

## Zachariah Isbell

Pg 1/6



No Picture Available

Born: 1722 Isbell Spring, VA

Married: Elizabeth Miller

Died: 1786 Jonesboro, TN

Parents: Henry Isbell & Hannah Cox

Biography: The Hon. Zachariah ISBELL (son of Henry ISBELL & Hannah Cox), one of the 13 commissioners called "the founders of Tennessee," was born circa 1722 in King William Co./Orange Co., VA and died circa 1788 (1786-90) in Jonesboro, then Washington Co., Tennessee. He is believed to be buried in a lost grave at Cherokee Baptist Church Cemetery, Highway 81, near Jonesboro, Washington County, Tennessee (The monument at Elizabethton, TN records the names of "The Immortal 13." (Founders of This State), but the marker misspells his name). Earliest records spell his name Zachary.

His first wife Elizabeth is identified by various researchers as a LEWIS, a TAYLOR, or Elizabeth CALLAWAY (born Abt. 1725), daughter of Thomas CALLAWAY. If she was Elizabeth CALLAWAY, she was an aunt of the two CALLAWAY girls who were kidnapped by Indians along with Daniel BOONE'S daughter Jemima while paddling in their canoe and later rescued by a party including the two Henderson brothers who later married the CALLAWAY sisters (one of the famous Daniel BOONE stories).

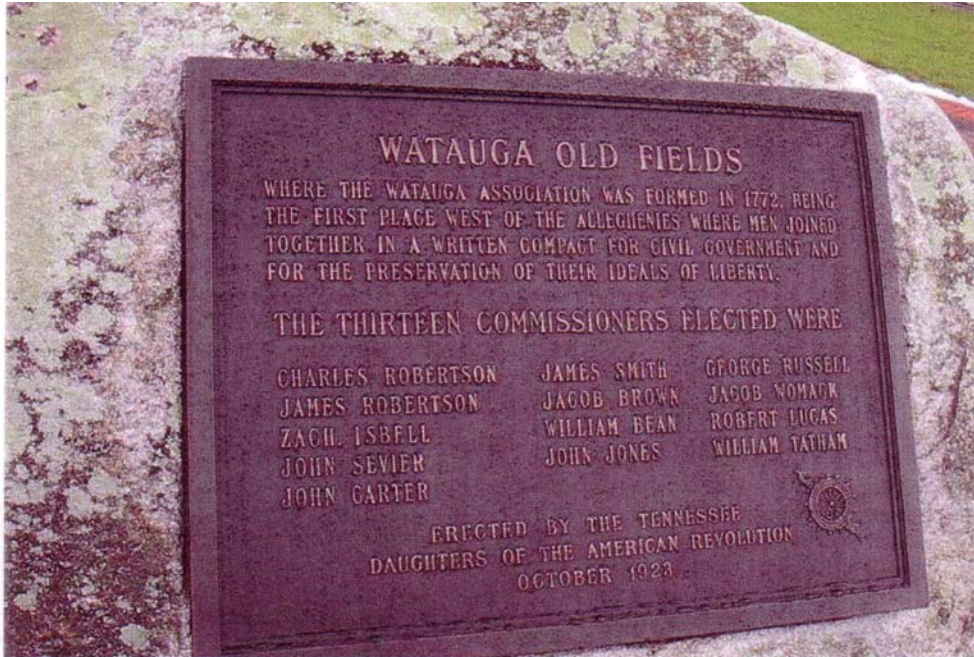
Judge Zachariah ISBELL was the first sheriff of Bedford Co., VA; the first magistrate of Bedford Co. (the original court order books are all in his own hand); and helped "lay out" the town of New London, the first county seat of Bedford County. He was a captain in the French & Indian War and was granted tracts of land in Camden Dist. (Kershaw Co.), SC for service in 1754. He moved to his plantation in SC and lived quietly for 20 years until the Revolution disrupted his family life. He was a magistrate again in SC. He was a member of the Anglican church early in life and evidenced neutral or Tory sympathies toward Britain, so he moved to Washington Co., N.C., where he was again a magistrate judge, and was one of 13 commissioners appointed to form the Watauga Settlement which became the State of Tennessee (See 1776 Watauga Petition

In 1772, he served on the first court in Tennessee, with John Carter, Charles and James Robertson, & John Sevier, and had the most court experience of all five judges. In 1778, he served on the first court in Washington County (now-Tennessee) with John Sevier (later, the first governor of TN). On March 25, 1775, he witnessed a land lease from the Cherokees to Jacob Brown, making up a large part of Washington County and signed by several Indian chiefs. The huge old tree under which the deed was signed is still there, but lying on the ground.

Zachariah and his son Zachariah Jr. both served in the government of the Watauga Association, and both fought the British in the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780.

(Submitted by Researcher Ray Isbell who adds: See also *Tennessee Cousins* by Worth S. Ray, *Annals of N.C.* by Ramsey, *The Overmountain Men* by Cameron Judd and other histories.

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com



Picture of Monument dedicated to the “Immortal 13”. Monument is located in Elizabethto

**\*For more information on Zachariah Isbell and the establishing of the State of Tennessee, see Addendum A**



The monument at Elizabethton, TN records the names of "The Immortal 13." (Founders of This State), but the marker misspells his name.

