list of early tax lists in *Washington County, Tennessee Records* (1964). In addition, she was the author of numerous other books and articles, including *Brief Chronological History of Johnson City, Tennessee* (1963) and *Soldiers of the War of 1812 Buried in Tennessee* (1977). McCown served for many years as a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and from 1979 until her death as City Historian for Johnson City. Note: Mrs. McCown's surviving papers are at the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

**McDowell, May Ross** (1898-1988)

A native of Rochester, New York, she graduated from the forerunner of East Tennessee State University in 1916. McDowell was a leading professional businesswoman and civic leader in Johnson City. She was the long-time president of the Johnson City Foundry and Machines Works. She was a member of the Johnson City Commission in the 1950s and 1960s, becoming the city's first female mayor in 1961. Mrs. McDowell's surviving papers are housed at the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

**McKinney, Ernest, Sr.** (1923-?)

An educator and civic leader, McKinney was a teacher and school administrator in Washington County and Johnson City. He was a leading figure in the effort to integrate schools in the 1960s. He served as a member of the Washington County Board of Education and was the first African-American elected an alderman for the town of Jonesborough from 1968-1972. The McKinney Center at Booker T. Washington School is named in his honor and his family. His son Kevin McKinney would become the first African-American mayor of the town in 1987.

**Merchants and Traders Bank**

The bank was chartered in Jonesborough in 1890 and originally located on Cherokee Street opposite the west side of the courthouse. In 1894, it merged with the First National Bank of Jonesborough.

**N****Nelson, Thomas A. R.** (Thomas Amis Rogers) (1812-1873)

Nelson was a prominent Jonesborough lawyer and political leader. He was a congressman from 1859-1861 and served as a justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court from 1870-1871. A friend and attorney for Andrew Johnson, he served as a defense attorney at the president's impeachment trial in 1868. Nelson's home, "Buckhorn", still stands on East Main Street in Jonesborough. For more information, see Thomas B. Alexander, *Thomas A. R. Nelson of East Tennessee* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1956).\*

**O****P****Panhorst, Dr. Mari Hendrik Philip** (1847-1932)

A native of the Netherlands, Panhort's father George was a surgeon with the Royal Dutch Navy. He developed formulas for various home remedies that he used in his private practice in Europe and India. At his death, his son inherited these formulas.

Panhorst trained as a physician in Amsterdam and moved to the United States in 1867, eventually settling in Galesburg, Illinois, where he met his future wife, Kate Simpson. They married and moved to her hometown of Jonesborough. Here Dr. Panhorst practiced medicine and produced medicines for use both in his private practice and for sale. These medicines included indigestion powders and cough syrups, among others. One formulation became the basis for the Tums indigestion tablets. He founded the East Tennessee Medicine Company, though he ultimately lost the company through a trustee's sale in 1894. His will and that of his wife is found in Clerk and Master Records (Record Group 4), Sub-group 4.3, Series A, Wills, Box 91, folder 31. His daughter Ethel Panhorst Cooke was long-time librarian of the Jonesborough Public Library. Her will is also found in the archives.

## Q

## R

### **Ray, Alfred Martin** (1856-1917)

Ray was born into slavery in Washington County on the Rhea farm. In 1872, he enlisted in the United States Army where he served for 23 years as one of the so-called "buffalo soldiers" in the Tenth Cavalry, engaged in many conflicts with the Plains Indian tribes. He saw service with the rank of Color-Sergeant in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. With many white officers killed or wounded, Ray continued the attack on Spanish positions, where he "faced death and planted old glory [on San Juan Hill] amid a storm of Spanish bullets." For his action, he was promoted to first lieutenant. He also saw service in the Philippines between 1899 and 1902. Upon his retirement from the army, he returned with his family and settled in Jonesborough in 1907. A state historical marker is located at his former homesite at the corner of Second Avenue and Depot Street.

