Knoxville Leaders

**Grade Level:** 8th Grade

**Standards/Unit:**

Era 3: Revolution & the New Nation (1754-1820)

Local I.D. #: 3.10: Analyze the impact of national leaders from Tennessee

**Lesson Time:** One class period

**Objective/Purpose:** Students will understand the local historic significance of the individuals who settled in the Knoxville area and helped establish Knoxville and the state of Tennessee and be able to locate historic structures and places that were associated with these individuals in Knoxville.

**Materials:** PowerPoint

**Strategies/Procedures:** Teachers will present the PowerPoint and then engage the students in a discussion using the following question(s). If time allows you may use one question or all.

1. Why do you think the Southwest Territory was more successful than the State of Franklin?

2. Why did the Southwest Territory choose to relocate the capital to the newly laid-out town of Knoxville? What resources could this new town provide?

3. Can you list the important accomplishments of James White, especially to the establishment of the town of Knoxville?

**Activities:** if time permits teachers can assign in-class enrichment projects for extra credit.

2. T-chart – how would you compare William Blount’s early political life to his later political life?

3. Writing prompt: For today’s standards, Blount Mansion is small but in 1792 it was a large elaborate governor’s house and office. Compare and contrast large “mansions” of today with the architectural elements of the historic Blount Mansion.

Assessment/Evaluation: The teacher will evaluate the student’s discussion and level of interest and participation.
State of Franklin

A short-lived attempt to create a new state in the trans-Appalachian settlement of present-day East Tennessee, the State of Franklin arose from the general unsettled state of national, regional, and local politics at the end of the Revolutionary War. Under the severely limited congressional revenue powers imposed by the Articles of Confederation, the best solution for funding the new national government in the 1780s was the cession of western lands by the individual states. Congress actively encouraged this process, anticipating substantial returns. North Carolina, however, had not agreed to such a step and instead reopened its western land office in 1783. Acting on the presumption that the Cherokees had forfeited their land claims due to their alliance with the British during the Revolution, the entire trans-Appalachian West, with only a few exceptions, was made available for purchase.

The provisions of the North Carolina land act of 1783 favored those with prior knowledge of its passage. These individuals, including many of the most prominent and influential members of the North Carolina legislature, quickly claimed over four million acres of western lands in what came to be called the "Great Land Grab" of 1783. Having thus secured title to most of the area that would eventually become Tennessee, these lawmakers now gave their support to the western land cession. In 1784 North Carolina passed an act to cede its western lands to Congress with the stipulation that all land titles would remain valid.

The cession, coupled with the apparent congressional desire to create new states, provided the final justification among the western inhabitants for an independent statehood movement. Sentiment for such a movement had been growing among the western residents largely as a result of the distance between their settlements and the seat of government, which made it difficult for eastern legislators to understand the complexities of trans-Appalachian life and for settlers to obtain relief for their complaints. Under the leadership of Arthur Campbell of southwestern Virginia and others in the Holston River settlements, a meeting was arranged in Jonesborough in of August 1784, where the decision for statehood was unanimous. Delegates were elected to attend a December 1784 convention to draft the constitution for a new government.

The land grab by the North Carolina legislature created so much resentment against the land speculators—who controlled the legislature—which voters turned out the business element in the elections of 1784. The new legislature promptly repealed the act of cession, and the western statehood movement was now technically an act of rebellion.

The convention met as planned on December 14, 1784, and reaffirmed their support for an independent state to be known as Franklin. Delegates adopted the North Carolina constitution
to serve as a temporary government, but made some alterations such as the reduction or abolition of property qualifications for elective office. A second convention met in November 1785 to adopt a permanent constitution. This document, sometimes called the "Holston Constitution," provided for a unicameral legislature with specific property, religious, and moral qualifications for its members; however, the temporary North Carolina constitution continued to serve the new state. At a third convention in March of 1786, John Sevier, a popular Revolutionary War hero and Indian fighter, was elected governor; a barter system for the payment of taxes was established; and four new counties were established.

By this time, the Franklin movement enjoyed less than unanimous support. Once again land speculators dominated the North Carolina legislature, and they were eager to regain control over Franklin in order to validate their land titles. They pursued a policy of encouraging dissension in the west through conciliatory overtures to the Franklinites while simultaneously condemning the movement. The North Carolina legislature created additional counties, courts, and a militia brigade with John Sevier as the brigadier general.

Legislative overtures made little headway until August 1786, when John Tipton emerged as the leader of the anti-Franklin faction in Washington County. Conflict between the pro- and anti-Franklin groups intensified and became a personal feud between Sevier and Tipton as the two vied for leadership. North Carolina capitalized on the dissension and undermined support for the Franklin movement by offering pardons and a remission for two years of back taxes.

The combination of inducements and strong opposition from Tipton produced a decline in support for the Franklin movement everywhere except in the area south of the French Broad River. There, the Franklin government's aggressive policy towards the Cherokees attracted widespread support from settlers vulnerable to Indian attacks. In June 1785 a token number of Cherokee chiefs signed the Dumplin Creek Treaty, which allowed settlement well to the south of the French Broad River and into an area set aside by North Carolina as a Cherokee reservation. In November of the same year, a larger Cherokee delegation met with American representatives at Hopewell in South Carolina and established a treaty line north of Greeneville, the capital of Franklin. The two conflicting treaties soon produced open warfare between the Franklinites and the Cherokees. Franklinites interpreted the Hopewell Treaty as evidence of lack of congressional interest in their defense and opened negotiations with the Spanish authorities to explore the possibility of annexation; however, the talks came to nothing. By August 1786 the Cherokees had been defeated and forced to sign the Treaty of Coyatee, which allowed settlement as far south as the Little Tennessee River.

