Greetings Compatriots,

This has been an exciting year for the TNSSAR and I hope you have been a part of the many events we participated in. From Independence Day parades and NSSAR Congress to battle commemorations, special events and grave markings, the Tennessee SAR has been busy in all areas of the state.

Our 2019 dues notices have now gone out and I encourage all members to renew your membership as early as possible. We want 100% retention of members this year, and I rely on each local chapter to help us achieve this goal. I expect each chapter to stay in contact with all delinquent members to assure their renewals. 100% retention is our goal and we must work hard for it.

I congratulate those chapters that are active in the Youth Award programs. These are the future of our state organization with scholarships available for deserving Tennessee students. Be aware of the deadlines for entries and be sure to consult with your state program chairman.

Thanks to those chapters who have worked with DAR and CAR chapters this year on important events this summer. It is critical that keep our relationships with these organization positive. It is a win-win for all organizations.

Yours in Patriotic Service,

Johnny C. Head

Beware of Old Forms and Be Aware of New Forms

The TNSSAR Registrar and TNSSAR Membership Secretary wish to remind everyone that you must use the new Application Form for all new member applications, plus all member supplemental applications. These are available on the TNSSAR Website.

If you have old application forms, please get rid of these and use the links below to access the new form and if needed, the Application Preparation Manual.

Membership Application form: www.tnssar.org/documents/SAR%20Application.pdf


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Greetings Compatriots,

It has been a privilege to command the TNSSAR Color Guard at many events this summer, with dignity and respect to the patriots and compatriots honored. Our presence in uniform and with weaponry stirs the patriotic spirit in all who attend these events. I commend all color guard members for the professional way you present yourselves in all public appearances. We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution, and I am proud to say that we convey that image well.

Next year, we will have changes all related to the safety of our members and of the public attending our events. We all know the safety check routine for weapons prior to any event, and I am happy to mention that I have found very few safety violations in the years of my command. Next year, every member will have to attend a Black Powder Safety Course presented by either a NRA certified instructor, or a National or State Park Ranger, certified for this duty. This should not present a hardship on anyone, and we will make every effort to have these classes available early in the year, or at an event at a Park. This is for liability purposes in the event a member of the public receives an injury due to our firing or handling of weapons. The National Society Sons of the American Revolution is working to provide a blanket insurance policy for each state, but the assurance that individuals have formal training is necessary for that type of coverage.

The NSSAR Color Guard committee also endorsed the historic “proper salute” of tipping one’s hat as the preferred way to offer salute when in period uniform. This was the customary way to acknowledge officers and other men of rank in Colonial times. It is left up to the each state commander to offer a salute that he personally wishes to endorse.

When we don the uniform worn by our ancestor patriots, we are paying homage to their bravery and service in securing our nation of free men, and I am proud of each member of our state color guard for carrying on a great tradition of remembrance and duty. I invite all members of the TNSSAR to join the color guard and help extend this tradition into the next generation.

In patriotic service,

John Clines
Commander TNSSAR Color Guard

The TNSSAR Color Guard was asked to present the colors at the annual meeting of the North American Consumer Protection Investigators in Nashville.

The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals Events

The annual Gathering at Sycamore Shoals with surrounding events took place on September 13 – 16. The weekend was kicked off with the annual TNSSAR District 1 meeting on Thursday, Sept. 13 at Historic Amis Mill hosted by District 1 Director, Don Hills of the State of Franklin Chapter, Rogersville. Special speaker was Jim Claiborne, newspaper columnist and historic reenactor at the Crockett Tavern in Morristown.