1772: served on the first court in Tennessee, with John Carter, Charles

and James Robertson, & John Sevier, and he had the most court experience of

all five justices;

1778: served on the first court in Washington County (now Tennessee) with

John Sevier

March 25, 1775: witnessed a land lease from the Cherokees to Jacob Brown,

making up a large part of Washington County and signed by several Indian

chiefs. The huge old tree under which the deed was signed is still there,

but lying on the ground.

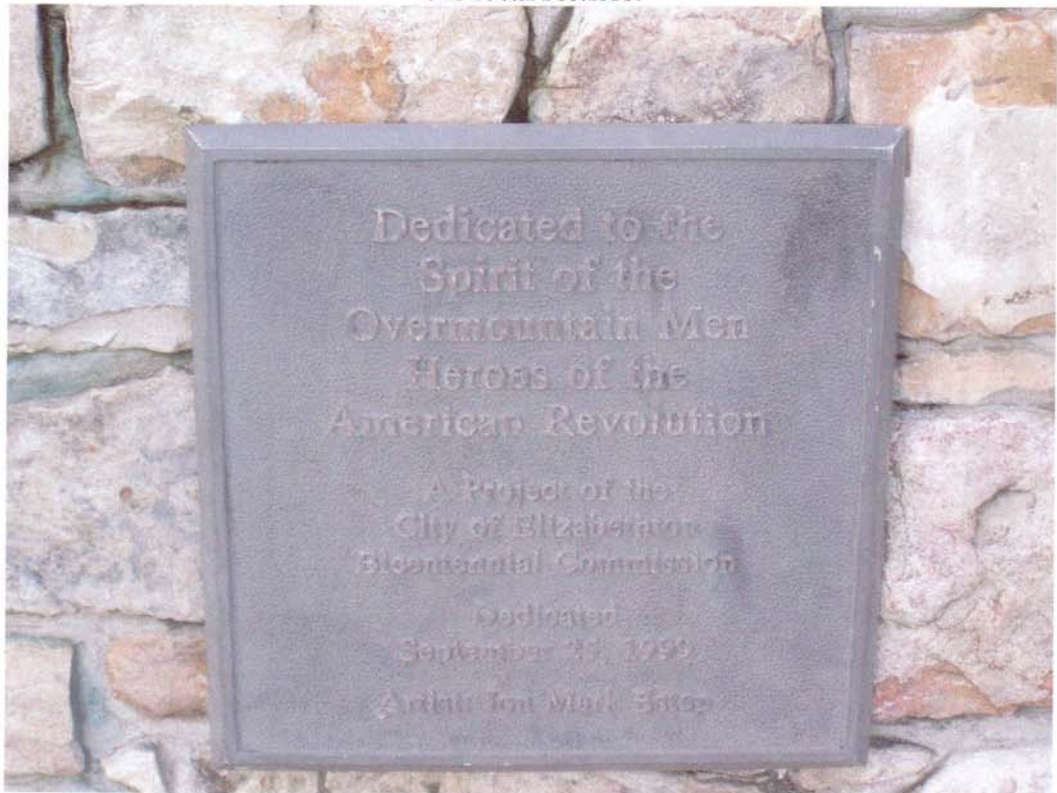
Zachariah and his son Zachariah Jr. both served in the government of the

Watauga Association, and they both fought the British in the Battle of King's Mountain, 1780.





**Pictures are from Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Elizabethton, TN, where Fort Watauga is located. Zachariah Isbell and other members of the Watauga Association built this fort to protect the local settlers.**





Painting entitled:

Sycamore Shoals Muster

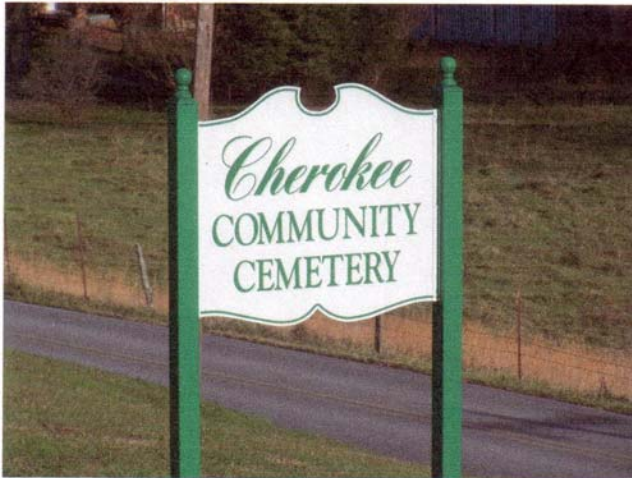
This painting depicts where the Overmountain Men assembled before leaving for the King's Mountain Campaign. The date was 25 Sep 1780. So anxious were the men and boys to go they had to draft those who were needed to remain and protect the home front. Women and children, boys and girls came to see their husbands, fathers, and loved ones off on this hazardous undertaking. Colonel John Sevier had asked his friend Samuel Doak to conduct services for the men. This picture is a reproduction of a painting by Lloyd Branson. The original hangs in the State Capitol, Nashville.

Information about this picture found in the book, "One heroic hour at King's Mountain" by Pat Alderman, pg 6





**Shan Sizemore Peters, a direct descendent of Zachariah Isbell, stands in front of the entrance to the reconstructed fort and to the tavern.**



**Zachariah Isbell is said to be buried in this cemetery near Jonesboro, TN.**

**Pictures taken November 23, 2009**