By 1788 the feud between Tipton and Sevier escalated to the point that the two sides engaged in a minor skirmish. Later that same year, Tipton arrested Sevier on a North Carolina warrant. Sevier made bail and a new governor wisely ignored the case.

By early 1789 the Franklin movement was all but over. North Carolina continued its policy of reconciliation by allowing the locally popular Sevier to be seated in the legislature as the representative from Greene County; as a further gesture of goodwill he was appointed brigadier general of militia for Washington County. In the settlements south of the French Broad River,
support for an independent state continued and settlers organized themselves into an
association known as "Lesser Franklin." When no strong leader emerged to replace Sevier, this
movement also faded away.

Taken from-Tennessee Encyclopedia Online

http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=F061

**The Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio**

The Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio, often called the Southwest Territory,
was created by an act of Congress on May 26, 1790. The State of North Carolina had ceded the
lands and waterways encompassed by the act to the national government on December 22, 1789,
and the cession represented the total area of the territory, although its name suggested the
possible inclusion of other lands south of the Ohio not yet in federal hands. Congress specified
that the territory would be governed under the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, the statute
establishing the vast Northwest Territory. The lawmakers made one important exception,
however. They permitted slavery in the new territory, although they had prohibited the practice
in the Northwest Territory.

Establishing a federal territory was a political mechanism by which the people of a specific area
of the country outside the bounds of the states could be placed under federal authority until such
time as its population increased to levels adequate to support the organization of state
government. A newborn territory, at its first level, was virtually a fiefdom for the governor. The
settlers achieved a voice in government at the second level when the population reached 5,000,
a number that permitted them to elect the lower house of a general assembly and nominate the
members of the upper house for appointment by the president. The third and final progression
was the step to statehood, authorized when the population exceeded 60,000.

The creation of the new territory was the result of the dynamics of four separate but related
interests. First, land speculators and expansionists coveted stable government for the region
because it was part of the nation's next logical growth area. Secondly, the State of North Carolina
could sharply reduce the demand on its drained treasury and find relief from the responsibility
of protecting western settlers by ceding the over mountain domain and waiving to Congress the
potential revenues from future sales of its public lands. Next, the western settlers wanted
territorial status and lobbied vigorously for it, believing that the national government would
offer better protection against the Indians. Finally, the federal government was anxious to
establish control over western lands England had yielded in the Treaty of 1783 but from which
the king had not yet totally evacuated his troops.

The Southwest Territory contained 43,000 square miles of surface area, less than one-sixth of
the area of the Northwest Territory. In 1791, however, the populations were of inverse ratio:
35,691 reported in the Southwest to the estimated 3,200 in the Northwest. The western district
of Virginia, lying immediately south of the Ohio River, constituted the most heavily populated
area, yet it was a part of neither territory. After a series of conventions that began in 1784 and
ended in 1790, the inhabitants negotiated an agreement with Virginia and Congress to provide
statehood for the region. Congress admitted Kentucky as an equal member state of the Union on February 4, 1792.

Nowhere was the role of the speculator more directly involved with the development of the over mountain west than in the Southwest Territory. In 1790, when President George Washington appointed North Carolina businessman William Blount as territorial governor, Blount and his brothers claimed title to approximately one million acres of the land inside its boundaries. Earlier, in the latter 1770s, William Henderson, another North Carolinian, had made colossal purchases of western lands from the Indians only to have them invalidated later by the states of North Carolina and Virginia. He succeeded, nonetheless, in promoting settlements in separate areas that later became parts of Central Kentucky and Middle Tennessee.

The cession of the western half of the state was a difficult decision for the leaders of North Carolina. Although the general assembly had passed an act to cede the lands beyond the mountains in 1784, the same body repealed its action before Congress could accept it. Five years later, with a treasury that was virtually empty, the state faced an assessment for its share of the national debt incurred during the American Revolution. Its portion was determined by a formula that related the assessment to the land area of the state; consequently, by reducing the size of the state, the tax share would be cut proportionately. That option guaranteed the votes to pass the cession act. Other support came from many North Carolinians living east of the mountains who were eager to be relieved of the burden of protecting western settlers from the Indians. The frontier folk in North Carolina’s western lands had lobbied passionately for cession because they believed that by accepting the area as a federal territory, the national government would be honor-bound to defend them.

President Washington gave Governor William Blount a second responsibility: superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Southern Department, an office that placed him in contact with the neighboring Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Creek nations. Relations with the latter two were so difficult that Blount had to devote more time to Indian matters than to the office of governor. The combined duties of both offices did not prevent him from taking an active role in land purchases and sales, however.

The first capital of the territory was the home of William Cobb, called Rocky Mount, in Washington County near the Watauga River. Governor Blount and Daniel Smith, a District leader appointed by the president to be secretary of the territory and acting governor in Blount’s absence, set up the territorial office there in 1790. They relocated the capital to Blount’s residence in the newly laid-out town of Knoxville in 1792. The three other principal officers of the government were Judges John McNairy, David Campbell, and Joseph Anderson. Generals John Sevier and James Robertson commanded the militia of Washington and Mero Districts respectively. Before the area was certified as populous enough to elect its own house of representatives, the judges and the governor constituted the general assembly with authority to enact statutes.