### **Reece, Brazilla Carroll** (1889-1961)

Reece was one of Tennessee's longest serving members of Congress, serving the First Congressional District for over 34 years. He died while still in office, and his wife Louise Goff Reece was appointed to complete his term. In addition to his political service, which included serving as chairman of the Republican National Committee (1946-1948), Reece was president of Washington County's First Peoples Bank. The Jonesborough branch building now houses the Washington County Archives. Reece's surviving papers are housed at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. His will is housed in Clerk and Master Records, Sub-group 4.3, Series A, Wills, Box 97, folder 12. For more information, see F. Suzanne Bowers, *Republican, First, Last, and Always: A Biography of B. Carroll Reece* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2010) and John H. Hicks, "The Congressional Career of B. Carroll Reece, 1920-1948" (M.A. thesis, East Tennessee State University, 1968).

**Reece, Louise Goff** (1898-1970)

The daughter and granddaughter of West Virginia United States Senators Guy and Nathan Goff, Reece was the wife of Congressman B. Carroll Reece. Upon his death in office in 1961, she was appointed to complete his term in Congress. She did not seek election in 1962 and left office when the term ended in 1963. Reece chaired the board of directors of both First Peoples Bank in Johnson City and Carter County Bank in Elizabethton. Her will is housed in Clerk and Master Records, Sub-group 4.3, Series A, Wills,

**Reeves, Leroy** (1876-1960)

A Johnson City native and attorney, Reeves designed the Tennessee state flag, which was adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1905. Reeves served a number of years as an officer in the United States Army and the Tennessee National Guard. Reeves is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Johnson City, where a Tennessee state flag always flies over his grave. His surviving papers are housed at the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

**Robertson, Charles** (1740-1798)

A native of Brunswick County, Virginia, Robertson was an early settler in upper East Tennessee. He was a cousin of James Robertson, who had a brother also named Charles. To distinguish the two Charles, this Charles was sometimes known as "Black Charles", while James Robertson's brother was sometimes referred to as "Buffalo Charles." He was the trustee for the Watauga Association in the treaty settlement of 1775 in which the settlers purchased the lands on which they were living from the Cherokee at Sycamore Shoals. He created and maintained the so-called "Watauga Purchase" book to record the deeds he thereafter made from this land to the settlers. Robertson was one of the original justices of the peace for Washington County after it was created in 1777, and the early county court meetings were held at his home on Sinking Creek. He also represented the county in the North Carolina General Assembly in the late 1770s and early 1780s. He was a supporter of the state of Franklin. His will is housed in Clerk and Master Records, Sub-group 4.3, Series A, Wills, Box 99, folder 34.

**Robertson, James** (1742-1814)

A cousin of Charles Robertson (1740-1798), James was an early settler in what became Tennessee and a leader in the Watauga settlement. He was an original justice of the peace for Washington County, which first met in February 1778. The following year, Robertson led a group of settlers down the Cumberland River into Middle Tennessee, where he established Fort Nashborough and is considered the founder of Nashville. For more information, see A. W. Putnam, *History of Middle Tennessee; or Life and Times of Gen. James Robertson* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1971, reprint of 1859 edition).

**S****St. John Mill**

A mill was originally constructed at this site on the Watauga River by Jeremiah Dungan in the 1780s. In 1843, his descendants sold the mill to Henry Bashor, who operated it until 1886. Bashor's nephew George W. St. John took over operations at that time, and the mill remained in the family as the oldest operating business in Tennessee until ceasing operations about 2016.

### **Salt House**

Originally constructed as a brick warehouse alongside the railroad tracks in Jonesborough prior to the Civil War, the building was used to store salt during the war and thereafter came to be known as the "Salt House." In 1873, the Rhea Lodge purchased the building and used it for masonic meetings for about the next 30 years. It was used for various purposes throughout most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2017, the Tennessee Hills Distillery opened in the building.

### **Sevier, Catherine Sherrill (1754-1836)**

Second wife of John Sevier, Catherine (sometimes referred to as "Bonnie Kate") married Sevier soon after the death of Sevier's first wife, Sarah Hawkins Sevier. There is a famous story of Sevier rescuing Catherine from pursuing Cherokee in an attack on Fort Watauga in 1776. She and her husband are buried on the lawn of the Knox County, Tennessee courthouse. See Nancy Madden and Cora Bales Sevier, *Sevier Family History* (Washington, D. C.: Kaufmann Printing Co., 1961).

