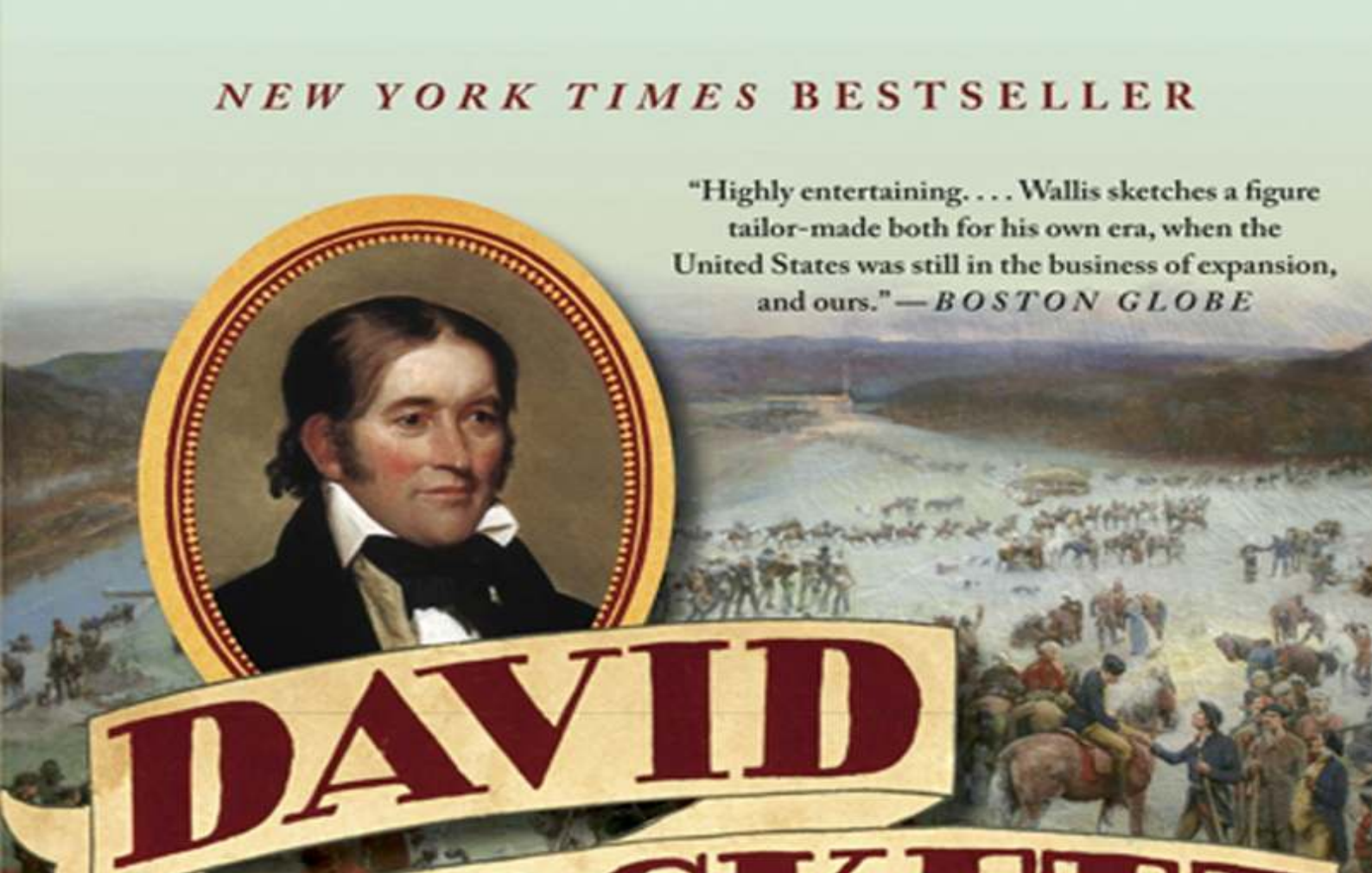


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DAVID  
CROCKETT

THE LION OF THE WEST



MICHAEL WALLIS

AUTHOR OF  
*BILLY THE KID*

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# DAVID CROCKETT



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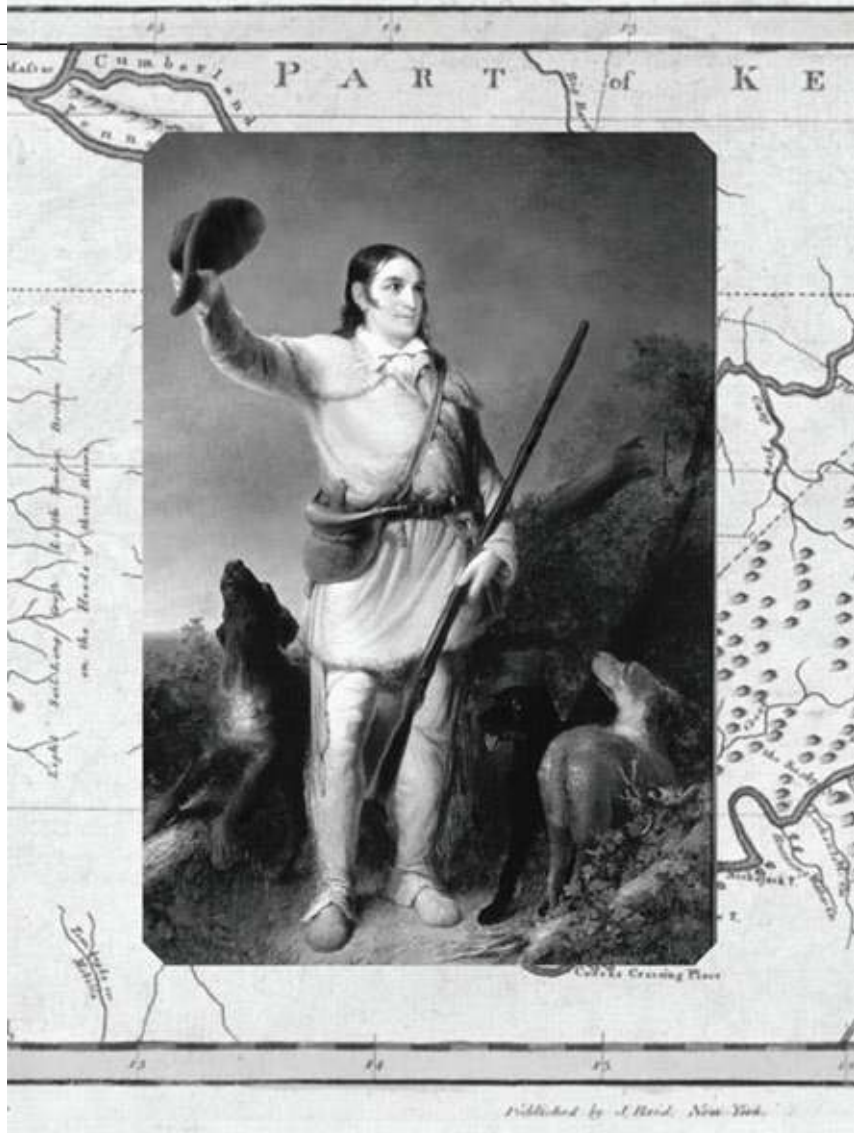
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Map of CUMBERLAND

PART of K E

Light and airy through the Mountains  
in the Hands of these Men

1783

Col. Le Grange's Place

Published by J. Reed, New York.





# DAVID CROCKETT

THE LION OF THE WEST

MICHAEL WALLIS



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY  
New York • London

*a MAP of*  
TENNESSEE GOV  
formerly Part  
*NORTH CAR*

*from the*  
Latest Survey  
1793.







