



ERA 3: 1754-1820

**Revolution and the
New Nation**

Seven Cherokee Chiefs in London



Image located in the Smithsonian Institution, Seven Cherokee chiefs in London in 1730; Attakullakulla (ca. 1700 – 1780) is located on the far right. The chiefs were in England to pledge allegiance to King George II. Attakullakulla (also called Little Carpenter) was a powerful Cherokee leader who established military, trade, and diplomatic relations with the British government. Unlike his son, Dragging Canoe, seen in the next slide, Attakullakulla also sought peaceful relations with colonial American settlers.

Dragging Canoe

- He opposed the treaty with Richard Henderson in 1775 that opened the Tennessee country for settlement, predicting that whites would regret purchasing a “dark and bloody ground”



Dragging Canoe (1740-1792) was the son of Attakullakulla, the Cherokee chief who had been such a friend to whites. Dragging Canoe was a military leader and Cherokee chief who resisted the encroachment of Americans onto ancestral hunting grounds. He opposed selling ancestral land to settlers, warning them that they were purchasing a “dark and bloody ground.” Dragging Canoe and his followers established the warlike Chickamauga towns near Chattanooga, antagonizing Tennessee settlers for years to come. The drawing is by Bernie Andrews.

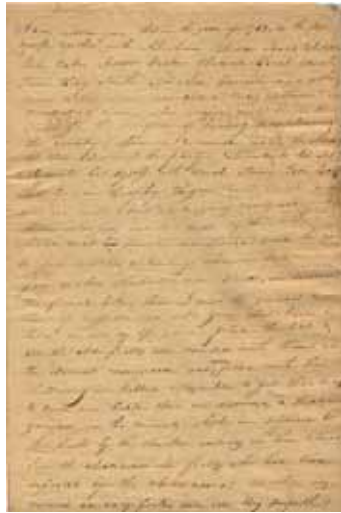
William Bartram

- Bartram traveled through Cherokee country, recording the animal and plant life in 1792
- He characterized the Cherokees idealistically, writing, "...companies of young, innocent Cherokee virgin, some busy gathering the rich fragrant fruit, others having already filled their baskets, lay reclined under the shade of...fragrant native bowers....The sylvan scene of primitive innocence was enchanting, and perhaps too enticing for hearty young men long to continue idle spectators."



Drawing by William Bartram, circa 1765-1776, collection of Earl of Derby at Knowsley Hall near Liverpool, England, Prescott, No. 117. An unidentified bird on a spray of swamp cornus and spring of *Galega*, a pink flowering plant. Naturalists in England valued these drawings, and were eager to learn about new species in America. The passage cited above is from pages 354-355 in *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, The Cherokee County*, by William Bartram, F 213 .B282. Several decades before Bartram created his drawings, James Adair wrote about the Native Americans, including the Cherokees, in his book, *The History of the American Indians, particularly those nations adjoining to the Mississippi, East and West Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, and Virginia*, E 77 .A213 1968, originally published in 1775. He worked as a trader among the Cherokee and Chickasaw from approximately 1735 to 1768. This book, owned by TSLA, includes a passage on page 234 about their use of plants to cure disease: Although the Cheerake shewed such little skill in curing the small pox, yet they, as well as all other Indian nations, have a great knowledge of specific virtues in simples; applying herbs and plants, on the most dangerous occasions, and seldom if ever, fail to effect a thorough cure, from the natural bush. In the order of nature, every country and climate is blest with specific remedies for the maladies that are connatural to it."