Friday, Sept. 14 activities started with a Grave Marking for five Patriots at the Old Salem Cemetery adjacent to the campus of Washington College Academy adjacent to Salem Presbyterian Church in Limestone. The church and academy were founded in 1780 by Rev. Samuel Doak, one of the patriots honored. Patriot Alexander Mathes was also honored. He gave Rev. Doak the land to build the school, the cemetery and church, which is still an active congregation. A large crowd with descendants of the patriots attended the special ceremony with full color guard commanded by State Commander John Clines. The other patriots honored were John Blair, John Blair, Jr. and Andrew Hannah. SAR, DAR and CAR chapters from across Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia honored these men with presentation of flags; unveiling of SAR patriot markers; wreath presentations and a musket salute.

On Friday evening, the Kings Mountain Chapter, TNSSAR, hosted a dinner in Johnson City. The program was presented by Geoff Baggett, President, KYSSAR. Geoff gave a delightful presentation of what the Revolutionary War soldier carried into the field and what he did to survive on the frontier.

Saturday morning, the Gathering at Sycamore Shoals was commemorated at Fort Watauga in the Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton. Compatriot Joe Chambers, Kings Mountain Chapter, hosted the event this year. Commander John Clines led the combined color guard with the Watauga Fife and Drum Corps providing cadence and music. VP General, Southern District, Colin Wakefield and TN State President Johnny Head brought greetings. Speakers included Jennifer Bauer, Park Manager and keynote speaker, Compatriot David Doan, Watauga Chapter and VP of the Overmountain Victory Trail Assoc.. Wreath presentations were made by SAR, DAR, CAR and other lineage groups from across the country. A special tribute was given to Compatriot Ronnie Lail, organizer of the Gathering for many years. Ronnie is having health issues and was sorely missed this year. Vice President General, Southern District, Colin Wakefield along with Surgeon General Dr. Darryl Addington and Chaplain General John Wakefield presented the District Meritorious Service Medal to Ronnie at Johnson City Medical Center accompanied by a group of Ronnie’s special friends.

Saturday afternoon, the local DAR chapters dedicated a marker on the site of the original Fort Watauga about a half mile from the park. This marker had been placed by the DAR in 1910 to commemorate the Gathering of the Overmountain Men, but the monument had fallen into disrepair over the years. The John Sevier/Sarah Hawkins Chapter along with the Bonnie Kate Chapter, TSDAR refurbished and renewed this important monument over the recent months. They had capped off the project when the Elizabethton Fire Dept. brought out their hook and ladder truck to set the capstone on the top of the marker to mark the completion of the project. The SAR color guard assisted the DAR ladies with presentation of colors and final musket salute for their rededication ceremony.

Sunday afternoon, the DAR Constitution Day Bell Ringing ceremony in Jonesborough was driven inside by the weather. It was held in the auditorium of the Historic Jonesborough Visitor Center. Dr. Darryl Addington commanded the combined Color Guard of SAR and Overmountain Men. Patriotic music was provided by the David Crockett High School Chorus. Compatriot Tom Vaughan, Watauga Chapter and OVTA, presented the keynote speech. The event concluded with the ringing of numerous bells led by Jonesborough Mayor Kelly Wolfe.
Grave Marking at Salem Cemetery

Color Guard marching in led by CAR musicians

Samuel Doak monument with wreaths

Musket volley to honor the five patriots

Photo showing most of the SAR participants. Some were not available for this photo.

Sycamore Shoals Celebration

Part of a large crowd in attendance at the Gathering

SAR Color Guard in attendance at the Gathering

SAR Color Guard give a hearty “HUZZAH!” to their patriot ancestors who took part in the Gathering

Watauga Fife and Drum Corps provided music and cadence

VP General Colin Wakefield presenting Sycamore Shoals State Park Manager Jennifer Bauer a Certificate of Appreciation from the SAR

Compatriot David Doan, VP of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association told of the history of the Gathering

DAR Constitution Day Bell Ringing

Compatriot Tom Vaughan gave a rousing speech at the DAR Bell Ringing

CAR children came forward to lead the pledge of the flag

DAR Monument Rededication

DAR ladies from across Tennessee pictured in front of the Sycamore Shoals Monument. 2nd from right seated is TSDAR State Regent Charlotte Reynolds.
**Across the State**

