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Forgotten History: An Archaeological Perspective on John Sevier at Marble Springs (40KN125)

Jennifer L. Barber
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To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Jennifer L. Barber entitled "Forgotten History: An Archaeological Perspective on John Sevier at Marble Springs (40KN125)." I have examined the final electronic copy of this thesis for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, with a major in Anthropology.

Charles Faulkner, Major Professor

We have read this thesis and recommend its acceptance:

Benita Howell, Lynne Sullivan

Accepted for the Council:

Carolyn R. Hodges

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

(Original signatures are on file with official student records.)

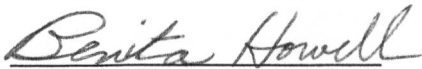
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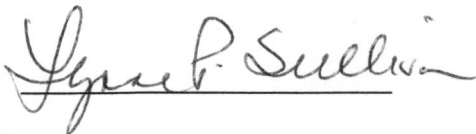


Dr. Charles Faulkner, major professor

We have read this thesis
and recommend its acceptance:



Dr. Benita Howell



Dr. Lynne Sullivan

Accepted for the Council:



Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

**FORGOTTEN HISTORY:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON
JOHN SEVIER AT MARBLE SPRINGS (40KN125)**

A Thesis Presented for the
Master of Arts Degree

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Jennifer L. Barber
December 2002

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ABSTRACT

Marble Springs State Historic Site was the last home of John Sevier, the first governor of the late State of Franklin and the State of Tennessee. Historic documentation verifies that the Sevier family moved to the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1797, after John Sevier became Governor, but the date of their move to the Marble Springs plantation repeatedly has been disputed. The site is located approximately six miles south of Knoxville, Tennessee, at the foot of Bays Mountain.

Archaeological investigations at Marble Springs have aimed to document the domestic habitation of the site by John Sevier and his family from the late 1790s through 1815. Testing took place around the main cabin and attached kitchen to document significant archaeological features and produced an artifact assemblage pertaining to the entire occupation period of the site, from the late 1700s through the 1940s. These investigations determined that this location was indeed the original site of the Sevier family home and kitchen. It provides an archaeological sample that can be used to compare Sevier to other financially, politically, and socially distinguished citizens of early Knoxville.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION, RESEARCH QUESTIONS, AND SITE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Domestic archaeology on historic houselots and frontier homesteads of the socially elite has become increasingly important when exploring the early history of Knoxville, Tennessee. Among the more popular of these sites are the Alexander Ramsey house, William Blount's mansion, the Nicholas Gibbs house, and James White's second home (Faulkner 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993, 2000). All of these sites and their associated structures are affiliated with Knoxville's financially elite, its political heroes, and its early founders.

Marble Springs State Historic Site, the home of Tennessee's first governor, has been blatantly ignored financially and archaeologically throughout its duration in the public domain. The State of Tennessee bought Marble Springs State Historic Site in 1941. The Governor John Sevier Memorial Association currently administers the site by appointment of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Today, the site consists of the main cabin and attached kitchen, a smokehouse, a springhouse, a tavern, a loom house, a trading post, the caretaker's cabin, a picnic shelter, and a barn. Historic preservation work has been limited to repairs needed on the main cabin and barn. There has been limited funding to provide archaeological excavations at the site. The projects presented here by the University of Tennessee were done on a volunteer basis, while

the archaeological work completed by LAW Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., was funded by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Although the site is an important landmark in the early history of the area and is significant as the home of Governor John Sevier, being state-owned and not a private investment has negatively affected Marble Springs. Minimal financial resources and involvement by the state have resulted in understaffing and the current semi-permanent closure of the site to the public. Diligent endeavors by a select handful of interested and associated community members are the current backbone of the site's financial and political infrastructure.

Archaeological involvement at Marble Springs by the University of Tennessee began over two years ago and continues to be done primarily as salvage projects to analyze and interpret areas before their destruction. Dr. Charles Faulkner of the University of Tennessee was contacted initially by the Marble Springs site staff during the summer of 2001 concerning archaeological testing in the area adjacent to the main cabin. These excavations formed the basis for this thesis and were significantly enhanced by excavations completed during January, 2002, by an independent contract firm, with the University of Tennessee being involved on a volunteer and advisory basis. Archival research for this project began in January, 2002, to supplement the report of investigations printed through the Department of Anthropology concerning the summer, 2001, excavations.

This thesis presents the synthesis of the amply documented historical record and the newly recognized archaeological evidence of John Sevier and his Marble Springs plantation. In view of his important historical significance, the life of

Governor Sevier and his political and military involvement in the development of the state of Tennessee have never been ignored. Details of his actions and commitment to the vitality of the area have been the subject of numerous articles and books that demonstrate his contributions toward laying the foundations of the new territory and state. In contrast, little has been done to preserve Sevier's material history, such as his plantation and the personal and architectural articles belonging to it. The archaeological investigations presented here are the first major supplement to this extensive historical documentation and their synthesis provides a more clear and definitive perspective on the domestic life of Governor John Sevier at Marble Springs.

Research Questions

The archaeological investigations conducted at Marble Springs State Historic Site discussed in this thesis aimed to expand on, explain, and clarify the historical information known about the site. These excavations should pave the way for future work at the site.

The research questions that the archaeological evidence and archival research sought to answer are:

Is the cabin currently standing at Marble Springs the original Sevier log cabin? This question can be answered initially by examining the cabin's architecture to establish an estimated date of construction. The architecture paired with archaeological evidence (such as ceramics, glass, and nails) can provide evidence concerning the date of construction, the location of the original cabin, and also the location and construction date of the attached kitchen.

When did John Sevier move to Marble Springs? Archival evidence shows that the Sevier family moved to Knoxville in 1797, after John Sevier became governor, and settled in downtown Knoxville (Rothrock, ed. 1946). His Marble Springs plantation was used as a retreat before the family's move to Knoxville and also while the family rented a house in downtown Knoxville. The exact date of their permanent move to Marble Springs is unknown, as it is not mentioned in his personal journal (Sevier 1790-1815). Archival and archaeological evidence together can assist in pointing to a more specific time for the family's move to the plantation.

Can John Sevier's actual financial status be demonstrated archaeologically? Although John Sevier was prominent in the political and military fields, the Sevier family's financial status appears not to match those of their contemporary counterparts. There is archival evidence of his inability to finance the building of his downtown Knoxville mansion, and various accounts in his personal journal about monies owed. An archaeological assemblage of higher status goods may point to a stable, yet moderate, financial status for the family.

When did John Sevier purchase the Marble Springs property? During the Revolutionary War, veterans received tracts of land for their military services. Most biographers have assumed that Sevier acquired Marble Springs in this manner, while he was still living in Virginia. Archival evidence may prove or disprove this commonly accepted notion.

Can functional areas be determined within the main cabin structure? Single pen log cabins typically had different functional areas within the single room. The room was used for food consumption and preparation as well as various household

activities. Archaeological distribution patterns may demonstrate these different areas within the Sevier cabin.

Site Description

Marble Springs State Historic Site (40KN125) is located approximately six miles south of the present-day city of Knoxville (Figure 1). Lying in the midst of the growing urban sprawl of the city, Marble Springs manages to maintain its rural atmosphere among the nearby highways and shopping centers because it is tucked away on a knoll among the trees and hills at the foot of Bays Mountain. The site got its name from Governor Sevier himself because of the two springs supplying soft water year-round to the area from outcroppings of marble nearby (Rose 1970).

Besides its historical significance as the home of a prominent Tennessee citizen, Marble Springs holds a special distinction as having one of the few remaining original log cabins in Knox County, buildings vitally important to the rural development of the area. The log cabin has a long tradition in East Tennessee. Typically, cabins are up to two feet above ground on stone pier foundations; they have wooden floors and the hewn logs of the walls are chinked with wood or stone covered with a daub mixture or mortar. They also traditionally have a stone or brick chimney centrally located on a gable end, central front and rear doors, a window in the facade or the gable end, and another window in the gable end of the loft (Morgan 1990). The main cabin at Marble Springs is the commonly perceived image of the traditional East Tennessee log home.

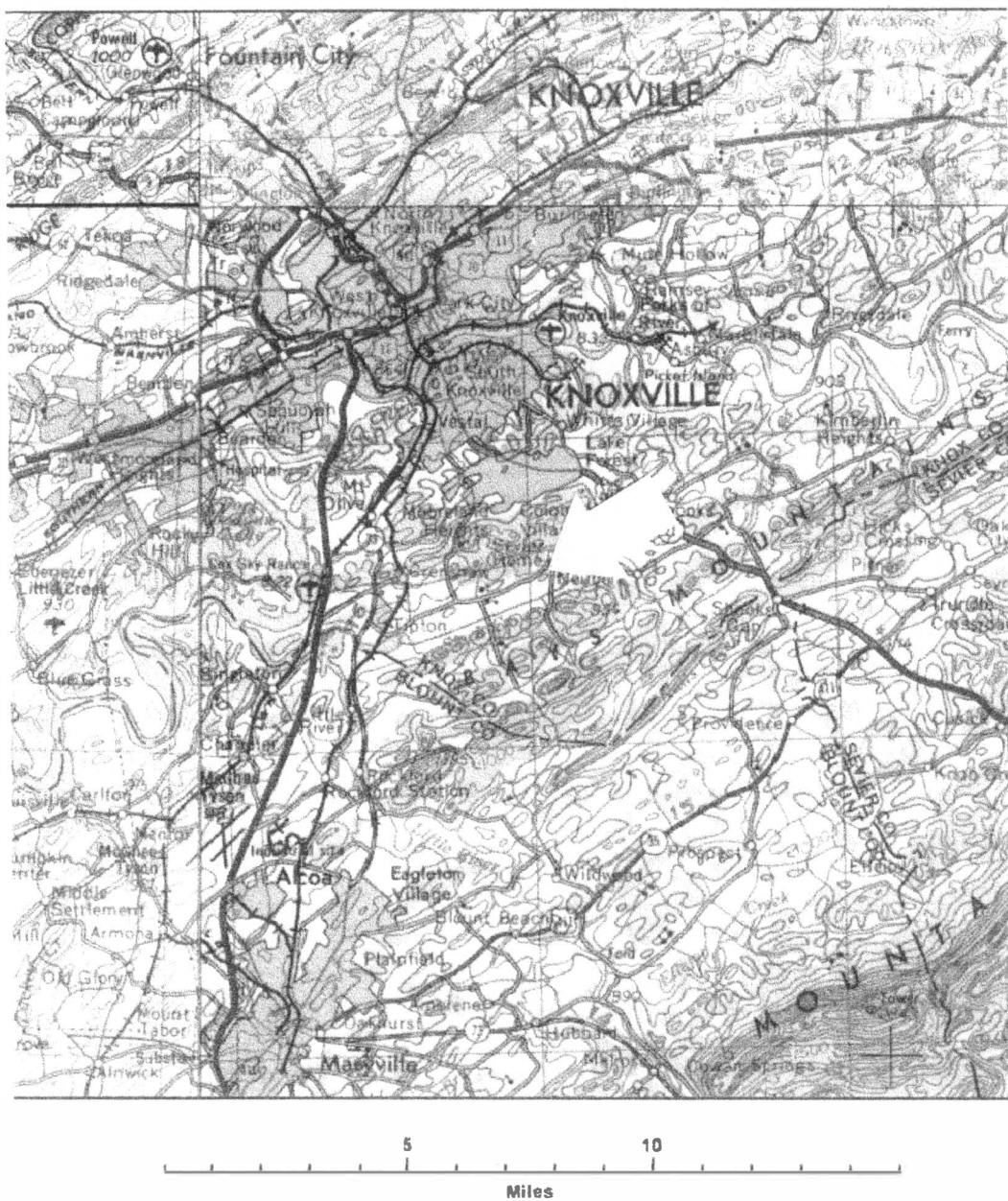


Figure 1. USGS map of Knoxville showing the location of Marble Springs

Historical surveys suggest that up to 85 per cent of surviving log structures in Blount, Grainger, and Morgan counties in East Tennessee were single pen dwellings. Of these, approximately 65 per cent were one and a half story structures (Morgan 1990). Glassie (cited in Morgan 1990) classified structures with front and rear dimensions less than five feet longer than side dimensions as square structures, while those with dimensions over five feet different he classified as rectangular structures. Using Glassie's classification, the Sevier cabin is square because the east and west walls are approximately four feet shorter than the north and south walls. The square cabin typically is considered a product of the English one-bay house, which was a sixteen-foot square structure (Morgan 1990).

Glassie's work in the southern mountains also found that the front and rear walls of square houses typically were less than two feet longer than the side walls (Morgan 1990). Contrarily, Morgan found that in the three counties he studied in East Tennessee (Blount, Grainger, and Morgan), from 63 per cent to 89 per cent of the square houses had walls that differed between two and five feet in length. He also found that between 63 and 81 per cent of these square houses were also at least 20 feet in length. The Sevier cabin is approximately 21-feet by 18-feet, one of the frequently occurring square pen sizes, and fits many of the standard statistics of other log cabins that Morgan found during his research in East Tennessee.

The low cost for materials, high timber availability, and the ample amount of assistance in building are simple tactics which made the log house's presence linger so long in East Tennessee. Cabins typically were not constructed in southern towns after

the 1830s, but persisted rurally through the 1850s, and in the Upland South they even appeared well after the Civil War and into the 20th century (Morgan 1990). The slow economic development of rural and upland regions, unlike other similar frontier locations, led to the dominance of this cheaper and more available housing for a much longer period of time. Sawmills for timber frame housing were a product of the beginning of market-oriented and agricultural economies (Morgan 1990), which did not influence rural East Tennessee until a later period in time.

There typically were three methods used in East Tennessee to enlarge a single pen cabin with the addition of a second pen. These methods differ from those used to build two pens simultaneously. Enlargement with an addition may be the case at the Sevier cabin because the kitchen has different dimensions from the main cabin and is a separate building attached with a dogtrot. This style is typical and has been found in Grainger, Blount, Morgan, and Union County surveys (Morgan 1990). The predominant feature of this type of addition is a second pen constructed on the gable end opposite the chimney.

These double pen houses typically were built in stages, but both pens occasionally were built simultaneously. If built at different times, the two pens often would have different characteristics such as wood type, notch types, log size, or pen dimensions. These differences are not present at the Sevier cabin, but the present kitchen is a period reconstruction and was built in the 20th century to replicate the appearance of the main cabin. Archaeological evidence will be used to discern if this reconstruction is the location of the original kitchen.

Marble Springs Today

Marble Springs State Historic Site consists of the main cabin and attached kitchen, smokehouse, springhouse, tavern, loom house, trading post, caretaker's cabin, picnic shelter, and a barn.

Sevier Cabin and Attached Kitchen The main cabin is believed to be the original building which John Sevier and his family occupied during their stay at Marble Springs (Figure 2). It is a one and a half story pine log structure with half dovetail corner notching resting on a stone pier foundation. There is an exterior reconstructed stone chimney on the west gable end of the cabin. The current front door is centrally located on the south side of the cabin, while a rear door is centrally located on the north side. There is a window on the lower level to the west of the front door. A hearth and fireplace are centrally located on the west wall. The stairs to the half story are located in the northwest corner of the building. There is a window in the half story on the eastern gable end.

The reconstructed kitchen at Marble Springs was completed in 1963 and is 13-feet by 17-feet, the supposed dimensions of the original building. It was built of native oak logs and has a chimney of poplar plastered with mortar on the east end away from the main cabin.

Smokehouse Thomas McCall, a nearby landowner, donated the smokehouse currently standing on the property (Figure 3). Its construction date is estimated to be approximately 1850 and it was moved in its entirety to the site in 1963. In 1987, it was moved from the slope behind the kitchen to its current location to the east of the Sevier cabin and attached kitchen (Hagaman 1987).



Figure 2. Main cabin and attached kitchen

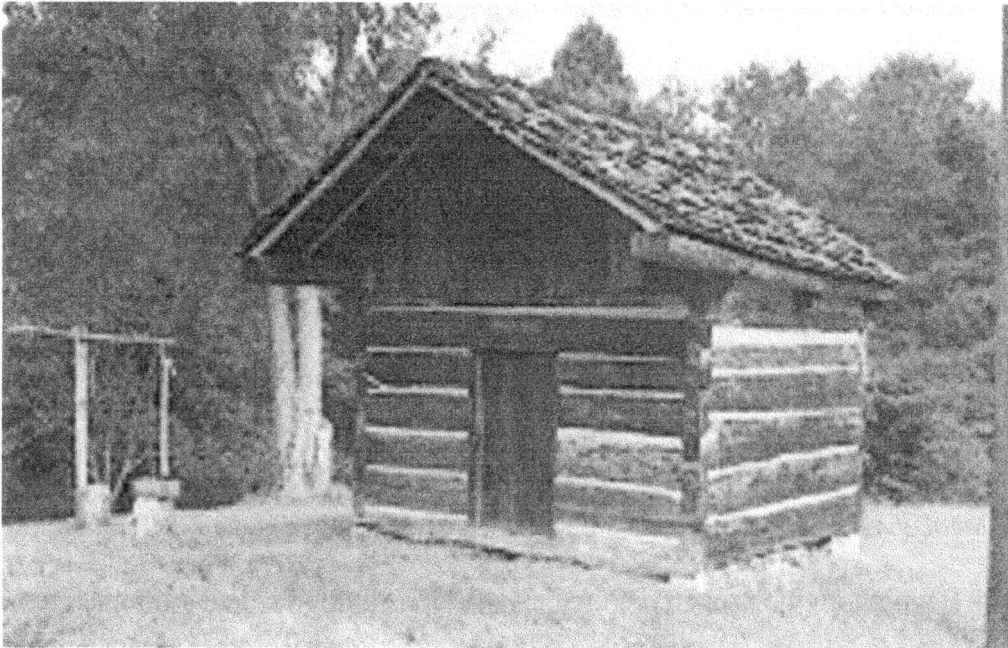


Figure 3. Smokehouse at Marble Springs today

Spring House The current standing springhouse is not believed to be in the original location of the Sevier family springhouse (Figure 4). It is a modern reconstruction, possibly built in 1962 (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 22 April 1962).

Tavern The tavern is a period style building moved from its original location on Fox Lonas Road in West Knoxville (Figure 5). The Walker cabin was built around 1830 and was modified throughout the 20th century until it was no longer recognized as an historic log cabin. Due to the expansion of Knoxville, the cabin was scheduled to be torn down in the mid 1980s, but instead, modern modifications were removed and the original log structure was relocated to Marble Springs in 1986 for educational purposes (Faulkner pers. comm). It is currently furnished and portrayed as a tavern.

Loom House The loom house on display at Marble Springs was donated by Howard Ford in the 1960s (Figure 6). The logs are from a farm cabin owned by Crawford McCall on Neubert Springs Road near Marble Springs. The loom house was completed in 1970 (Hagaman 1987).

Trading Post The trading post was built using logs from a home that was contemporary with John Sevier's home (Figure 7). The original building was located on Houser Road. The logs were donated in 1965 to Marble Springs and were constructed as a visitor's center and trading post for the site (Hagaman 1987).

