

Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of
Tennessee
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5. Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of Tennessee

Essential Question: What impact did Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road have on Tennessee?

The impact and contributions of a number of individuals in regards to the opening, mapping, and eventual settlement of lands west of the Appalachians cannot be overstated. The perilous mountains largely prevented the American colonists from expanding westward. Then, an English-born physician-turned-land speculator changed everything. In 1750 **Dr. Thomas Walker**, working for the Loyal Company of Virginia, led an expedition southward along the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, and in doing so made an enormously consequential discovery – the **Cumberland Gap**. Cumberland Gap, a natural passage through the mountains, would serve as a gateway to the West for generations of explorers and settlers.

Through that gateway flooded a diverse group of individuals known as **long hunters**. These hunters, enticed by circulating rumors of bountiful game across the mountains, embarked on hunting expeditions typically lasting 6-7 months, setting out in October and returning in April or May. Far from merely poaching game from Indian hunting grounds, the long hunters were responsible for the vast majority of geographical knowledge the American colonists accumulated about the trans-Appalachian West. As tales of their adventures spread throughout the colonies, the long hunters attracted a new element – land speculators. Companies which bought and sold land looked anxiously to the unspoiled, unclaimed wilderness west of the mountains, and with the discovery of the Cumberland Gap saw their opportunity. These companies began hiring the long hunters as mercenary explorers to map and survey trans-Appalachian lands while on their hunting expeditions.

The most famous of these hunters was **Daniel Boone**, who would ultimately explore and map vast swaths of upper East Tennessee and southern Kentucky largely by himself. By 1764 Boone had been contracted by **Richard Henderson's** land company Henderson & Company to survey western lands which might be suitable for claiming and purchase. Over the next several years, with the aid of Boone's exploration reports, Henderson formulated a plan to purchase huge amounts of land from the Cherokee across the mountains in order to establish his own colony. By March 1775 Henderson's deal had come together, and the "**Transylvania Purchase**" was completed. As part of the agreement, white settlers would be allowed the use of a path through the Cumberland Gap. Immediately Henderson dispatched Boone and a team of 30 axmen to carve a path through the heavily forested area. By April, Boone's team had completed the path, which was known as **Wilderness Road**. If the Cumberland Gap was the gateway to the West, then Wilderness Road was the road which ran through it.

Though Henderson's Transylvania Purchase was later largely invalidated by the Virginia assembly, the dream of western expansion continued unabated. With the carving out of a safe pathway through the Cumberland Gap, settlers began to pour into the western regions.

Traditionally remembered as the first permanent white settler in Tennessee, **William Bean** was regardless among the earliest wave of trans-Appalachian migrants. Along with a small group of family and friends, Bean established a small settlement along the Watauga branch of the Holston River in 1769, where he and his party remained for quite some time. Eventually, Bean's party became founding members and leaders of the Watauga Association established close to their settlement. Bean's signature is recorded on the famous Watauga Petition of 1776 to the North Carolina legislature, which he helped draft.

While groups such as Bean and the Wataugans remained relatively close to home in the eastern portions of the West, other pioneers pushed further into the frontier. **Thomas Sharpe Spencer**, a long hunter renowned for his enormous physical strength and stature, traveled as far as the Cumberland River in what is now Middle Tennessee. In 1776 Spencer and a small party of companions built several cabins and planted the first crop in Tennessee along the river. Though most of the party returned to the east, Spencer remained in the area until 1779, famously spending his final winter along the river living in a hollowed out sycamore tree. Though forced to abandon his initial venture, Spencer returned in the winter of 1779-1780 as part of the expedition commissioned by Richard Henderson and led by Capt. James Robertson and Col. John Donelson with the intent of founding a permanent settlement along the Cumberland River. The settlement they established is today the city of Nashville.

Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of Tennessee

Directions: Match the important person, place or event in the box below with the correct definition.

_____ 1. While working for the Loyal Company of Virginia, this man discovered the Cumberland Gap.

_____ 2. This man was Tennessee's first permanent settler.

_____ 3. This man was a long hunter who traveled to the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee. He spent his last winter in the area in a hollowed out sycamore tree.