Early in 1791 the governor enumerated the population and reported more than enough free white adult males to qualify the territory for the election of a lower house, its next step toward
statehood. Blount did not call for elections until December 1793, however, nearly three years later and only then under pressure from an impatient populace. He clearly preferred to rule without dealing with an elected house but joined the popular cry for elections when he could put it off no longer.

President Washington assigned Blount the task of clarifying provisions of the 1785 Treaty of Hopewell and, if possible, purchasing some of the Cherokee land south of the French Broad since occupied by settlers. When the governor sought to treat with them, the Cherokees responded hesitantly, but their chiefs came to the treaty grounds after Blount sent James Robertson, formerly a respected agent among them, to urge their attendance.

The Indians’ interests would have been better served if they had remained at home. Blount enticed them to give up the right-of-way for a road to connect Southwest Point with the Cumberland settlements and browbeat them into signing over most of the land he sought for an annual payment by the federal government of one thousand dollars. There was no longer a need for clarification of the Treaty of Hopewell.

The following year of 1792 was marked by both Cherokee and Creek raids into the territory. The national government, already involved in Indian wars in the Northwest Territory, would not participate in a war against the southern Indians; neither would it permit the frontiersmen to make preemptive strikes, nor to pursue attacking Indians across the line into their own territory. The settlers could take defensive measures only.

Such a response from the War Department and Congress infuriated the territorial settlers. Separate groups of unauthorized volunteers from the Holston and Cumberland leveled Cherokee and Creek villages and killed a number of warriors. On one of the few occasions when strikes against the Indians were authorized, acting governor Daniel Smith, in Blount’s absence, sent General John Sevier with a regiment of militia into Cherokee territory in pursuit of a large body of Indians that had approached Knoxville but turned back after massacring the family of Alexander Cavett a few miles from town. Smith’s action, though upheld by Blount, was not approved by the War Department. Pay for the militia, a federal obligation, was withheld until long after Tennessee became a state.

Other large groups of warriors also invaded the territory. On September 30, 1792, a group of more than 500, principally Creek and Cherokee Indians, marched on Nashville and unsuccessfully laid siege to Buchanan’s station. A force of an estimated 260 Creeks and Cherokees attacked Greenfield station in Sumner County on April 28, 1794, but a few alert defenders drove them off.

After elections for the territorial house were held in December 1793, the representatives chosen met at Knoxville on February 24, 1794, to nominate ten councilors. President Washington appointed Sevier, James Winchester, Stockley Donelson, Parmenas Taylor, and Griffith Rutherford from the group to make up the legislative council, or upper house, of the general assembly.
The full General Assembly of the Southwest Territory convened its first session at Knoxville on August 26, 1794, and elected a nonvoting representative to Congress. The territory had reached its second level of progression toward statehood, and there was only one remaining.

In a special session that began on June 29, 1795, the general assembly voted to make an enumeration of the population and authorized Blount to recommend that each county elect five delegates to be convened by him for the purpose of determining the permanent form of government for the area and adopting a constitution.

When Governor Blount tied the pay of the sheriffs taking the census to the totals reported, even skeptics joined those who believed the population would exceed 60,000. It was a very straightforward arrangement; the larger the total reported from each county, the larger the sheriff's pay for counting them.

On November 28, 1795, the collected census reports from all eleven counties indicated that there were 77,262 inhabitants in the Southwest Territory, a total comfortably exceeding the minimum required for statehood. The governor called for the election of delegates to meet in convention on January 11, 1796, to begin work on a constitution and form a state government.

Once the qualifying enumeration had been made, the final progression under the Ordinance of 1787 had been reached. But it was not clear what was yet to be done to bring the state into existence and into the Union. Blount and his political allies decided on a bold initiative. They would establish the new state, adopt a constitution for it, elect its officials, and petition the national government to accept it on an equal basis with the other states.

Fifty-five representatives from the eleven counties of the territory met in convention at Knoxville on January 11, 1776. They elected Blount to be the presiding officer and Daniel Smith to be chairman of the committee to draft a constitution and bill of rights. Consideration of a bill of rights was apparently of the highest priority. Smith's draft was debated and adopted before the full constitution was brought to the floor. Containing thirty-two separate provisions, the bill was entitled "A Declaration of Rights." The delegates incorporated it into the constitution later as its last section, Article XI.

The Declaration of Rights closely paralleled the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States, but in its final form it was marked by two distinctly western concerns. Section 29 proclaimed: "That an equal participation of the free navigation of the Mississippi, is one of the inherent rights of the citizens of this state: it cannot, therefore, be conceded to any prince, potentate, power, person or person whatever." Mirroring the westerners' passion for land, Section 31 declared: "That the people residing south of French Broad and Holston between the Rivers Tennessee and the Big Pigeon, are entitled to the right of pre-emption and occupancy in that tract."

