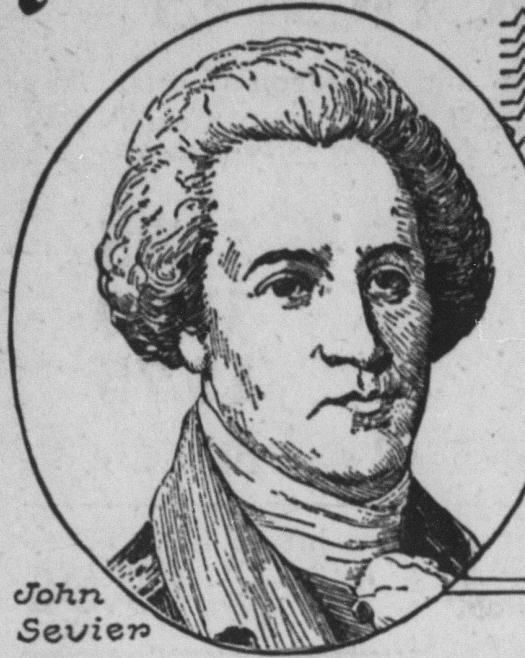


The Short-Lived State of "Franklin"



John Sevier

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

ONE hundred and fifty years ago there came into being an American commonwealth that was in but not of the United States. That was the state of Franklin or Frankland which, during its stormy existence of four years, had the equivocal status of being at one and the same time an independent state, a district in another state and an unorganized federal territory, and which finally came into the Union as a part of a state of an entirely different name.

Closely associated with the history of the short-lived "State of Franklin"—in fact, the very storm center of its turbulent career—was that frontier immortal, John Sevier, "Nolichucky Jack," whose record is inscribed upon the tall shaft in Knoxville, Tenn., as follows: "Governor of the state of Franklin; six terms governor of Tennessee; Four times elected to congress; A projector and hero of King's Mountain; 35 battles—35 victories; His Indian war cry was: 'Here they are! Come on, boys, come on!'"

The immediate incentive for founding the State of Franklin came out of conditions which prevailed after the close of the Revolution. On June 2, 1784, the legislature of the new state of North Carolina ceded to the congress of the United States its lands west of the Alleghenies on the conditions that this territory should be formed into a separate state or states and that congress should give due notice of its acceptance of the lands within two years, otherwise they would revert to North Carolina.

No sooner had this news reached the settlements beyond the mountains than the Westerners began making plans for setting up a local government which should form the basis for a new state. There were several reasons for their haste. North Carolina's delay in sending goods to the Indians, promised under a former treaty, had irritated the tribesmen and the threat of Indian hostility hung heavy over the pioneers. If it should burst into flame, they could not look for prompt aid from the home authorities because of the long intervening distance and the lack of quick communication, not to mention the fact that North Carolina was so occupied with its post-Revolution civil problems that it could give little thought to the needs of its remote frontier settlements. Another reason, no doubt, was that the formation of a new state meant high offices to be filled and ambitions for preferment to be satisfied, for the frontiersmen were just as politically minded as their Eastern brethren, once the wilderness was conquered and its dangers safely past.

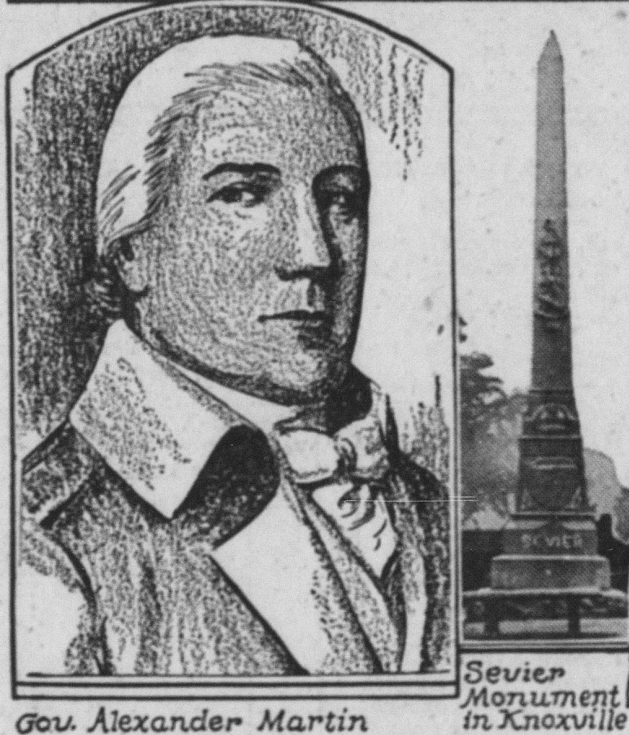
Accordingly, on August 23, 1784, a convention assembled at Jonesborough composed of delegates from the Western counties of Washington, Sullivan and Greene, who passed a resolution declaring: "We have a just and undeniable right to petition Congress to accept the cession made by North Carolina, and for that body to countenance us for forming ourselves into a separate government and to frame either a permanent or temporary constitution, agreeably to a resolve of Congress..." In the meantime Gov. Alexander Martin of North Carolina had decided that his state had acted too hastily in ceding valuable lands to the federal government and he used his influence to get the state assembly to repeal the cession act late in November.