_____ 4. This natural passage through the Appalachian Mountains served as a gateway for generations of explorers and settlers.

_____ 5. While working for Richard Henderson, this man mapped large areas of upper East Tennessee and oversaw the completion of the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap.

_____ 6. This was the name given to men who crossed the Appalachian Mountains for looking for game and brought back stories of the lands west of the Appalachians.

_____ 7. This man believed that he could become very wealthy by claiming or buying the lands surveyed by Daniel Boone and then reselling them to later settlers. He organized a large land purchase from the Cherokee in 1775.

_____ 8. This trail through the Cumberland Gap was created by Daniel Boone and a team of 30 axmen working for Richard Henderson. It was used by thousands of settlers headed for Tennessee or Kentucky.

_____ 9. Richard Henderson arranged this large purchase of land from the Cherokee in 1775.

- A. Cumberland Gap
- B. Daniel Boone
- C. Dr. Thomas Walker
- D. Long hunters
- E. Richard Henderson
- F. Thomas Sharpe Spencer
- G. Transylvania Purchase
- H. Wilderness Road
- I. William Bean

Answer the question below with at least one complete sentence:

10. What impact (importance) did the Wilderness Road have on Tennessee?

Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of Tennessee KEY

Directions: Match the important person, place or event in the box below with the correct definition.

 C 1. While working for the Loyal Company of Virginia, this man discovered the Cumberland Gap.

 I 2. This man was Tennessee's first permanent settler.

 F 3. This man was a long hunter who traveled to the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee. He spent his last winter in the area in a hollowed out sycamore tree.

 A 4. This natural passage through the Appalachian Mountains served as a gateway for generations of explorers and settlers.

 B 5. While working for Richard Henderson, this man mapped large areas of upper East Tennessee and oversaw the completion of the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap.

 D 6. This was the name given to men who crossed the Appalachian Mountains for looking for game and brought back stories of the lands west of the Appalachians.

 E 7. This man believed that he could become very wealthy by claiming or buying the lands surveyed by Daniel Boone and then reselling them to later settlers. He organized a large land purchase from the Cherokee in 1775.

 H 8. This trail through the Cumberland Gap was created by Daniel Boone and a team of 30 axmen working for Richard Henderson. It was used by thousands of settlers headed for Tennessee or Kentucky.

 G 9. Richard Henderson arranged this large purchase of land from the Cherokee in 1775.

J. Cumberland Gap

K. Daniel Boone

L. Dr. Thomas Walker

M. Long hunters

N. Richard Henderson

O. Thomas Sharpe Spencer

P. Transylvania Purchase

Q. Wilderness Road

R. William Bean

Answer the question below with at least one complete sentence:

10. What impact (importance) did the Wilderness Road have on Tennessee?

Answers will vary, but should include the idea that the Wilderness Road was an important route by which settlers entered Tennessee.

Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of Tennessee

Directions: Write a short description of each person, place or event listed below that explains its importance in the early history of Tennessee.

1. William Bean _____

2. Transylvania Purchase _____

3. Cumberland Gap _____

4. Thomas Sharpe Spencer _____

5. Long hunters _____

6. Daniel Boone _____

7. Dr. Thomas Walker _____

8. Richard Henderson _____

Write a 5 to 6 sentence paragraph that addresses the question below. Use at least 3 of the people, places or events listed above in your paragraph

What impact did the Wilderness Road have on Tennessee?

Daniel Boone, Wilderness Road and the First Settlers of Tennessee Key

Directions: Write a short description of each person, place or event listed below that explains its importance in the early history of Tennessee. (Answers will vary)