Providing for executive, legislative, and judicial departments, the constitution drew heavily upon the work of the constitution makers of North Carolina and, to a lesser extent, Pennsylvania. It broke with the North Carolina tradition by sanctioning no single church or religion. It
prohibited seating ministers of the gospel and priests in either house of the bicameral legislature but simultaneously barred from any office in the civil department of the state anyone who denied "the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishment." The constitution departed from the ways of some of the older states by providing universal manhood suffrage. All white males and all free black males twenty-one years of age or older were permitted to vote.

On February 6, 1796, the convention approved the constitution and the name of the new state--Tennessee--by a unanimous vote. Before adjourning, the delegates instructed Governor Blount to send a copy of the constitution by express to the secretary of state at Philadelphia so that it could be brought before Congress before the end of its session. Governor Blount issued writs of election to the sheriffs of the several counties in order that the first election for members of the general assembly and governor of the new state could be held.

The adjournment of the convention left the constitution firmly in place. There was no requirement for further approval or review, except by the Congress of the United States, and that only for the purpose of determining that it and the government to be formed under its provisions were truly republican.

At the March elections, the voters chose John Sevier to be the new state's first governor and elected members of the House and Senate of the first general assembly. Although Sevier was probably the most popular man in the state, his election reflected decisions by territorial leaders to promote him for governor, Blount and William Cocke for the U.S. Senate, Andrew Jackson for Congress, and James Winchester for Speaker of the state Senate and de facto lieutenant governor. The most powerful offices went to those living in East Tennessee, where the population was larger, but the western, or Mero District, residents were mollified by the inclusion of Jackson and Winchester.

When the general assembly certified Sevier's election, Governor Blount announced to Secretary of State Timothy Pickering that the government of the State of Tennessee was organized and established and that the government of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio "has terminated." President Washington placed the question of statehood for Tennessee before Congress on April 8 when he submitted (without recommendation) the constitution of the state, the enumeration of the inhabitants, and other pertinent documents to both houses.

The House of Representatives took up the issue and after considerable debate voted forty-three to thirty on May 6 to admit Tennessee to the Union. In the Senate it was a different matter. There the Federalists, who rightly expected the new state would vote against their candidate in the upcoming presidential election, delayed admission until the last day of the session, June 1, 1796. Yielding in conference committee to House pressure to admit, the Senate was able to force the new state to elect their United States senators anew, to reduce their electoral college votes from four to three, and to accept a single congressman instead of the two contemplated until the next federal census.

Although temporarily crippled politically by the Senate's provisions, Tennessee had become the sixteenth state of the Union and the first state to be developed from a federal territory. The
Southwest Territory existed no more, but its leaders had charted a way for other territories evolving under the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787 to become equal states of the Union. They had tested and established a method by which those in succeeding westward migrations would be able to achieve full citizenship and enjoy the blessings of representative government.

Taken from-Tennessee Encyclopedia Online
http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=S069

James White

James White, statesman, military figure, and philanthropist, was born in 1747 in Rowan County, North Carolina. He married Mary Lawson in 1770, and the Whites had seven children; their oldest son, Hugh Lawson White, achieved national prominence as a presidential candidate in 1836.

In 1783 North Carolina passed what came to be known as the "Land Grab Act" and opened a major portion of East Tennessee for settlement. During the next decade, White purchased over four thousand acres in what is now Knox County. In 1786 he built a fort and five years later laid out a town in what eventually became Knoxville. White donated land for a town common and a Presbyterian church and cemetery. For a nominal fee, he sold land to establish Knoxville's first institution of higher learning, Blount College, which later became the University of Tennessee.

White's public service included election to the legislatures of the State of Franklin and North Carolina. He represented North Carolina at its convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States and was also a representative to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention in 1796. Elected to the Senate in the First General Assembly of Tennessee, he became the Speaker of that body in 1797. White resigned his seat in favor of the popular William Blount after the latter left the U.S. Senate under a cloud of scandal; he returned to the state Senate after Blount's death in 1800. His appointments included justice of the peace and Indian commissioner of Tennessee, and he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Blount College.

White's military career began in 1779, when he served for two years as a captain in the North Carolina militia. He was commander of the "Immortal 38" in the defense of Knoxville in 1793 against an estimated one thousand Cherokee and Creek warriors. White served as a brigadier general with Andrew Jackson during the Creek War of 1813 and 1814. The Cherokees considered White a man of honor; on at least two occasions he tactfully interceded on their behalf and prevented reprisals by hot-headed settlers.

James White died on August 14, 1821, at his farm on the outskirts of Knoxville. In 1982 University of Tennessee archaeologists excavated the farm site. White and his wife, Mary, are buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Knoxville.

Taken From-Tennessee Encyclopedia Online
http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=W051
James White Fort

James White's Fort, was established in 1786 and became the nucleus of modern-day Knoxville. General James White (1747-1821) traveled to the wilderness of East Tennessee from Iredell County, North Carolina, in 1785, settling with his wife Mary Lawson and five children on a one-thousand-acre tract near the junction of the French Broad and Holston Rivers. To the west of First Creek he built the first residence within what is today downtown Knoxville. The house was a one-and-a-half story "saddlebag" structure built of hand-hewn square logs with clay chinking. White also built three smaller houses of log construction and arranged them to form the four corners of a quadrangle with his principal residence located in the southwest corner. He then enclosed the sides of the quadrangle with an eight-foot-high wooden palisade and oriented the main gate to face First Creek.