### **Sevier, James (1764-1847)**

Son of John Sevier and his first wife Sarah Hawkins Sevier, James served the longest tenure (47 years) as County Court Clerk for Washington County. He saw much frontier history in his lifetime. At 16, he fought alongside his father at the Battle of King's Mountain. He accompanied his wounded uncle Robert Sevier on the trip home from that battle, and buried his uncle when Robert died of his wounds near Spruce Pine, North Carolina. During the Battle of the State of Franklin he was captured along with his brother and threatened with hanging by John Tipton. Many of the early records of County Court from the 1780s to the 1830s are in his handwriting.

### **Sevier, John (1745-1815)**

First County Court Clerk for Washington County, first and only governor of the lost state of Franklin, first governor of Tennessee, a commanding officer of American forces at the Battle of King's Mountain, Sevier was a primary leader on the early Tennessee frontier. He lost his first wife Sarah in an Indian attack and rescued the woman who became his second wife (Catherine) from an earlier attack. He is probably the most prominent figure in early Tennessee history. For more information, see Francis Marion Turner, *Life of General John Sevier* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 1997 reprint of 1910 edition)\*; Carl S. Driver, *John Sevier, Pioneer of the Old Southwest* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1932), and Gordon T. Belt with Traci Nichols-Belt, *John Sevier: Tennessee's First Hero* (Charleston, S. C.: History Press, 2014).\*

### **Sevier, Sarah Hawkins (1746-1780)**

First wife of John Sevier, Sarah was fifteen when they married in Virginia. In 1773, they made the hazardous journey to the Watauga settlements. She bore 10 children and often was left to maintain the home on the dangerous frontier while her husband was away for extended periods. She was in a weakened condition following the birth of her tenth child when Cherokee warriors attacked the frontier settlements. Having to flee her home to the fort at Watauga proved too much for her. She died soon after reaching the safety of the fort. To prevent detection of the grave by the warriors, she was secretly buried at night in the midst of a thunderstorm, her grave left unmarked. See Nancy Madden and Cora Bales Sevier, *Sevier Family History* (Washington, D. C.: Kaufmann Printing Co., 1961).

**Shelby, Evan, Jr. (1719-1794)**

One of the early settlers on the Tennessee frontier, Shelby was born in Wales and grew up in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He served as an officer in the French and Indian War and in Lord Dunmore's War. In 1771, he settled in what would become Bristol, Tennessee and built Shelby's Fort. Shelby was an important civic and military leader on the frontier. He was an active supporter of the American Revolution and led an expedition against the Chickamauga in 1777. In 1787, he was appointed Brigadier General for North Carolina's western territory. His eldest son Isaac served as the first governor of Kentucky.

**Shelby, Isaac (1750-1826)**

Eldest son of Evan Shelby, Jr., Isaac was a prominent leader and military figure on the western frontier in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He was a commanding officer at the Battle of King's Mountain and had earlier served under his father at the Battle of Point Pleasant. He served as the first governor of Kentucky. In 1818, he and Andrew Jackson negotiated the purchase of Chickasaw lands in West Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky. For more information, see Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*.\*

**Sisters Row**

This historic Jonesborough structure located on West Main Street was built in 1820 for Samuel Jackson. It took its name from the fact that Jackson built the three adjoining row houses as residences for his daughters. Various people rented or owned the individual residences over the years. The adjacent Jonesborough Methodist Church owned the nearest one as a parsonage for many years.

**Southwest Territory**

In 1790, North Carolina ceded its territory west of the Appalachian Mountains to the federal government, which in turn established a territorial government (the first in United States history) to organize and control it prior to statehood. Its formal name was the Territory South of the River Ohio. William Blount was its only territorial governor. The territory covered the land that in 1796 became the state of Tennessee. For more information, see Clarence Edwin Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States, Vol. IV, the Territory South of River Ohio, 1790-1796* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1936)\*; Walter T. Durham, *Before Tennessee: the Southwest Territory*,

*1790-1796, a narrative history of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio* (Piney Flats, Tenn.: Rocky Mount Historical Association, 1990).