1. William Bean – William Bean was Tennessee's first permanent settler. He inspired others to settle in Tennessee.
2. Transylvania Purchase Richard Henderson arranged this large purchase of land from the Cherokee in 1775. The purchase encouraged more settlement.
3. Cumberland Gap This natural passage through the Appalachian Mountains served as a gateway for generations of explorers and settlers.
4. Thomas Sharpe Spencer This man was a long hunter who traveled to the Cumberland River in Middle Tennessee. He spent his last winter in the area in a hollowed out sycamore tree. Spencer's explorations encouraged future settlers.
5. Long hunters This was the name given to men who crossed the Appalachian Mountains for looking for game and brought back stories of the lands west of the Appalachians.
6. Daniel Boone While working for Richard Henderson, this man mapped large areas of upper East Tennessee and oversaw the completion of the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap.
7. Dr. Thomas Walker While working for the Loyal Company of Virginia, this man discovered the Cumberland Gap. The gap was used by thousands of settlers as a route into Tennessee.
8. Richard Henderson This man believed that he could become very wealthy by buying or claiming lands surveyed by Daniel Boone and then reselling them to other settlers. He organized a large land purchase from the Cherokee in 1775.

Write a 5 to 6 sentence paragraph that addresses the question below. Use at least 3 of the people, places or events listed above in your paragraph

What impact did the Wilderness Road have on Tennessee?

Answers will vary but should include idea that Wilderness Road was a main route for settlers.

Dr. Thomas Walker's Journal March 21-April 14 (Tennessee Portion)

In 1749, Peter Jefferson (father of future U.S. President Thomas Jefferson) and Joshua Fry, along with Dr. Thomas Walker of Albemarle County (1714-1794), James Maury, Thomas Meriwether (grandfather of Meriwether Lewis) and others, established the Loyal Company with the purpose of petitioning for a large grant of land west of the Allegheny Mountains. On 12 Jul 1749, the Council of the Province of Virginia authorized the Loyal Company to enter and survey 800,000 acres of the public domain on the "western waters" (located along the southern border of Virginia, now southeastern Kentucky), but with a provision that required settlement of the land within four years, during which time period the Company would be permitted to make surveys and returns.

Dr. Walker was employed by the Loyal Company to determine the locations of the settlements, not only because he was a member of the company, but also because he was an experienced surveyor and had already traversed the western country at least once, in 1748. Dr. Walker's journal of his 1750 travels was preserved by his family, and first published in 1888 by his descendant, William Cabell Rives.

March 21st. We got to Reedy Creek and camped near James McCall's.(11) I went to his house and Lodged and bought some Bacon, I wanted.

22nd. I returned to my people early. We got to a large Spring about five miles below Davises Bottom on Holstons River and Camped. (12)

23rd. We kept down the Holston River about four miles and Camped; and then Mr. Powell and I went to look for Samuel Stalnaker (13) who I had been inform'd was just moved out to settle. We found his camp, and returned to our own in the evening.

24th. We went to Stalnaker's, helped him to raise his house and camped about a quarter of a mile below him. In April, 1748, I met the above mentioned Stalnaker between Reedy Creek Settlement and Holstons River, on his way to the Cherokee Indians and expected him to pilate me as far as he knew but his affairs would not permit him to go with me. (14)

March 25th. The Sabbath. Grass is plenty in the low grounds.

26th. We left the Inhabitans (15), and kept nigh West to a large Spring on a Branch of the North Fork of the Holston. Thunder, Ligtning, and Rain before Day.

27th. It began to snow in the morning and continued till Noon. The Land is very Hilly from West to North. Some snow lies on the tops of the mountains N.W. from us.

28th. We travelled to the lower end of Giant's Ditch on Reedy Creek. (16)

29th. Our Dogs were very uneasie most of this night.

30th. We kept down Reedy Creek and discover'd the tracks of about 20 Indians, that had gone up the Creek between the time we camped last night, and set off this morning. We suppose they made our Dogs so restless last night. We camped on Reedy Creek. (17)

March 30th. We caught two young Buffaloes one of which we killed, and having cut and marked the other we turn'd him out.

31st. We kept down Reedy Creek to Holston where we measured an Elm 25 ft. round 3 ft. from the ground. we saw young Sheldrakes we went down the River to the north Fork and up the north fork about a quarter of a mile to a Ford, and then crossed it. In the Fork between the Holstons and the North River, are five Indian Houses built with loggs and covered with bark, and there were abundance of Bones, some whole Pots and pans some broken. and many pieces of mats and

Cloth. On the west side of the North River, is four Indian Houses such as before mentioned. we went four miles below the North River and camped on the Bank of the Holstons, opposite to a large Indian Fort. (18)

April ye 1st. The Sabbath. we saw Perch, Mulletts, and Carp in plenty, and caught one of the large Sort of Cat Fish. I marked my name, the day of the Month, and date of the year on Several Beech Trees.