In 1791 White's Fort was the site of the signing of the Treaty of Holston between Cherokee leaders and William Blount, governor of the Territory South of the River Ohio. Blount selected White's Fort as the capital of the Southwest Territory and renamed it Knoxville. White hired Charles McClung to survey and divide a portion of his one thousand acres into sixty-four half-acre town lots. Reserving lots for himself, a church (now First Presbyterian Church, where White is buried), and for the formation of Blount College, he offered the remaining lots for sale by lottery at eight dollars each.

The White family established a second farm away from the fort, and the principal house was later incorporated as an ell into the brick residence of James Kennedy Jr. By 1906 commercial growth made demolition of the house eminent and the Kennedy estate offered it to the Knoxville Historical Society. The society did not have a site on which it could relocate the house, though, and refused the offer. Isaiah Ford, a local citizen, purchased White's house with the intent of preserving it. He carefully marked each log, dismantled the house, and reconstructed it on Woodlawn Pike in Knoxville.

In 1959 the City Association of Women's Clubs (CAWC) began its campaign for the reconstruction of the entire fort with the preservation and relocation of the principal house as its focal point. The CAWC established the James White Fort Association (JWFA) as a nonprofit organization to oversee the reconstruction. As the original site of the fort was already long-occupied, the JWFA selected a one-acre site nearby on Hill Avenue. However, it was not until three years later that Representative Howard Baker Sr., and Senator Estes Kefauver facilitated the passing of legislation that allowed the Knoxville Housing Authority to sell the proposed site to the JWFA for one dollar. The original James White house was again dismantled and relocated. With the construction of the palisades and other houses completed, the fort was opened to the public in 1973.

Taken from-Tennessee Encyclopaedia Online
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Structural Info
Trees were cut and shaped with hand tools to form square logs.

The Fort itself has White’s home in one corner and three smaller cabins in the other corners thereby forming a square. Between cabins a stockade of pointed posts was constructed to keep wild animals out.

Area that would become Knoxville was surveyed by White’s son-in-law, Charles McClung who divided the land into 16 blocks with 64 lots, each lot costing $8.00.

**Historic Relevance**

When William Blount became Governor of the Territory South of the Ohio River in 1791, James White’s Fort was selected by William Blount as the location for the meeting with the Cherokee Chieftains at which the treaty of Holston was signed.

The Fort was also chosen as the site for the capital of the Territory South of the Ohio River and a town was planned to be built there.

James White retained 8 lots and gave one to the town to be used for a church. This lot, at the corner of State and Church Street is still occupied by the First Presbyterian Church.

The churchyard was also Knoxville’s first cemetery. Both James White and William Blount are buried there.

On October 1, 1791 the new town was christened Knoxville after Major General Henry Knox.

**Restoration Efforts**

In 1906 the house was about to be torn down when Isaiah Ford purchased it and moved it to Woodlawn Pike.

In 1960, the City Association of Women’s Clubs purchased the house and later moved it back to downtown Knoxville near its’ original location.

**William Blount**

Territorial Governor and U.S. Senator William Blount was born on March 26, 1749, the eldest child of Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount of Bertie County, North Carolina. As a child, Blount received informal training in commerce at the side of his father, who operated a farm and a mill and sold tar and turpentine. With maturity, Blount assumed a more active role in his father's businesses. Blount’s business acumen gained respect, and in 1776 he was named paymaster of the Third North Carolina battalion of the Continental troops.

At the age of thirty-one Blount entered politics when he won election as New Bern's representative to the North Carolina House of Commons; he assumed his post in late January 1781. Within a year he was elected to the Continental Congress, an office he held for approximately one year before returning to the North Carolina legislature. Blount’s local legislative efforts reflected his growing interest in the western lands. He successfully promoted a
bill to provide land grants west of the mountains to North Carolina soldiers with two years military service. Since most soldiers sold their grants instead of moving west, Blount and others--including his friend John Sevier--seized the moment and purchased grants representing hundreds of thousands of acres.

In October 1784 Blount was reelected to the North Carolina legislature and subsequently won an internal vote for Speaker of the House. In December 1785 he was elected to the Continental Congress again, where he served briefly before returning to his home in North Carolina. Blount increased his ties with the western lands by working for the formation of Davidson County in the Cumberland region and the establishment of a judicial district there.

In February 1790 North Carolina ceded its western land holdings to the United States. A few months later the area became the newly created Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio (the Southwest Territory). President George Washington appointed Blount territorial governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern Department.

Without a public building in which to conduct the affairs of the territory, Blount selected Rocky Mount, the spacious home of William Cobb at the fork of the Holston and Watauga Rivers, as his temporary capitol. The room Blount selected for his office had windows and a fireplace, affording him a location from which to conduct business in comfort and style.

Relations between Indians and settlers represented the most pressing problem in the new territory. Blount invited representatives of the tribes to meet with him and negotiate treaties, a time-consuming effort that initially produced favorable results for the settlers. The treaties soon failed, undercut by settlers moving beyond treaty boundaries and by hostile responses from various Indian groups. Native Americans complained that once the treaties were translated for formal viewing, promises had been altered to their disadvantage. Disappointment soon gave way to aggression. Blount found himself in the precarious position of trying to appease two groups with opposing interests. On the one hand, the settlers of the territory demanded a military campaign to extinguish the hostilities directed against them, while federal officials urged restraint and prohibited retaliation. In the summer of 1794 settlers launched an unauthorized attack on the Chickamauga towns at Nickajack and Running Water. The attack further strained the relationship between Blount and his superiors in the federal government.