Caretaker's Cabin This log structure was constructed for the original caretaker's family in the 1950s (Figure 8). Three additional rooms were added in 1966. Today, this building is not regularly occupied and is used as an office for the

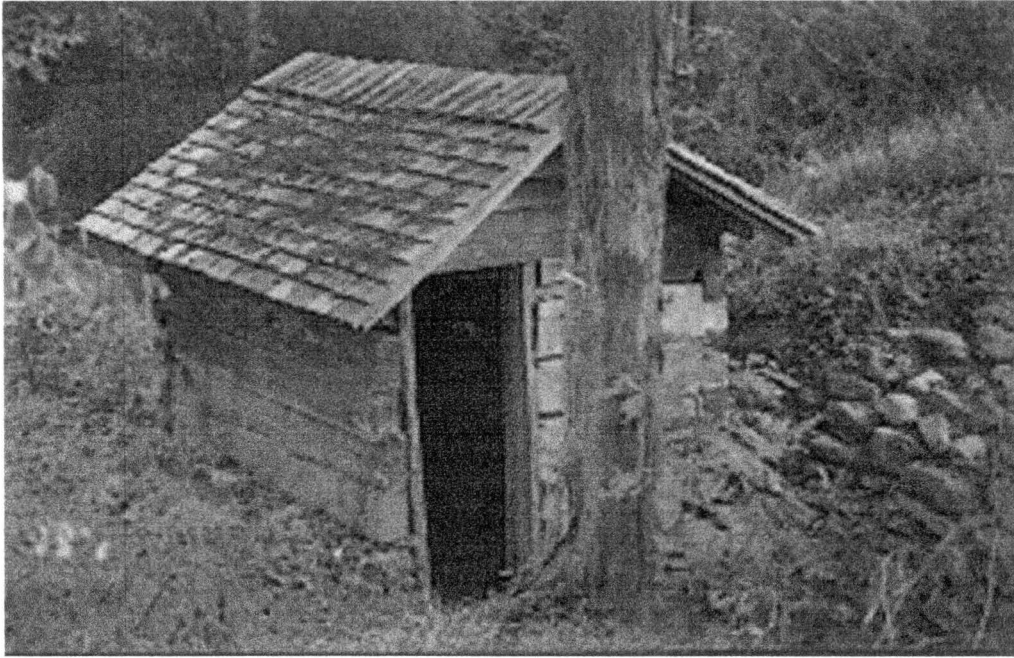


Figure 4. The springhouse at Marble Springs today

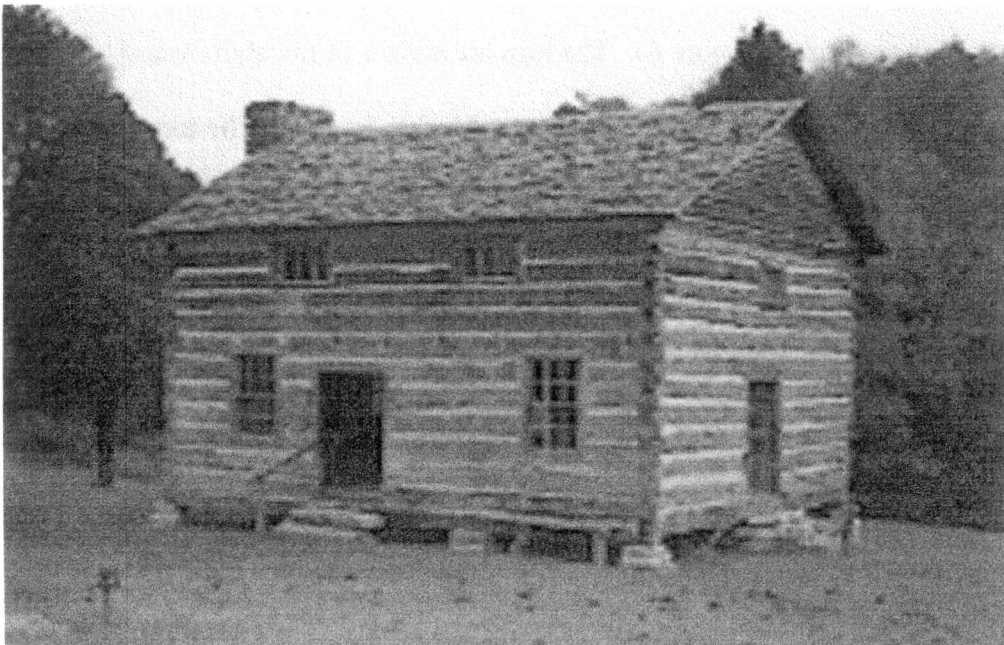


Figure 5. The tavern at Marble Springs today



Figure 6. The loom house at Marble Springs today

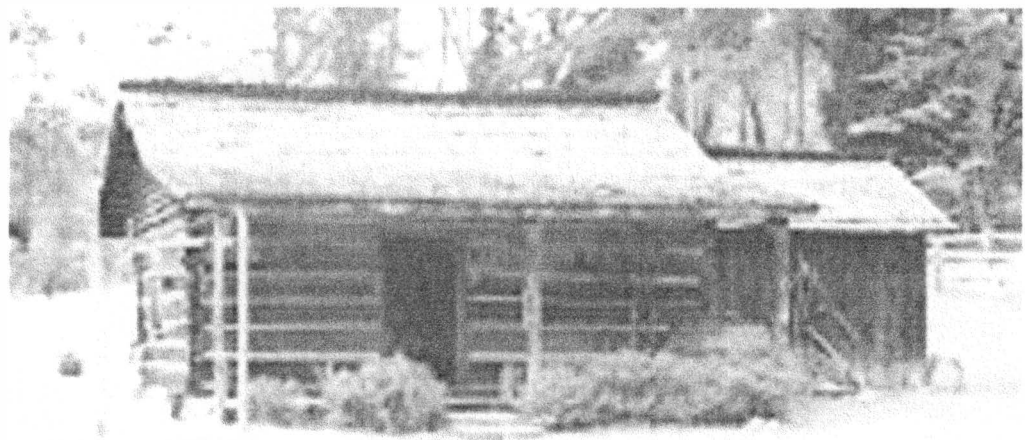


Figure 7. The trading post at Marble Springs today



Figure 8. The caretaker's house at Marble Springs today

site manager and for meetings of the Governor John Sevier Memorial Association and its Board of Directors (Hagaman 1987).

Picnic Shelter A modern outdoor picnic shelter (Figure 9) was constructed at Marble Springs to commemorate the appointment of the Governor John Sevier Memorial Association by the Tennessee Historical Commission. It was opened at a ceremony in October, 1983 (Hagaman 1987).

Barn One of the more controversial buildings on the property is the cantilevered barn (Figure 10). It was thought to be a Sevier period building donated from a nearby farm. Archaeological and dendrochronological investigations during the spring of 2002 point toward this structure being composed of logs dating from both the 19th and 20th centuries, and that the barn could not have been built earlier than the 1930s. The logs in the barn were cut three different times between the 1760s and the 1930s, meaning that the logs probably were reused in this structure from other buildings (Barber et al. 2002). The attached corncrib is a structure donated to Marble Springs, dismantled, and moved to the site in the 1960s.

Archaeological investigations also indicate that the site of the cantilevered barn is not the original location of the Sevier barn. Predominantly 20th century artifacts were recovered from the barn area indicating only recent use in this location (Barber et al. 2002).

In summary, the only building on the Marble Springs property that is likely contemporaneous with the Sevier family occupation is the main cabin. The attached kitchen is a modern reconstruction, but its location is the same as the Sevier family

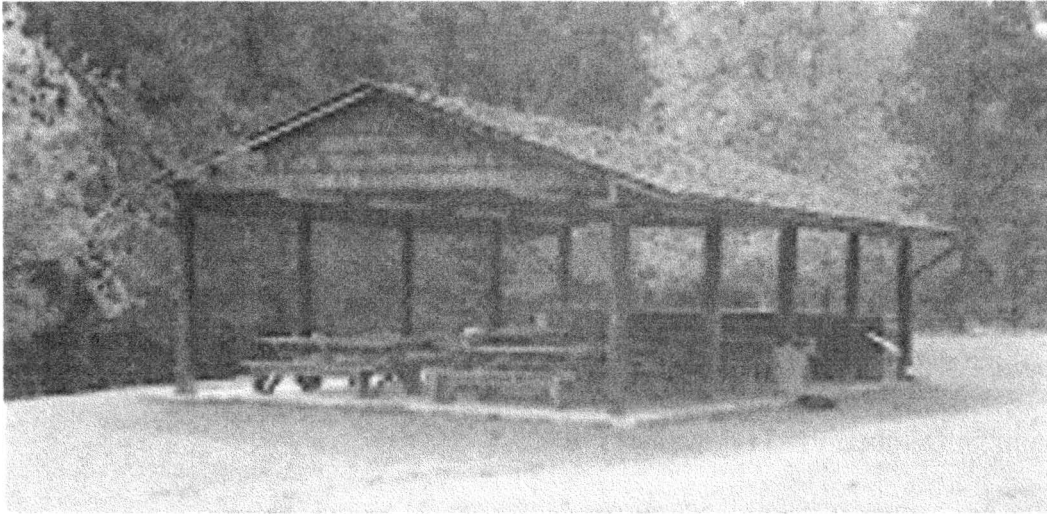


Figure 9. The picnic shelter at Marble Springs today



Figure 10. The barn at Marble Springs today

kitchen. Therefore, these two structures are currently the only useful buildings for archaeologically interpreting and understanding the early domestic occupation of the site.

CHAPTER 2

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF JOHN SEVIER AND HIS PLANTATION

This chapter is divided into two sections. The first is the history of John Sevier, his family, his political life, and his military involvement. The availability of material relating to Sevier's past (Crawford, ed. 1979; Daughters of the American Revolution 1923; Deaderick, ed. 1976; Driver 1932; Dykeman 1955; Headman 1946; Temple 1910; Van West, ed. 1998), makes it possible to compare this history with the material remains found archaeologically at Marble Springs. This examination is discussed in depth in Chapter 5. The second section of this chapter is devoted to the changes at the plantation and the Sevier cabin after the Sevier occupation. The sequence of ownership is examined, including historical evidence related to the modifications of the cabin and the buildings, old and new, on the plantation.

John Sevier

Valentine Sevier, John's father, was born in London, England, around 1702. He fled back to the place of his birth from Paris because of religious persecution. With his brother, he departed for America, arriving in Baltimore and then settling in Rockingham County, Virginia, a few miles southwest of today's New Market before 1740. He made his home on Smith's Creek, started out with a gristmill and an inn nearby, and married Joanna Goode in 1745 (Sevier and Madden 1961). Valentine built an impressive stone house still standing today called Toll House Farm. Being

one of the earliest settlers in the new region, Valentine had the opportunity to carve the life he desired out of the land and open the businesses most valuable to a growing frontier. Through his determination and hard work, he built a life in which he was well known for his honesty and integrity, two qualities he actively worked to instill in his growing family (Sevier and Madden 1961).

John Sevier, the first of seven children (Figure 11), was born on September 23, 1745, in the stone house on Smith's Creek (Sevier and Madden 1961). His education at Fredericksburg and at the academy at Staunton were the best English education affordable at the time. He was a first rate student and excelled in mathematics, grammar, and in his penmanship (Sevier and Madden 1961). Although beneficial, his short-lived educational stint ended when he became a clerk in his father's business, where he learned Valentine's secrets to stable and rewarding business endeavors.

In 1761, John Sevier married his first wife, Sarah Hawkins, the daughter of a well-off Valley planter (Dyer 1956). He bought Long Meadows, a tract of land he farmed for years before establishing and moving to the town of New Market with his new family. Here he purchased another tract of land and gave a few lots to the Baptist Society for a burial ground and other church purposes (Sevier and Madden 1961). John Sevier followed in his father's footsteps by engaging in merchandising, farming, and inn keeping in New Market. In 1770 he once again moved, this time to Millerstown in Shenandoah County, Virginia.

Within the next year or two, John Sevier visited his younger brother Valentine in the newly formed Watauga settlement and traded in what is now East Tennessee. Historical evidence points to his active trading involvement in East Tennessee and

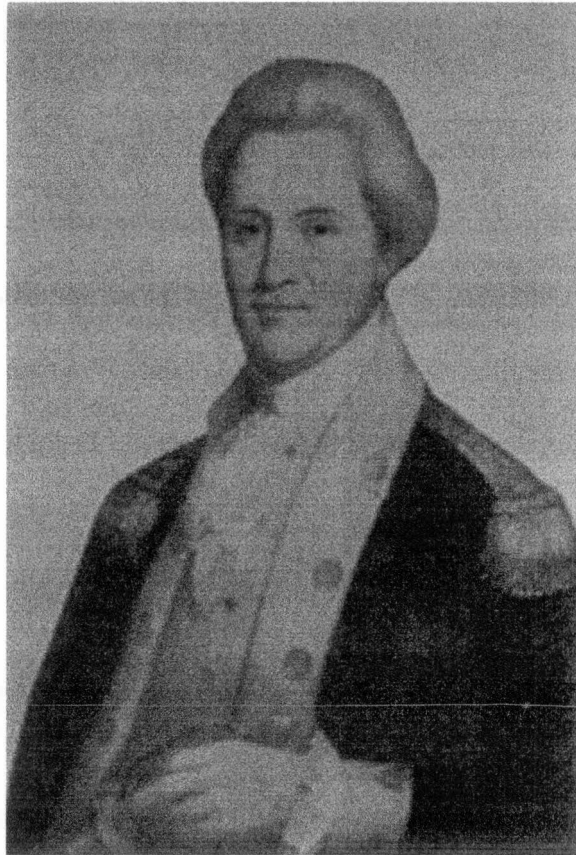


Figure 11. John Sevier

Kentucky, as seen when he filed judgements in 1773 through the local court to collect debts due to him in these areas (Sevier and Madden 1961).

In 1773, John Sevier moved his wife and six children to the Holston Settlements in East Tennessee where they lived until the fall of 1776 (Sevier and Madden 1961). They resided on a farm on the Holston River while Sevier became active in the Watauga Association. The new settlers of the frontier formed the Association when they recognized that they had made their homes outside of the perimeters of the state of Virginia. Realizing that they would be taken under the control of North Carolina, they formed the first free government in America that was independent from any other state or colony (Alderman 1970). There were five appointed commissioners, one of whom occasionally is mentioned to have been John Sevier, who were in charge of probated wills, questions of debt, deeds, property rights, marriage licenses, and thievery (Alderman 1970). This government lasted nearly six years.

One of the most famed tales depicted by historians about John Sevier occurred at the siege of Fort Watauga in 1776 by the Cherokee Indians (Figure 12). On the morning of July 20th, the women were outside of the gates to milk when the Indians began their attack. The women ran toward the fort and all of them except Catherine Sherrill made it inside in time. She ran down the length of the stockade and as she was about to attempt a jump over the wall, the hand of John Sevier reached over to grab her and lift her to safety as she fell into his arms. He stated, "That was a bonnie good foot race." This is how she reputedly got her nickname of Bonnie Kate (Rothrock, ed. 1946).

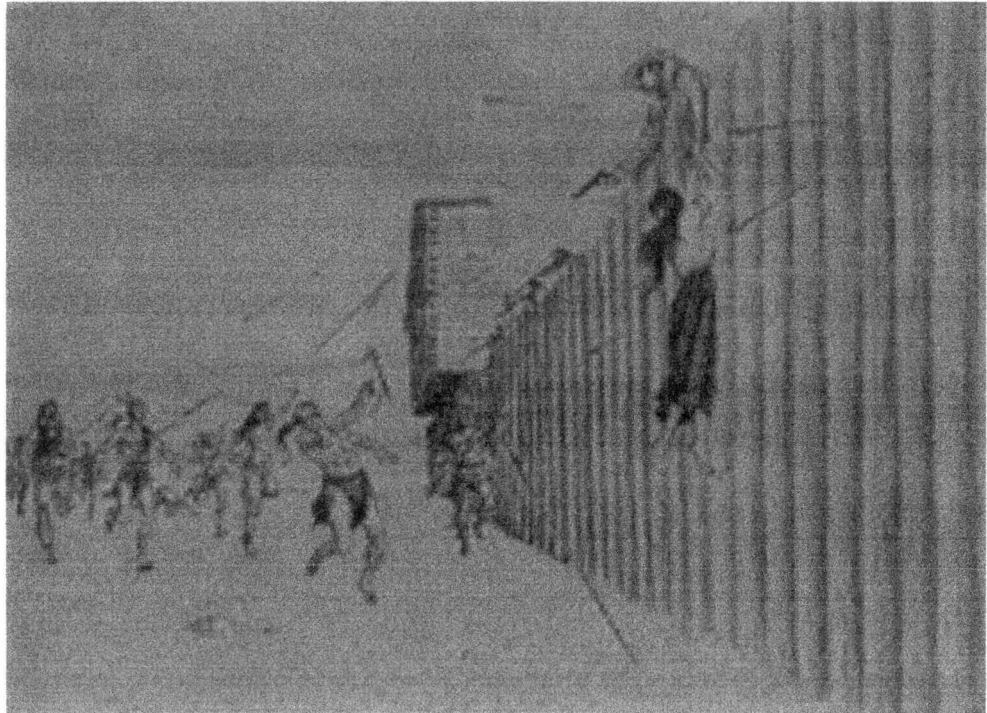


Figure 12. The siege of Fort Watauga, July 20, 1776

Sevier's wife Sarah Hawkins passed away in 1780 after the birth of their tenth child. Later that same year, John Sevier married the girl he saved at Fort Watauga, Catherine Sherrill, the daughter of a friend, neighbor, and fellow Revolutionary War fighter (Figure 13). The recorded birthplaces of their eight children show that the new family moved first from their home on the Holston River to Limestone Creek in 1781, then to Mount Pleasant around 1784, and finally to Plum Grove around 1789 (Sevier and Madden 1961).

The battle at King's Mountain on October 7, 1780, was one of the most triumphant moments of John Sevier's military career. Often referred to as the turning point of the Revolutionary War, or even the battle that changed American History, John Sevier and Isaac Shelby were instrumental in organizing, financing, and carrying out the military attack against Cornwallis and the British in South Carolina. The British defeat began a series of military victories for the patriots that culminated at Yorktown (Draper 1881; Hesseltine 1954).

After his heroics at King's Mountain, Sevier continued his military career and won all 35 of his battles against the Indians for control of land. He led many of these attacks against the Indians, burning their villages and destroying their crops, to protect the settlers on the frontier. John Sevier was unable to participate extensively in the remainder of the Revolutionary War because his absence was taken advantage of by Indian warriors and his frontier homeland was unprotected.

Sevier was appointed Brigadier General of the Washington District, North Carolina, in 1781 (Gilmore 1887). Later, when North Carolina gave her western territory back to the United States, Sevier was unanimously chosen as the leader of the



Figure 13. Portrait of Bonnie Kate

new State of Franklin in 1784, giving up his rank of general under North Carolina jurisdiction (Hesseltine 1954). Unfortunately, in 1788, North Carolina once again regained control of her territory and charged Sevier with treason. With the help of his supporters, Sevier was smuggled back to his home at Plum Grove.

John Sevier's personal character during this time is mentioned in many of the primary documents about his life. Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey writes in his letters during the 1850s that his father, F.A. Ramsey, often spoke of Sevier's urbanity. He explains that Sevier had been exposed to good society in cities such as Williamsburg, and that he was "genteel and accomplished" (Hesseltine 1954: 79). Sevier's character as a religious man is also discussed. Many thought that he was a devout Christian (Hesseltine 1954), when in fact he only attended religious services with his wife and family or with his close friends while travelling. There is no mention in his journal of attending religious services alone (Sevier 1790-1815).

Sevier's military career began to be overshadowed by the launch of his political career in 1789. He was elected to the North Carolina Senate in that year to represent the Western District, and in 1790 he became a representative to the United States Congress (Turner 1910). The next year, William Blount, the governor of the Southwest Territory, commissioned Sevier as Brigadier General of the militia for the region. His last military campaign against the Indians was fought a few years later at Etowah and in 1794, he was appointed a member of the legislative council of the Southwest Territory.

The political office that brought Sevier to the town of Knoxville was his appointment as the Governor of the new State of Tennessee in 1796, the land that

North Carolina once again returned to the United States. He served as its governor for three terms until 1801, was removed from office because of term length restrictions, and was once again re-elected for three more terms from 1803 to 1809 (Rothrock, ed. 1946).

Early in 1797 before his move to Knoxville, Sevier purchased four downtown lots on which to build his family's new house (Figure 14). His journal mentions the purchase and making of bricks for his new home, and also payment for the masonry work, which did not begin until 1798 (Sevier 1790-1815). The four lots he chose downtown were surrounded by Third and Fourth streets to the north and south, and Crooked and Chestnut streets to the east and west. Crooked Street got its name because the house Sevier was building caused his property to jut into the street and made the block irregular. In April, Sevier states that he "purchased a wagon and a team for eighty dollars," and in September the family moved to Knoxville (Sevier 1790-1815). They rented Major McClung's house for ten dollars a month while their mansion was being built a block away (Heiskell 1920).

The foundation and the beginnings of the first story of his new home were complete when John Sevier decided that he was not in a financial situation to finish the structure. He was able to hold on to the four downtown lots until 1801 when he sold them to his son George Washington Sevier on April 25 for one thousand dollars. On April 28, 1807, the land was sold to James Dunlap for twenty six hundred dollars (Heiskell 1920). On February 20, 1812, James Park received the land for one thousand one hundred dollars, and finished the grand brick structure that still stands today (Figure 15).