**Christopher Strong Chapter**

On Saturday, October 27, 2018 about 125 friends, descendants, and curious neighbors came to Stuart Cemetery in Dickson County, Tennessee, to watch members of the Christopher Strong Chapter SAR and at least 25 members of the Tennessee and Kentucky Color Guards honor Patriot Gideon Carr at a grave marking ceremony. Despite threatening rain and a cool breeze, the ceremony started precisely at 2 p.m. with the lonely sound of a bagpipe playing Amazing Grace across lines of field stones marking the graves of forgotten pioneers who came here over 200 years ago to claim their part of a newly-won country.

The color guard was led by NSSAR Southern District Color Commander John A. Clines. TNSSAR was represented by our vice president and newly confirmed federal judge, Mark Norris, State Membership Secretary Steve Gaines, and District 5 Director Sanford Payton. Kentucky was well represented by members of several SAR and DAR chapter and Carr descendants. Charles Murphy, a Carr descendant and member of Kentucky’s Col. Benjamin Logan Chapter SAR had worked for the past year to see that his 4th great grandfather, Gideon Carr, was properly honored by the SAR. It was an obvious joy for him to lay a wreath on his grandfather’s grave, and to tell the story of his life.

**Stones River Chapter**

The Stones River Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is moving forward again. The Chapter has been dormant for several years. With a little initiative and the help of David Eagan, past TNSSAR President and National Trustee, we have some enthusiastic members and a fresh group of officers ready to execute the patriotic, historical and educational mission of the Sons of The American Revolution in the Murfreesboro area.

In addition to organizational meetings, the chapter has focused on programs addressing the conflicts that have impacted Tennessee from the Revolution to the War on Terrorism.

In April retired USAF Colonel Thomas Hickerson shared his first hand experience in the opening battle of the War on Terrorism, September 11,2001 attack on the Pentagon. He shared what it was like to be one of the last persons out of the Pentagon, to return the same day as the building continued to burn and the support of the nation in the days which followed as the Pentagon came back to life.

Byron Burnett provided a unique perspective on the revolution in the April presentation “Weapons of both sides of the revolution.” Mr. Burnett brought a Hessian musket and an American long rifle for the members to examine. His presentation addressed the history of both weapons and highlighted the unique nature of the Hessian musket with the seal still in place.

The Honorable Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr., Sessions Court Judge in Murfreesboro, highlighted the Civil War in the July presentation of the Hinson Rifle. The rich history of the weapon is documented in the book Jack Hinson’s One-Man War. Judge McFarlin shared portions of the Hinson story, the lineage of the weapon as it passed from the Hinson family to Gen Forrest and finally to the McFarlin family. It is an exciting tale how one man turned from a neutral farmer in the Civil War to an effective sniper after the Union Army killed his two sons. In addition, he brought a pair of Navy Colts belonging to one of Gen Forrest’s aids who had previously owned the rifle.
**Across the State**

**Valentine Sevier Chapter**

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal was presented Montgomery County Deputy Randy Paddock for going above and beyond the call of duty to save life in dramatic fashion.

Narrative: On the night of November 3, 2017, Jason and Allison Fenske called 911 after their infant girl Charlie stopped breathing. Charlie suffered from pediatric ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest. There are only five known documented cases where infants have survived this condition.

Deputy Randy Paddock was first to arrive. He quickly assessed the situation, initiated CPR, and applied the AED. The application of an AED and administration of CPR on an infant is very different than on an adult. It requires a delicate attention to detail. According to EMS Chief Jimmie Edwards, Paddock’s quick actions, quality of CPR, application of AED, and delivery of shocks ultimately resulted in saving Charlie’s life.

According to Charlie’s doctors, who are based in Texas, and the leading researchers in America for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, recent studies have indicated there is a possible link between SIDS and ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest. Her doctors have indicated the actions of Deputy Paddock on the night of November 3rd have changed the way they research and possibly prevent SIDS.