Blount's most lasting achievement was Tennessee statehood. He called a meeting of the territorial legislature in June 1795 to request a referendum for statehood. The request was favorably received, and the referendum submitted to the voters. When the people approved the statehood proposal, Blount sought and won a bid to represent the new state in the U.S. Senate.

As a senator Blount became involved in a risky plan initiated by John Chisholm to attack Spanish Florida with the aid of British and Indian allies. Blount later claimed that his motives were pure, arguing for the necessity of the action to keep western land open for future expansion. When his alleged involvement became public news, his participation as an American official in a plot against another country created a considerable stir. A Senate committee called for his expulsion, and impeachment proceedings began soon thereafter. Blount returned to
Tennessee and avoided the embarrassment of being formally removed from office.

The episode did little to dampen support for Blount in Tennessee. In 1798 he successfully ran for a seat in the state Senate to represent the citizens of Knoxville. Two years later, on March 15, 1800, while sitting on his porch reading, Blount complained of a chill. His discomfort gradually increased and led to more serious complications. Six days later he died.

Taken from-Tennessee encyclopedia Online

http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=B056

**Blount Mansion**

Knoxville's only National Historic Landmark, Blount Mansion was constructed between 1792 and 1830, with the first period of construction occurring between 1792 and 1796. As the home and office of William Blount, the governor of the Southwest Territory, Blount Mansion replaced Rocky Mount as the capitol of the Southwest Territory. In contrast to the surrounding log homes, Blount constructed a frame house to demonstrate his political and economic status in the community. His "mansion," the largest house in the area, was a traditional hall and parlor plan with two rooms on the first floor, a basement, and an attic sleeping loft. The Native American name, "the House With Many Glass Eyes," testified to the number of six-over-six glass windows on the front and rear elevations of the house.

After Blount's death in 1800, the house passed through his extended family and later became the home to prominent Knoxvillians such as Matthew McClung and James White and Knoxville mayors Matthew M. Gaines and Samuel B. Boyd. These and other owners made alterations to the house, dramatically changing its original appearance through the addition of a completed second floor, a west wing, an attached kitchen, and a front porch.

Blount Mansion faced destruction by the city of Knoxville to make room for a parking lot in the downtown area in 1925, but the Bonny Kate Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased an option on the home and in 1926 chartered the Blount Mansion Association (BMA). The BMA removed the Victorian front porch and emphasized an interpretation of the house's significance in the territorial capital period of 1792-1800. Blount Mansion opened as a museum in 1930.

Since 1955 Blount Mansion has undergone many changes including the dismantling of later period buildings and additions, restoration of the Governor's Office, archaeological investigations, and paint and structural analyses. In a recent architectural analysis of the house, Michael Emrick and George T. Fore concluded that the house had experienced six distinct phases of construction and/or alteration and did not acquire its current overall form and size until the fourth phase, circa 1815-30. For the study of Tennessee architecture, it is "a more complex and interesting structure because of its phased construction." Blount Mansion continues to preserve Knoxville's eighteenth-century history, and the restored office, gardens, and kitchen enhance the interpretation of this frontier capitol of Tennessee.
Structural Info

The house was made of sawn lumber brought from North Carolina. The nails were brought from the Blount family’s naiillery in North Carolina. Glass was brought in from Virginia.

West Wing was added around 1800 and could have originally been used to house slaves.

The East Wing was added around 1820.

The office in a separate building to the rear of the house was the Executive Headquarters of the Territory.

The home was called “The house with many glass eyes” by the Indians due to the large number of windows in the home.

Historic Relevance

Blount prepared Tennessee’s first constitution as a state at the Blount Mansion.

The Blount Mansion is believed to be the oldest two-story frame dwelling in what is now Tennessee.

The Blount Mansion is the first house west of the Allegheny Mountains not made of rough logs.

The house is Knoxville’s only Registered National Landmark (it was given that distinction in 1965).

Home was later owned by both the McClung and Boyd families.

Many prominent people were born there: C.J. McClung, Frank Matthews, Dr. John Boyd, Mrs. Sue Barton and Mrs. John Meek.

Restoration Efforts

Mary Boyce Temple and the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased the home in 1926 for $31,500 and saved it from despair.

John Sevier

John Sevier, pioneer, soldier, statesman and a founder of the Republic, was Tennessee’s first governor and one of its most illustrious citizens. Married and on his own at age sixteen, he was in the vanguard of frontier life and accomplishment from his late teenage years until his death. First and only governor of the aborted State of Franklin, six-term governor of Tennessee, and congressman for four terms from the eastern district, he was also a soldier of no mean accomplishment, having risen to the rank of general in the North Carolina militia.
Born near the present town of New Market, Virginia, Sevier was the oldest of seven children of Valentine and Joanna Goad Sevier. His forebears—the Xaviers—were of Huguenot religious persuasion who had fled France for England, anglicized their name, and become prosperous farmers. By 1740 Valentine had arrived in Virginia and settled in the Shenandoah Valley on Smith’s Creek.