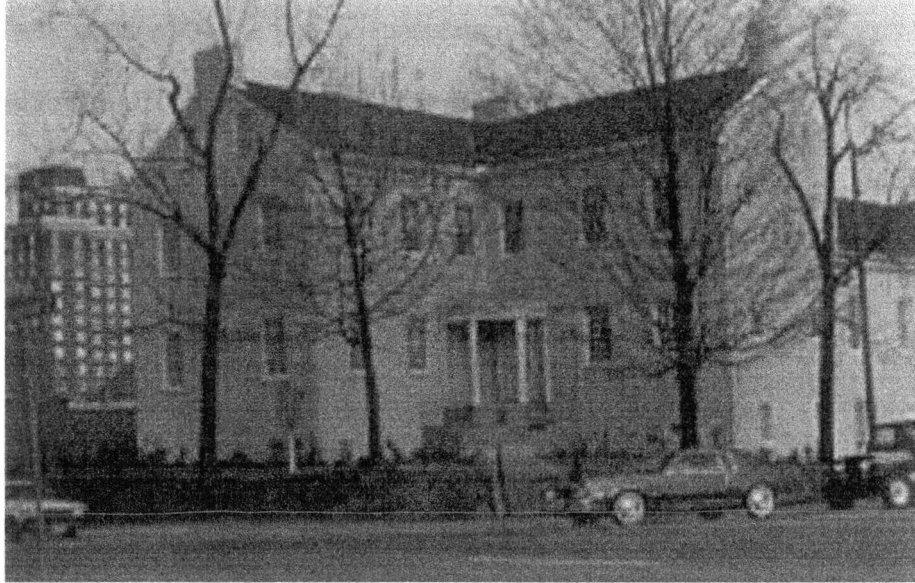


Figure 15. The Park House in downtown Knoxville

Before this period, Sevier had claimed a tract of land approximately six miles south of Knoxville across the Tennessee River. At the time, land no longer was being surveyed in Tennessee. Until the mid-1790s, the State of North Carolina was responsible for the surveying, and for deeds for the land currently in Tennessee. When the area switched between independence and ownership by North Carolina, no deeds were granted for land. Therefore, many people “squatted” on land and built their homes on land treated to Indians. After Tennessee became a state, surveying of land resumed in the early 1800s (Griffey 2000). No land deeds were granted again in the territory until 1806. This is when the Marble Springs land officially was deeded to John Sevier.

East Tennessee historian J.G.M. Ramsey wrote that Marble Springs already had buildings on it before the Sevier family moved there. It was used as an outpost for the protection of travelers and settlers from local disputes with the Cherokee for land possession. Sevier used the small cabin still on the location and enlarged it, as well as expanding the remainder of the small outpost by adding other buildings. He had been using the property as a personal retreat and get-away by spending long weekends there, and entertaining guests and visitors since he resided at Plum Grove in the early 1790s. Although not elegant, the cabin and surrounding property were convenient and comfortable for Sevier, his wife, and their four youngest children (Ramsey 1853).

According to Joseph Upton Kirby, a later owner of the property, when Sevier resided at Marble Springs, the plantation consisted of his cabin, three other cabins, and a smokehouse. He also stated that the original kitchen was still intact as it had been when Sevier resided on the property and had not been torn down (Heiskell 1920).

Sevier's journal (Sevier 1790-1815) mentions the purchase of lumber for a barn and paying laborers to work on the kitchen and to construct a smokehouse, but never mentions the construction of the cabin.

An interesting story appearing in the South Knoxville Docket (22 Oct. 1990) concerned the dogtrot between the kitchen and the main cabin at Marble Springs (Figure 16). Originally they were only a few feet apart. A fire in the kitchen stove started because it was improperly dampened before use causing the entire kitchen structure to burn to the ground. Sevier rebuilt the kitchen and enlarged the dogtrot to eight or ten feet in width. Entries in his journal concerning repairs to the kitchen may indicate this event (Sevier 1790-1815).

The presence of additional cabins has never been disputed and they are said to have been both quarters for guests and Sevier's slaves. Sevier reputedly took a number of slaves with him when he left with three of his sons to lead the expedition at King's Mountain. Sevier undisputedly had a number of slaves at any given time. They are said to have moved to Knoxville with the Governor when he arrived there in 1797. His diary also gives evidence for the purchase of two additional slaves after his arrival at Marble Springs, a cook and a laborer. The diary also mentions the daily activities of other slaves such as Jim, Sall, a boy named Bobb, and two house servants named Jeff and Suzy (Sevier 1790-1815).

Besides the house chores, one of the major responsibilities of the slave staff on the plantation was the tending of the crops. With the extensive acreage and the distance from town, subsistence from personal sources was a necessity. Oats, wheat, cotton, and corn, along with other crops such as peaches, apples, and other fruits and

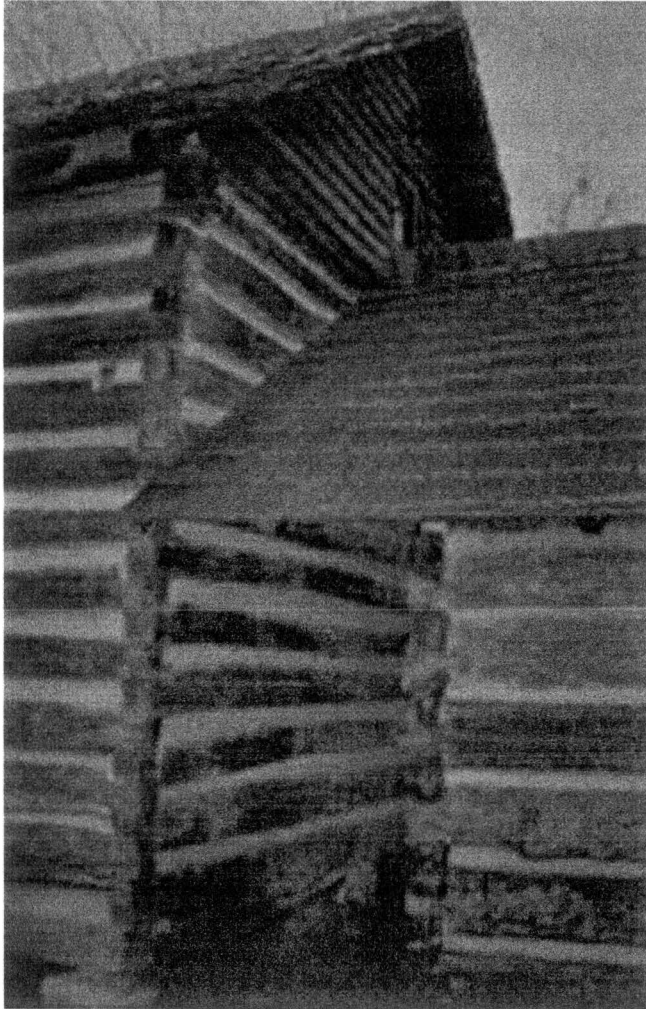


Figure 16. Detail of the dogtrot between the main cabin and attached kitchen

vegetables, were raised on the plantation. Sevier also mentions the presence of hogs and horses on several occasions in his journal (Sevier 1709-1815). The account of the sale of Sevier's estate after his death indicates that there were four horses, two cows and a calf, one yearling, three head of cattle, six head of sheep, and five head of hogs at Marble Springs in 1815 (Miller 2000).

Traditionally, farms such as Marble Springs would have grown crops and tended animals even while the Sevier family resided in the city. Sevier's journal mentions paying an overseer who lived on the plantation, and later letting him go and taking on a new overseer who may have taken care of these tasks and resided on the plantation before the Sevier family relocated to Marble Springs (Sevier 1790-1815).

Serving his state and country through this time, Sevier was elected to Congress in 1811, 1813, and 1815. On June 10, 1815, Sevier was appointed by President Madison as a commissioner to run the boundary line of the lands that the Creeks had just ceded to the United States after the Battle of New Orleans. While in Alabama, Sevier complained of rheumatism and an ulcer developing on his neck in letters to his son. He discussed his desire to return to Marble Springs and its healing waters. After suffering from a fever for 15 days, John Sevier passed away on September 24, 1815, near Fort Decatur, Alabama.

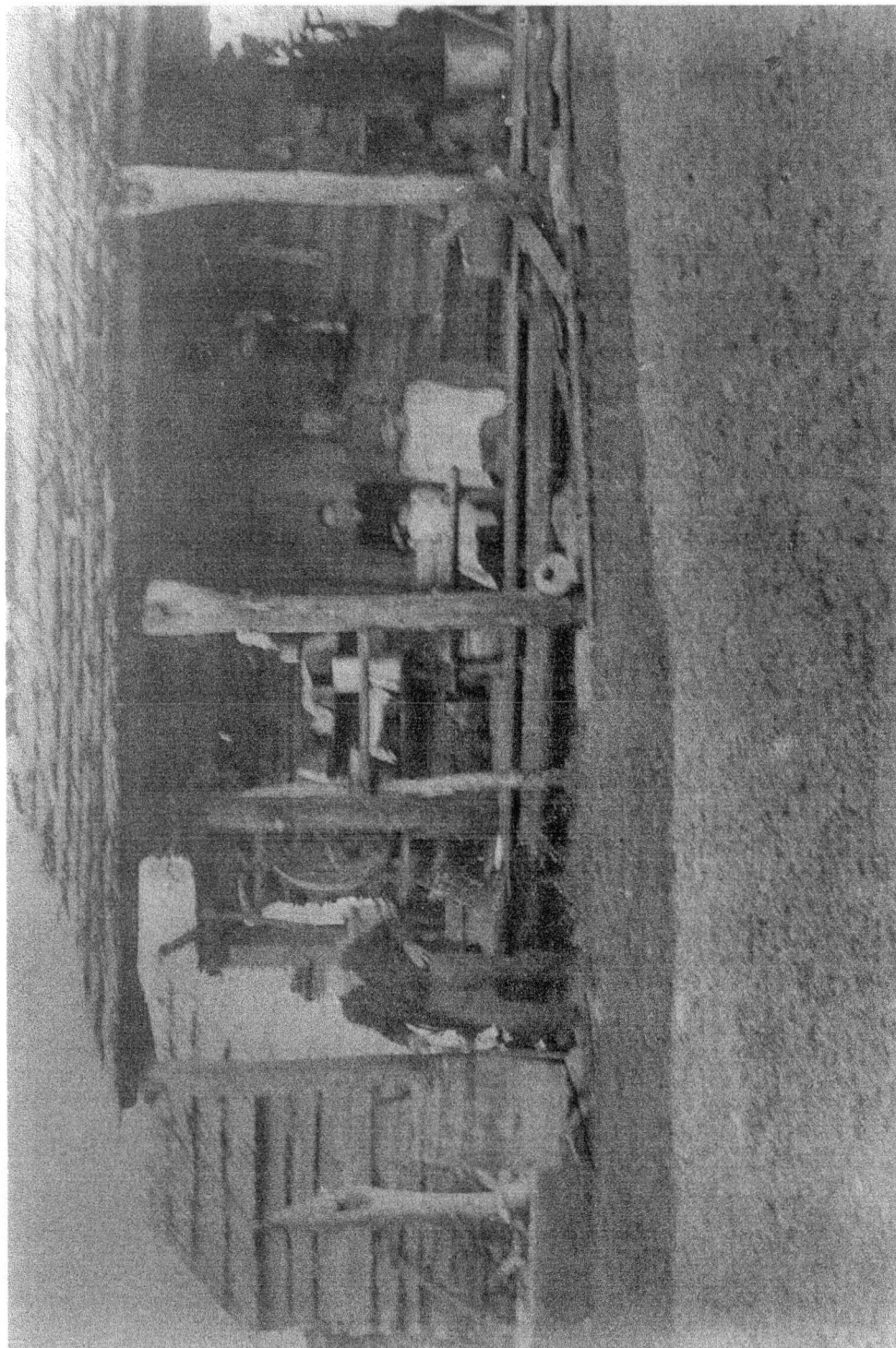
The Changing Plantation

After John Sevier's death, his wife and their remaining four minor children lived on the Marble Springs property for nearly two years before moving to middle Tennessee to live with an older son on his plantation near Dale Hollow. An 1817

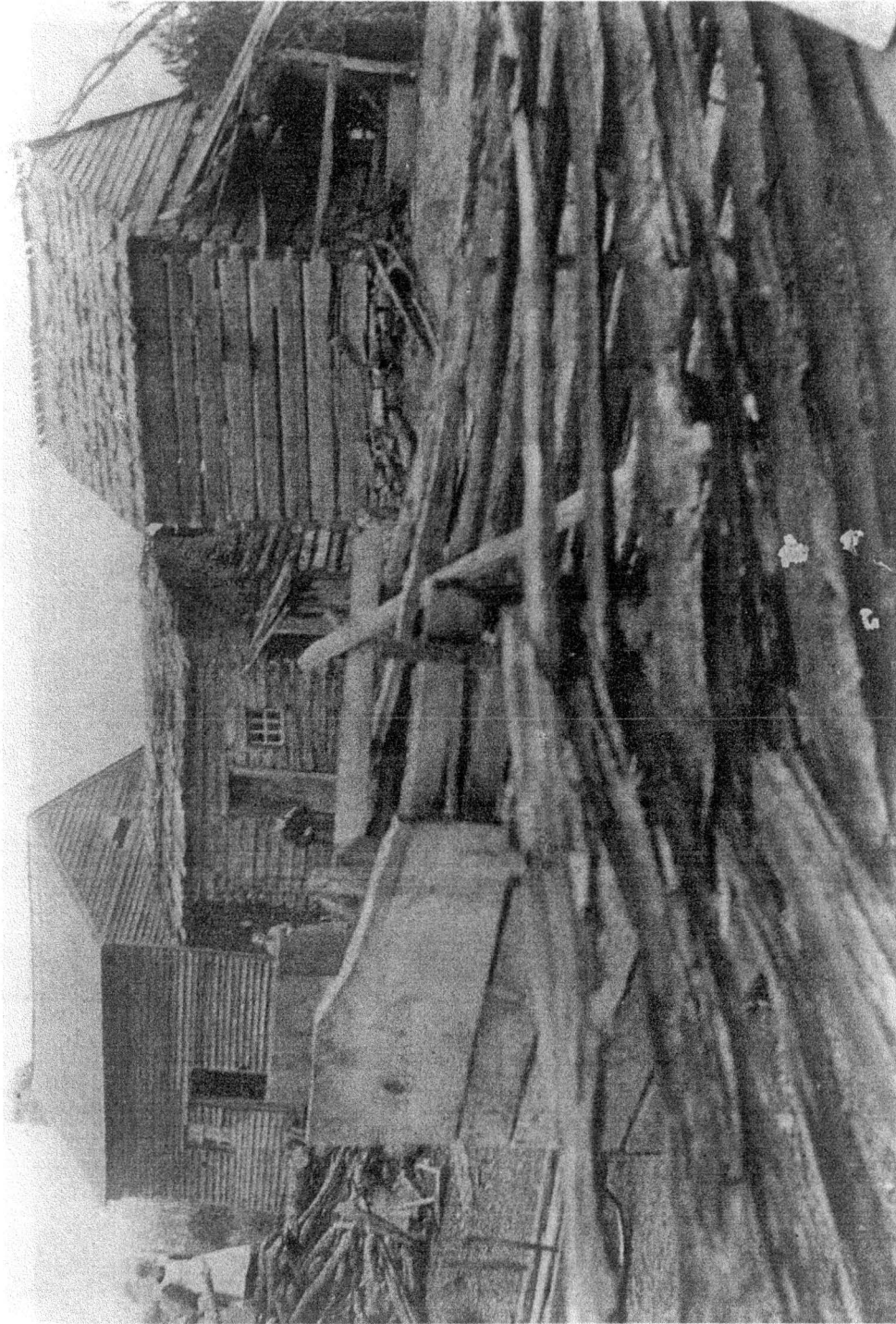
auction sold off Sevier's personal effects to settle his extraordinary debt. The land changed hands and was purchased in April, 1818, by James Dardis, a friend and colleague of Sevier's, through a sheriff's sale to satisfy the creditors of the estate (Knox County Deed Records 1818). Dardis advertised that he would sell or lease tracts of land in southern Knox County, but maintained the portion of the property with the main cabin, providing minimal improvements, until 1847. The remainder of the property was sold through Dardis' attorney to George W. Kirby (Knox County Deed Records 1847). George W. Kirby sold the property to his son, Joseph Upton Kirby, in 1868 (Knox County Deed Records 1868). When Joseph Kirby obtained the land from his father, it contained the main cabin, three other cabins, and a smokehouse. In 1884, Joseph Kirby sold the land to his daughter, Melvina M. Kirby (Knox County Deed Records 1885). After her death, she willed the property to her two sons, leaving the portion with the main cabin to Hugh O. Kirby and his wife. In 1925, Hugh Kirby sold his land to his son, Arnold (Knox County Deed Records 1925). In turn, Arnold sold it to the first person outside of the Kirby family, Sam Sayne, in 1932 (Knox County Deed Records 1932) (Figures 17 - 21).

Many articles were printed in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* and other publications concerning the state of the property throughout the Kirby family ownerships. In 1955, Charles F. Kirby, the son of George W. Kirby, described the condition of the property, most likely from the late 1800s. He said,

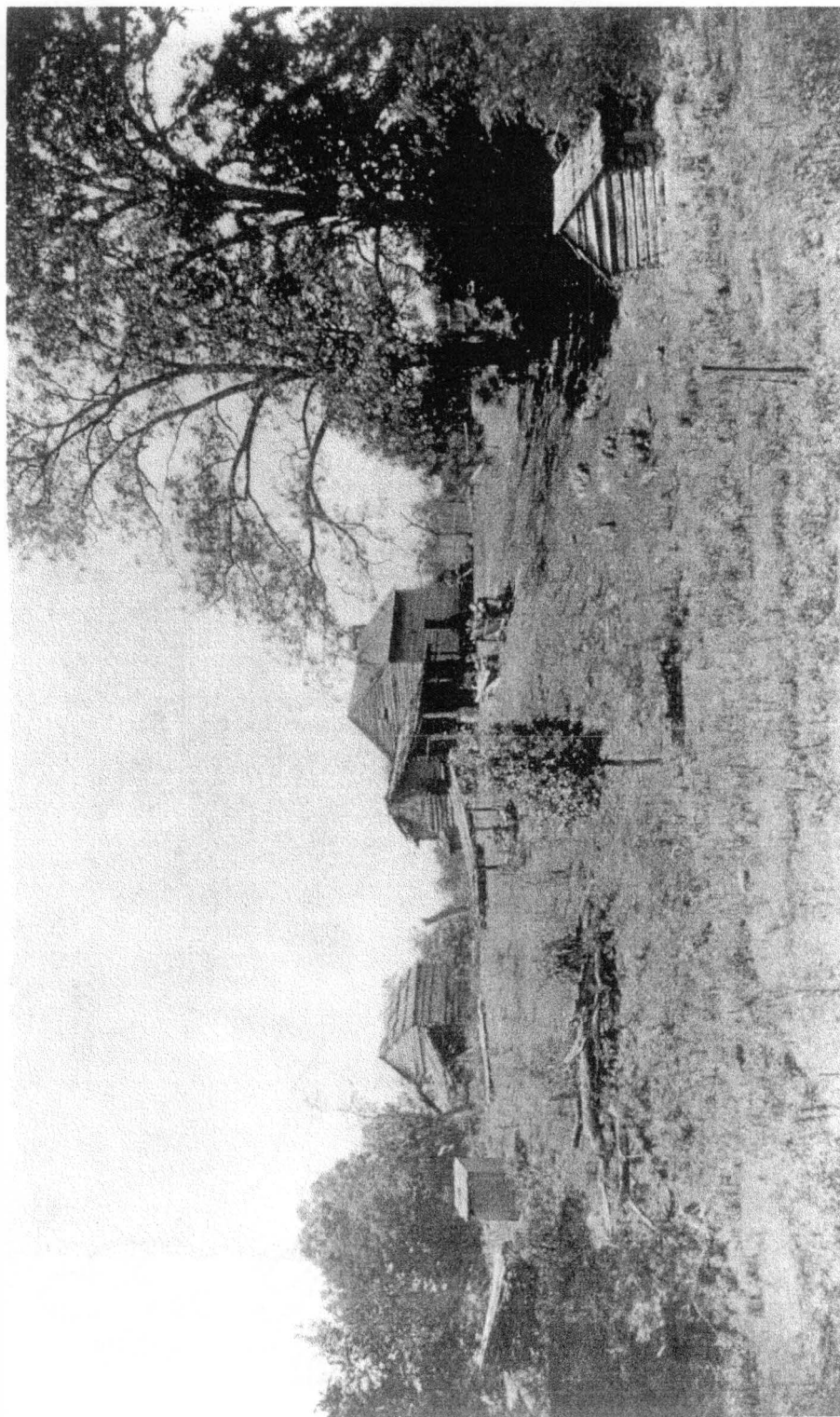
...the dwelling was made of pine poles, the flooring was split and hewed chestnut poles with the flat side up. Pine poles served as rafters, upon which split boards pegged at each end, sheltered the large room and its attic. A large chimney of rock and wood towered at one end of the cabin, with notched logs holding the base in position. On the exterior of the chimney, two long metal