Mansker's narrative (1768)



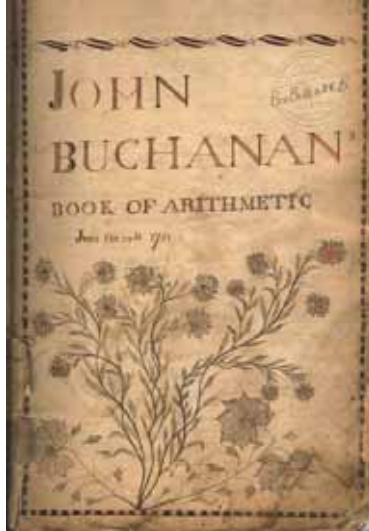
- Mansker was a contemporary of Daniel Boone's and an early explorer of Tennessee
- His narrative speaks of abundant game in the region as well as contact with Native Americans

John Haywood Papers, Folder 3 (THS 448), TSLA. First page of a narrative by Casper (Kaspar) Mansker, an early explorer of the Cumberland Valley of Tennessee, describing his pre-settlement explorations of Middle Tennessee. Mansker first navigated the Cumberland River in 1769 and returned with another party in 1771. He again returned to the area in 1779 and built a fort near Mansker's Lick, and resided in the area until his death in 1824. By reading Mansker's narrative, one can see why Nashville is located where it is: the salt lick drew in game, and as a consequence, hunters and then permanent settlers.

Transcription:

I can inform you that in the year of 1768, in the fall Myself together with Abraham Bledsoe Isaac Bledsoe John Baker Joseph Drake Obediah Terril Uriah Stone Henry Smith and Ned Carven and others Came to the place now called Prices Settlement, on Cumberland river, where wayne court house now Stands for the purpose of hunting & exploring the Country; where we remained until the Spring 69, then some of the party returned to the Settlements; but myself with Uriah Stone John Baker Thos. Gordon Humphrey Hogan Cash Brooks & others 10 in all built 2 boats & 2 trapping canoes and loaded them with furs and bear meat together with a de- feated boat we found, and Started down the river fair as where nashville now Stands, we discovered the french lick, there I saw then greatest number of buffaloe and wild game that I ever beheld in all my life at on place, the lick & all the old fields were crowded with them, all the elements resounded and were filled with their bellowing we killed a number to get their hides to cover our boats, there we discovered a Stockade garrison on the mount, which we supposed to be built by the Cherokee indians in their retreat from the Chickasaw old fields who had been defeated by the Chickasaw; another was discovered on camp fork and one Big Harpeth

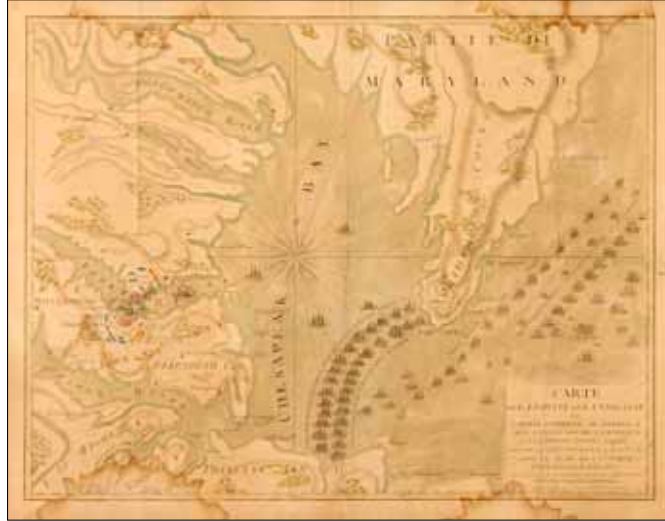
Early school book, 1781



THS Miscellaneous Collection, I-A-1v, B-238, T-100, Hand drawn frontispiece by John Buchanan for his manuscript arithmetic book, 1781. The book's cover was made from sewn deerskin. Buchanan was a surveyor, farmer, and early pioneer of Middle Tennessee.

