

## A Partial List of Watauga Residents

by Paula Gammell

We've written before about the Watauga Association, their self-governing Watauga Compact, and their lease and then purchase of their lands from the Cherokee.

We know very little of the official acts of the Watauga Association. Some help is found in both Virginia and North Carolina state records, brief mentions in contemporary histories, and certain recollections (for example, some found in the Draper Papers).

But who exactly were the Wataugans? Luckily the Watauga Deed Book survives! Remember, the Watauga Purchase was 19 Mar 1775. The first deed was only three days later, 22 Mar 1775. The vast majority of these were in April, 1775, and the last was on 03 Feb 1776. Tracts ranged in size from 730 acres to 97 acres.

So if you're looking for 'proof of residence,' here it is: these 52 people purchased the property they had been living on as soon as the Watauga Purchase made it possible for them to do so:

Abbit, James	Gambal, Bradley	Roberts, Edmund
Bean, William	Gray, George	Robertson, James
" John	Gresham, Thomas	" Charles
Bennet, Richard	Greer, Andrew	" Elijah
Benton, Jesse	Grimes, Henry	Ruddle, Isaac
Bunton, Andrew	Hodge, Ambrose	Russell, George
Carter, John	Houghton, Joshua	Sevier, John
Casseda, John	" Thomas	" Valentine
Catharine, Lawrence	Jones, John	Smith, James
Chamberlain, Jacob	Lincoln, Isaac	Tackett, William
Choat, Christopher	Little, Andrew	Talbott, Matthew
Chote, Edward	Lucas, Robert	Thompson, Charles
Cooper, James	Lyles, Henry	Tipton, Jonathan
Cunninghame, Chr.	Massengill, Henry	" Joseph
Denton, James	McNabb, Baptist	Walding, James
Duncan, Joseph	Pyburn, Benjamin	Yirby, Isham
Farrer, Thomas	Reaves, George	Young, Robert
Fletcher, Richard		

But there were more Wataugans! Some – for whatever reason – did not purchase the property they were living on. These 19 are found within some deeds, described as neighbors or living on adjoining tracts:

Barton, Joshua	Harris (no first name)	Robertson, Mark
Bean, Jesse	Hider, Michael	Russell, John
" William Jr.	Hollis (no first name)	Tyree (no first name)
Callihan (Calleham), John	Jones, Lewis	Wells, John
Cobb, Pharaoh	Nave, Teter	Young, Robert Jr.
FitzGarrel, Garret	Price, Thomas	" William
Flannery (no first name)		

Those are not all! We can glean more Wataugans' names here and there in some of the above-mentioned resources: William Tatham and Felix Walker are two who come to mind. So now we're up to 73 people who were living here during the Watauga era, 1772-1776.

Well, of course those 73 people were white men. Most of those white men had wives and families, and some had slaves. Identifying *all* the Wataugans is one of our ongoing projects here at "East Tennessee Roots."