Summary: Tennessee Settlements

**Pioneers Cross the Appalachians**
The first British colonists lived between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. A British law said they could not move west of the mountains onto American Indian lands. However, the land where they could settle soon grew crowded with farms and towns.

Daniel Boone found an American Indian trail through an opening in the mountains. Later he helped build a road along this trail called the Wilderness Road. Thousands of settlers were able to use the Wilderness Road to cross the Appalachians.

After crossing the mountains, settlers could travel even farther west on rivers. They both fought with and borrowed ideas and customs from the American Indians that lived west of their frontier.

**Moving to Tennessee**
It was against the law to settle in Tennessee. However, many people moved there anyway. Some came to trade with the Cherokee for animal skins and furs. Others came so that they would be free to follow the religion of their choice. Some came to get away from the laws of the other colonies. Others came for adventure or to get cheap land.

The people in the Watauga settlement wrote a plan to govern themselves called the Watauga Association. It was the first colonial government in what later became Tennessee. This government helped them decide who was right when people disagreed. It also worked to keep them safe from American Indian attacks.

**Settlers and the Cherokee**
The Cherokee leaders Attakullakulla and Oconostota signed a treaty that let the settlers stay on the land for 10 years if they gave the Cherokee trade goods. Later, the Cherokee agreed to a second treaty, the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals, and sold some of their land for more trade goods. Attakullakulla’s son, Dragging Canoe, refused to follow this treaty and led other Cherokee in attacks against the Tennessee settlers. He believed that the treaty was a bad idea because the settlers would always want more land.