2nd. we left Holston and travelled through Small Hills till about Noon, when one of our horses being choaked by eating Reeds too gredily, we stopped having traveled 7 miles. (19)

3rd. Our hourse being recover'd, we travelled to the Rocky Ridge. I went up to the top, to look for a pass but found it so rocky that I concluded not to attempt it there. This ridge may be known by Sight, at a distance. To the Eastward are many small mountains, and a Buffaloe Road between them & the Ridge. The growth is Pine on the top and the rocks look white at a distance. we went Seven miles this day. (20)

4th. We kept under the Rocky Ridge crossing several small Branches to the head of Holly Creek. we saw many small licks and plenty of Deer. (21)

5th. we went down Holly Creek. There is much Holly in the Low Grounds and some Laurel and Ivy. About three in the afternoon, the Ridge appeared less stony and we passed it, (22) and camped on a small Branch about a mile from the top. my riding Horse choaked himself this evening and I drenched him with water to wash down the Reeds, and it answered the End.

6th. It proving wet we did not move.

7th. We rode 8 miles over Broken ground. It snowed most of the day. In the evening our dogs caught a large He Bear, which before we could come up to shoot him had wounded a dog of mine, so that he could not travel, and we carried him on Horseback till he recovered.

8th. The Sabbath. Still Snow.

9th. We travelled to a river, which I suppose to be that which the Hunters call Clinches River from one Clinch a Hunter, who first found it. (23) we marked several Beeches on the East Side. we could not find a ford Shallow enough to carry our Baggage over on our Horses. Ambrose Powell Forded over on one horse and we drove the others after him. We then made a raft and carried over one load of Baggage, but when the raft was brought back, it was so heavy that it would not carry anything more dry.

April 10th. we waded and carried the remainder of our Baggage on our shoulders at two turns over the River, which is about one hundred and thirty yards wide, we went on about five miles and Camped on a Small Branch.

April 11th. Having travelled 5 miles to and over an High Mountain, Cumberland Gap, we came to Turkey Creek, which we kept down 4 miles. It lied between two Ridges of Mountains, that to the Eastward being the highest. (24)

12th. We kept down the creek 2 miles further, where it meets with a large Branch coming from the South West and thence runs through the East Ridge making a very good pass; and a large Buffaloe Road goes from that Fork to the Creek over the west ridge, which we took and found the Ascent and Descent tollerably easie. From this Mountain we rode on four miles to Beargrass River. (25) Small Cedar Trees are very plenty on the flat ground nigh the River, and some Barberry trees on the East side of the River. on the Banks is some Beargrass. We kept up the River 2 miles. I found Small pieces of Coal (26) and a great plenty of very good yellow flint. The water is the most transparent I ever saw. It is about 70 yds. wide.

April 13th. We went four miles to large Creek which we called Cedar Creek being a Branch of Bear-Grass, and from thence Six miles to Cave Gap, (27) the land being Levil. On the North side of the Gap is a large Spring, which falls very fast, and just above the Spring is a small Entrance to a Large Cave, which the spring runs through, and there is a constant Stream of Cool air

issuing out. The Spring is sufficient to turn a Mill. Just at the Foot of the Hill is a Laurel Thicket and the spring Water runs through it. On the South side is a Plain Indian Road. on the top of the Ridge are Laurel Trees marked with Crosses, others Blazed and several Figures on them. As I went down the other Side, I soon came to some Laurel in the head of the Branch. A Beech stands on the left hand, on which I cut my name. (28) This Gap may be seen at a considerable distance, and there is no other, that I know of, except one about two miles to the North of it which does not appear to be So low as the other. The Mountain on the North Side of the Gap is very Steep and Rocky, but on the South side it is not so. We Called it Steep Ridge. At the foot of the hill on the North West side we came to a Branch, that made a great deal of flat land. We kept down it 2 miles, several other Branches Coming in to make it a large Creek, and we called it Flat Creek. (29) We camped on the bank where we found very good coal. I did not Se any Lime Stone beyond this ridge. We rode 13 miles this day.