FOR SUZANNE FITZGERALD WALLIS FOR NEVER LOSING FAITH IN ME

---

AND

JOE SWANN, A TRUE SON OF TENNESSEE



Personal Introduction

Preface

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1. “Kilt Him a B’ar”
2. Born on a Riverbank in Franklin
3. The Crocketts Arrive
4. Over the Mountain
5. On the Nolichucky
6. A Boy’s Learning
7. Coming of Age
8. The Odyssey
9. Rise Above
10. Lovesick
11. Polly
12. Finley’s Gap

PART II

13. Kentuck
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15. “We Shot Them Like Dogs”
16. Riding with Sharp Knife
17. “Root Hog or Die”
18. Cabin Fever
19. A Tincture of Luck

PART III

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21. “Natural Born Sense”
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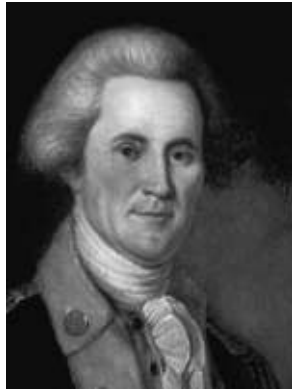
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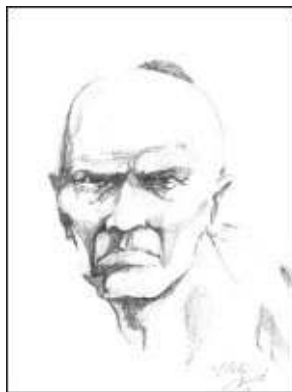




Map of Tennessee when it was part of North Carolina, 1795. (Courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Cartographic Collection)



Tennessee's first governor John Sevier (1745–1815), portrait circa 1790. (Courtesy of the C. M. McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library)



Tsi'yu-gunsini ("Dragging Canoe"), Cherokee war chief. (Mike Smith, artist)





Nine hundred “Overmountain men” from Virginia and Tennessee assemble at Sycamore Shoals for the King’s Mountain campaign, September 1780. *The Overmountain Men* by Lloyd Branson. (Courtesy of the Tennessee State Museum, Nashville)



*Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7, 1780* by Alonzo Chappel. (Courtesy of the C. M. McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library)



Treaty of the Holston, July 2, 1791. (Courtesy of the C. M. McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library)



Replica of David Crockett's 1786 birthplace by the Nolichucky River. (Photograph by Michael Wallis)



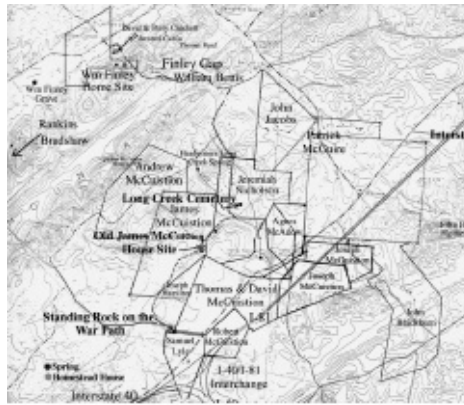
The Crockett Tavern Museum, Morristown, Tennessee. (Photograph by Michael Wallis)



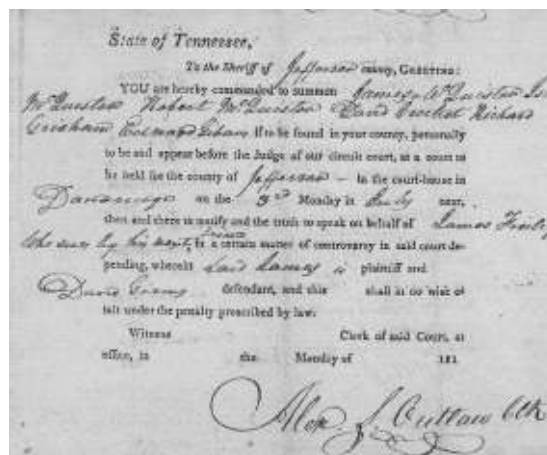
David Crockett's first rifle. (Joseph A. Swann Collection)