**Figure 17. The Kirby family on the kitchen porch, ca. 1890
(Courtesy of Myrtle Sims)**



**Figure 18. Kirby family photograph of the main cabin, ca. 1890
(Courtesy of Myrtle Sims)**



**Figure 19. Kirby photograph of the main cabin, ca. 1890
(Courtesy of Myrtle Sims)**



Figure 20. 20th century photograph of the main cabin and attached kitchen

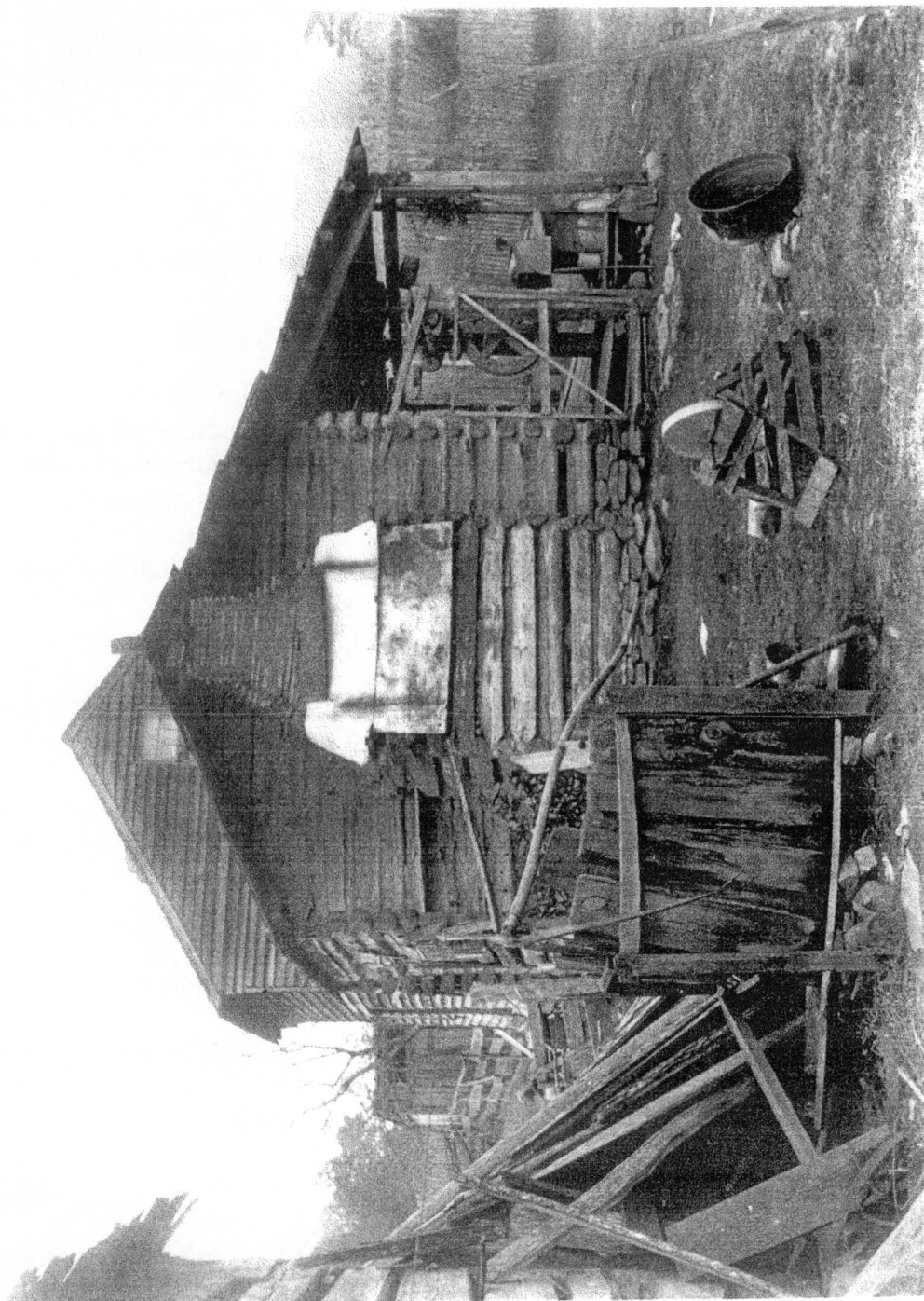


Figure 21. 20th century photograph of the attached kitchen

hooks were hinged for hanging the cooking kettle over a summer fire. After use, the hooks folded back against the chimney. The cabin had two large and heavy doors, one on either side, and one small window in the front. A lean-to connected with the house on the back, and one end of this served as a porch shelter without a floor (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 18 Dec. 1955).

Another article in 1925 spoke about the deterioration of the main cabin on the property and the importance of restoring the site.

Five miles from Knoxville and one mile from Neuberts' Springs, amid picturesque hills, stands a log cabin fast crumbling to decay-all that remains of the one time commodious home of Tennessee's first Governor, General John Sevier. The outstanding reason why many Tennesseans devoutly hope that steps will be taken at once to acquire the old cabin and some of the surrounding land and to build a fitting shrine for this and future generations is because it was the home of Tennessee's greatest man, General John Sevier. Sevier, is a national figure who fought in the Indian and Revolutionary wars and probably did more than any other man to conquer the wilderness, a famous Indian fighter, statesman, commonwealth builder, inimitable leader of men who poured out his wealth and his great love for this state (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 11 Oct. 1925).

It is popularly accepted that when Sam Sayne purchased the property in 1932, all that remained of the supposed original buildings was Sevier's main cabin. The attached kitchen, which was not original to the cabin, had once again been destroyed. Historical documentation (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 5 April 1931) and ethnographic evidence provide an explanation for the disappearance of the kitchen as the result of a cyclone in 1929 (Figure 22).

After Sam Sayne purchased the property in 1932, he did not live in the cabin, but his daughter Grace Rudd rented the cabin and lived in it with her family. She gave an interview in 1955 (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 18 Dec. 1955) and related how



Figure 22. The destruction of the kitchen after the 1929 cyclone

deteriorated the cabin was when her father originally purchased it. She stated that, “...father had covered the cabin with weatherboarding, since logs are pretty drafty sort of side walls, and put on the tin roof it now has. He had the interior walls covered with pine ‘ceiling’ as the boards are called, because they were often used for that.” She continued on to relate that the flooring was believed to be original to the cabin, but that it had been covered with linoleum. It was also believed that the boards enclosing the staircase were original. Either Sam Sayne or Grace’s husband is believed to be the one who rebuilt the kitchen after its destruction in 1929. They also added a shed-style back room to the rear of the cabin for added living space (Figure 23).

The Rudd family continued to occupy the cabin while the Tennessee Legislature voted to appropriate funds to buy the site in 1941. This movement was headed by Mrs. E. E. Patton, the president of the John Adair chapter of the Children of the American Revolution (Rothrock, ed. 1946). Funds allocated for the project included \$4500 for Sam Sayne for the purchase of the property, \$3500 for restoration, and \$600 a month to hire a permanent caretaker (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 13 June 1943). Before Sam Sayne knew of the State’s interest in the site, he sold a 37-acre portion of the property to J.S. Remine, which the state also purchased for \$4700 (Knox County Deed Records 1942).

Grace Rudd’s family continued to live in the main cabin on the property as caretakers after the state’s purchase. Funds also were allocated at this time to form the John Sevier Memorial Commission to handle the restoration projects. Unfortunately, all of the anticipated projects had to be postponed due to World War II. After state

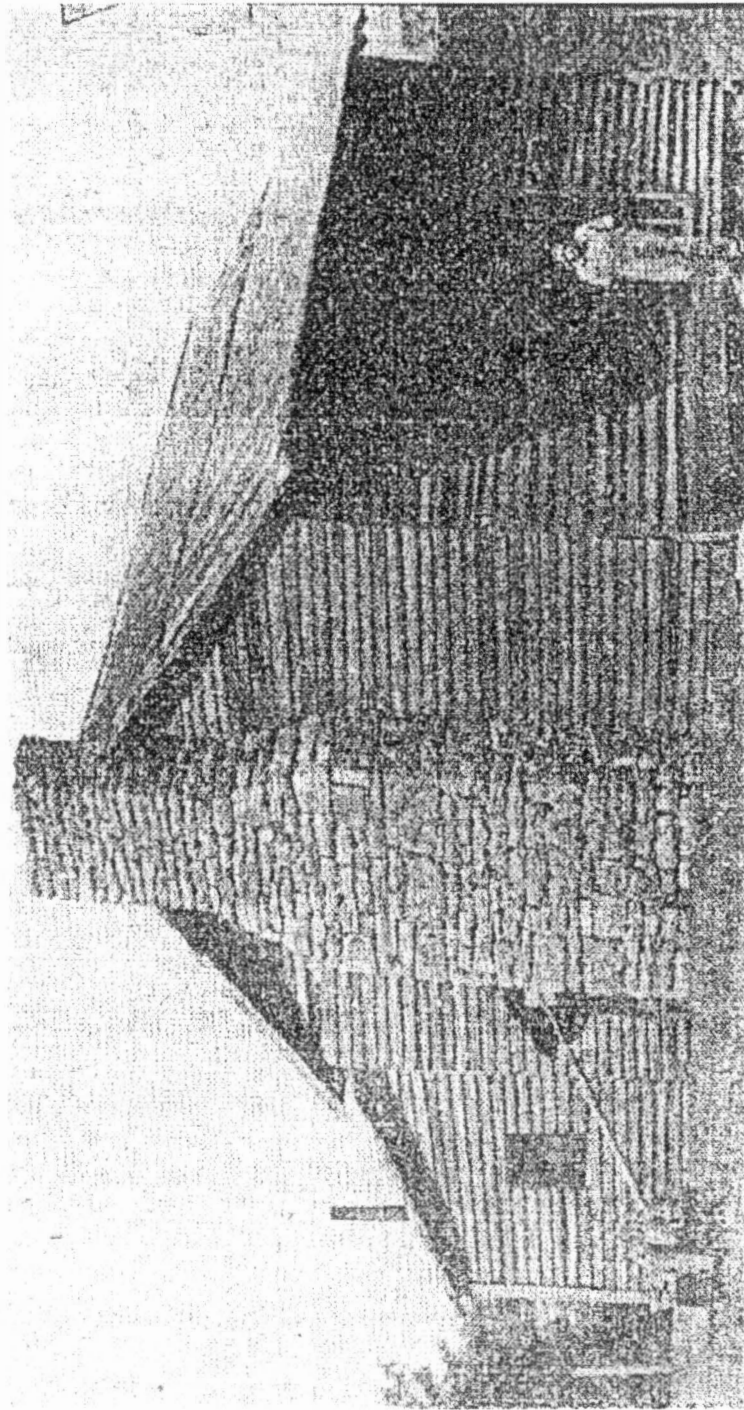


Figure 23. Sam Rudd in front of the main cabin in 1943

funds were once again released to the Commission for restoration in 1957, the chairman located logs that she deemed appropriate for the restoration of the cabin.

A log caretaker's cabin was constructed for the Rudd family at this time, which is still standing today. The logs for this project were brought in from Treadway (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 14 Aug 1958). The labor and funds for this project were donated by the Sevier Home Community citizens and from the Knox County Court and the city of Knoxville (Miller 2000).

The Tennessee Historical Commission allocated \$3325 in 1961 for the necessary repairs to the main cabin and to produce a permanent road to the property. This road was paved and reached within 20 feet of the front door of the main cabin. David Blazier, the president of the Sevier Home Community Club, and a restoration contractor, initiated the repairs to the cabin. Work done on the main cabin included repairing and replacing necessary logs, resetting the doors, rebuilding the chimney and fireplace, re-chinking and daubing the existing logs of the cabin, and repairing the floor and joists (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 22 April 1962). During this work is when it is believed that a small cellar was discovered underneath the staircase in the northwest corner of the cabin. This cellar was evidently large enough to be reached by a door and stairs beneath the stairs to the loft.

The weatherboarding on the main cabin was removed and the small addition on the rear of the building also was removed to restore the main cabin to its original state as when John Sevier resided there. In 1962, an examination of photographs showed that the attached kitchen built by Sam Sayne was not the dimensions of the

original kitchen and also was not properly aligned. A proposal was made to remove and authentically rebuild the kitchen (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 4 Nov 1962).

The tin roof on the main cabin was removed and 3500 board shingles were rived from a white oak tree on the rear of the property to replace it. This restoration was also completed by David Blazier (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 22 April 1962). Later that year, the restoration was nearly complete. The cabin had period correct doors, the floorboards were replaced with oak, a split log mantle was placed over the fireplace, and the interior walls were sandblasted to expose the original logs (*Knoxville News Sentinel* 4 Nov. 1955). A local community club also agreed to rebuild the springhouse and reinstall the lazyboy that John Sevier used to retrieve water from the springhouse for his wife Catherine.

By the end of 1963, the new kitchen was completed according to the original dimensions. Native oak logs were used from nearby sources and they completed both the walls and flooring of the attached kitchen. The new chimney was built on the east end of the room away from the main cabin and was made of heart poplar plastered with mortar.

In 1969, restoration was delayed due to the unavailability of funds for the project from the State of Tennessee. Donations and community volunteers were used to maintain the existing buildings throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, the Tennessee Historical Commission appointed the new Governor John Sevier Memorial Association to control the management and restoration of the site. As it continues today, restoration projects have been minimal, and community involvement remains the core of the activity at Marble Springs State Historic Site.

CHAPTER 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Archaeological excavations took place in two primary areas around and within the Sevier cabin. Soil removed from beneath the cabin sill before archaeological investigation comprises the third “excavation” used in the artifact analysis in Chapter 4, and will be discussed separately as its own “excavation” area. The first tested area, Area A, extends the length of the north side of the main cabin and the attached kitchen. Area A was excavated both as a salvage project and an archaeological demonstration. The second tested area, Area B, comprises the entire interior area under the floor of the main cabin. The final area, Area C, comprises the soil removed from the interior of the cabin beneath the sill before archaeological excavation. It was divided into locational piles. Area C includes the soil removed from the west end, east end, and beneath the north doorway along the north wall of the cabin.

Area A-Outside the Sevier Cabin

Investigating the area began in June, 2001 as a salvage project. A low mound of soil ran parallel to the rear of the main cabin and was causing water to drain beneath the structure, destroying the footers, foundations, and floor joists of the building (Figure 24). An early 20th century photograph also showed that a porch had once stood over this area (Figure 20), which was later replaced with a living addition and then the current set of stone steps (Figure 25). Before the restoration workers stripped



Figure 24. Mound of soil at rear of main cabin



Figure 25. Stone steps removed prior to excavation

off this area, four 3-foot by 3-foot units were laid out along the rear of the cabin and excavated by a crew of field school students from the University of Tennessee and volunteers from both inside and outside of the university community (Figure 26).

In September, 2001, during the John Sevier Days Festival, a fifth 3-foot by 3-foot unit was placed to the rear of the restored kitchen at the northeast corner (Figure 27). This unit was opened with the intent of finding additional evidence for Sevier's occupation of this building and the continued occupation of the cabin throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Area A was tied into the permanent principal datum point (1020N, 1000E) already existing on the site. Excavation was done using shovels and trowels in .2 foot arbitrary levels or according to natural stratigraphic and cultural levels if these were encountered. All soil was screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth. No water screening or flotation samples were retained in Area A.

Excavation Units

The excavation of the units to the rear of the main cabin (units 1-4) revealed a disturbed soil that was separated into two distinct natural strata. The humus already had been removed by the restoration activities in some of the areas. The first stratum was a yellowish loam relatively consistent throughout the units. The second stratum was a darker reddish, slightly more compact sandy loam. The depth of both of these strata together ranged from .30 feet to .97 feet, averaging around .60 feet. Below these strata, the subsoil C-Horizon was evident as a highly compact clay containing no cultural materials.

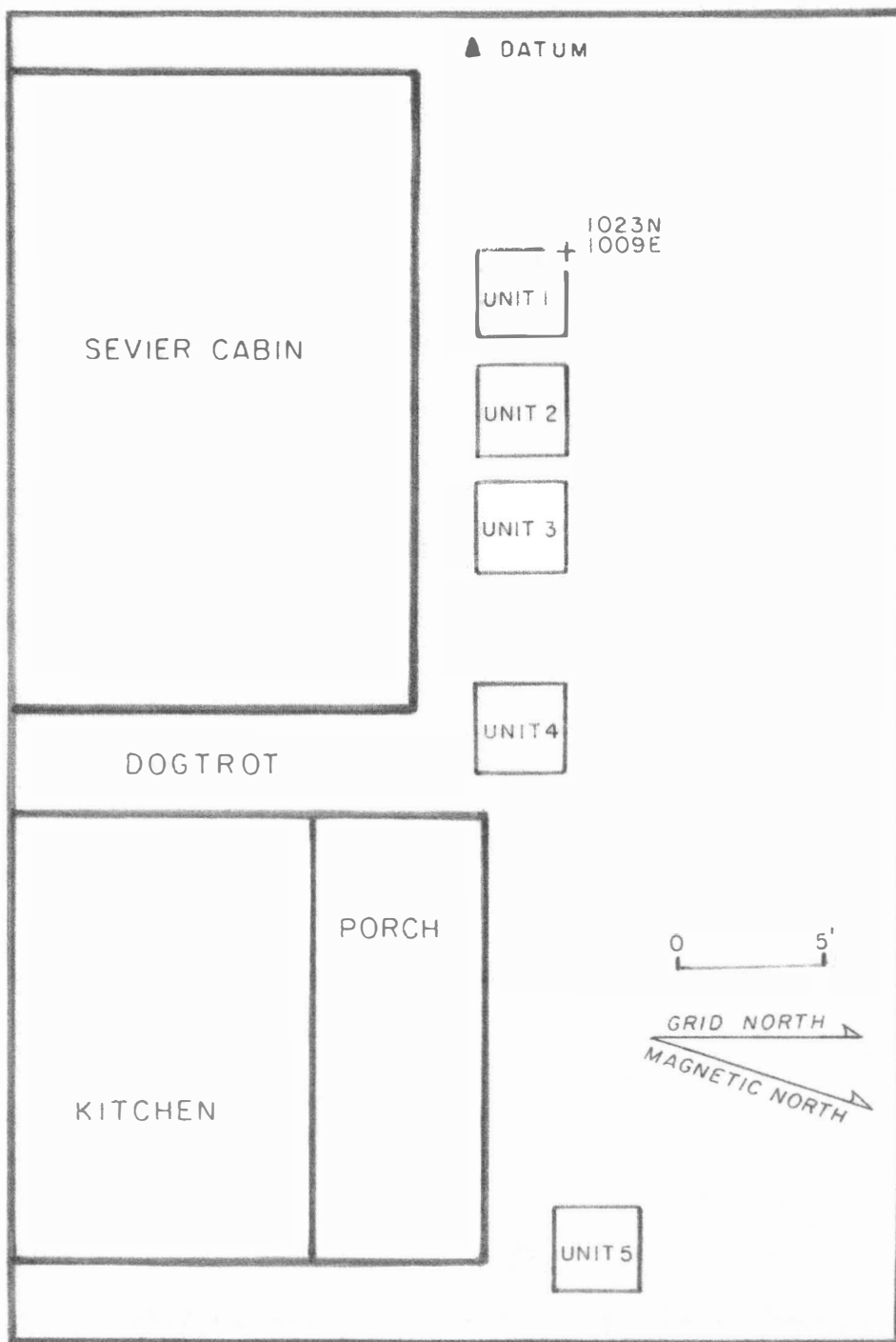


Figure 26. 40KN125 Site map, Area A

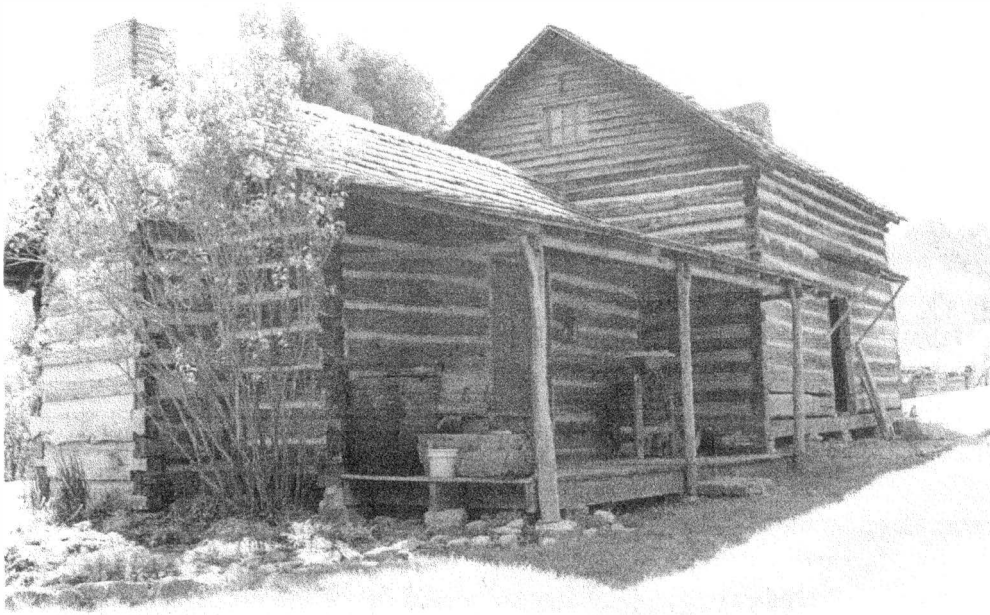


Figure 27. View of excavation area at northeast corner of kitchen

The placement of these units primarily was to salvage deposits that could be destroyed by the removal of the soil mound. The units also were placed to examine specific areas to the rear of the main cabin. Units 1, 2, and 3 were placed to investigate for evidence of the porch, living addition, and steps known to have been in the vicinity of the rear door. The placement of Unit 4 allowed examination of the area where the main cabin, kitchen, and dogtrot intersected, and the recovery of evidence for specific activities at this location.