But the Westerners were going ahead with their plans and on December 17 a second convention assembled at Jonesborough. This time sentiment was somewhat divided. Rumors of the impending repeal of the cession act had reached the settlements and some of the delegates favored continuing as a part of North Carolina rather than as a separate state. One of these was John Sevier, if we are to believe a later statement of his that he was "Dragged into the Franklin measures by a large number of the people of this country."

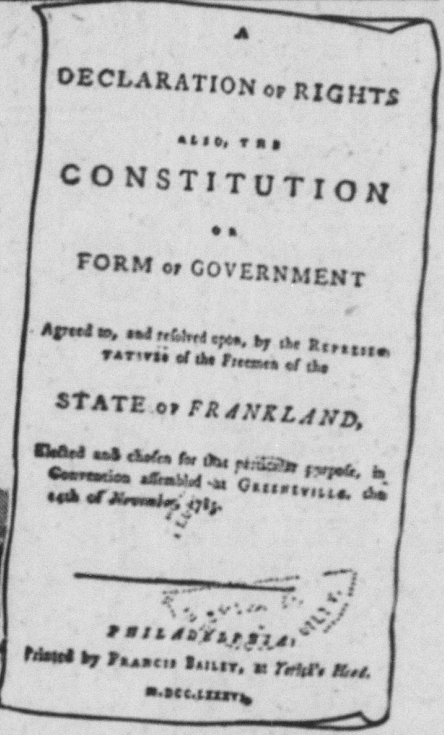
One delegate, after reading the Declaration of Independence, declared that the same reasons which had moved the Colonies to separate from England could be applied to their decision to desert the uncertain protection of North Carolina and set up a government of their own. His view had enough supporters so that the convention adopted a temporary constitution for six months with provision for a convention to be held within a year, at the end of which time this constitution should be altered or adopted as the permanent charter of the new state. To it was given the name of "Frankland"—the Land of the Free. Later, for reasons of policy, the name "Franklin" was chosen in honor of the sage of Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin.

Back in North Carolina Martin and his assembly were taking steps to reassert sovereignty over the Western settlements. The District of Washington, composed of the four Western counties, was set up with John Haywood as presiding judge, and David Campbell as associate. Both as a diplomatic gesture and for the better reason that his Indian-fighting record made him best fitted for the job, Sevier was made brigadier-general of the state militia. Accompanying his commission, which was sent in December, 1784, was an inquiry whether, in view of the repeal of the cession act, he intended to persist in the movement for a new state or to await further developments. Sevier replied that: "We shall pursue no further measures as to a new State."

But despite this avowal, Governor Martin thought it best to send a personal representative, Col. Samuel Henderson (brother of Judge Rich-



Gov. Alexander Martin



ard Henderson, founder of Transylvania and employer of Daniel Boone in the settlement of Kentucky), to investigate conditions in the West. He found that Sevier had already been elected governor of the new State of Franklin, that William Cocke had been appointed as a delegate to the Continental Congress to urge its acceptance of North Carolina's cession and that the legislature had established an academy named after Governor Martin.

Henderson delivered to the Franklin legislature, then in session in Jonesborough, a letter from Governor Martin demanding an "account of the late proceedings of the people in the western country" and in reply received two letters, one from the legislature and one from Sevier, which, although conciliatory in tone, frankly expressed a doubt as to North Carolina's willingness or ability to protect her borderers or give them a stable form of government and intimated their determination to persist in the movement for independence.

The result of this was a "manifesto" from Martin in which he denied their right to declare themselves independent of North Carolina and demanded that the "government should still be supported and anarchy prevented."

