

## The NC and TN Migrations



### Trail of an Old Wagon Road

As the Native American tribes began to make Treaties and move westward, Europeans poured into the country pushing them along. From the very beginning, land grants were offered to those who would immigrate to America. During the 18th century, more land incentives were issued to occupy the lands west of the colony of Virginia, into Kentucky and Ohio. Remember Daniel Boone? As he surveyed land throughout the region, families followed. The large Boone family of some thirteen or more children in Philadelphia also sent some of its kin into new territories. A popular route out of Pennsylvania was the wagon road which crossed the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. This road led families into the heart of Shawnee lands, and they were attacked, scalped and taken as slaves. The situation was so terrible that in 1772 the Royal Governor of Virginia ordered all the militia against the Shawnee. But only two companies made it in time to meet up with the Shawnee at the falls of the Ohio River. A bloody battle was fought (Lord Dunsmore's War) which resulted in a nefarious Treaty which the Shawnee did not keep. To find ancestors in these parts one must search through the land grants being issued during the 1730s in Virginia and determine those locales. Essentially, lands were granted in the counties in western Virginia and North Carolina. However, it is necessary to search most of the western counties and track it from there. Another region to explore is the North Carolina-Tennessee lands of the Appalachian Mountains which were once known as the State of Franklin (1784-1788). Later, counties such as Burke and Cherokee, fell into Sullivan

County, Tennessee.

It is interesting to note that a number of early settlers in the State of Franklin came back east. No doubt to avoid the ongoing Indian troubles. During the early 1770s, they took up land grants in Wilkes County, Georgia. To learn these names, see History of Wilkes County by Davidson. The broad spectrum of settlement had its causes and effects. One must educate oneself upon the history of any given area while delving into county records of every possible origin. One record which is frequently overlooked is the Inferior Court Minutes. It is a record kept by the county clerk of the daily personal issues of residence, such as names of those persons required to work upon the roads.

There is also the mentioning of the filing of estates (for example) without copying the will into that particular book. If you are unable to locate a will or estate in the county records, this does not mean that one did not exist. This book should be read carefully, as one would read a story book, to understand the people and circumstances. If we know the problems of any given community, we can reason out other possible places to search