Marriage bond, David Crockett and Polly Finley, August 12, 1806. (Recorded in the office of the County Court Clerk of Jefferson County, Tennessee)



Long Creek map, Jefferson County, Tennessee. (Courtesy of Robert Jarnagin)



Crockett's summons to appear as a witness on behalf of his brother-in-law James Finley, Jefferson County, Tennessee, 1811. (Jefferson County, Tennessee, Archives, Lu Hinchey, director)



Anonymous portrait of Jean Laffite, pirate, ally of Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans, and slave smuggler. (Courtesy of the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas)



Early portrait of Sam Houston. (San Jacinto Museum, Houston, Texas)



Major General Andrew “Old Hickory” Jackson. (*Major General Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, 1829–1837*, painted by Thomas Sully [1783–1872]; James Burton Longacre [1794–1869], engraver; engraving published by Wm. H. Morgan, Philadelphia, circa 1820; Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)



Hand-colored lithograph of Creek Chief McIntosh, circa 1836, printed and colored by J. T. Bowen and published originally by D. Rice and A. N. Hart, Philadelphia. (On loan from Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund, Inc.)



Burial site of Polly Crockett, first wife of David Crockett, near Rattlesnake Branch, Franklin County, Tennessee. (Joseph A. Swann Collection)



Map of Tennessee, 1822. (Courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Cartographic Collection)



David Crockett delivers a stump speech during his congressional campaign. (From an 1869 edition of the autobiography *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee* by David Crockett, published by John E. Potter and Company, Philadelphia)



Replica of Crockett's last home in Rutherford, Tennessee. (Photograph by Michael Wallis, Michael Wallis Collection)



Final resting place of Crockett's mother, Rebecca, in Rutherford County, Tennessee. (Photograph by Michael Wallis, Michael Wallis Collection)



Reelfoot Lake, formed during the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811–12. (Photograph by Michael Wallis, Michael Wallis Collection)



Obion River, Gibson County, Tennessee. (Photograph by Michael Wallis, Michael Wallis Collection)



*The Trail of Tears*, painting by Robert Lindneux, 1942. (Courtesy of Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville, Oklahoma)





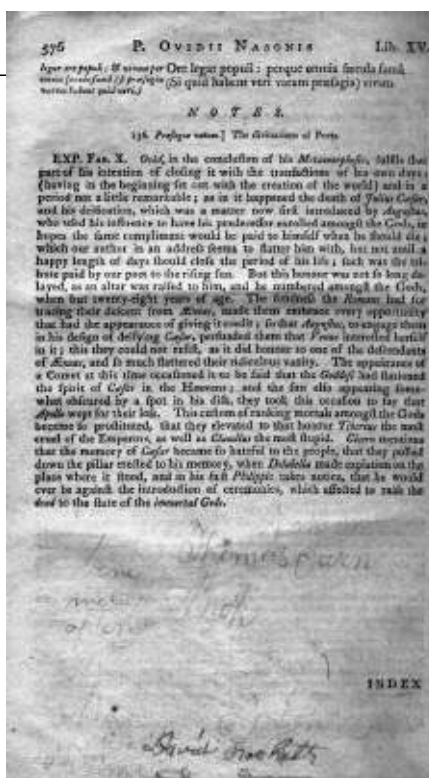
Sam Houston, a Crockett associate and the first president of the Republic of Texas. (Prints and Photographs Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin)



Portrait of Crockett on stone by Samuel Stillman Osgood, circa 1834. (Photograph by Dorothy Sloan Rare Books)



Congressional credentials issued to David Crockett. (National Archives and Records Administration)



Page 576 of a 1774 edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* with Crockett's 1832 signature. (Special Collections Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville)



Engraving by artist Asher B. Durand based on an 1834 watercolor portrait of Crockett on paper, painted by Anthony Lewis De Rose. (Print Collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation)

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