The Valentine Sevier Chapter recognized this heroic effort by Deputy Paddock and the TNSSAR congratulate him as a true hero.

**Thomas Kilgore Chapter**

The Thomas Kilgore Chapter gifted and presented a portrait of George Washington to Robertson County to hang in the Courthouse.

The Honorable Howard Bradley, Robertson County Mayor accepted the gift from Roger A. Tenney, Chapter President. President Washington’s third cousin 8x removed Harold Jackson also participated.

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**Joseph Greer Chapter**

The historic log cabin belonging to Joseph Greer, the “Kings Mountain Messenger”, will find new life at the Camp Blount site in Fayetteville, thanks to the efforts of the Joseph Greer Chapter, TNSSAR and the Gill family, owners of the property where the cabin has stood for over 200 years.

The Greer cabin has survived the passage of time, although the structure will need significant work to be restored as closely as possible to the original home, constructed around 1810. It’s historical significance nearly went unknown until the Gills brought in a team of student historians from Middle Tennessee State University. The Gills knew the house only as a simple tenant house on the property, but it has now been verified as Joseph Greer’s original log cabin.

Colin Wakefield, VP General, NSSAR Southern District and member of the Joseph Greer Chapter, as well as the Camp Blount Historic Site Committee, first read the MTSU report when it was brought to his attention by Bobby Prosser, head of the Chestnut Ridge Cousins group. He knew immediately that the SAR chapter needed to step up and lead an effort to preserve and possibly restore the Greer cabin.

Fortunately for the Joseph Greer chapter, compatriot Bill Wendt, is experienced in dismantling and reassembling log cabin structures. Wendt accompanied Wakefield to meet the Gills at the site of the Greer cabin to begin preliminary plans for the preservation efforts. After examining the structure, Wendt conceded that it is in rough condition; however, he is confident there is enough remaining of the original cabin to salvage in order to keep the historic elements of the structure while replacing rotten wood and reconstructing the cabin. The next steps, Wendt said, are carefully documenting, photographing and numbering the logs and getting them out of the elements and inside to begin the restoration project, an effort that could be a lengthy process. “We think there’s enough here that’s worth trying to save,” Wakefield said. The Gills agree that it is time for the old structure to have new life, and agree to have the chapter move it to a historic site like Camp Blount which will draw local residents and tourists alike for years to come.

Because of his service during the American Revolution, Joseph Greer received several land grants within Tennessee. One such land grant from the State of North Carolina dated December 17, 1794 gave Greer 2,566 acres of land along the east fork of Cane Creek. At the earliest, Joseph Greer settled along Cane Creek between 1807 and 1810. There, Greer, along with his wife, Mary Ann, had 11 children. In 1831, Joseph Greer passed away. In his will, Greer stated that all of his property is to be evenly divided among his children and gives his widow full designation thereof. The cabin located along Cane Creek stayed in the Greer family until 1943 when the property was purchased by W.W. Gill, Sr.

Editor’s Note: We will continue to carry updated news items as the work to relocate and restore the Greer cabin progresses. Our congratulations to the Joseph Greer Chapter for saving this important piece of history, especially since it was the home of their namesake patriot.
Patriots Day at the Capitol

On Patriot’s Day, the TNSSAR Color Guard and President Johnny Head, participated in two ceremonies at the Capitol Building in Nashville.

The refurbished Cordell Hull Building, into which the General Assembly moved this year, was the site of the dedication of 3 new flagpoles. Past President and National Trustee, John McCutchen, presented new flags to Lt. Governor Randy McNelly. Senate Majority Leader and President of the Gov. Archibald Roane Chapter, Mark Norris, gave remarks at the dedication. He was joined by fellow Compatriot Senators Bill Ketron, Todd Gardenhire, Ronnie Townes, Bruce Jackson and Dan Lee.