Not much is known of Sevier’s early life. Educational opportunities were limited, but as a child he apparently learned to read and write; later his state papers and correspondence with Andrew Jackson and others exhibited a concise and direct style. Married in 1761 to Sarah Hawkins (1746-1780), a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Marlin Hawkins, the couple settled in the valley of his birth. There Sevier farmed, dealt in furs, speculated in land, ran a tavern, and fought Indians—along with raising an ever-increasing family.

By 1773 he lived on the Holston River, but three years later he had moved to a farm on the Watauga River near the present town of Elizabethton. In the same year, North Carolina authorities created the Washington District, which included the Watauga settlements, and Sevier was sent to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina as representative.

The Revolutionary War began in 1775, and in the following year Sevier was named a lieutenant colonel of the North Carolina militia and assigned first to protecting the frontier settlements. He fought elsewhere but was confined primarily to the South. The encounter for which he became best known was the battle of Kings Mountain (1780), in which he and his fellow frontiersmen fought Tories and British soldiers at a location just north of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The British, having met with only moderate success in the middle and northern colonies, had turned in late 1780 to the soft underbelly of the rebellious provinces where they prevailed without difficulty in Georgia. Then they moved northward without serious opposition. Major Patrick Ferguson, assigned to the command of the British left flank, viewed the western settlements with disdain. Overconfident, he ordered frontiersmen to lay down their arms and give allegiance to the Crown; otherwise, he wrote, he would march over the mountains, "hang . . . western leaders and lay the country waste with fire and sword." Sevier and others, accepting the challenge, gathered at Sycamore Shoals late in September 1780, determined to engage Ferguson before he could reach Watauga. They soon found him on a narrow ridge in northwest South Carolina where he, with perhaps one thousand men, had ensconced himself, claiming that even "the Almighty" could not drive him off. But the backwoodsmen ascended the heights and assaulted him from both south and west, taking care to remain well camouflaged behind trees, logs, and rocks. Although forced to fall back several times, the westerners rallied each time, and, after about an hour of fighting, claimed victory. They had lost fewer than one hundred men while the British had lost three times that number, including Ferguson. The victory turned the British from the West and pushed Sevier forward as the foremost figure among the transmontane people. One of Sevier’s biographers thought it "impossible to state just how great an influence this exerted upon his future political career."

Several months before Kings Mountain, Sevier’s wife of nearly twenty years died and was buried in an unmarked grave just outside Nolichucky Fort in Washington County. She and Sevier had
raised ten children. Sevier later married Catherine ("Bonny Kate") Sherrill (1754-1838), whom he had rescued four years earlier during a surprise attack by the Cherokees. They reared eight children.

Soon after the Revolution, Sevier became involved in a movement designed to secure separate statehood for the people living in Washington, Sullivan, and Greene Counties. The Continental Congress in 1780 had urged that lands claimed by North Carolina and Virginia should become states soon after hostilities might end. Thomas Jefferson had presented a plan whereby eighteen new states might be carved from the western territories. But North Carolina authorities objected vehemently when western leaders assembled in Jonesborough in August 1784 to make plans for statehood. When they chose Sevier as governor and drafted a constitution, claiming an "inalienable right" to form an independent state, Governor Alexander Martin threatened to "render the revolting territory not worth possessing" if North Carolina did not retain sovereignty over it. Attempts at conciliation divided the Franklin people into factions, and border warfare developed. Several men were killed or wounded, and two of Sevier's sons were captured, threatened, and held briefly.

Sevier's term as governor of Franklin expired in the spring of 1788, and for all practical purposes the state came to an end. Sevier was arrested and charged with treason but never tried. Within less than a year he had taken an oath of allegiance to North Carolina and was elected to the state Senate. A few months later he was restored to his rank of brigadier general in the North Carolina militia.

North Carolina permanently ceded its western lands to the central government in 1789, and in the following year President George Washington signed into law a measure for the governance of the region. Sevier probably was the choice of most of the western people for the post of territorial governor, but Washington appointed William Blount instead. Soon Sevier became a member of the Territorial Legislative Council—a group of five men provided for under the Congressional Ordinance of 1787 designed for the governance of territories. He was among those who urged Governor Blount to call the legislature into session to make plans for statehood as required under the ordinance. Blount complied, and early in 1796 leaders drafted a constitution and applied to Congress for admission. After several weeks of debate—at times acrimonious, as Federalists and Anti-Federalists haggled over terms and reasons for admission—Congress recommended statehood, and President Washington signed into law a bill creating Tennessee as the sixteenth state.

The new constitution had provided for a two-year term for governors with the right to serve "not . . . more than six years in any term of eight." The other qualifications to hold the office of governor were simple. One must be at least twenty-five years of age, possess a freehold of at least five hundred acres, and be a citizen for four years. Sevier met these requirements and became the only serious candidate.

For months before the admissions bill was enacted, Tennesseans had been conducting affairs as though the state had been legally admitted to the Union. Elections were held in late February and legislators convened in late March. On March 29 they examined the returns of the
gubernatorial race and determined that Sevier had won. On March 30 Sevier took the oath of 
office at Knoxville. In a brief inaugural address, he thanked voters for the confidence reposed in 
him and he pledged to discharge "with fidelity" the tasks of chief executive. A sixteen-gun salute 
ended the brief ceremonies. When Sevier became governor, the total population of the new state 
was only about 85,000, but by the end of his gubernatorial service it had increased to nearly 
250,000.