**Stahl, Ray** (1917- ? )

Noted author of local history, Stahl spent his professional career as a minister and later in public relations in higher education. He was director of public relations for Milligan College and later for East Tennessee State University for many years. Following his retirement, he devoted himself to researching and writing books on local history. He served for several years as City Historian for Johnson City. Among his numerous books are *Greater Johnson City: a pictorial history* (Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1983); *A Beacon to Health Care: the story of the Johnson City Medical Center Hospital* (Johnson City, Tenn.: the author, 1989); and with Ned L. Irwin, *The Last Empire Builder: A Life of George L. Carter, 1857-1936* (Johnson City, Tenn.: East Tennessee State University, 2012).

**State Seal**

The Great Seal for the state of Tennessee was designed and engraved by Jonesborough silversmiths Matthew and William Atkinson in 1802. The Roman numerals XVI found at the top of the seal represent the fact that Tennessee was the 16<sup>th</sup> state admitted to the United States. The images of a plow, a bundle of wheat, and a cotton plant at the center of the seal and above the word "Agriculture" represent the importance of agriculture and these specific crops to the economy of Tennessee at the time of the design. The lower half of the seal was originally to show a boat and boatman with the word "Commerce" underneath. This was changed to a flat-bottomed riverboat with no boatman. River trade was important for commerce during the early statehood era. Around the circumference of the seal are the words "The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee" and "Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1796." This date was dropped from later designs. In 1987, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized a standardized version of the seal updating its appearance. The seal is kept by the Secretary of State and the Governor for official use on state documents.

## T

**Tatham, William** (1752-1819)

Born in England, he came to Virginia at 16 to learn the tobacco trade. He became a merchant, soldier, lawyer, author, and cartographer. He was active with the Watauga Association in the 1770s. It is said that the Watauga Petition of 1776 was written by him as clerk for the association. His eclectic interests allowed him to accumulate an important collection of maps and historical documents, which he spent many years unsuccessfully encouraging the United State government to purchase and use for establishing a national library. Ultimately, it would be Tatham's sometime employer Thomas Jefferson who would initiate the idea, when the former president sold his personal library for the creation of the Library of Congress. See G. Melvin Herndon, *William Tatham, 1752-1819; American Versatile* (Johnson City, Tenn.: East Tennessee State University Press, 1973).

**Taylor, Alfred Alexander** (1848-1931)

Commonly known as “Alf”, he was a son of Nathaniel Greene Taylor and was born in the Happy Valley community of Carter County. In 1867, he accompanied his father (then Commissioner of Indian Affairs) as part of the Indian Peace Commission, leading to the Treaty of Medicine Lodge with the Plains tribes. A lawyer and politician, in 1886, he ran as the Republican candidate for Tennessee governor against his younger brother Robert Love Taylor in the so-called “War of the Roses.” He lost this election but later was elected governor in 1920. From 1889 to 1895, he served as a Tennessee congressman. Taylor operated a large farm on the Nolichucky River in the Lamar community.

**Taylor, Christopher** (1744-1833)

Born in Bedford County, Virginia, Taylor served in the French and Indian War. He moved to Washington County about 1776. In 1780, he served as a major at the Battle of King’s Mountain. Andrew Jackson boarded with the Taylors when he first moved to Jonesborough in 1788. Taylor’s log home originally stood about a mile west of town. The structure was dismantled in 1972 and in 1974 was rebuilt between the Chester Inn and the Jonesborough Presbyterian Church on Main Street. Note: The Taylor family Bible is housed at the Washington County-Jonesborough Library.

**Taylor, Robert Love** (1850-1912)

Born in the Happy Valley community of Carter County, Taylor was the son of Nathaniel Greene Taylor and younger brother of Alfred A. Taylor. He studied law in Jonesborough with Samuel J. Kirkpatrick and became a major figure in Tennessee politics in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He served as a congressman (1879-1881) and United States Senator (1907-1912). In 1886, he ran as the Democratic candidate for governor against his brother Alfred, the Republican candidate. This campaign famously became known as the “War of the Roses.” He was also a noted lecturer. For more information, see *Life and Career of Senator Robert Love Taylor (Our Bob)* [Nashville: Bob Taylor Publishing Co., 1913] by James P., Alf A. and Hugh L. Taylor.

**Telford, George Whitfield** (1803-1887)

This prominent business and civic leader owned the Telford Agricultural Manufacturing Company and the name of Millwood was renamed Telford in his honor. He served in the Tennessee General Assembly in 1851.