Unit 5 proved to be the only unit in Area A to display undisturbed stratigraphy with evidence of the late 18th century and early 19th century occupation by the Sevier family. This unit was located 21 feet east of Unit 4 and three feet north because of the added extension of the kitchen porch. Unit 5 was located off of the northeast corner of the kitchen and its location was situated to acquire materials associated with the Sevier's occupation of the kitchen quarters.

Beneath the humus layer was a dark brown clay loam with an abundance of artifacts. Feature 3, a pipe trench running east to west through the center of the unit, was encountered and excavated after the removal of Level 1. A rock cluster in the southern portion of the unit was designated Feature 4, mapped, photographed, and removed. The excavation of Level 3, a clay loam, proceeded in north and south sections because of the presence of Feature 3 in the center of the unit. Level 4, a moist mottled clay, was removed only in the southern half of the unit. The unit was completed at the subsoil C-horizon where cultural material no longer was encountered.

Feature 1 This feature was located in the northeast corner of Unit 2 and was identified as a post mold and post hole associated with the recent stone steps that were

removed prior to excavation (Figure 28). It was excavated after the completion of Level 1. A cedar post was still preserved in the post mold, chinked with cement and rocks. The post mold measured approximately .25 feet in diameter and the posthole measured approximately .75 feet in diameter. After excavation, the restoration staff informed the archaeological crew of the removal of a wooden railing near the location of this feature.

Feature 2 Feature 2 was a clay-filled trench located in the eastern quarter of Unit 4 at the base of Level 1 (Figure 29). The feature was excavated to subsoil. It extended approximately .6 feet from the east wall and ran the 3-foot length of the unit. Its function is unknown.

Feature 3 This feature was an electrical conduit trench that ran from east to west through the center of Unit 5, slightly to the north, and extended to subsoil (Figure 30). It was fully excavated after the completion of Level 1. The trench was approximately .8 feet wide and ran the 3-foot length of the unit.

Feature 4 This feature was a rock scatter located at the base of Level 2 on the south side of Feature 3 in Unit 5. The rocks were designated as the remains of a former footer or a scatter from the rebuilding of the modern kitchen porch.

Area B-Inside the Sevier Cabin

Excavations in Area B were planned because the floor of the main cabin needed to be restored. The wooden floor joists supporting the interior flooring were rotting from contact with the water and soil underneath the cabin. It was determined that a substantial amount of soil needed to be removed from the entire area beneath the



Figure 28. Unit 2, Level 2

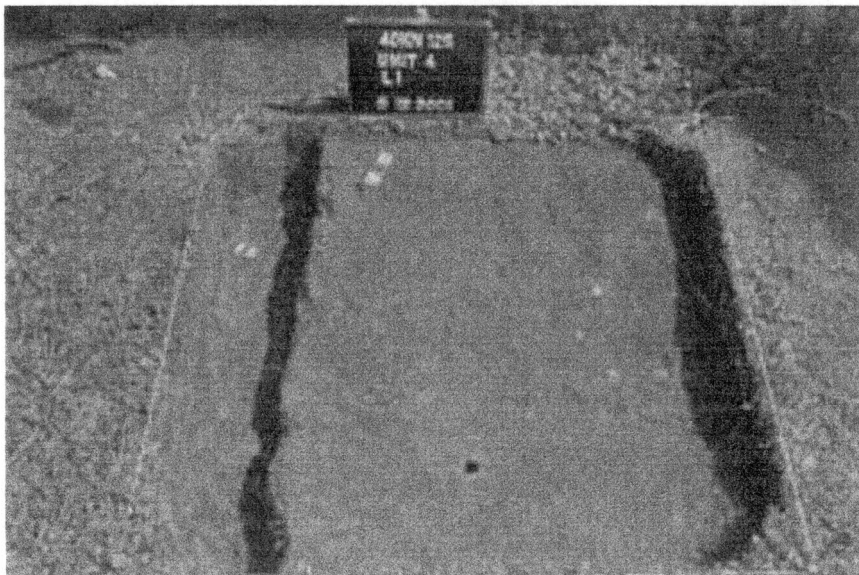


Figure 29. Unit 4, Level 1

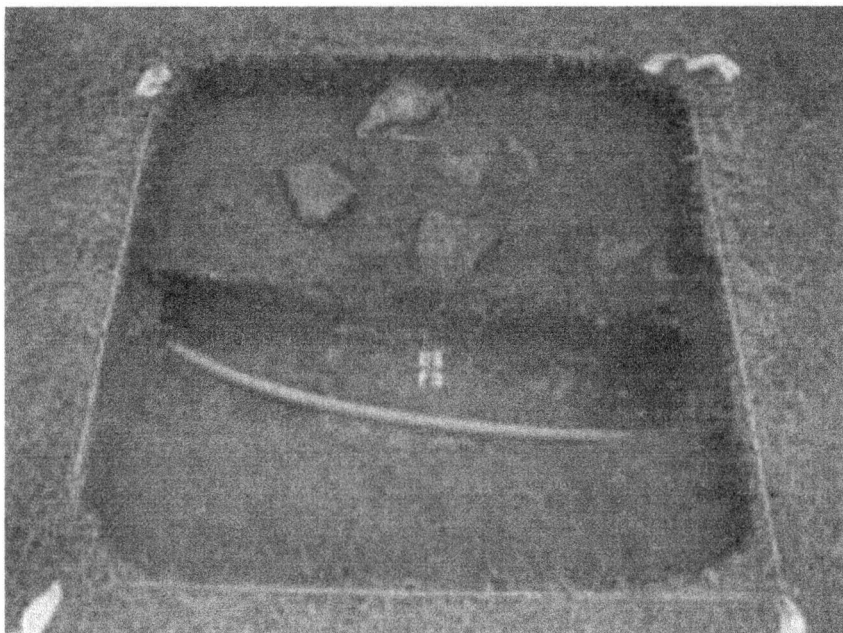


Figure 30. Unit 5, Feature 3

cabin so that the restored joists and flooring would no longer be resting on the subfloor soil.

LAW Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., was contracted by the Tennessee Historical Commission to conduct archaeological excavations beneath the cabin to facilitate the floor restoration. Field director Paul G. Avery and an additional two-person crew from LAW conducted excavations in January of 2002. The University of Tennessee was involved on a volunteer and advisory basis with assistance provided by the author and Dr. Charles Faulkner, professor of anthropology.

A grid was established in the interior of the cabin by locating the center of the cabin on the south wall (Figure 31). Three-foot lanes were measured both to the east and west from this point, establishing a grid covering the entire interior of the cabin in 3-foot by 3-foot square units. Additional odd-shaped units of varying sizes covered the areas along the perimeter (Avery 2002).

An interior bench mark was placed nine feet west of the center point on the south wall. The height and location of this point were measured in relation to the principal bench mark already existing at the northwest corner of the cabin exterior (1020 N, 1000E). A new bench mark was established on the interior because of difficulty in using the already established exterior datum for measurement purposes inside the cabin. If necessary, these two grids easily can be correlated to examine measurement and height relationships on the exterior and interior of the main cabin.

Excavations inside the cabin were expected to extend only to a specified depth to allow for the restoration of the floor. If the cultural deposits went below this level,

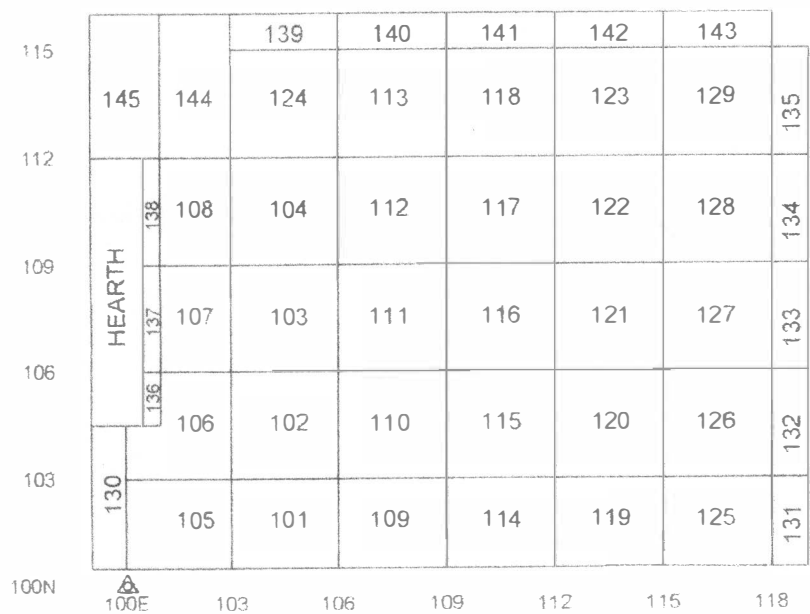


Figure 31. Excavation units in Area B

they would be left *in situ*. If sterile subsoil was reached higher than the projected depth, as was the case, all of the cultural materials would be removed. The remainder of the soil would then be shoveled to the depth agreed upon with the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Excavation Units

A total of 45 units was excavated in Area B. Twenty of these units were centrally located 3-foot by 3-foot units, while the remainder were sized to fit the perimeter and hearth areas of the interior. The northern wall had five 1-foot by 3-foot units along its perimeter, while the eastern wall also had a row of five 1-foot by 3-foot units along its edge. The southern wall had six 2.5-foot by 3-foot units along its length to avoid the piers supporting the cabin sill. Two 2-foot by 4-foot units were placed underneath the staircase in the northwest corner. A 1-foot by 4-foot unit was placed in the southwest corner. An L-shaped unit and two 2-foot by 3-foot units were originally placed in front of the hearth, leaving a space approximately 0.5 foot between the units and the hearth. This space was later divided into three units and excavated. Units were numbered sequentially beginning at 101 because of the previous excavations done by the University of Tennessee at the site and the prospect of their further excavations during the upcoming summer of 2002.

Excavation was done using shovels and trowels in .2 foot arbitrary levels or according to natural stratigraphic and cultural levels. All soil was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. A two-liter soil sample was kept from each level in each unit and retained for flotation or water screening. The initial plan to water screen all removed soil in the field was rejected due to the freezing weather.

Overall, the first level of the units was found to be a light brown dusty clay covering a lighter yellow clay. All of the cultural materials were recovered from these levels. The next level was a compact red clay that contained no artifacts. The initial units were excavated .2 feet into the red clay to ascertain that it was devoid of cultural material. After this, a bucket auger was used to determine that these findings were consistent.

Area B produced two features. Feature 1 was a layer of ash and charcoal located in Unit 111 (Figure 32). It extended in a north to south direction in the eastern half of the unit. Although its specific relationship to activities in the cabin was unknown, the ash and charcoal layers were distinctive and in appropriate context for the Sevier period occupation.

Feature 2 was located in units 124, 139, 144, and 145 (Figure 33). The top layer was a loose, dark-colored organic soil, which was removed to expose the outline of the feature, which was filled with a dark mottled clay. A north to south cross-section was cut through the edge of the feature (the eastern side of Unit 144) and the portion of the feature to the east of the cross-section line was removed. The initial assumption was that this feature probably was a cellar in the corner of the cabin. Instead of excavating it in its entirety, a portion was removed to profile the feature and obtain a sample of artifacts. The full-scale excavation of the cellar was beyond the expectations of the project because of its depth and difficult access under the stairs.

The dark, mottled clay fill of the feature contained hard red clay chunks dispersed throughout. The portion of the feature excavated was nearly two feet below the interior surface and was roughly basin shaped in outline (Avery 2002). It

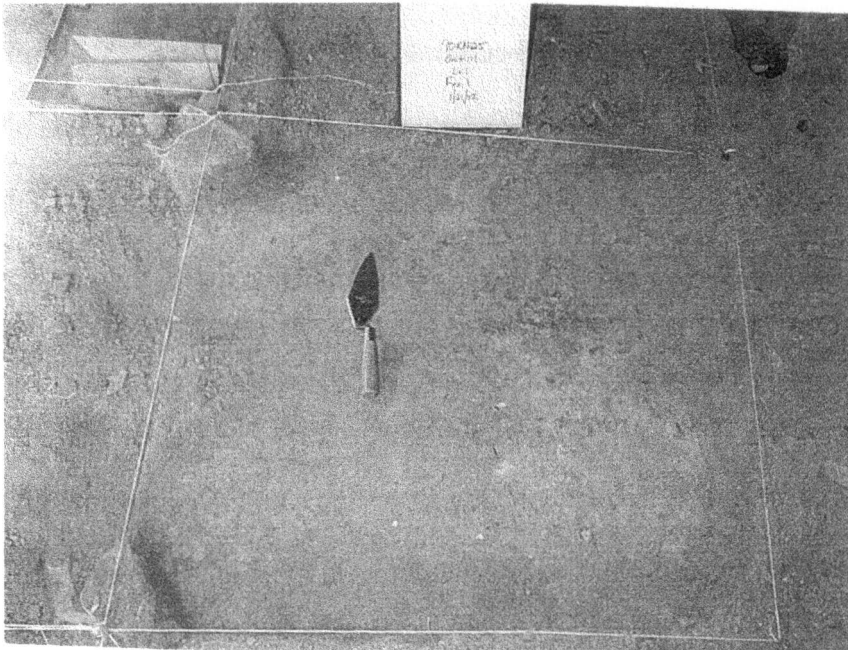


Figure 32. Unit 111, Level 1, Feature 1

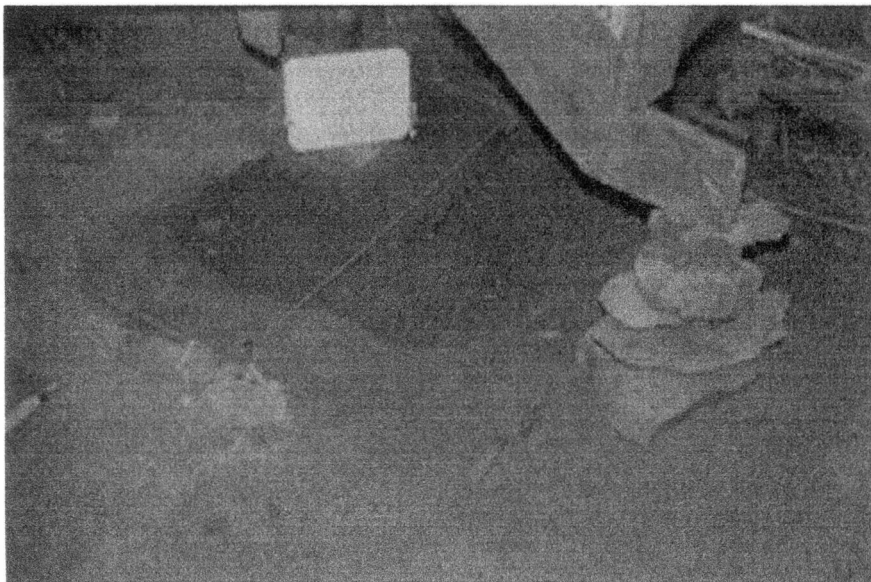


Figure 33. Units 124, 139, 144, 145. Feature 2

contained very early artifacts, dating to the Sevier period, such as a pearlware platter and a dark olive rum bottle, as well as modern 20th century material such as plastic and wire nails.

Feature 2 is interpreted as a small root cellar with its contents consistent with a later fill deposit. Although the main cabin has been cited historically as having “a small cellar under the main cabin, reached by a door and stairs beneath the upper flight of steps” (Rose 1970), it is unlikely that this cellar is the original because of its size. It is possible that the unexcavated portion of the cellar may be deeper, but the cellar most likely has been redug and filled with a mixture of material and soil either from the original cellar or another location on the property.

Area C-Inside the Sevier Cabin

Area C, the interior of the Sevier cabin, contains no designated units. After the initial removal of the floor and its joists by restoration crews in June, 2001, three concentrations of soil were removed from the cabin interior by the restoration crews along the extreme perimeter of the north wall before archaeological intervention took place. The soil was placed into piles later designated by archaeologists as “west end,” “east end,” and “under north doorway.” During the excavations in June, 2001, this soil was screened using ¼ inch hardware cloth. All artifacts were retained from their respective sections. Although not *in situ*, these artifacts still provide archaeological evidence for the domestic occupation from the interior of the cabin.

CHAPTER 4

MATERIAL REMAINS

All artifacts recovered from the units were washed, sorted, and catalogued by students in the University of Tennessee's Department of Anthropology historic archaeology laboratory. Analysis of material remains from Area A and Area C was conducted by the author, while remains from Area B were analyzed by Paul G. Avery of LAW Engineering and Environmental Service, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee. Judith Patterson conducted faunal analysis for Areas A and C at the University of Tennessee. For analysis, the material was counted, measured, and typed to the group and functional level using a modified version of South's (1977) classification system. The resulting data were entered into MICROSOFT EXCEL 97 for data management. Artifact information will be presented and discussed for both the entire site and for Area A, Area B, and Area C individually.

South's classification system was designed to be applicable to 17th, 18th, and early 19th century sites. Although the Sevier cabin certainly fits into this time period, it was occupied through the 1940s, which makes modifications necessary to accommodate classification of the modern material. These additional materials were classified to South's "group" level, typically the Activities Group, and were assigned a functional class according to the individual artifact. The eight groups recognized in South's classification system are the 1) Kitchen Group, 2) Architecture Group, 3) Furniture Group, 4) Clothing Group, 5) Arms Group, 6) Personal Group, 7) Tobacco Pipe Group, and 8) Activities Group. Although not in the South classification system,

faunal remains are classified separately and are not included in any of the preceding groups.

The Kitchen Group consists of items used in the preparation, storage, and consumption of foods and beverages. This group includes ceramics, container glass, glassware, tableware, and miscellaneous kitchenware. Medicinal and household chemical containers are included in this group as well as storage container lids and utensils. Modern materials included in this group are food wrappers and Styrofoam vessels.

The Architecture Group includes materials used in the construction of domestic and utilitarian structures. This group includes heavy construction material such as brick and mortar, as well as screws, nails, window glass, and other hardware and fasteners. Modern materials included in this group are electrical materials and plumbing related artifacts.

The Furniture Group includes lamp chimneys, shelving, mirror glass, and functional and decorative hardware belonging to furniture such as drawer pulls and cabinet hooks.

The Clothing Group includes artifacts associated with the manufacture and use of apparel. This group includes items worn on the body, such as buttons and buckles, in addition to items such as pins and needles that were used to manufacture or repair clothing.

The Arms Group includes firearm supplies and equipment such as gun parts, ammunition, and gun flints.

The Personal Group includes items associated with a person or belonging to an individual. These typically are grooming items, writing implements, jewelry, coins, and keys.

The Tobacco Group includes tobacco pipes and all related materials associated with smoking.

The Activities Group includes many of the items that cannot be placed into the other groups. These items include toys, construction tools, stable and barn materials, miscellaneous hardware materials, fencing materials, farming and gardening tools, and automotive parts. Modern materials in this group include plastics and many metals with unidentifiable functions.

In addition, faunal remains include any animal, either food related or natural, that occur in the assemblage. This group also includes animal products such as eggshell.

In total, 3589 artifacts were recovered from both inside and outside of the Sevier cabin. Their representation according to group category is: Kitchen Group (N = 1295, 36.1%), Architecture Group (N = 1300, 36.2%), Furniture Group (N = 45, 1.3%), Clothing Group (N = 55, 1.5%), Arms Group (N = 10, 0.3%), Personal Group (N = 31, 0.9%), Tobacco Pipe Group (N = 3, 0.1%), Activities Group (N = 329, 9.1%), and faunal remains (N = 521, 14.5%).