Later that day, the TNSSAR Color Guard presented the colors as the Senate convened. Leader Norris welcomed John McCutchen and Johnny Head who addressed the assembly on the Senate floor.

Thomas Jefferson said that the victory at Kings Mountain turned the tide of the war in the south. How high was the tide? The British Navy ruled the seaport cities. Georgia was controlled by the Redcoats. The redcoats captured the southern army at Charleston. Congress sent a new army to South Carolina. The British wiped it out and Horatio Gates fled to Hillsborough NC. Sumter’s SC army was defeated. Patrick Ferguson relinquished command of his redcoat regiment to assume new duties. With two companies of King George’s provincial soldiers, he was organizing the South Carolina loyalist militia. Gov Rutledge, Col James Steen, and Col James Williams were refugees from SC in Hillsborough NC. General Cornwallis made his army HQ in Charlotte. Ferguson had taken control of the two largest NC counties (Rutherford and Burke). Their militia under colonels Hampton and McDowell fled over the mountains to the Watauga. Ferguson was frustrated that he had chased McDowell up the creeks of the upper Catawba River into mountain caves without catching him.

About 16 Sept 1780, Ferguson paroled a patriot prisoner, Samuel Phillips to deliver a message: ‘If you do not desist in your opposition to the king, I will march the army over the mountain, hang the leaders, and lay waste with fire and sword.’ Phillips delivered the message about 20 Sep to Evan Shelby’s Paperville plantation on the Holston (near Bristol). Col Isaac Shelby began to call on all the patriot militia colonies to spread the alarm. John Sevier of the Nolichucky sent out express riders. They called on Col. William Campbell of Washington County VA to join McDowell, Hampton, Sevier and Shelby at Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga (Elizabethton) on Monday 25 Sep 1780. Colonel William Christian on the New River, Col Benjamin Cleveland on the Yadkin and Col Martin Armstrong of Surry County NC were called to meet at McDowell’s Quaker Meadows place on the Catawba (Morganton) on Saturday 30 Sep. (Being farther away in Montgomery County VA, Col Christian’s men could not activate in time.)

The Whig militia came quickly out of the hills. From Maiden Spring, Hungry Mother, Ebbing Spring, Sinking Spring, and Greasy Cove, their numbers swelled to over a thousand at Sycamore Shoals. Colonel Campbell sent some home to care for the women and children. By Saturday 30 Sep when the Wilkes and Surry patriots joined them, they found that Ferguson had left Quaker Meadows.

By Friday 07 Oct 1780, this band of patriots had chased Ferguson to the Cowpens in Spartanburg District SC. They were joined by Col James Williams and Col Edward Lacey with remnants of the SC militia, a few Georgians, some Lincoln County NC militia, and fresh Caswell County NC companies. With fresh information that Ferguson had encamped at Kings Mountain on his way to join Cornwallis in Charlotte, the tired and walking remained at Cowpens while the able horsemen rode through the night. On Saturday afternoon 08 Oct 1780, with four equal columns of about 230, Colonel Campbell deployed the patriots around the ridge, two columns on the NW and two columns on the SE side.

Ferguson’s loyalists responded to the initial attack by Captain Andrew Colville’s company against the Indian Knob (SW end of the ridge) guard post by organizing a bayonet charge down the SE against Campbell, Sevier, and McDowell troops. The patriots fled. Meanwhile Shelby, Williams, and Cleveland led a charge up the ridge into the back of the Tories. When the Tories turned and reformed a bayonet line with smaller numbers back to the north, the patriots from the south reloaded and charged from tree to tree back up the ridge at the rear of the charge. Ferguson turned his reduced line south again and the patriots returned from the north. Shoe shine rag south, then north. Finally there was a gory free for all of hand to hand combat. After a few false surrenders, the Tories grounded their 1200 stands of arms. Ferguson was dead from several gunshot and his entire regiment was dead, dying, wounded, or captured.