4.5.09 Recognize major events, people, and patterns in Tennessee

The Siege of Yorktown, 1781



Map #1810, TSLA. Carte de la Partie de la Virginie ou L'armée combinée de France & des États-Unis de L'Amérique a fait prisonnière l'Armée Anglaise commandée par Lord Cornwallis le 19 Oct. bre 1781. Avec le Plan de L'attaque d'Yorktown & de Gloucester. Levée et dessinée sur les lieux par ordre des Officiers Gen. de l'Armée Française & Américaine. Circa 1782. The lower Chesapeake Bay is shown in this map and specifically, the Revolutionary War siege of Yorktown and naval battle that took place off the Virginia coast. General Cornwallis eventually surrendered on October 19, 1781, after an American and French blockade. The French navy, led by Admiral de Grasse, prevented the British fleet from providing reinforcements to Cornwallis and thereby ensured an American victory. Combined French and American land forces, led by General Washington and General Rochambeau, surrounded the British at Yorktown.

4.5.07 Identify the causes and results of the American Revolution

Early Citizens Petitioned their Legislatures for Relief



- Three transcriptions of petitions to the Tennessee General Assembly are included below
- The subjects include a divorce (1819), illegitimate children (1819), and the manumission of slaves (1817)
- The detail at left shows the last page of the manumission request

Exact Transcriptions (spelling errors have not been corrected)

(1)

State of Tennessee, Warren County – Pleasant Cove
August 24, 1819

To the Honourable the Members of the House of Representatives of this State.

The Honorable petition of James Kennedy a Citizen of this State and District, begs the clemency of that honorable body to take into consideration the case and grievance of your petitioners as herein certify so, and begs that indulgence due to a faithful citizen and soldier of the United States as the Justice of this case will admit.

Your petitioner resided in Pendleton District state of South Carolina more than twenty years having filled the place of Lieut. and Capt. more than eight years have served as an officer under General Grayham & Jackson in the Creek expedition Previous to the above have served the United States in the Corps of Artillerests and Engineers as a Noncommissioned officer and a Cadet three years and a half. In the years of 1794, 95, 96 & 97 as his vouchers will testify. Your Petitioner in his private station of life have rendered himself and still continues to be as useful to society as this circumstance will admit; by teaching School: Common and Military & the Cultivating of his farm. Having had the misfortune to lose his wife who departed this life leaving to his cares seven children,

Married in Carolina a second wife a Certain Hannah Commins the 5th February 1818. Emigrated from thence the 7th day of November following and became a free hold Citizen of this state the 27th Instant. On the day of your petitioners departure from Carolina, his wife declared she would not come She requested her property what property belonged to her, your petitioner acquiesced to the demand and much more, So that in the tender of a few dollars she had the goodness to state to me that I might want it for my children; nevertheless I compelled her to take it, and when bidding adieu, her evil mother, Clasped her in her arms lest I should forcibly take her a way and declared she should never come.

Some time previous to your petitioners departure, this his supposed wife Hannah had intimated to him, that she did not consider her marriage as binding as of that of a Minister of the Gospel.

The truth is we were married by a justice of the Quorum, but it is wholly forbidden by the letter of the Law and finable in the sum of one hundred Dollars for any squire to marry -- At other times she would state the trouble of Children & the pleasure she would feel if I had no children.

At other times her whines would arise to a pitch as to imagine that my children as they grew up would each take a share & lesson my estate so that her share would be small; intimating that whilst she was thus far free of having any children of her own, she could live easier with her people and be clear of any pleasure of my children.

These be some of the outlines of my intended wife.

Your petitioner prays to be free from said woman and have liberty to marry if she do not return to her duty in one year & a day; from the date your petitioner Emigrated from South Carolina to this state.