Area A-Outside the Sevier Cabin

A total of 1770 artifacts was recovered from the five excavation units to the rear of the Sevier Cabin and kitchen and from the rear excavated area. These include

the Kitchen Group (N = 822, 46.4%), Architecture Group (N = 684, 38.5%), Furniture Group (N = 20, 1.1%), Clothing Group (N = 18, 1.0%), Arms Group (N = 3, 0.2%), Personal Group (N = 8, 0.5%), Tobacco Pipe Group (N = 1, 0.1%), Activities Group (N = 107, 6.0%), and faunal remains (N = 110, 6.2%).

Kitchen Group

The Kitchen Group consists of ceramics (N = 407, 49.5%), container glass (N = 405, 49.3%), metal (N = 7, 0.9%) and other kitchen related items (N = 3, 0.3%) collectively noted as kitchenware.

Ceramics The ceramics recovered from this area include whiteware (N = 193, 47.4%), stoneware (N = 54, 13.3%), pearlware (N = 46, 11.3%), redware (N = 41, 10.1%), creamware (N = 22, 5.5%), porcelain (N = 20, 4.9%), unidentifiable earthenwares (N = 14, 3.4%), modern glazed earthenwares (N = 13, 3.2%), yellow ware (N = 3, 0.7%), and ironstone (N = 1, 0.2%).

The ceramic assemblage is typical of a site occupied from the late 18th century through the 20th century. The most frequently occurring ceramic is whiteware, which became popular in East Tennessee around 1830, shortly after the site is known to have been occupied by the Sevier family, and continues being used today with modern glazes. Undecorated sherds are the most common (N = 151, 78.2%), while transfer printing (N = 9, 4.7%), underglaze hand-painted decoration (N = 14, 7.3%), sponge and spatter decoration (N = 7, 3.6%), and shell edge decoration (N = 6, 3.1%) are also common. Examples of annularware, edge decoration, decal decoration, and flow blue decoration are evident, but much less frequent. Vessel form is indeterminable in half of the whiteware assemblage (51%), while the majority of those identified are

classified flatwares (N = 75, 38%). The remainder is distributed between cups (N = 15, 7.8%), bowls (N = 1, 0.5%), hollow ware (N = 3, 1.6%), plates (N = 1, 0.5%), and platters (N = 2, 1.0%).

Although not occurring in high frequency, pearlware and creamware are diagnostic time markers for the Sevier period occupation. The majority of pearlware is undecorated, but there is evidence of underglaze polychrome decorations and blue and green shell edge decoration. The vessels are mostly indeterminate in form, but there are several flatware fragments along with two hollow ware sherds and a cup sherd.

The creamware occurring in Area A shows no evidence of decoration. The vessel forms are also predominantly indeterminable, but there are two flatware sherds, a hollow ware sherd, and a possible cup.

Utilitarian stoneware vessels represent only a small percentage of recovered artifacts, but are distinctive in that they are only found in two of the five units excavated. The majority (N = 29, 55%) are found in Unit 5, the only area excavated to the rear of the kitchen. The remainder is from Unit 2, immediately outside of the north door of the cabin. The sherds are relatively equally distributed between ware types in that Bristol glazed (N = 14, 26.4%), slip glazed (N = 18, 34.0%), and salt glazed (N = 16, 30.2%) have approximately the same frequency. Unglazed stoneware accounts for a smaller amount (N = 5, 9.4%), but this frequency most likely relates to the fact that the bases of stoneware utilitarian vessels typically are not glazed. While salt glazing begins in the late 18th century, all of these stonewares persist well into the 20th century and could be associated with any of the occupants of Marble Springs.

Of the ceramic assemblage from Area A, 138 sherds (33.9%) have an inception date before 1810 and possibly can be attributed to the Sevier occupation of the cabin. These 138 sherds include early stoneware vessels (N = 39, 28.5%), pearlware (N = 40, 29.2%), redware (N = 30, 21.9%), and creamware (N = 23, 16.8%). As mentioned, the stoneware is mostly salt glazed and slip glazed, pearlware is mostly undecorated with only five sherds having either shell edge decoration or underglaze polychrome decoration, the redware is divided equally between plain and lead glazed, and the creamware is undecorated. The three porcelain sherds are identified as English bone china.

Only fifty-one sherds (12.5%) have a terminal date of 1820 or earlier and can probably be attributed to the Sevier occupation. These are redware (N = 26, 50.9%), creamware (N = 22, 43.1%), and datable pearlware (N = 3, 5.9%).

Container Glass The overwhelming majority (N = 330, 85.1%) of the container glass present in Area A consists of indeterminate bottle or jar fragments that cannot be placed into specific functional groups. The majority is also colorless, while blue-green is also abundant and many of the latter sherds could possibly be Mason jar fragments. Bottles, jars, Mason jars, whiskey flasks, tumblers, glasswares, preserve bottles, and panel and medicine bottles are also identifiable in the container glass assemblage. Additionally, the assemblage consists mostly of body fragments with very few bases or finishes that allow a determination of method of manufacture. Specific dating is possible only because of Owen's scars on the base of two vessels, the evidence of an early machine-made finish on one bottle, and four pressed glass fragments.

Nearly all of the glassware recovered from Area A consists of leaded fragments that could only be classified as hollow ware. Pressed glass fragments represent the only manufacturing technique evident.

Kitchenware The remainder of the Kitchen Group artifacts recovered include an 18th century cast iron kettle handle, the handle end of a kitchen knife dating to the late 18th century, a zinc lid fragment from a storage container, two spoon ladles and one spoon handle, and an iron stove fragment dating to the end of the 19th century. Modern 20th century artifacts recovered include a metal key of a vacuum-packed food container, a Styrofoam fragment, and an aluminum strip. Nearly all of the datable kitchenware materials were recovered from either Unit 4 or Unit 5, located nearest the kitchen, but this may be coincidence because of the relatively small sample size of material in this category.

Architecture Group

The Architecture Group consists of nails (N = 566, 83.1%), window glass (N = 109, 16.0%), electrical materials (N = 2, 0.3%), screws (N = 2, 0.3%), and unidentifiable iron fragments (N = 2, 0.3%).

Nails In Area A, nails include wire (N = 236, 41.7%), cut (N = 108, 19.0%), wrought (N = 1, 0.2%), or an indeterminate type (N = 221, 39.0%). The disturbance of the area immediately to the rear of the house encompassing units 1 - 4 makes the analysis of manufactured nail type irrelevant. Their diverse presence alone is what may be relevant. Wire nails, dating after 1890 in Knoxville, are found as frequently in Level 2 of each of these units as they are in Level 1. Cut nails, both the mid 19th century and the modern 20th century variety, are distributed in both Levels 1 and 2 of

all four units. The only wrought nail, dating before 1815, is from Level 2 of Unit 5, which is not disturbed like the units to the rear of the house, but still contains more wire nails in the lowest level of the unit than would be expected. Overall, the nails are relatively evenly distributed between all five units.

The nails were also analyzed according to condition, categorizing them as broken, clinched, pulled, or unaltered. Broken nails included those missing either the proximal head of the nail or the distal tip, making it impossible to determine an accurate pennyweight. Clinched nails include those that are bent at a ninety-degree angle. Clinching typically is done after driving the nail partially into the wood, and is seen archaeologically as a structure decays. Pulled nails include those that are bent, but not as fully as clinched nails. These are seen archaeologically as discarded nails, either during use from damage, or later from the dismantling of a structure. Unaltered nails are those that are not damaged and have been either dropped during use or result from the decay of a structure in place (Young 1994).

Approximately half (N = 259, 45.8%) of all nails recovered from Area A are broken. A large portion of the remaining nails are unaltered (N = 224, 39.6%), while only small amounts are pulled (N = 83, 14.7%) or clinched (N = 9, 1.6%). This assemblage does not appear to fit Young's (1994) model in which ratios of unaltered to pulled to clinched nails exhibit patterns that indicate the construction or destruction of a building. These ratios can also determine whether a location was used as a disposal area for material after the destruction of a structure, or if a structure was razed or decayed on location. According to Young, a ratio of one unaltered to three pulled for every clinched nail indicates the decay of a structure or a disposal area for

architectural materials, while a ratio of three unaltered to three pulled for every clinched nail indicates a structure having been disassembled on location (Young 1994). There are nearly ten times more pulled than clinched nails, while almost 25 times more unaltered nails. Young's model of nail patterns may not be applicable to this example because the cabin is still standing and was not torn down and rebuilt. Nonetheless, there have been many architectural modifications to the rear of the cabin in the excavated area that might account for the broken and bent nail patterns. This is additional evidence of the porches, additions, and other possible modifications (such as steps) that were built and removed over time, as seen in the early 20th century photographs of the cabin.

The function of nails can be analyzed by examining the pennyweight (d) of the unbroken nails in the assemblage. A modified version of Young's (1991) size chart was used in the analysis of the nails from Marble Springs (Table 1).

Table 1. Nail Size and Function

SIZE	FUNCTION
2 d/ 3 d	Shakes/lath
4 d	Roofing
5 d	Moulding
6 d	Light framing
7 d	Siding
8 d	Siding/flooring
9 d	Flooring
10 d +	Heavy framing

The pennyweight size was examined on 260 complete nails. As expected, there are minimal numbers of larger nails (N = 40, 15.3%) at 10d and over that typically are used in heavy frame construction, rafters, and wooden studding. These were most likely used to construct the framing for the porches and additions that occurred on the rear of the cabin throughout the later 19th and 20th centuries. The most frequent pennyweight is 6d (N = 62, 23.8%), which is used for light framing and clapboarding. Additionally, there are many 6d wire nails with tin roofing caps on them. These are evidence for the tin roof that covered the cabin in the early 20th century. The relatively equal presence of 2d and 3d nails (N = 32, 12.0%), 4d nails (N = 19, 7.0%), 5d nails (N = 26, 10.0%), 7d nails (N = 22, 7.9%), 8d nails (N = 26, 10.1%), and 9d nails (N = 30, 12.1%) demonstrates that regular maintenance was occurring to the interior and exterior of the cabin and porch. The 2d and 3d nails are evidence that there was an early shake roof on the structure; the 7d, 8d, and 9d nails are evidence that there was siding and flooring installed and repaired during the 19th century.

Window Glass The window glass recovered from Area A was analyzed for both thickness and color. Thickness was measured and dated using the Moir (1987) formula. The sherds recovered (N = 109) ranged in thickness from 1.08 millimeters to 3.97 millimeters, dating from 1804 to after 1923, with an average thickness of 2.41 millimeters. The standardization of window glass thickness and manufacturing started in the 1920s, which makes dating sherds past this time period inaccurate. Using Moir's formula, sherds up to 2.55 millimeters in thickness can be dated before 1923 and those that are thicker cannot be reliably dated. Of the assemblage in Area A, only

51 per cent are datable using Moir's formula. If the non-datable fragments are excluded, the remaining sample has a mean date is 1875. The exclusion of nearly half of the sample makes this analysis invalid.

In Area A, 81.6 per cent of the window glass was recovered from units 1, 2, or 3 immediately to the rear of the cabin. Nearly 80 per cent of the glass recovered is clear, and the remaining 20 per cent is blue-green in color. Although there are currently no windows on the rear of the cabin, there was a window in the frame addition that once stood in this area (see Figure 23), verifying the late 19th century and 20th century dates of the window glass. This scenario would account for the quantity of window glass in these units, its absence in Unit 4, near the kitchen, and in Unit 5, at the northeast corner of the kitchen.

Electrical Materials The two pieces of electrical material found in Area A are both fragments of electrical wiring. Since electricity was not available at Marble Springs until well into the 20th century, a *terminus post quem* for their occurrence can be established. One fragment was found in Level 1 of Unit 4, another fragment was in the lower level of Unit 3.

Screws Two modern screws were recovered from Unit 4 in Area A. Both are only the proximal end and are modern, dating in the 20th century. They could have been used in nearly any type of construction or modifications done to the surrounding buildings.

Iron Fragments There were two iron fragments found in Unit 1, Level 2. Both are presumably nails judging from their shape, but cannot be classified because of extensive rusting.

Furniture Group

The Furniture Group consists of glass kerosene lamp chimney fragments (N = 17, 85%), light bulb fragments (N = 2, 10%), and a decorative aluminum knob (N = 1, 5%).

Lamp Chimneys There were 17 leaded lamp chimney glass fragments recovered from Area A. They were found almost entirely in units 3 and 5, with two sherds being found in Unit 4. Since glass kerosene lamp chimneys were not regularly used in East Tennessee until the 1870s, these can be dated from this time until the 20th century when Marble Springs received electricity.

Light Bulbs Two fragments of light bulbs were found in Area A. Both pieces were recovered from the lower level of Unit 1, and can be dated well into the 20th century when Marble Springs received electricity.

Aluminum Knob One decorative aluminum knob was recovered from the top of Unit 5. It can be dated to the 20th century, but the function of the knob cannot be related to a specific piece of furniture.

Clothing Group

Articles recovered in the Clothing Group include buttons (N = 12, 66.7%), fasteners (N = 4, 22.2%), a buckle, and a straight pin.

Buttons A variety of buttons was recovered from Area A. There are five plastic buttons dating after the 1920s that were found in all five units. One shell button dating from 1890 to 1930 is from the lower level of Unit 3. Two Japanned buttons, a black enamel on a metal button, date from the late 19th century and are from the lower levels of units 1 and 5. A yellow metal sleeve button with a “Gold Source”

backmark dates from 1800 to 1850 (Pool 1987) and was recovered from Unit 4, Level 2. Three plain metal buttons were recovered from the lowest levels of units 1, 4, and 5, and date from 1800 to the Civil War (Pool 1987).

Fasteners Three grommets and one zipper pull were recovered from Area A. The grommets are 20th century and most likely came from shoes. The zipper has a *terminus post quem* of 1891. These artifacts were not concentrated in any specific locale.

Buckle The buckle is a small clothing buckle and dates to the end of the 19th century. It was recovered from Level 2 of Unit 5.

Straight Pin The pin is a modern 20th century flat head pin. It was found in the lower level of Unit 2.

Arms Group

Two cartridge cases and one lead buck shot were recovered from Area A. One of the cartridges is a .22 caliber long rim fire. There is no head stamp. This cartridge dates from 1871 into the 20th century (Ball n.d.) and was found in Unit 2, Level 2. The other is a .22 long Western cartridge case and dates from 1908 to 1940 (Ball n.d.). It was found in Unit 4, Level 1. The lead buck shot was hand molded. It was in use until ca. 1870 (Faulkner pers. comm.) and was found in Unit 4, Level 2.

Personal Group

Items recovered from the Personal Group include a plastic comb fragment, a milk glass cosmetic jar with a zinc lid, a modern hairpin, a children's bracelet fragment, a plastic pearl, a pocket knife blade, a bottle of nail polish, and a writing slate fragment. With the exception of the slate fragment, these items all date from the

very late 19th century well into the 20th century. The writing slate fragment dates from the late 18th century to the late 19th century, possibly even into the early 20th century at such rural sites as Marble Springs. All of these items were found in units 1-4 to the rear of the cabin except for the comb fragment, which was found in Level 1 of Unit 5.

Tobacco Pipe Group

One fragment of a modern black, tobacco pipe stem was recovered from Unit 2, Level 2.

Activities Group

As the Activities Group includes the miscellaneous artifacts, there are several classes of material in this group recovered from Area A. These include toys (N = 4, 3.8%), stable and barn materials (N = 12, 11.2%), hardware (N = 10, 9.3%), fencing (N = 8, 7.5%), entertainment materials (N = 9, 8.4%), and miscellaneous artifacts (N = 64, 59.8%).

Toys There were four toy fragments recovered from Area A. One is a porcelain doll fragment dating from the mid-19th century to the 20th century. It was recovered from Unit 1, Level 2. There are two enameled, unidentifiable toy fragments and a glass cat's eye marble, the latter dating to the 20th century (Davidson 1999). They all were recovered from Unit 5.

Stable and Barn Stable and barn artifacts include baling wire, harness buckles, a harness rivet, and an overcheck bit. There are five fragments of modern baling wire, all from Unit 5 and possibly from the same strand. There is a square single frame harness buckle and a rectangular single frame harness buckle, both dated before 1850 based on a comparative collection from the late 18th century James White

Second Home Site (Faulkner 1984). These were found in Unit 1, Level 2 and Unit 5, Feature 3, respectively. A third harness buckle was datable from the late 19th century until the early 20th century and was found in Unit 2, Level 1. A harness rivet was found in Unit 4, Level 2, and dates to the late 19th century. Three pieces of an overcheck bit were recovered from Unit 2, Level 1, and they refit together to form an entire bit. They date to the 20th century.

Hardware There were ten U-shaped fence staples recovered in Area A. They were recovered from the four units to the rear of the cabin, primarily from Unit 3 and Unit 4.

Fencing There were eight metal fence fragments recovered from Area A. They date from the 1870s through the 20th century (Faulkner, per. comm.). The fragments are found only in Unit 4 and Unit 5.

Entertainment Entertainment artifacts recovered include nine vinyl phonograph record fragments. Although significantly thicker than most modern records, the fragments may belong to the same record and are 20th century pieces. They were found in Level 2 of Unit 3 and Unit 4.

Miscellaneous Miscellaneous artifacts include a brass rod fragment, a small metal cap, 4 cellophane fragments, 2 copper wire fragments, a small unidentifiable fastener, 16 unidentifiable iron fragments, a riveted iron plate, 2 small square iron rods, an iron stock fragment, 2 lead or zinc fragments, a piece of linoleum, 6 plastic fragments, a plastic cap, plastic tubing, 2 possible iron handles, a piece of rubber, 16 sheet iron fragments, 2 sheet tin fragments, and 3 bent metal wire pieces. None are datable other than as 20th century materials and their functions could not be

determined, except for the linoleum fragment relating to the floor covering discussed by Grace Rudd. They were found throughout the five units, more heavily concentrated in units 4 and 5.

Faunal Remains

There were 110 animal bones recovered from Area A, including an indeterminate Aves bone fragment, a piece of chicken eggshell, cow bone fragments (N = 4, 3.6%), a right and left ulna of an eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), fish bone fragments (N = 2, 1.8%), mammal bone fragments (N = 72, 65.5%), complete mollusk shells (N = 5, 4.5%), a complete cervical vertebrae from an opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*), a nearly complete rat (*Rattus rattus*) femur, pig bone fragments (N = 21, 19.1%), and an unidentifiable calcined bone fragment. Over 70 per cent of these remains were recovered from Unit 5 to the rear of the kitchen.

Cow (Bos taurus) There are four animal bones identified as domestic cow. Of these, three exhibit butchering marks. There are two scapula blades, one of which is steak cut having been sliced and sawn. There is a rib fragment that is sawn in a rib or short rib meat cut. Lastly, there is a second phalange, chopped and sheared for a foot or shank meat cut. All four of these bones are from Unit 5 to the rear of the kitchen.

Fish The first of the two fish bones is identified as a freshwater drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*) otolith. The other is an unidentifiable Osteichthyes, or boney fish.

Mammal There are 65 indeterminate diaphyseal (long bone shaft) mammal bone fragments found in all five units of Area A. Of these, six are calcined and found

evenly distributed throughout the units. These are the only calcined bones in Area A, with the exception of the single unidentifiable bone, and are most likely listed as unidentifiable because of their alteration. There are two indeterminable vertebra fragments and one nearly complete thoracic vertebra. An indeterminate complete phalange and three unidentifiable bone fragments were also recovered.

Pig (Sus scrofa) Of the 21 pig bone fragments, 13 are teeth or tooth fragments. There are three rib fragments, one of which is chopped for a rib or short rib meat cut. Also found was a nearly complete phalange, the diaphysis of a tibia, the distal epiphyseal portion of a metapodial, and a left mandibular fragment.

Summary of Area A

The artifact assemblage in Area A is typical of what would be expected at a domestic location because of the high percentages of kitchen and architectural artifacts as well as the presence of faunal remains, and activity and personal items.

The high percentage of architectural materials, although common on domestic sites, can be explained by the extensive maintenance and modifications that are known to have taken place on the cabin, its additions, and the porch on the rear of the building. A large portion of this material dates to the 20th century when modifications were known to have been done to the structure. The large numbers could also be explained by the more readily available supply of nails, window glass, and other architectural products over time as they became cheaper and more obtainable because of machine manufacture and mass production. As these items became more popular for use over time, people also became “careless” with these products and dropped and

discarded them because they were available in bulk and could be quickly and easily replaced.

Disappointingly, there was no definitive stratigraphic evidence in units 1-4 that distinguished the Sevier family occupation in this area. There are numerous artifacts that date to the Sevier period, and although there are two strata in these units, both were disturbed and contained artifacts dating from the late 18th century well into the 20th century. Consequently, the dating of the individual stratum is nearly impossible. This soil disturbance was found before excavations began by examining soil core tests in the area. These tests showed the extent of the disturbance on the east side of the cabin near the kitchen porch and east of the dogtrot.

