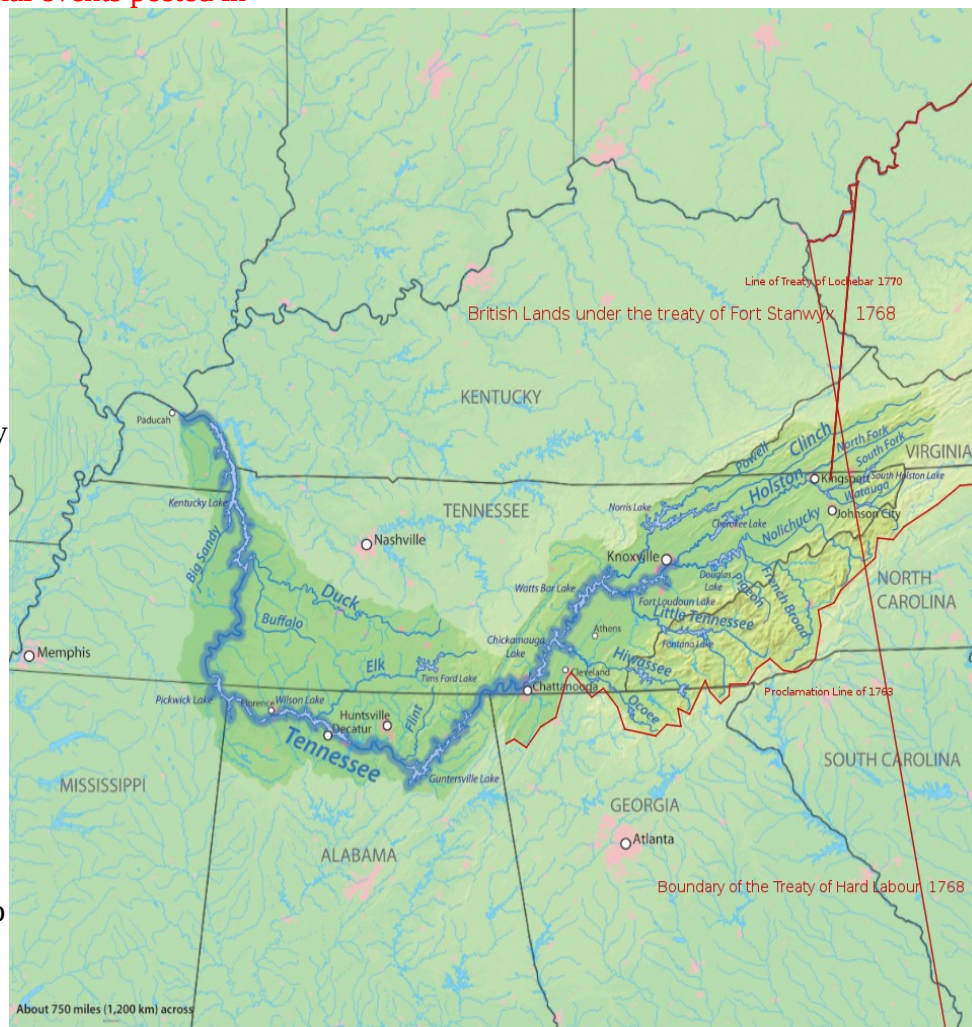


## Starnes Tour 2016 Greeneville Condensed Talking Points

Welcome to Sycamore Shoals, NC ... currently known as Elizabethton, TN. Near here, members of our family, in 1780, staged for one of the most famous (and successful) southern theater battles of the Revolutionary War ... the battle of King's Mountain in South Carolina. American Indians had long known and used the shoals. And in 1567 a contingent of the Juan Pardo Spanish exploration party attacked a Chisca Indian village to the south and east of the location. Around 1762, long hunters Julius Dugger and Andrew Greer operated stations in the vicinity. William Bean and John Honeycutt set up operations down and upstream around 1770. The original name for the shoals was "Old Fields" since the land at some point appeared to have been cleared and used for agricultural purposes. We will be looking at a chronological list of important family events with **corresponding national and international events posted in red for reference**. Approximate US Interstate mile markers are given parenthetically. Important rivers are illustrated on the maps.

Naturally trouble began with a series of inconsistent treaties between the British and the Indians. At this point we can only assume that KG3 and court came to believe that the American colonies were beginning to be more trouble than they'd previously thought. The French and Indian War (1754-1763) had taken its toll and resulted in the **1763 proclamation line** (VA I-81 118) along the eastern continental divide. To add to the fun, the **Treaty of Fort Stanwix** (NY I-90 32) was negotiated in 1768 between the British and Iroquois tribes. This treaty ceded the present KY and WV portions of the VA colony to the British as well as PA. Additionally, the **Treaty of Hard Labour** was negotiated in the same year in order to help define southern expansion. What followed was more confusion.