April 14th. We kept down the Creek 5 miles chiefly along the Indian Road. (30)

Source: "Doctor Thomas Walker's Journal (6 Mar 1749/50 - 13 Jul 1750) A Record of His Travels in Present-day Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky." TNGenWeb. Org. Tennessee Genealogical Network Inc. 2000. Web. 25 June, 2014
<<http://www.tngenweb.org/tnland/squabble/walker.html>>

Footnotes for Journal Entries

12 Summers identifies this location as "the Middle fork of the Holston, which joins the South Fork of Holston near Abingdon and forms the Tennessee," adding that "The Holston was called by the Indians first the Cat-Cloo, afterward the Watauga. It took its name, its present name, from an early hunter and explorer named Holston or Holstein." Stephen Holston, a corn hunter, settled on the Holston sometime prior to 1749 when the above-referenced 1751 Fry-Jefferson map referred to this as "Holston's River"

13 Summers states that "Samuel Stalnaker was probably, as his name indicates, one of the early pioneers from the Lower Shenandoah Valley or from Penn. of German descent, the family having numerous representatives in the Valley. He was doubtless a hunter and Indian trader who had visited the Cherokees and was acquainted with the route to Cumberland Gap, upon which Dr. Walker had never been or he would not have needed a guide. It was from him evidently that Dr. Walker received information as to certain localities he was about to visit, as Clinch River, Cave Gap, and other points of which as he advanced into Kentucky, he gave previous information. It was not improbable that the route from the Ohio River to the Cumberland Gap and the Cherokee country, which at that time was defined and known as "the Warriors Path" was travelled by hunters and traders, and that Stalnaker was acquainted with it personally or from others. On Fry and Jefferson's Map, 1751, Stalnaker's settlement is put down as the extreme western habitation." [not found]

Williams also discusses Stalnaker's, about which he states: "Stalnaker's was a noted place in colonial days. The command of Col. Wm. Byrd, III, of Westover, encamped there during the winter of 1760-1761 before proceeding to the Tennessee Country against the Cherokees. (Williams, *Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake*, 36, 37). Stephen Holston's cabin was on the head-springs of the Middle Fork of Holston River about nine miles above Stalnaker's. Holston did not remain there long. Disposing of his "corn rights" -- to a hundred acres for each acre planted in corn -- to James Davis, Holston and a party of friends constructed canoes and passed down the river into the Tennessee, the Ohio and the Mississippi as far as Natchez. This notable adventure fixed his name to Holston River. No record of the journey exists; Holston was not a journalizer. As Walker's Journal indicates[,] that stream was so called in 1750 (See Thwaites, *Wither's Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 50, note by Draper. Further as to Stalnaker: Smyth's *Tour*, I, 313)."

14 Summers notes that "From the fact that Dr. Walker was here in 1748, historians have fallen into the error of stating that it was in this year that he went to Cumberland Gap, in company with Col. James Patton, Major Charles Campbell and others, but there is nothing upon which the assertion remains except a misty tradition. It is doubtless based upon the fact that these gentlemen, in 1748 Dr. Walker being one of the number, made an exploration with a view of taking up lands, as some of them did, on the Holston. This region then began to excite attention for settlement and the following year the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina was extended to a point beyond that at which Doctor Walker was this day." He also adds that "The Cherokee Indians occupied East Tenn. and a part of Northwest Georgia adjacent. They were at times, and until 1759, friendly and very faithful to the Whites, furnishing volunteers in the early part of the French and Indian War. They were thus deadly enemies of the Shawnees and other tribes north of the Ohio, but in the Revolutionary War they united with them under British influence against the Americans."

15 Summers interprets Walker's phrase "left the Inhabitans" as meaning that he had "past the frontier of civilization."

16 Summers notes that Reedy Creek "Enters the South Fork of the Holston River a short distance above its junction with the North Fork." Williams states that "This Reedy Creek rises in Washington County, Va., just above the state line, and flows into the South Fork of Holston at the present Kingsport, Tenn. Its head-springs are at the base of Walker's Mountain, named for Dr. Thomas Walker, the journalist."