To this manifesto Governor Sevier sent back an equally fiery one and Martin countered with the appointment of Evan Shelby in Sevier's place as brigadier-general of the militia and of Jonathan Tipton as colonel of his county. In June, 1785, Richard Caswell succeeded Martin as governor of North Carolina and the new executive proceeded in a conciliatory but at the same time firm manner to assert his state's sovereignty over the disputed territory.

Meanwhile Sevier and his legislature were continuing to function as state authorities. The legislature passed various acts dealing with the property rights of the citizens of the new state, education, currency, militia, elections, organization of new counties, taxes, etc. In connection with the currency there arose a problem which was solved in a manner characteristic of the genius of the American frontiersman for adapting himself readily to circumstances. With no facilities for issuing either currency or hard money, skins of animals were made legal tender.

Late in 1785 the legislature met at Greeneville and there a committee, headed by Rev. Samuel Houston of Washington county, presented for adoption a constitution which is an oddity in American jurisprudence. It provided for a legislature of a single house and from this were to be excluded not only "ministers of the gospel, attorneys at law and doctors of physics" but also those who were "of immoral character or guilty of such flagrant enormities as drunkenness, gaming, profane swearing, lewdness, Sabbath-breaking and such like, or who shall deny the existence of God, of heaven, and of hell, the inspiration of the Scriptures, or the existence of the Trinity." Although full religious liberty was guaranteed, only the strictly orthodox might hold office but it was barred to anyone who was "not a scholar to do the business."

"This remarkable document, which provided for many other curious innovations in government, was the work of pioneer doctrinaires—Houston, Campbell, Cocke and Tipton—and deserves study as a bizarre reflection of the spirit and genius of the western frontiersman," says Dr. Archibald Henderson in his "Conquest of the Old Southwest." However, it was rejected in favor of the North Carolina constitution and this rejection was to have an important effect on the later fortunes of the State of Franklin.

For North Carolina's quiet and persistent assertion of its authority was beginning to create a schism in the new commonwealth, Henderson says that the "considerate policy" of Governor Caswell, "coupled with the defection from Sevier's cause of men of the stamp of Houston and Tipton after the blundering and cavalier rejection of their singular constitution, undermined the foundations of Franklin."

North Carolina began sending its officers into

Franklin to exercise her authority over the citizens of what it considered an outlaw state. Haywood's History of Tennessee, printed during the early part of the last century, gives a vivid picture of the state of affairs existing:

"In the early part of the year 1786 was presented the strange spectacle of two empires exercised at one and the same time over one and the same people. County courts were held in the same counties, under both governments; the militia were called out by officers appointed by both; laws were passed by both assemblies, and taxes were laid by the authorities of both states. "The judges commissioned by the state of Franklin held supreme courts, twice in each year, in Jonesboro. Colonel Tipton openly refused obedience to the new government. There arose a deadly hatred between him and Governor Sevier and each endeavored, by all the means in his power, to strengthen his party."

So involved and desperate had become the situation that Cocke and Sevier in turn appealed to wise old Ben Franklin, for whom their state had been named, for aid and advice. In 1786 Franklin advised Cocke to submit the points in dispute between North Carolina and its illegitimate offspring to congress for a decision and to abide by its decision. But a year later his views had changed and he advised Sevier to try to bring about some satisfactory compromise with the mother state.

In September, 1787, the Franklin legislature met for the last time and conditions were so unsettled and uncertain that no attempt was made to hold another election. In February, 1788, adherents of Tipton and Sevier had an armed collision in which two men were killed and several wounded. "Soon afterward Sevier sent word to Tipton that on condition his life be spared he would submit to North Carolina," writes Henderson. "On this note of tragedy-comedy the State of Franklin appeared quietly to expire." It drew its final breath the following month, March, 1788, when Sevier's term as governor ended.

At that time he was a fugitive in the distant settlements because, through the action of Governor Johnson of North Carolina, he had been attainted of high treason. Later he was arrested by Tipton on the treason charge, handcuffed and taken first to Jonesborough, then to Morganton. There the sheriff, who had fought with him at King's Mountain, knocked the irons from his wrists and released him on parole. When some of his devoted friends heard of the arrest of their beloved "Nolichucky Jack," they rode swiftly across the mountains to Morganton and bore him away to a place of safety.

In November, 1788, the North Carolina legislature passed an act of pardon and oblivion in regard to the State of Franklin which automatically cleared Sevier of the charge of treason and removed any stigma there might have been upon the citizenship of any others. Thus the State of Franklin's turbulent existence of four years came to a close.