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**1770** In October, British representative John Stuart and the Cherokee tribes, in order to clarify the Treaty of Hard Labour, signed the **treaty of Lochebar** in South Carolina. This established white settlement rights to the east of a line running between the Long Island of the Holston (TN I-81 63) and the mouth of the Kanawha river at Point Pleasant, WV (WV I-64). About the same time, James Robertson (possibly because of the **Regulator Movement**) ventured over from the east and with the help of Honeycutt, set up operation near the present site of Sycamore Shoals and went back over the mountains to gain settlers for the new community in **1771**.

**1771** With great anticipation that the British would continue to legitimize the acquiring of more land to the west, settlers continued to pour into the region. Unfortunately, surveyor John Donelson declared that the settlement of Watauga (along with the Carter Valley Settlement (TN I-81 63)) was out of bounds. As a result, John Stuart issued an edict requiring the affected settlers to return to British territory.

**1772** James Bean and James Robertson were elected to speak with the Cherokee (with whom the settlers had reasonably good relations). They traveled down the Tennessee to Chota (TN I-75 60) and negotiated a 10 year lease for the lands of the Watauga valley. Because of their precarious situation with the colonies and the British, the settlers later in May drew up a constitutionalesque document called the **Articles of the Watauga Association**. It provided for a 5 man panel that held sessions at a court house in Sycamore Shoals. More importantly, it produced Fort Watauga (aka Fort Caswell).

**1775** Emboldened by the victory of Lord Dunsmore's war in **1774** (to which some of the Starnes family were party) and subsequent victory at Point Pleasant (WV I-77 138), settlers continued to push west. There to take advantage of the situation was Richard Henderson. With renewed hopes, in March of the that year, at the settlement of Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River (TN I-26 24), Richard Henderson and **Daniel Boone** (assuming traditional land tenure for the Cherokee) negotiated

what would later be known as the **Transylvania Purchase** of a significant portion of modern day Kentucky and part of Tennessee from the Cherokee. Boone immediately went to work on extending the Wilderness Road from the great valley out through the Cumberland Gap and up into Kentucky. At this point settlers poured into Kentucky intent on acquiring 400 acres of land fee simple from the Transylvania Land Company by homesteading and raising crops for 3 years.



## Starnes Tour 2016 Greeneville Condensed Talking Points

1776 With the commencement of the **Revolutionary War**, the settlers sided with the colonials, whilst the Indians sided with the British. The Watauga and Nolichucky (home to the Crocketts) settlements came together to form the Washington District for the purpose of protection, and formed a Committee of Safety in order to procure arms and ammunition. In conjunction with Fort Watauga, Fort Lee was being constructed at the Nolichucky settlement under the leadership of John Sevier. After officially allying themselves with the British, the now well armed Cherokee, led by Dragging Canoe threatened the district with a 20 day ultimatum to leave “Cherokee Land”. Including the fugitives from Nolichucky, about 175 settlers packed in to Fort Watauga, with 75 fighting men under the command of John Carter. In mid-July the Cherokee marched north on the warpath. One chief, the Raven, took a contingent due north to the Carter Valley settlement (TN I-81 63), whilst Dragging Canoe and Old Abram led their bands up the Nolichucky to burn and pillage the vacated settlement there. Dragging Canoe then split off and headed north to assist the Raven, and Old Abram moved east to lay siege to Fort Watauga.

As Dragging Canoe and the Raven's forces approached Eaton Station near Long Island of the Holston, the Carter valley settlers under John Thompson marched out and met the Indians head on. The settlers prevailed and the Cherokee were forced to retreat under a now injured Dragging Canoe.

On the morning of 21 July, the Watauga settlers were surprised by Old Abram's Chilhowie forces. They scurried for the cover of the fort. Bonnie Kate Sherrill (John Sevier's future wife) did not make it however before the doors shut and had to be dragged over the wall to safety. A vicious firefight ensued. The Cherokee attempted to get close enough to the fort to burn it down, but were unable to because of scalding hot water thrown on them by Ann Johnson. The Indians fell back into a siege for about two weeks and then retreated. Virginia militia under William Christian arrived later in the year and the threat largely subsided.

Later that year the Washington District successfully petitioned the North Carolina government for inclusion. At this point the district soldiers joined forces with those of the Holston and southwest VA militiamen to form the **Overmountain Men**. This unit of about 840

men participated in various actions of the Revolutionary War including the siege of Charleston (1779) (where they were first called the **Tennessee Volunteers**) and the battle of Musgrove Mill (1780).

1780 Three years into the Revolutionary War, the nation had the help of the French, both at sea and on land. Activity in the north had basically come to a standstill as the British evacuated various outposts. On the other side, **George Washington** was playing a waiting game; utilizing the home field advantage.