**Terasaki, Gwen Harold** (1908-1990)

A native of Johnson City, she married the Japanese diplomat Hidenari Terasaki in 1931 and lived in Japan during World War II. She wrote the bestselling book *Bridge to the Sun* (1957) based on her experiences. This was later filmed as a major motion picture.

**Tipton, Colonel John** (1730-1813)

A native of Baltimore County, Maryland, Tipton moved to Frederick County, Virginia, where he served in Lord Dunmore’s War and was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Tipton moved to Washington County about 1783 and became a prominent political and civic figure. During the state of Franklin period, he was the leader of the pro-North Carolina faction opposing the new state. A siege of his farm near the close of

this period helped end the statehood movement. Tipton became a leader in forming the state of Tennessee a few years later, serving as a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention (1796) and was the county's first State Senator from 1796-1799. For more information, see Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (Johnson City, Tenn.: The Watauga Press, 1924).\*

## U

## V

## W

### **Washington County**

The oldest county in Tennessee, Washington County was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in November 1777 and named for General George Washington. The original county boundaries as given in the laws of North Carolina for 1777, chapter XXXI (*The State Records of North Carolina*, volume XXIV, page 141) were as follows: "Beginning at the most North Westerly Part of the County of Wilkes, on the Virginia Line; thence running with the Line of Wilkes County, to a Point Thirty Six Miles South of the Virginia Line; thence due West, to the Ridge of the great iron Mountain which heretofore divided the Hunting Grounds of the Overhill Cherokees, from those of the Middle Settlements and Valley; thence running a South Westerly Course, along the said Ridge, to the Unacoy Mountain, where the trading Path crosses the same from the Valley to the Overhills; thence South with the Line of this State, adjoining the State of South Carolina; thence due West, to the great River Mississippi; thence up the said River the Course thereof, to a Point due West from the Beginning." In simpler terms, the county originally consisted of all the land from the ridgelines of the Appalachian Mountains on the east bordering present-day North Carolina to the Mississippi River, that is the present-day lands that compose the state of Tennessee.

### **Washington County Courthouse**

The first courthouse constructed in Jonesborough opened in the spring of 1779. It was a one-story log building. Prior to that time, County Court met in the homes of members of the court. This building was replaced by a second courthouse, also of logs, in 1784. It was of two-stories. It was in this courthouse that the state of Franklin was established and its government first met the following year. A third courthouse was built in 1794, again a two-story log structure. In 1820, the fourth (and first brick) courthouse was constructed. This was damaged by fire in 1839 and it was 1847 before a new courthouse opened. This building saw service as a military hospital during part of the Civil War. It was torn down in 1910 and replaced by the present courthouse, which opened in 1913. For more on the courthouse, see Ned Irwin, "The Courthouses of Washington County," *The Link* (newsletter of the Heritage Alliance, Jonesborough, Tenn.) 12 (2013) 3: 4.

**Watauga Association**

In the late 1760s and early 1770s, settlers began living in the upper East Tennessee region. Being a great distance from any established government, the residents soon needed some form of government under which to live. About 1772, community leaders formed the so-called Watauga Association, named for the principal settlement on the western frontier of North Carolina. The association had written articles of governance (that have not survived) and was led by a five-member court. Historian and future president Theodore Roosevelt called this association the first created by “men of American birth to establish a free and independent community on the continent.” In 1776, the Watauga residents petitioned North Carolina to authorize a formal local government, which was established later that year as the Washington District. In 1777, this district became Washington County. For more information, see Max Dixon, *The Wataugans* (Johnson City, Tenn.: Overmountain Press, 1989 reprint of 1976 edition).\*

**Wilder, John Thomas (1830-1917)**

Military leader and industrialist, Wilder reached the rank of brigadier general in the Union Army during the Civil War. He commanded a mounted infantry unit known as the Lightning Brigade, which fought notable engagements at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. After the war, he remained in Tennessee and became a major business leader. He co-founded the Roane Iron Company and the town of Rockwood. Moving to Johnson City, he headed the effort to construct the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad, organized the Carnegie Land Company, the Carnegie Furnace Company, constructed the Carnegie Hotel and, atop Roan Mountain, the Cloudland Hotel. For more information, see Samuel Cole Williams, *General John T. Wilder: Commander of the Lightning Brigade* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1936).

