



Historic Sullivan; A History of Sullivan County, Tennessee, with Brief Biographies of the Makers of History

Oliver Taylor

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1909 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER XVIII. THE STATE OF FRANKLIN. At the close of the Revolution the United States found herself burdened by an enormous debt, and some of the creditors were not easily induced to temper their demands by promises and uncertain delays. Congress then, in order to hasten relief, passed a recommendation, asking those states, which owned them, to cede certain outlying or unused Western lands to make a common fund, and thus relieve the strain on the nation's credit. North Carolina was very generous in her surrender, in April, 1784, ceding practically all of what afterward became Tennessee, reserving control, however, pending its acceptance. Congress was allowed two years in which to accept this offer. The representatives of the four and only established counties in the territory ceded--Sullivan, Washington, Greene and Davidson, voted for the bill because North Carolina had almost ignored them in the distribution of service and funds and was of little aid to them. Their condition could not be made worse, so far as support was concerned, and they had no idea Congress, in its already crippled financial condition, would accept the offer as it would necessitate an additional outlay of funds in keeping the frontier protected. North Carolina and her "over the mountain men" were in continual discord over the conduct of the settlements --the latter charging that ample provision was not made for the sustenance of the military--pay was small, and that grudgingly given. The State retaliated with charges of extravagance, even insinuating that the accounts sent in were false. This was the condition of affairs the new settlement had to face--neglected by those in power, threatened all the time by Indianjnvasions, while criminal refugees sought their...

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