The later career of Sevier is too well known to demand more than brief mention. Restored to citizenship he was elected to the North Carolina legislature and given his former rank of brigadier-general of the militia. When North Carolina ratified the Federal Constitution and became one of the United States of America under that document, Sevier was elected congressman from the North Carolina district beyond the mountains. In 1790 North Carolina ceded her western lands again to the federal government and on April 2 of that year the cession was accepted. On May 26 the Southwest territory was organized and Sevier made general of its militia. Six years later this territory became the state of Tennessee and he was her first governor. So John Sevier entered the roll of "unique Americans" in that he was the only man who ever became governor of two states, even though one of them was an outlaw commonwealth, a state which existed in fact if not in official form.

WORLD'S OLDEST GIRL IS DUG UP

Speculations Over Skull of Days Before Noah.

Her eyes were soft and black and her teeth flashed in the sun. Her mouth was red and full and when she passed on her way to the market place, the old men of Alisar frowned and the young men of Alisar sighed, for these were human people, though they died 2,000 years before the flood.

Probably she married and bore children. Certainly she laughed and she was happy, knew pain and the fear of death, before she died. Her world is gone now, buried under the waters where a man named Noah sailed a ship. Her name is known to no one and there is none who cares, except for scientists who dig and burrow and measure, striving to possess the secrets of 6,000 years. John W. Vance writes, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer:

Her fate is mystery. Perhaps she died in some swift foray of a hostile tribe. Perhaps she walked alone beside the village and a great beast was waiting. Perhaps a plague came out of the violent east. In any case she died and was buried.

Recently Dr. W. M. Krogman of the Brush foundation sat in his laboratory and talked about the girl. She is a personage now, for she is one of the oldest humans whose skeletal remains have ever been found, except for recent discoveries at Ur of the Chaldees.

"Alisar was the capital of the Hittite empire, under the name of Koghas Keule," Doctor Krogman said, "but that was more than 2,000 years after this girl died. She lived in the New Stone age, more than 4000 B. C."

"Her grave was more than 60 feet below the surface of the plain and there was such great pressure of earth above it that only the skull bones have been recovered. There were more than 130 pieces of them, which we have reconstructed and put together. It took a month.

"She was about thirty. We can tell her age from the joining of the skull and from her teeth, which, as you see, were quite perfect. They are still white. There was absolutely no tartar on them.

"Her head is quite long and is definitely associated with the Mediterranean type, the same as the modern Italians, Greeks and Berbers. The Hittites, who came later, were of another type. This somewhat establishes the fact that the Mediterranean type is very old, although one must be careful in drawing conclusions from a single case.

"We cannot deduce a great deal from her skull. We believe, from the teeth, that probably she ate a great deal of grain food and other gritty substances. We don't know anything about her people.

"We do know that the site of Alisar has been continuously occupied since her time, except, of course, during the flood, which is usually placed at about 2000 B. C. Indidentally a layer of sterile earth was found in digging down, which indicated the flood, for there were no building walls, nothing to indicate life, in that layer.

"Why the site, which is south of the Black sea, not a great distance from Ankara, Turkey, was always occupied, we don't know. Perhaps because there was water there. Perhaps it was a hill which was easy to defend from enemies or animals.

"We don't know how tall she was,

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Weeds are encouraged to grow in a garden which is beautifully kept at an elementary school near Belfast, Ireland. Under the guidance of the ministry of education, 23 teachers are being taught how to teach horticulture to the pupils in the rural areas. Every sort of weed is grown in orderly fashion. There are neat little rows of regular garden pests which drive the amateur gardener to despair. They are fostered and tended as if they were orchids. By careful examination of the specimens, the students get to know a lot about weeds, and there will be a great slaughter when they return to their own school gardens.

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Prepared by: Pottery Drug & Chemical Corp., Malden, Mass.

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the bones are missing. The skull doesn't show any cause of death from a blow or anything of that sort."

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And Frequently Is Love is not folly, but it can easily be made so.—Exchange.

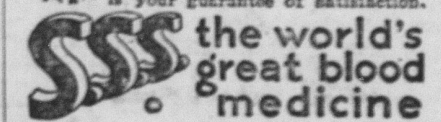
If you tire easily

why not reason out the cause of this unnatural condition?

Your first thought may be, "I must eat more." That's not all. You should enjoy what you do eat. Frequently, the blood cells are low... and this, perhaps, is what makes you feel weak. If this is your trouble the stomach may not be calling for sufficient food. Zest to eat may be lacking. But what a difference S.S.S. makes when taken just before meals. Just try it and notice how your appetite and digestion improve.

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