James Kennedy

(2)

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the Senate - and gentlemen of the house representatives –

We the petitioners beg leave to present to your honour able body a very distressing case, taken place In our neighbourhood, about ten miles south of Murfreesborough on the 17th of Inst. (?) died A Certain Lettis? Little Leaving five Illegitimate children without any kindred, this woman while on her death bed, and her children was supported by the neighbours, the oldest is a

Tennessee's Founding Document: 1796 Constitution

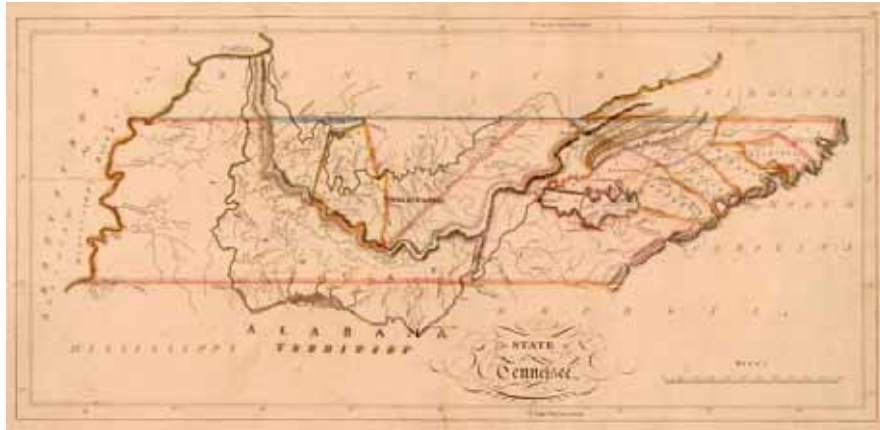


First page from Tennessee's first Constitution, adopted in 1796. The introductory section reads, "We the People of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio having the right of admission into the General Government as a member State thereof, consistent with the Constitution of the United States and the act of Cession of the State of North Carolina, recognizing the Ordinance for the Government for the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio, do ordain and establish the following Constitution or form of Government and do mutually agree with each other to form ourselves into a free and independent State, by the name of the State of Tennessee." In a close vote on June 1, 1796, Tennessee was approved by Congress to be admitted as the sixteenth state of the Union. (The seal is from TSLA's Blue Book Collection, RG 238. The Constitution of 1796 included a provision for the creation of a seal. No action was taken until 1801.)

One portion of the Tennessee Constitution, Article 1, "The Declaration of Rights," is of especial interest. Similar to the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, the first ten amendments added in 1791, this section lays out individual liberties and rights for the citizens of Tennessee. Section 1 reads, "That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; for the advancement of those ends they have at all times, an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper."

4.5.09 Recognize major events, people, and patterns in Tennessee

1796 map of Tennessee



Map #1864, 1796 map of the new State of Tennessee, TSLA. Tennessee was one of the first frontier regions in the nation. It began as a non-contiguous state, with the three counties of middle Tennessee separated by sovereign Indian lands from the east Tennessee counties. Crossing from one section to the other could be hazardous. The area experienced rapid growth because easterners were eager to find new land for settlement. During this period many treaties were negotiated that transferred Native American land to whites. At the end of this era, by around 1820, the majority of the region was under state government rather than native control.

The Creek War of 1813 and 1814



Library Collection, Drawer 10, Folder 247, The Battle of Tallushatchee, TSLA. The Creek “Red Sticks” were defeated in the battle of Tallushatchee, one of the many battles that took place during the so-called Creek War of 1813 and 1814, also known as the First Creek War. Nativist Creeks, known as “Red Sticks” (Baton Rouge), were bitter about white encroachment into their territory. These “Red Sticks” Creeks were already involved in a Civil War with Creeks who had assimilated into American culture. After the Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims, killing both Americans and assimilated Creeks, Americans were drawn into the fray. The conclusion of this conflict (as well as the end of the War of 1812) promoted western expansion; many more easterners moved into Tennessee, while some Tennesseans left the state and settled the region now known as Alabama. Native Americans suffered long-term consequences from this war, for many Americans no longer believed in the Jeffersonian policy of civilizing Native Americans and instead felt that they could not be assimilated into the United States. Andrew Jackson led the effort to remove Native Americans to the West once he became president.