17 Williams suggest that the Indians were "Either the Cherokees or Shawnees on hunt or going to war."

18 Williams notes that "At the mouth of Reedy Creek is Long Island of Holston, one of the most historic spots in the Old Southwest. Strangely enough, the Island is not mentioned by Dr. Walker. It was an ancient and revered treaty ground and rendezvous of the Cherokee Indians. The houses found opposite the Island evidenced its use by them, an, perhaps, by early white traders to their towns lower down the Valley of the Tennessee. Dr. Walker's entry is,

however, the first glimpse of the spot in recorded history." Summers, too, makes mention of Long Island, stating that Reedy Creek "empties into the Holston at the Foot of Long Island, a noted locality in the early history of Tenn. Nearby a fort was erected by advice of Washington in 1758, by Col. William Byrd, which was later known as Fort Patrick Henry. Just below the mouth of Reedy Creek is the town of Kingsport, Sullivan County, and a short distance below the town the North Fork puts into the Holston. It was at this point the treaty of Watauga was held March, 1775, when the Cherokees sold to Richard Henderson And Company the land in Kentucky called Transylvania."

In respect to the Ford mentioned by Walker, Williams states: "This ford was in use as the crossing-place of one of the great highways from the Valley of Virginia to the Valley of the Tennessee until 1818 when a bridge was constructed by Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Ross across the North Fork immediately at its junction with the South Fork. Ross built his "Rotherwood" mansion on an eminence on the west bank of the North Fork, at the end of this bridge. The steel highway bridge now across the river is located just a few feet above the ruins of the old bridge. Ross, Rotherwood, 12-14. The "four Indian houses" mentioned by Walker probably stood on the site of "Rotherwood." The huge elm referred to in this entry yet stands, but is in a dying condition. Its trunk measures twenty-two feet in circumference and its branches have a spread of one hundred and fifty feet. The tree stands over a spring on the north bank of the North Fork of the river, just below an old mill, operated by Ross as a cotton mill and later known as Jordan's woolen mill, which is yet standing." (Ib., 22.) Williams adds that the Indian Fort is "At or near the present Solitude Ford of Holston."

19 Summers notes that "On leaving the Holston River his route was northwest," and Williams that they travelled Williams: "Up a small creek that runs into the Holston at Solitude Ford along a road of the present time that leads northwesterly to Carter's and Stanley's Valleys." Williams identifies the "Reeds" as "Cane, frequently called by early travelers "Carolina cane."

20 Summers identifies the Rocky Ridge as "The Clinch Mountain which runs through part of East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia in a northeasterly direction, a very regular chain with gaps at long intervals. The small hills referred to are the parallell outliers of the Clinch Mountain" In reference to the Buffalo Road, Williams states that "The explorers naturally followed the buffalo trails through the wilderness. Now following the Stanley Valley road of the present day, up Stanley Creek and over a divide to Big Creek, in Hawkins county, Tenn."

21 Williams identifies Holly Creek as "Now called Big Creek."

22 Summers states that Walker "crossed Clinch Mountain most probably at Looney's Gap and reached the Clinch River above the present site of Sneedville, Hancock County Tenn. Thence he went up Greasy Creek northward and entered the narrow valley between Newman's Ridge and Powell's Mountain, running parallell to the Clinch. The former, or Eastern Ridge, as Dr. Walker calls it, is twenty-five hundred feet high, and the latter, or Western Ridge, two thousand feet high as shown by the excellent contour map of the U. S. Geological Survey, with the details of Dr. Walker's route as indicated by his journal agrees with striking accuracy." He adds that "On the 11th Dr. Walker went down Big Sycamore Creek, which runs southwest between these ridges, to its junction with an unnamed creek coming into it from the southwest. He travelled up the latter by a buffalo road over several divides, and on the 12th reached Powell's River, ten miles from Cumberland Gap." Williams also identifies this crossing as "Looney's Gap of the Clinch Mountains, named for a leading pioneer family. John Looney lived in the section in 1779. (Journal of Daniel Smith, Tenn. Hist. Mag., I, 54.)."