Unit 5, on the northeast corner of the kitchen, proved to be most significant in producing artifacts of the Sevier occupation. Although a conduit trench disturbed the center of the unit, artifacts still could be dated within stratigraphic context.

The addition of the porch on the rear of the main cabin had a significant impact on the artifact distribution in units 1-4. Traditionally, domestic debris such as broken dishes, food bones, and other refuse was tossed out doors or thrown underneath buildings. This debris in the activity yard of a structure was often swept beneath the porch or the building to keep the activity area clean, or if it was in small enough pieces that it did not make a significant impact on the yard, it was left in place. This situation may have been the case adjacent to the main cabin because the earlier ceramic sherds were smaller in size, thus indicating they may have remained in the yard. The larger vessel fragments may have been swept underneath the main cabin. Concerning the later material that was deposited under the porch, any number of erosional factors

could have deposited materials beneath the porch, including rain water running off the roof that eroded or redeposited soil underneath the cabin.

Unit 5 is important in that it provides evidence that the kitchen was in this location since the Sevier period. Of the 1770 artifacts recovered in Area A, 36.6 per cent were recovered from Unit 5. Of these, 58.5 per cent were kitchen related artifacts, while 20 per cent were architectural, primarily nails dating from the mid 19th century through the 20th century. Nearly 40 per cent of the kitchen artifacts recovered include food storage and preparation vessels.

Of the artifacts recovered in Unit 5, 23 per cent were associated with Feature 3. These include many metal fragments, cut and wire nails, faunal remains, several ceramic types dating from the mid 18th century through the 20th century, and numerous curved glass fragments. It appears that when this trench was dug to place the conduit, the same soil was used to fill the trench. The artifacts are comparable with the remainder of materials recovered from Unit 5 and also span the entire occupation of the site.

The only artifact associated with Feature 2 is a flat glass fragment. Using Moir's (1987) formula, this sherd has a date of 1901. Features 1 and 4 had no discernable associated artifacts.

Area B-Inside the Sevier Cabin

A total of 1395 artifacts was recovered from the 45 units within the cabin. These include the Kitchen Group (N = 313, 22.4%), Architecture Group (N = 464, 33.3%), Furniture Group (N = 21, 1.5%), Clothing Group (N = 28, 2.0%), Arms

Group (N = 6, 0.4%), Personal Group (N = 17, 1.2%), Tobacco Pipe Group (N = 3, 0.2%), Activities Group (N = 204, 14.6%), and faunal remains (N = 339, 24.3%).

The distribution of the artifact assemblage from Area B was mapped using SURFER 7.0 software. This program plots the artifact count for given points and creates a contour map. For example, the southwest coordinate of each unit in Area B was entered into the program, along with the artifact count for each respective unit. The SURFER program creates the contour map and extrapolates data to provide a complete artifact distribution for the area. This was done using the entire artifact assemblage, as well as individual artifacts such as ceramics, wire nails, and window glass.

Kitchen Group

The Kitchen Group consists of ceramics (N = 166, 53%), container glass (N = 126, 40.3%), and metal (N = 11, 3.5%) and other kitchen related items (N = 10, 3.2%), collectively noted as kitchenware.

Ceramics The ceramics recovered from Area B include creamware (N = 46, 27.7%), pearlware (N = 61, 36.7%), whiteware (N = 10, 6.0%), unidentifiable earthenwares (N = 9, 5.4%), ironstone (N = 1, 0.6%), porcelain (N = 22, 13.3%), redware (N = 11, 6.6%), and stoneware (N = 6, 3.6%).

The ceramic assemblage is once again typical of what would be expected at a site occupied from the late 1700s through the 1940s, providing evidence for the Sevier occupation as well as the families that occupied the site through the 20th century. The most frequently occurring ceramic is pearlware, the majority of which is undecorated (56%). Underglaze polychrome handpainted decoration is the most common type of

decoration (33%), while blue shell edge, underglaze blue handpainted, and blue edge decorated also occur. Identifiable vessel forms are primarily plates, but bowls, cups, a platter, and saucers are also represented.

A sizable creamware assemblage is also found in Area B, demonstrating early occupation of the site since it was popular in East Tennessee from the 1760s until the 1820s. All of the creamware fragments are undecorated with the exception of a mocha decorated sherd and an overglaze black transfer printed sherd. The most common vessel shape is the plate, while bowls, cups, hollow ware, and plate/saucers are also evident.

Porcelain is often indicative of higher socio-economic status. Eight of the 22 sherds are undecorated, while the remaining have an overglaze enamel decoration, probably Chinese export. The overwhelming majority of the sherds are from saucers. Also represented are two plates and a cup. Approximately 75 per cent of this porcelain sample dates to the Sevier occupation and could indicate a difference between their perceived and their actual socio-economic status. For example, although many porcelain sherds were recovered from this area, they do not include the more finely decorated and expensive underglaze blue hand-painted Chinese styles seen at the homes of other high status individuals in Knoxville (Faulkner 1984, Hamby 1999).

The remaining ceramic assemblage includes annular ware, sponge decorated, and plain whiteware; salt glazed, Bristol glazed, and Albany glazed stoneware; lead glazed redware used for both food storage and food preparation; sherds of burned, unidentifiable earthenware; and an embossed ironstone cup.

Container Glass The majority of the container glass is bottle or jar fragments and can not be identified as to specific vessel type or function. They are nearly all colorless or blue-green and the type of manufacture cannot be determined. Of the remaining fragments, most can be classified as either a bottle or a jar (N = 115, 91%), while there are a minimal number of milk glass lid liners (N = 5, 4.0%) and glassware (N = 5, 4.0%) also represented. The only five container glass fragments that possibly can be attributed to the Sevier occupation are datable because of their mold manufacture style and a datable style of dark olive rum bottle.

Kitchenware None of the kitchenware artifacts recovered date to the Sevier occupation period. There are 8 zinc canning jar lid fragments dating after 1858, a complete 4 tine fork and 2 spoon fragments, 3 aluminum foil pieces, 3 rubber and paper bottle seals, and 4 Styrofoam cup fragments. The majority of this material dates to the 20th century occupation of the site.

Architecture Group

The Architecture Group consists of nails (N = 283, 61%), window glass (N = 32, 6.9%), construction materials (N = 68, 14.7%), electrical materials (N = 14, 3.0%), fasteners (N = 21, 4.5%), and miscellaneous architectural materials (N = 46, 9.9%).

Nails Nails were measured for their type of manufacture, size, and condition. Area B nails include wrought (N = 4, 1.4%), cut (N = 149, 52.7%), and wire (N = 130, 45.9%). The preservation of the nails underneath the house is relatively good because of the protection from most of the natural elements, and although identifiable, many are corroded.

Cut nails are the most frequent nail in Area B, but 75 per cent cannot be identified as either early or late fully machine cut. Cut nails were used in East Tennessee from the 1790s to 1890, depending on the type. From the remaining sample, 16 per cent are early machine cut and 8 per cent are late fully machine cut. There are also two 20th century cut nails. Nearly all of the early machine cut nails are hand-headed L-head flooring nails, which date to the late 18th century.

Dating from 1890 and continuing throughout the 20th century, the wire nails do not provide information on the Sevier family or the early occupation of the cabin. The four wrought nails recovered date throughout the 18th century and are most likely attributable to the Sevier family occupation.

Young's (1994) model was also applied to the nail assemblage in Area B. Broken nails are most common (N = 176, 62.2%), followed by unaltered or straight nails (N = 66, 23.2%), pulled nails (N = 38, 13.4%), and clinched nails (N = 3, 1.1%). The frequency of unaltered nails is nearly twice that of pulled nails, and 22 times that of clinched. As seen in Area A, the model may not be applicable here because the cabin is still standing and has not been rebuilt.

Nail size is also examined using the modified version of Young's (1991) size chart (Table 1). There are 105 nails examined for analysis according to penny-weight. Once again, only 25 per cent of the nails are 10d or higher, indicating only moderate use of nails for heavy framing and wooden studding. The most frequent is 6d (30.5%), with nearly one third of these being tin roofing nails. All of the remaining sizes are represented, size 2d through 20d, and once again are relatively evenly distributed in their frequency.

Window Glass The window glass recovered from Area B was analyzed for both thickness and color. Thickness was measured and dated using the Moir (1987) formula. The sherds recovered ranged in thickness from 1.11 millimeters to 3.20 millimeters (N = 32), dating from 1806 to after 1923, with an average thickness of 2.05 millimeters for a mean date of 1885. As previously discussed, the standardization of window glass thickness and manufacturing started in the 1920s, which makes dating sherds past this time period inaccurate. Using Moir's formula, sherds up to 2.55 millimeters in thickness can be dated before 1923 and those that are thicker cannot be reliably dated. Of the assemblage in Area B, 69 per cent are datable according to Moir's formula. If the remainder are excluded, the mean date of the sample is 1860. The exclusion of such a large portion of the sample in this manner may make this statistic invalid.

Although the sample is small in Area B, the majority of the window glass was recovered from the units on the southern and southwestern perimeter of the cabin interior. Approximately 80 per cent of the glass recovered is blue-green with a large portion showing heavy glass rot, and only the remaining 20 per cent is clear. The only window on the lower floor of the Sevier cabin is located in the southwestern corner. The concentration of glass here indicates this corner being the location of a window throughout most of the cabin's history.

Construction Materials This category encompasses a large amount of material including brick (N = 26, 38.2%), cement (N = 7, 10.3%), concrete (N = 4, 5.9%), and mortar (N = 31, 45.6%). The brick fragments are relatively small chunks and flakes, and are unidentifiable as to manufacture and date. They are concentrated

in the northwestern corner of the cabin interior. Their presence was not expected because the cabin has no brick in its construction. The cement fragments are also small and they are unidentifiable as to age. Even though the sample is small, the fragments are located predominantly in the northern and eastern areas. The concrete fragments are small and only located in the northwestern corner of the cabin interior. Also indeterminable in date, the mortar is located throughout the western half of the cabin interior. A portion of it is very similar to the mortar chinking used in the cabin construction today, and its concentration in the western half suggests it was used in the modern reconstruction of the hearth.

Electrical Materials The material in this category consists solely of electrical wire and wire insulation. As the cabin was not electrified until the mid 20th century, this material is not diagnostic of the Sevier family occupation.

Fasteners Fasteners other than nails recovered include screws, tacks, and tin roofing nail seals. The screws date well into the 20th century, as do the tin roofing nail seals, which are used on 20th century wire nails. Although the tacks have indeterminable dates, they are estimated to be 20th century in age.

Miscellaneous Architectural Materials Materials included in this category are a heavily rusted hinge, a large iron spike, a heavy iron piece with attaching screws, a wrought iron hinge pintle dating to the late 18th century, and tar paper and siding fragments.

Furniture Group

The Furniture Group in Area B consists of glass kerosene lamp chimney fragments (N = 17, 81%), small light bulb fragments (N = 2, 9.5%), a wrought iron

furniture handle, and a half circular colorless piece of glass with round edges, most likely a mirror fragment.

The glass kerosene lamp chimney fragments became popular in East Tennessee just after the Civil War and would most likely have been used until the cabin was electrified in the 20th century.

Clothing Group

The Clothing Groups consists of buttons (N = 21, 78.6%), glass and plastic beads (N = 3, 10.7%), pins (n = 2, 7.1%), a grommet, a leather belt loop, and nylon stockings. These artifacts tended to cluster near the perimeter of the cabin interior, focused mainly in the southern and western areas.

Buttons Buttons recovered include metal (N = 8), bone (N = 2), glass (N = 2), plastic (N = 3), and shell (N = 4). There are a variety of metal buttons including a complete brass disk button with a soldered loop and a metal two part button, dating from the late 18th century through the mid 20th century. The bone buttons are complete single hole buttons dating from the late 18th century into the early 19th century. The glass buttons are an amber button and a porcelain button dating from the late 19th century to the early 20th and from 1840 to the late 19th century, respectively. The plastic buttons all date after the 1920s. The shell buttons are nearly complete and date after the 1890s (Pool 1987).

Pins The straight pin has a spun head and is known to have been popular from the late 18th century until 1824 (Noel-Hume 1969). The plastic headed pin is modern and dates after the mid 20th century.

Arms Group

Two .22 long rifle cartridge cases, a lead shot, two shotgun shells, and a trigger guard represent the Arms Group. The two cartridge cases date after their 1887 introduction and are still in use today (Avery 2002). One is complete with an “HP” headstamp. Both cartridge cases were found in Unit 106, one in each of the two levels. The lead shot is small and distorted in shape and has an indeterminate date. The shotgun shell bases are both from 12 gauge shotguns and date from the late 19th century. One was from a wound paper shell, which was in use until the mid 20th century. The trigger guard is most likely from a black powder long rifle and dates from the late 18th century until the early 19th century (Avery 2002).

Personal Group

The Personal Group includes 8 grooming items, 3 currency items, 3 pieces of jewelry, 2 writing implements, and a modern small metal padlock key.

Grooming Grooming items include 2 pieces of flat glass mirrors of indeterminate date, 2 metal bobby pins, a hair clasp, a rubber comb fragment and 2 plastic comb fragments. With the exception of the rubber comb fragment, which could date to the mid 19th century, all of these materials are most likely modern.

Currency One United States nickel and 2 United States pennies were recovered from the cabin interior. The nickel could possibly date to 1911 and both pennies are wheat pennies having illegible dates dating before 1959 (Brown and Dunn 1969).

Jewelry Jewelry includes the front of a heart shaped locket, a brass earring, and a small cross pendant on a chain. All of these materials are most likely modern and date to the 20th century.

Writing Implements The point of a mechanical pencil or pen and a brown tortoise shell ink pen cap were recovered from Area B. Both are modern and date to the 20th century.

Activities Group

The Activities Group includes toys (N = 4, 1.9%) and miscellaneous artifacts (N = 201, 98.1%). The toys include two 20th century glass marbles, a stoneware marble with blue glaze which dates during the mid and late 19th century (Randall 1971), and a fragment of an unglazed bisque doll which dates from the late 18th century until the early 20th century (Noel-Hume 1969).

Miscellaneous Miscellaneous artifacts include 152 unidentifiable iron and sheet metal fragments, a possible bucket handle, a piece of coiled insulation material, 2 small brass screws, an iron spike, 12 hardware staples and fence staples, 4 iron and aluminum tubing fragments, 2 washers, and 7 wire fragments.

Non-metallic miscellaneous artifacts include various pieces of plastic, string, wax, rubber, and aluminum. A porcelain spark plug insulator was also recovered from Area B.

Tobacco Pipe Group

Two tobacco pipe stems were recovered from units 111 and 118 in the cabin interior. They are from a lead glazed redware pipe. A bowl was also recovered which has a greenish lead glaze on the exterior and has a molded face. This could be a

Moravian pipe from North Carolina. The interior was slightly charred. The bowl was recovered from the hearth area while the two stem fragments were near the center of the cabin interior. These three fragments appear to come from the same pipe and date from the late 18th century into the early 19th century (Noel-Hume 1969).

Faunal Remains

Faunal remains recovered from Area B include chicken egg shell (N = 155, 45.7%), indeterminate chicken bone (N = 9, 2.7%), mammal bone (N = 20, 5.9%), pig teeth (N = 10, 2.9%), rodent bones (N = 11, 3.2%), indeterminate teeth (N = 2, 0.6%), terrestrial gastropod (snail) shells (N = 16, 4.7%), a marine shell fragment, a fish bone, and unidentifiable bones (N = 115, 33.9%).

Mammal Of the 20 bones unidentifiable except as mammals, there are 5 teeth, a sawn steak bone, a rodent-gnawed rib, a claw, and 10 fragments, one of which is also rodent-gnawed. The claw and one of the tooth fragments are calcined.

Rodent Rodent remains recovered include a complete upper crania, 5 mandibles, a pelvis fragment, and 4 unidentifiable fragments.

Summary of Area B

The artifact assemblage recovered from Area B also reflects the long domestic history of the main cabin at Marble Springs. Although the area was highly disturbed from erosion and animal burrowing, there is no question that there are *in situ* deposits beneath the cabin floor. The overall artifact distribution for the area is indicative of the individual concentrations of artifact types (Figure 34). A concentration of material remains around the perimeter of the building was anticipated as this pattern typically results from the sweeping of materials from the activity areas of the yard under

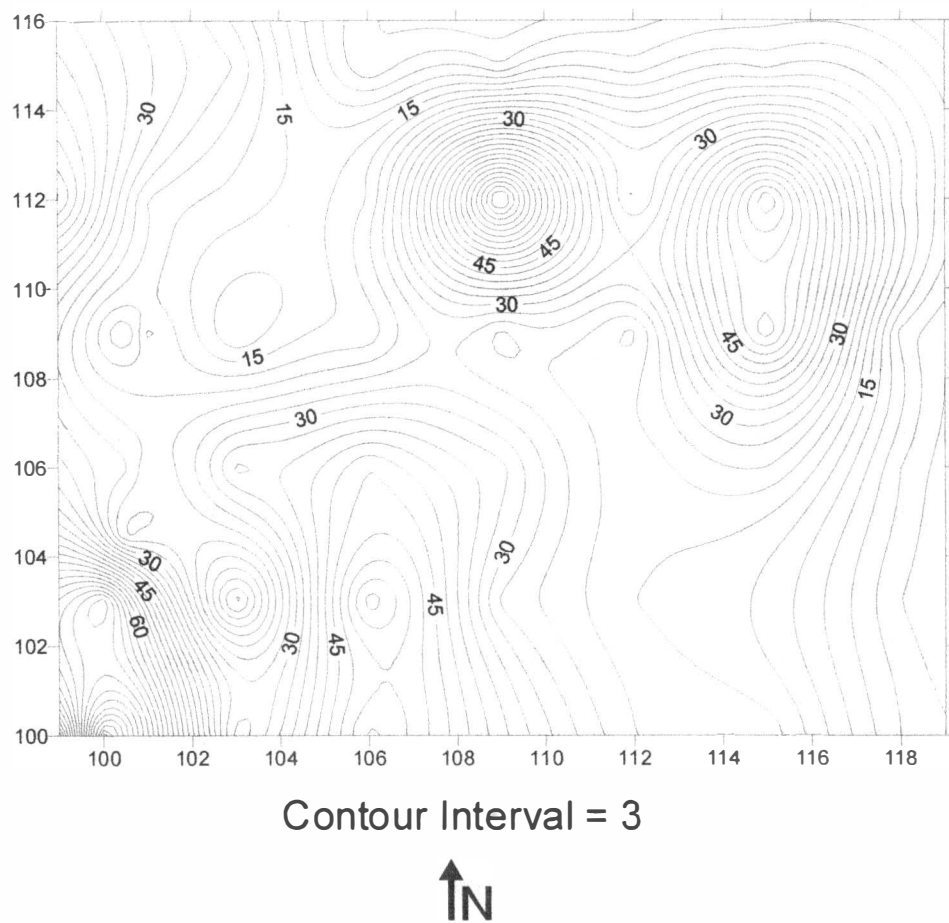


Figure 34. SURFER plot of the distribution of all Area B artifacts

structures and reflects a common disposal pattern. This pattern does not seem to be the case, however, beneath the main cabin at Marble Springs.

There are two main concentration areas within the cabin for kitchen ceramics. The area along the south wall between the front door and the front window has high concentrations of pearlware, and the teaware is also concentrated in this area (Figures 35 and 36). The other location is along the eastern wall and there are concentrations of creamware and flatware in this area (Figures 37 and 38). The small sample of porcelain was recovered from the central portion of the cabin interior extending toward the east wall and the south wall. The ceramic distributions may indicate that although food was normally consumed along the eastern area of the cabin, tea may have been taken in a more formal fashion near the window in front of the fireplace.

Another significant concentration includes the nail assemblages. Although not necessarily attributable to the Sevier occupation, cut nails have two significant concentration areas: along the north wall directly in front of the rear door, and along the south wall in relation to the front door and window (Figure 39). Wire nails dating in the 20th century have the same concentration patterns as the cut nails, but are evident along the southern, western, and northern periphery (Figure 40). These concentrations can most likely be attributed to repair work done on the doors and staircase through time. These are areas that would need continual upkeep for the safety and comfort of the occupants of the cabin.