The Whig militia burned Ferguson’s unneeded wagons, and marched his captured army off Kings Mountain. Whig victors took his captured horse and sword. On the fourth day of march, a court martial at Biggerstaff’s plantation on Cane Creek sentenced the worst of the Tory leaders. They hung a few, then resumed their march to the Moravian Towns to turn over their prisoners. In the next months, there were battles at Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse among many skirmishes. In less than a year Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Ferguson’s threat was : ‘If you do not desist in your opposition to the king, I will march the army over the mountain, hang the leaders, and lay waste with fire and sword.’ He was buried on the Kings Mountain. His army was marched off to prison. The patriots hung some of his leaders. His wagons of supplies were laid waste by fire. The patriots took Ferguson’s swords.

I think that Thomas Jefferson was wrong. It was not Ferguson’s defeat in the battle, but his threat sent over the mountains which turned the tide of the war.

Compatriot Fred Wyler, historian, is a member of the Andrew Jackson Chapter. He is currently the Chapter Data Manager.
The Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution is made up of 22 chapters statewide. Some chapters take their name from a hero of the Revolutionary War, while others take their name from a location that was important in the Revolution. We do not have space to include all of the chapter descriptions so here are the remaining chapters.

State of Franklin - After the Revolutionary War was won, communities west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Mississippi did not automatically become part of the United States. Instead, those communities had the option of creating jurisdictions within existing states, forming new states within the union, or creating their own sovereign republics. The residents of Franklin, based around the Watauga settlement, chose to form a new state to make themselves independent from North Carolina, who had ceded the western territories to the U.S. Congress. In December 1784, these residents declared themselves to be an independent state and chose John Sevier as their governor. They feared the federal government would sell their territory to the French or Spanish to pay off the war debt. They did not know that North Carolina had agreed to take it back just the month before. The December 1784 constitution of Franklin did not formally define its boundaries and by implication, jurisdiction was assumed over all of the ceded territory, an area approximating the future state of Tennessee. As the federal government made new treaties with the Native Americans, Franklin found that its separate agreements were hard to maintain. Rather quietly, when John Sevier’s term as Governor expired in 1788, the legislature did not meet again. By 1789, the State of Franklin was gone and its lands had rejoined North Carolina. It became the state of Tennessee in 1796 with Sevier as its first governor.

Stephen Holston - Stephen Holston moved west and in 1746 and built a cabin near the headwaters of a little creek. When surveyors were working in the area the next year they gave the name “Holston’s Creek”, because Stephen Holston lived on it. Later pioneers followed the creek downstream where, after receiving many tributaries, it was wide enough to become a river and so it became known as the Holston River. George R. Stewart, describing the area, noted, “Thus based around the largest streams of that region came to bear the name of a common settler”. Little is known about Stephen Holston since he lived there until dying at the age of 108. Holston was a planter and a lawyer in Virginia. He received over 5,000 acres of land in Tennessee for his service in the war. In Tennessee, he was presented his land license from the Supreme Court of Virginia and Supreme Court of Tennessee to the Court of Pleas and Quarterly Sessions of White County, Virginia. He was appointed as a judge and held the first court in this region. In 1831, a government marker was placed at the grave of William Quarles in the family cemetery just off the old Walton Road, 3 miles east of Cookeville, TN. He was the founder of White Plains, Tennessee.

Valentine Sevier – Born in 1747, he was named after his father, Valentine "The immigrant" Sevier, who had taken passage from London to America and settled in Augusta County, Virginia. His older brother, John Sevier, was a commander of the Overmountain Men, and became the first governor of Tennessee. As a young man, Sevier moved near the Appalachian Mountains to join the Watauga Association when it was established at present day Elizabethton, and he participated in numerous battles against the Cherokees in the Watauga district as well as battles in North Carolina against the British and Tories. Following the war, Sevier settled in the Clinch River area. Here, the family was subjected to frequent attacks by Indians. In 1792 he built a small rock fortress for his family and others to take refuge in during these attacks. The structure still stands in the “Boot Hill” section of Clarksville above Red Hill. It was here that the family was attacked on November 11, 1794. Several family members were wounded or killed. The fortress is called Sevier Station, and is marked by a historic marker. Valentine Sevier died on February 23, 1800, following a lingering illness.