**Williams, Samuel Cole (1864-1948)**

Attorney, judge, businessman, and historian, Williams practiced law in Washington County and later served as a justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, compiling the forerunner of the *Tennessee Code Annotated*. He served as dean of the Lamar School of Law at Emory University. In retirement, he wrote numerous books on the region's history and served as chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission (1941-1946). Among his books are *History of the Lost State of Franklin* (1924),\* *Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History* (1937), and *Tennessee During the Revolutionary War* (1944), among many other works. He donated funds for a library in Johnson City in memory of his son, Mayne Williams, the antecedent of the Johnson City Public Library. His home “Aquone” still stands on Barberry Lane in Johnson City. For more information, see Billy Joe Crouch, “Judge Samuel Cole Williams, Businessman, Lawyer, Jurist, Dean and Historian.” M.A. Thesis, East Tennessee State College, 1956.

**Willis, Dr. Arthur Jackson (1884-1973)**

Born in Flag Pond in Unicoi County, Willis graduated from Lincoln Memorial University Medical School in Knoxville in 1912 and began the practice of medicine in the Garbers

and Embreeville communities of Washington County. For fifty years, he served as a justice of the peace for the county. He led the effort to establish the Washington County Health Department. Willis pioneered the tulip industry in the Nolichucky Valley.

## X

## Y

### **Young, Ewing** (?-1841)

The grandson of pioneer settler Robert Young, Sr., Ewing was the son of Charles Young and was born in Washington County. Ewing Young left the county as a young man for Missouri and began a renowned life of adventure until his death. He led the first wagon train from St. Louis to Taos, New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. He was one of the early mountain men and an influential figure in the American fur trade. Across the American Southwest and Pacific Coast regions, he explored, opened trails and trade routes, trapped, and traded with the native tribes, helping open to settlement and development the western United States from New Mexico to the Oregon Territory. As a young man, Kit Carson worked for and learned from him. Eventually, Young amassed considerable wealth and was the pioneer settler of the Willamette and Chehalem Valleys of Oregon, where he died. The need to settle his estate following his death on February 15, 1841 led to the establishment of a formal government in Oregon. For more on his interesting life, read Kenneth L. Holmes's biography *Ewing Young: Master Trapper* (Portland, Oregon: Binfords & Mort, Publishers, 1967).

### **Young, Robert, Jr.** (?-1804)

Fourth child of Robert Young, Sr., and Mary Young, Robert was born in Virginia and moved with the rest of the family to Tennessee in the early 1770s. He served in various Indian campaigns and in the Revolutionary War. He was under Col. John Sevier's command at the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. There is some question among modern historians whether he or his father was the actual participant in the battle credited with killing the leader of the British forces at the battle Major Patrick Ferguson. He received a North Carolina land grant of 640 acres, which was adjacent to and east of his father's property, Brush Creek running through the middle of it (in present-day Johnson City). During the state of Franklin period, he was a strong supporter of Sevier and the Franklin movement and carried the flag of truce to Col. John Tipton that ended the siege of Tipton's farm. Young's will of October 19, 1804 is found in Record Group 4: Clerk and Master Records, Sub-Group 4.3, Series A: Wills (loose).

### **Young, Robert, Sr.** (c. 1820-April 4, 1792)

Born in Virginia, Young and his wife Mary raised a family of 13 children there before moving to the Tennessee frontier in the early 1770s. He acquired 640 acres (now covering the site of the Johnson City Medical Center and the Mountain Home Veterans Administration facility). Young is credited with killing British commander Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780 with his long rifle nicknamed "Sweet Lips." It is now believed that Young's son, Robert Young, Jr., actually was at the

battle and shot Ferguson. This rifle is now the property of the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. Young's children were Joseph, Elizabeth, John, Thomas, Charles, James, Mary, Martha, William, Margaret, Agnes, and Jane. His will of February 8, 1792 is found in Record Group 4: Clerk and Master Records, Sub-Group 4.3, Series A: Wills (loose).

## Z