Although the office of governor was not considered a full-time task, still Sevier faced the usual 
problems which the foibles of human nature are sure to create. Indian problems were vexatious 
as any, and Sevier met them with characteristic vigor. The Tellico and Dearborn treaties, 
negotiated in 1805 and 1806 respectively, did much to clear Indian claims in both east and west, 
but the attitude and actions of the federal government in its strict policy of enforcement angered 
Tennesseans.

Many disputes over military rank tried Sevier's patience. Free men between eighteen and fifty 
were subject to military duty, and they elected their own officers. But allegations of fraud 
permeated the contests in many of the counties and at all levels, and the governor--who issued 
the commissions--had to decide who had been legally and duly elected. Although Sevier 
apparently handled these matters as judiciously as he could, he was frequently criticized in 
many counties for allegedly selecting political friends and favorites. His disputes with Andrew 
Jackson over these and other matters led to considerable bitterness between the two. Indeed, 
Jackson's charges that Sevier was guilty of forgery and bribery in his procurement of lands 
brought challenges to duels and bitter words.

Internal improvements such as wagon roads interested Sevier from his early days as governor. 
He also frequently mentioned a need for "the encouragement of education," and a measure 
chartering schools in most of the counties was enacted in 1806. Improving conditions in the 
state militia and the development of a better means of settling disputes over land titles were 
other matters of concern.

In March, 1809--a few months before his final term ended--Sevier ran before the legislature for 
the U.S. Senate but was defeated by Judge Joseph Anderson. Later in that year, voters in Knox 
County sent him to the state Senate. Then, in 1811, he was elected to Congress. His advanced 
years and his unfamiliarity with federal procedures resulted in his being an ineffective legislator 
on the national level, however.

Sevier died on September 24, 1815, while on a mission to the Alabama territory where he had 
gone with U.S. troops to determine the proper location of the Creek boundary. He was buried on 
the eastern bank of the Tallapoosa River near Fort Decatur.

Sevier was a product of the frontier and a hero to Tennesseans who understood and appreciated 
his varied career. When in 1887 his body was reinterred on the courthouse lawn in Knoxville, a 
monument was erected whose inscription well describes his life of public service: "John Sevier, 
pioneer, soldier, statesman, and one of the founders of the Republic; Governor of the State of 
Franklin; six times Governor of Tennessee; four times elected to Congress; a typical pioneer,
who conquered the wilderness and fashioned the State; a protector and hero of Kings Mountain; fought thirty-five battles, won thirty-five victories; his Indian war cry, 'Here they are! Come on boys!'"

Taken from-Tennessee Encyclopedia Online

http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=S023

Marble Springs

Marble Springs is a state historic site that documents the Knox County farmstead of General John Sevier, the first governor of the State of Tennessee. As a soldier in the Revolutionary War, Sevier received 640 acres from North Carolina in 1785; his property was located at the foot of Bays Mountain, where deposits of marble had been found as well as large springs. Thus, Sevier named his farm "Marble Springs." He established his farm residence before 1792, and he and his family periodically lived in this Knox County three-room log residence, as well as in a fine Knoxville dwelling, until his death in 1815. Three years later, the property was sold to James Dardis.

Restoration efforts at Marble Springs date to 1941, when the state purchased the remaining original log residence and 40 acres. The John Sevier Memorial Commission directed the property's restoration with the assistance of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Since 1964 the John Sevier Memorial Commission, the Sevier Family Association, and the Sevier Community Club have promoted and maintained the site. In 1971 the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eight years later, in 1979, the Tennessee Historical Commission appointed the Governor John Sevier Memorial Association to manage and guide future restoration at Marble Springs.

Taken from-Tennessee Encyclopedia Online

http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=M013

Site Info

Property was called Marble Springs due to the Tennessee Rose Marble that was quarried there and the six springs that were located on the property. The original cabin was built in 1792 and enlarged in 1796. Many other cabins and structures were built on the site. Of all the original buildings, only the main cabin remains. In 1929, the kitchen was destroyed by fire.

Historic Relevance

Home of Tennessee’s first Governor, John Sevier

Restoration Efforts

Restoration efforts at Marble Springs date to 1941, when the state purchased the remaining original log residence and 40 acres. In 1957 restoration began. The kitchen was rebuilt in 1963. Other reconstructed buildings include a springhouse, smokehouse and a loom house.
The John Sevier Memorial Commission directed the property’s restoration with the assistance of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Since 1964 the John Sevier Memorial Commission, the Sevier Family Association, and the Sevier Community Club have promoted and maintained the site. In 1971 the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eight years later, in 1979, the Tennessee Historical Commission appointed the Governor John Sevier Memorial Association to manage and guide future restoration at Marble Springs.

For more information or potential field trips

James White’s Fort
205 E. Hill Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915
Phone: (865) 525-6514
http://www.jameswhitesfort.org

Blount Mansion
200 W. Hill Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 525-2375
http://www.blountmansion.org

Marble Springs/Home of Governor John Sevier
1220 West Governor John Sevier Highway
Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone: (865) 573-5508
http://www.marblesprings.net/Welcome.html

Permanent Exhibit – Voices of the Land: The People of East Tennessee
Museum of East Tennessee History
601 S. Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 215-8824
http://easttnhistory.org/content.aspx?article=1284&parent=1200

Have any concerns or a suggestion on how to make better? Please contact...

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