23 The 1751- Fry-Jefferson map lists this river as the "Pelesippi or Clinches River," and Williams identifies the location as "Clinch River, crossed near Sneedville, the county seat of Hancock County, Tenn." Summers describes the Clinch as "A tributary of the Tenn. running parallell with the Clinch Mountain, rising in Tazewell and Bland Cos. Va. and interlocking with the Bluestone River and Wolf Creek, tributaries of New River."

Both Williams and Summers comment on the fact that Haywood's Civil History of Tennessee mistakenly states that the Clinch wasn't so named until 1761, Haywood having ascribed its naming to a tradition that the river was named by a party of hunters: "They named Clinch River and Clinch Mountain from the following circumstance. An Irishman was one of the company; in crossing the river he fell from the raft into it, and cried out clinch me, clinch me; meaning lay hold of me. The rest of the company unused to the phrase amused themselves at the expense of the Irishman and called the river Clinch."

Williams adds that "Notwithstanding the fact that Walker describes the river as being one hundred and thirty yards wide at the place of crossing, Justin Winsor has him crossing "to the head of Clinch River and entering Cumberland

Gap." The Mississippi Basin, 277," and Summers notes that Walker's "correct nomenclature of the River indicates that he had received information concerning the route travelled from Stalnaker or other source."

24 Williams states that Turkey Creek was "Believed to be Wallen's Creek, between Powell Mountain on the east and Wallen's Ridge on the west," but Summers identifies it as "Now Big Sycamore Creek."

25 Williams adds that "Ambrose Powell, of Walker's party, here carved his name on a tree, which, being found by a company of hunters in 1761, they gave to the river the name "Powell" which it retains." (Ref: Haywood, 32). He also states that "The valley of this stream was within the bounds of Richard Henderson and Associates' Path-Deed purchase from the Cherokees at the treaty held at the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga in March, 1775." (Ref: Williams, Henderson and Company's Purchase within the Limits of Tennessee, Tenn. Hist. Mag., V, 5-28.)

26 Williams notes that "The region is rich in coal, several seams underlying the surface of the ground. Walker does not indicate that he foresaw that coal would be by far the most valuable product of the region."

27 Williams states that "Cumberland Gap; so named by Walker in a later year, 1760, when on a second journey into the Kentucky Country, in honor of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, son of the reigning monarch George II and Queen Caroline. The Duke commanded the English army in Flanders and at the battle of Culloden where he defeated the Highlanders of Scotland under Prince Charlie, the "Young Pretender." Refusing quarter to the wounded of the enemy on that field of battle brought upon him Byron's epithet, "The Butcher." Walker also named for the Duke the Cumberland Mountains and the Cumberland River--three deathless memorials to an Unworthy who has been described by a British historian as one "to be remembered with a just loathing as a man by whom brutalities of all kind were displayed, almost to the point of madness." No wonder that that stubborn Scotchman, Col. Arthur Campbell, persisted in writing the name of the mountains in the old form, "Ouasioto Mountains." Ramsey and other historians are mistaken in saying that Walker named these mountains, the river and gap, while on the tour of 1750."

28 Williams also notes that "Dr. Walker passed again through Cumberland Gap in 1779 when engaged in running the Virginia-North Carolina line. He told Isaac Shelby, who was in command of the Virginia escort or guard of militia, of his having carved his name on this tree in 1750. On going to the spot they found it as he had related." (Ref: Bradford's MSS., Durret Collection, University of Chicago Library)

29 Summers states that Flat Creek is "Present Yellow Creek, upon which, nearby, is now the site of Middlesborough. Coal abounds in this vicinity."

30 Williams states that the Indian Road was "The war-path of the Cherokee and Shawnee Indians in their almost constant warfare. This war-trail is laid down on the Thomas Hutchins map with this legend: "The Path to the Cuttaw Country. It goes thro this Gap which is pointed out by the late Mr. Evans as a most important Pass. Walker gave assistance to Lewis Evans in his draft of a map of the region." This is William's last footnote to the last entry transcribed by him.