Watauga - Some of the earliest European pioneers in Tennessee (then North Carolina) settled in the vicinity of Watauga in the mid-18th century. William Bean, traditionally recognized as Tennessee’s first white settler, built his cabin near the mouth of Jones Creek, 7 miles downstream from modern Watauga, in 1769. The Watauga Association, an early frontier government, operated out of Fort Watauga (Elizabethton) in the 1770s. Fort Watauga was built in 1775–1776 near the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River to help defend the Watauga settlers from Native American (primarily Cherokee) attacks, which were in part instigated by the British. Fort Watauga was originally named Fort Caswell after North Carolina Governor Richard Caswell. The outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in 1776 further agitated the tense situation on the Appalachian frontier. The Watauga and Nolichucky settlers generally supported separation from Britain, and formed a Committee of Safety, and founded the “Watauga District.” In January 1776, Chief Dragging Canoe and the British formed a treaty with the “boot hill” residents of Watauga County, which is now part of the city of Elizabethton. The British supplied the Cherokee with a large cache of weapons in hopes they would wreak havoc on the colonial frontier. Now well-armed, the Cherokee sent a message to the Watauga settlers, giving them 20 days to leave Cherokee lands or face a attack. The Watauga settlers, aware of the British supply, had been anticipating a Cherokee invasion. Arms and ammunition were purchased through the Fincastle County, Virginia Committee of Safety. Food and medicine were gathered, and forts across the frontier were constructed or strengthened, among them Fort Watauga. In early July, Cherokee Beloved Woman Nancy Ward divulged the Cherokee invasion plans to trader Isaac Thomas. Thomas proceeded to deliver the news to John Sevier, who was at the Nolichucky settlement (near modern Limestone) overseeing the construction of Fort Lee. The news alarmed the settlers, forcing them to flee to Fort Watauga with their livestock and belongings. With the Cherokee approaching, some 150 to 200 settlers crowded into Fort Watauga. The fort’s garrison consisted of roughly 75 men under the command of John Carter with James Robertson and John Sevier as subordinates. Chief Old Abraham and his force of Cherokee warriors arrived at Fort Watauga in the early morning hours of July 21. The sudden appearance of the Indians surprised several women out milking cows, forcing them to rush back inside the fort. One of them, Catherine “Bonnie Kate” Sherrill, the future wife of John Sevier, was unable to get back inside before the gate was locked and had to be pulled over the palisades by Sevier. The initial Cherokee attack lasted about three hours with both sides exchanging gunfire. Unable to take the fort, the Cherokee stopped the assault and settled in for a lengthy siege. After two weeks, the Cherokee lifted the siege and retreated. The arrival of the Virginia militia under William Christian later that year largely ended the threat to the fort. In September 1780, Fort Watauga was the gathering place for the Overmountain Men mustered and launching point of the march to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

LT William P. Quarles – William Pennington Quarles was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. He was one of the first members of the Society of the Cincinnati which was formed by George Washington during the revolution. William was a planter and a lawyer in Virginia. He received over 5,000 acres of land in Tennessee for his service in the war. In Tennessee, he was presented his land license from the Supreme Court of Virginia and Supreme Court of Tennessee to the Court of Pleas and Quarterly Sessions of White County and he was admitted to the White County Bar. (That area is now Putnam Co.) William was appointed Major of the White County Militia, a position he held until his death. He was appointed as a judge and held the first court in this region. In 1831, a government marker was placed at the grave of William Quarles in the family cemetery just off the old Walton Road, 3 miles east of Cookeville, TN. He was the founder of White Plains, Tennessee.

- Facts compiled herein are from documents of public record. There is no intent of plagiarizing any works or research.