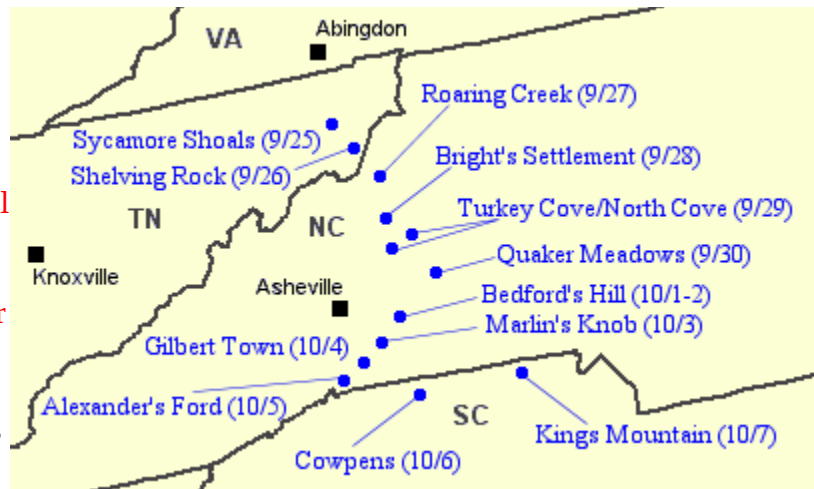




## Starnes Tour 2016 Greenville Condensed Talking Points

British General Henry Clinton, after facing a stalemate with Washington in the northern states, decided to force the action by moving in the south where Tory loyalty was stronger. After easily taking Savannah, the British moved up the coast and, with some effort, captured Charleston. **General Charles Cornwallis** led the movement assisted by Colonel Banastre Tarleton and the British Legion. Protecting the western flank of the force was **Major Patrick Ferguson** and the **71st Foot Regiment**. **It was Tarleton fanned the flame of patriotism at the Battle of the Waxhaws (SC I-77 55)**. After chasing the Overmountain Men back to Fort Watauga following the battle of Musgrove Mill, Ferguson challenged the unit with the command to lay down arms or he would *“lay waste to your country with fire and sword!”*

Undeterred, the Overmountain Men, including members of the Starnes family, mustered at Sycamore Shoals on 25 September under Colonels Sevier, McDowell, Shelby and Campbell, and marched, again, over the mountains to face ... and defeat Ferguson's forces at **King's Mountain** on 7 October 1780.



## Starnes Tour 2016 Greeneville Condensed Talking Points

Quiz (no blurting allowed)

1. Which of the following were Cherokee chieftains who favored war with the settlers?
  - a) Little Carpenter
  - b) Dragging Canoe
  - c) Old Abram
  - d) Canoe on top of car
  - e) the Vulture
2. Who commanded the British forces that faced the Overmountain Men at King's Mountain?
  - a) Richard Henderson
  - b) John Sevier
  - c) Patrick Ferguson
  - d) John Honeycutt
  - e) James Robertson
3. Who believed he could buy Kentucky from the Cherokee and sell the land to colonial settlers?
  - a) Richard Henderson
  - b) John Sevier
  - c) Patrick Ferguson
  - d) John Honeycutt
  - e) James Robertson
4. Select from below the start and end years for the French 'n' Indian War.
  - a) 1763
  - b) 1861
  - c) 1754
  - d) 1776
  - e) 1612
5. What was the name of the district formed around Sycamore Shoals in 1776?
  - a) Jefferson
  - b) Washington
  - c) Christian
  - d) Volunteer
  - e) Franklin
6. Who led the overall British force that marched north in 1780?
  - a) Judas Maccabeus
  - b) Henry Clinton
  - c) Banastre Tarleton
  - d) Dragging Canoe
  - e) Charles Cornwallis
7. Major Patrick Ferguson threatened the western settlers by vowing to "lay waste to your \_\_\_\_\_ with fire and sword!"
  - a) houses
  - b) country
  - c) hemisphere
  - d) buses
  - e) tobacco

## Starnes Tour 2016 Greeneville Condensed Talking Points

8. Which of the following were the colonels who led the Overmountain Men to King's Mountain in 1780?
- a) Sanders
  - b) Tarleton
  - c) Sevier
  - d) McDowell
  - e) Corn
  - f) Campbell
9. Which Cherokee chief vehemently disagreed with the land purchase at Sycamore Shoals in 1775?
- a) Dragging Canoe
  - b) Old Abram
  - c) Little Carpenter
  - d) the Raven
  - e) the Dragon
10. What was the original name of Sycamore Shoals?
- a) Kingsport
  - b) Old Field
  - c) Old Fort
  - d) Wautaga Fort
  - e) Old Abram
  - f) Elizabethton
  - g) Land where the sun shines on laughing waters
11. The Proclamation Line of 1763 ran along the ...
- a) Holston
  - b) line from Pt Pleasant to Kingsport
  - c) Eastern Continental Divide
  - d) Mississippi
  - e) PeeDee
12. Which battle ignited southern patriotism (and the will to win) in 1780?
- a) Waxhaws
  - b) Yorktown
  - c) Cowpens
  - d) Guilford Court House
  - e) Charleston
  - f) Petersburg
  - g) You know, that place we went to last year

Sources: Of Them That Left a Name Behind, Herman and Gerald Starnes, Heritage, 2002; [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org); Google Maps