

Dragging Canoe and the Chickamaugas **Defeat plans to Establish Settlement in** **Area of “now” lower Marion.**

[From his Un-edited version of “ Sequatchie”
Leonard Raulston gives us this bit of pre-Marion County
history, that he gleaned from “Ramsey’s Annals.”]

1783 “In 1783, a group of North Carolinians formed
a company and petitioned the Georgia legislature for
permission to settle on a strip land lying north of
the Tennessee River which South Carolina and Georgia
were squabbling about. They said they had bought this land
from the Indians.[They had given a group of Cherokees a
little merchandise for it.]

John Sevier and **John Donelson** were two of the
leaders in this as the country [around what is now South
Pittsburg and Bridgeport, Alabama] had made an
impression on **Donelson** as he made his famous voyage
down river. **John Sevier** had a vision of his State of
Franklin spreading and growing even larger. The Georgia
Assembly passed an Act creating Houston County, to be
located in the Bend of the Tennessee River, and Sevier was
appointed one of its commissioners.

1875 In late 1785 his brother, **Valentine Sevier**, at
the head of ninety settlers landed at [now] South Pittsburg
point where they intended to build a blockhouse and
stockade as a nucleus for the proposed settlement. Military
officers and justices of the peace were elected and land
warrants were issued signed by **John Donelson**, surveyor.

1786 **Dragging Canoe** and his warriors
[Chickamaugas] at once placed them in a state of siege and
the settlers found it impossible to accomplish anything at
all. After a few weeks of incessant fighting, the site was
abandoned early in 1786.

The defeat of the American settlers in this attempted
settlement caused a great rejoicing among the
Chickamaugas. A series of savage raids by the jubilant
warriors followed almost at the heels of the retiring new
settlers. **Colonel John Donelson**, who had acted as
surveyor Houston County, was killed on the Kentucky
road. **Colonel William Christian** was killed a short
distance north of the Ohio. **Archie Scott** and four children
were killed in Powell’s Valley and **Mrs. Scott** was taken
prisoner. A series of atrocities and horse stealing by
warriors from Crow Town sent the fiery **Colonel John**
Logan into action. He raised a force and followed the trail
of the offenders across the Cumberland River and down the

Indian path which ran along the base of Walden's Ridge. After shooting a leader Of the Indians and killing six of their number, **Logan** returned to Kentucky."

1786-1787 map
South Carolina.

1778 After the Cherokee War in 1776 which terminated with a peace treaty in 1777, the boundaries between the Cherokee and the American Settlers were confirmed by the Assembly of North Carolina in 1778.

Dragging Canoe breaks from Cherokee's
Gathers "Chickamauga" Followers
Migrates to lower Tennessee Area

1778 **Dragging Canoe** seceded from the Cherokee Nations and becomes a "Chickamauga" Leader. They left the villages in the Overhill country, and migrated southward to new towns constructed along the valley of the South Chickamauga Creek. Visiting Creek Indians, white Tories (or Loyalists) from the Carolinas, and others

joined with the Chickamaugas and made raids all up and down the Tennessee River, and the Virginia frontier. They made true the "**Dragon**" Canoe's prediction that the land hungry American settlers had bought a "dark and bloody land".

1778 By the end of 1778

Dragging Canoe had more than 1,000 Warriors with him in the lower towns. The principal British agent in these Lower Towns was now the trader, **John McDonald**, grandfather of the famous **John Ross** of later history.

1779 **Dragging Canoe** became recognized as the leading chief in the entire southeastern part of the United States in opposition to American settlement.

In the face of the continued raids the governor of the New state of Virginia, **Patrick Henry** solicited the support of the government of North Carolina to chastise the Chickamauga Indians.

1779 Surprise Attack—11 Villages Burned

In the spring of 1779 a large command of Virginians and North Carolinians under **Col. Evan Shelby** descended the Tennessee River by boat and burned the Chickamauga villages. Few of the

Warriors were present, but vast amounts of British supplied equipment were taken, including supplies, furs, deerskins and the horses of the trader **John McDonald**, were captured.

1779 How “Sale Creek” got it’s Name

One evening, shortly after they started homeward **Shelby’s** men made camp along a small stream and Auctioned off the Indian plunder they were carrying. This small stream received the name “Sale Creek”.

1779 Sullivan County is created from Washington Co.

1779 Davidson County is created. Act of North Carolina. Nashborough was still part of North Carolina, but The pioneers drew up their own form of government “Compact”. N.C. included this area in Davidson.

1779 No Peace for the Indians

There was no immediate peace for an Indian who was patriotic and proud land who had a keen sense of justice. Soon after **Dragging Canoe** and his followers settled in their newly rebuilt villages, trouble with the white man came his way again.

1779 July Canoe Addresses Shawnee Delegation

“We cannot forget the talk made this Nation some years ago, which was to take up the hatchet

against the Virginians. Our Nation was alone and surrounded by them, they were numerous and their hatchets were sharp. After we had lost some of our best warriors, we were forced to leave our towns and corn to be burned by them, and now we live in the grass as you see us.

But we are not yet conquered !