The curved glass is almost entirely concentrated in the northeast corner of the cabin and in front of the rear door (Figure 41). There is also a small concentration in

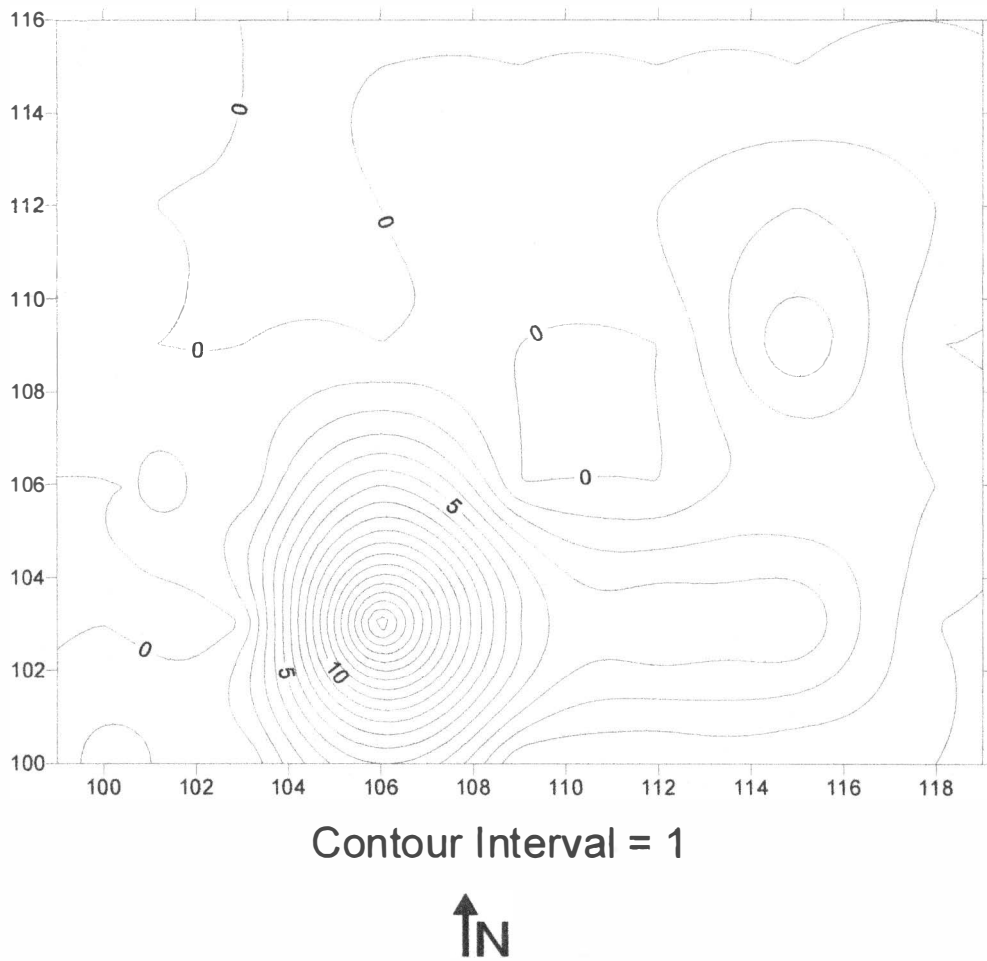


Figure 35. SURFER plot of the distribution of pearlware in Area B

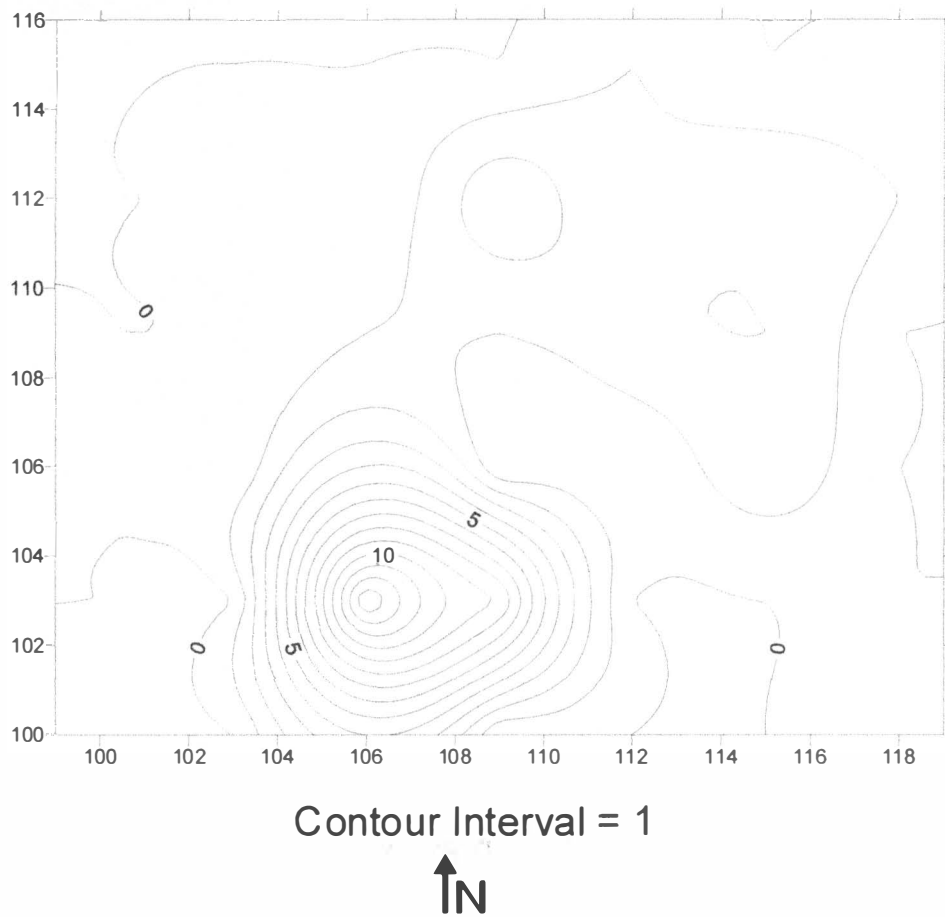


Figure 36. SURFER plot of the distribution of teaware in Area B

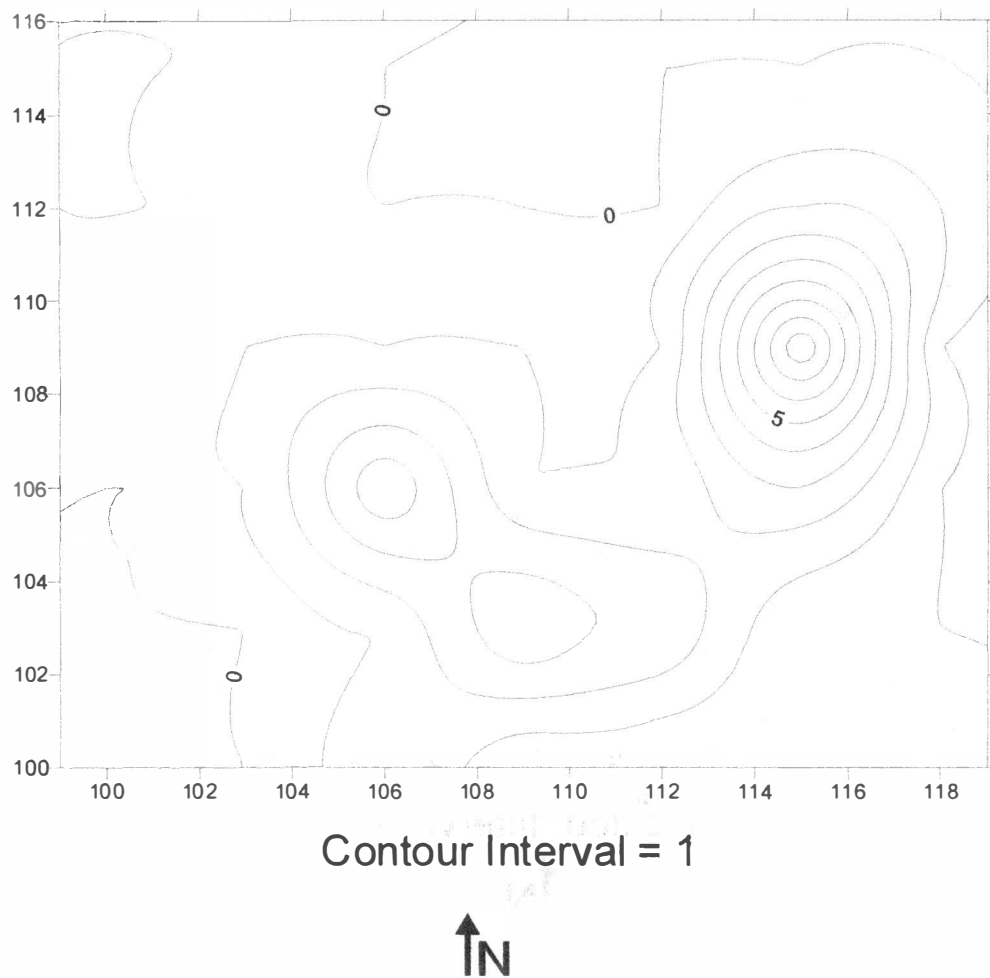


Figure 37. SURFER plot of the distribution of creamware in Area B

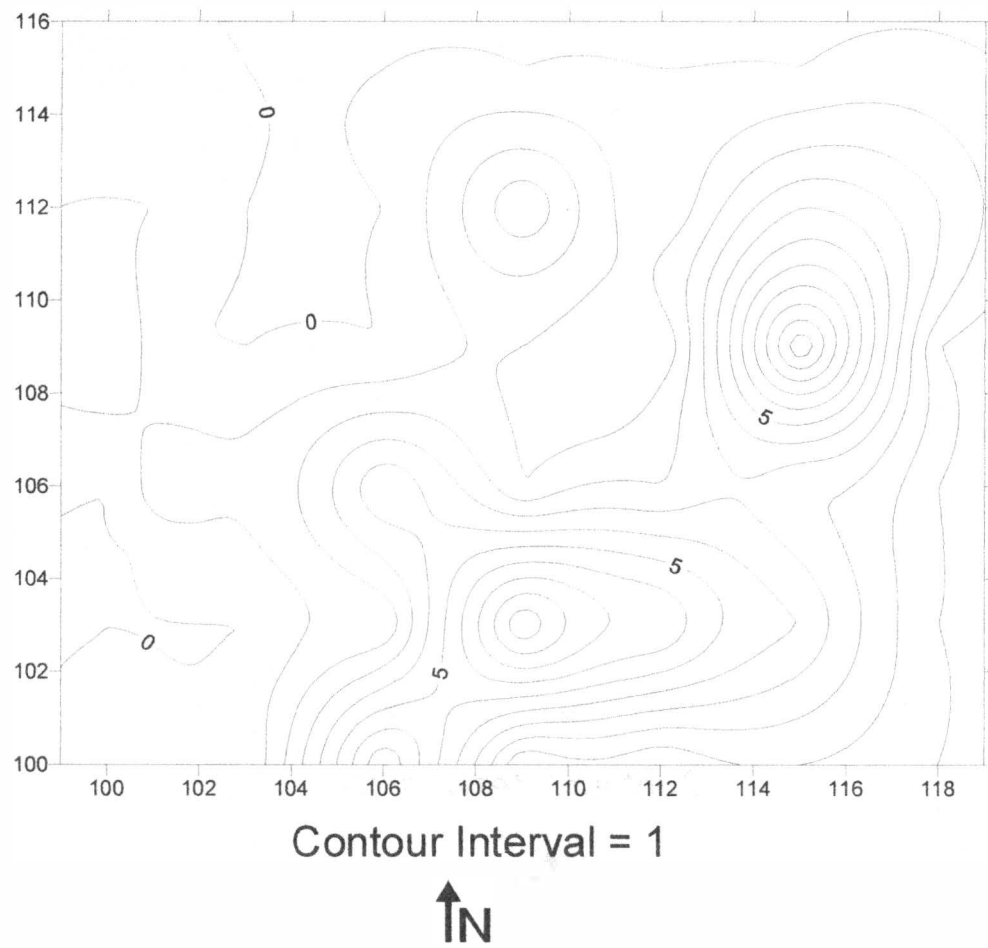
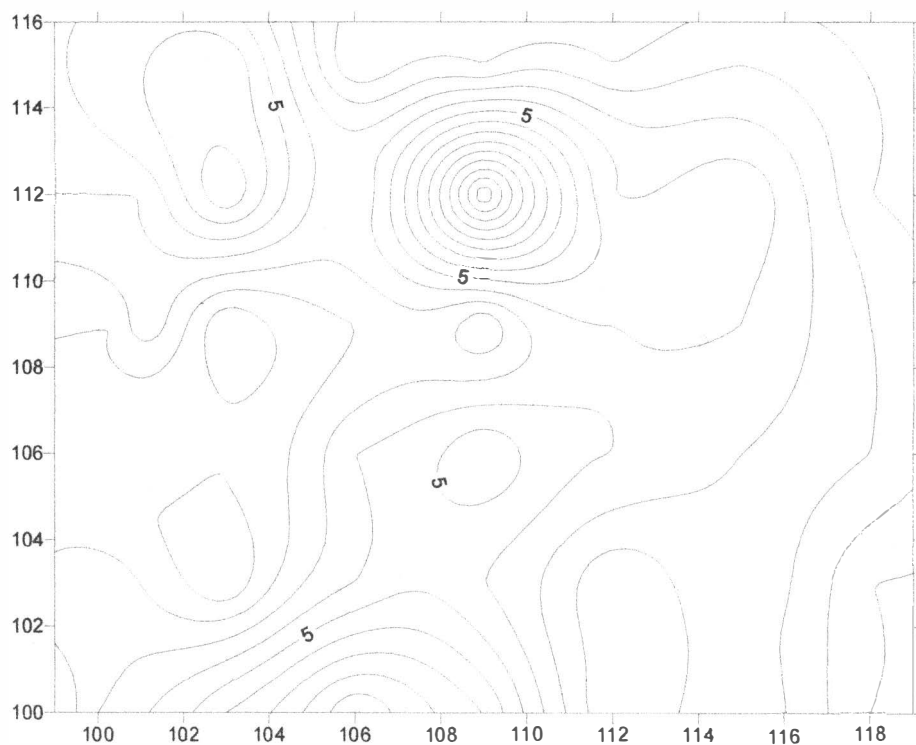


Figure 38. SURFER plot of the distribution of flatware in Area B



Contour Interval = 1

↑
IN

Figure 39. SURFER plot of the distribution of cut nails in Area B

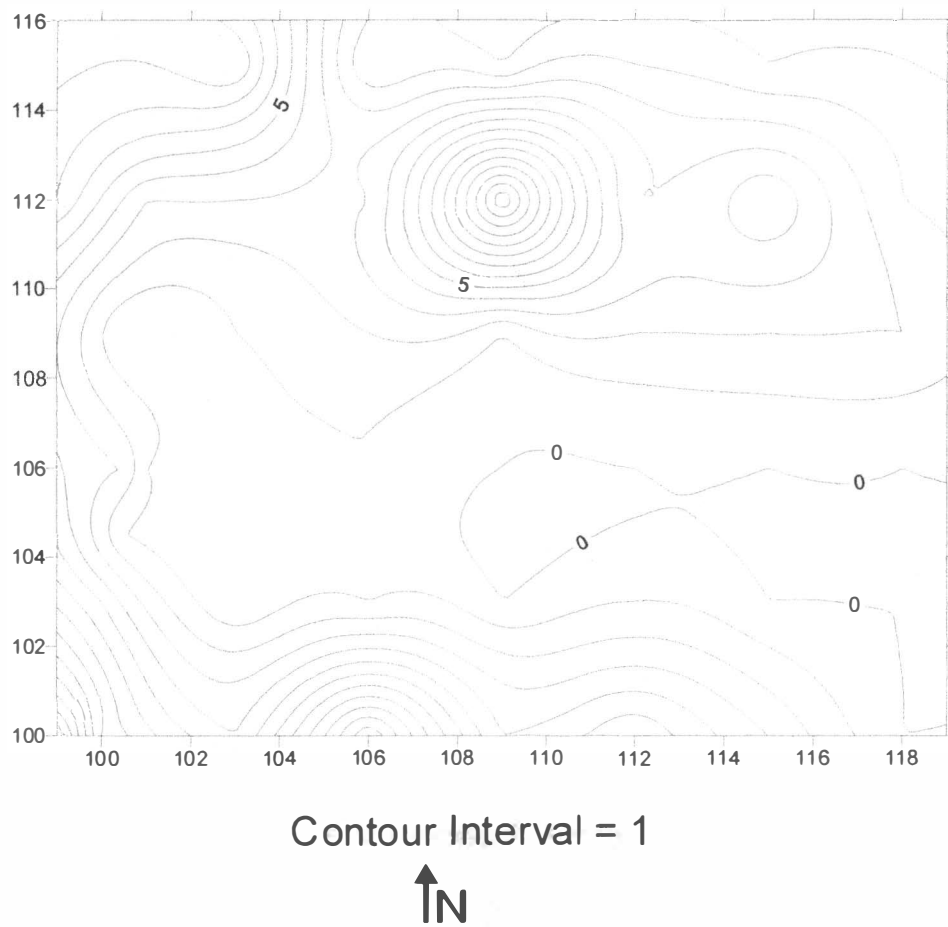
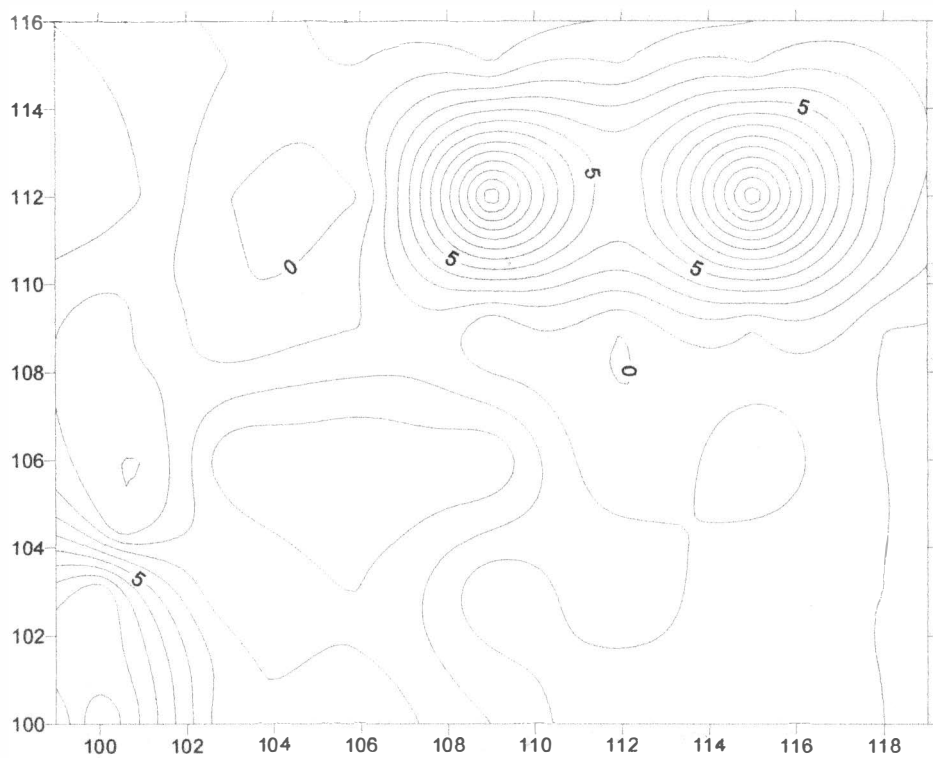


Figure 40. SURFER plot of the distribution of wire nails in Area B



Contour Interval = 1

↑
IN

Figure 41. SURFER plot of the distribution of curved glass in Area B

the southwest corner near the window. If small fragments of window glass were sometimes mis-classified as curved glass, it may explain this.

The faunal remains are nearly all located to the south of the fireplace in the southwest corner of the main cabin (Figure 42). Since the majority of the faunal remains recovered from Area B are from chickens or mammals and were typically consumed, this area may have served as a disposal locale for food remains.

As would be expected, the window glass is highly concentrated in the area immediately adjacent to the only window on the first floor of the main cabin (Figure 43). This concentration suggests that the only window on the lower floor of the cabin has been at this location throughout its occupation. The earliest window glass fragment dates to 1807, so it may be assumed that it was only later in the Sevier occupation that this glazed window was installed.

Feature 1, the ash and charcoal deposit located in Unit 111, is believed to be an *in situ* deposit. The artifacts recovered associated with this feature include a pig tooth and a curved glass fragment, along with a creamware plate fragment and an overglazed enameled porcelain saucer fragment dating between the mid 18th and early 19th centuries. The early dates of these artifacts indicate that Feature 1 was deposited during the John Sevier occupation of the main cabin.

Feature 2 is a small root cellar located underneath the staircase to the loft level. There were 189 artifacts recovered from this feature. The dates of these artifacts are consistent with the interpretation that the fill deposit in this feature is recent. Artifacts range in age from the John Sevier period occupation well through the 20th century, and the majority of the artifacts date after the mid 1800s. A creamware fragment, a

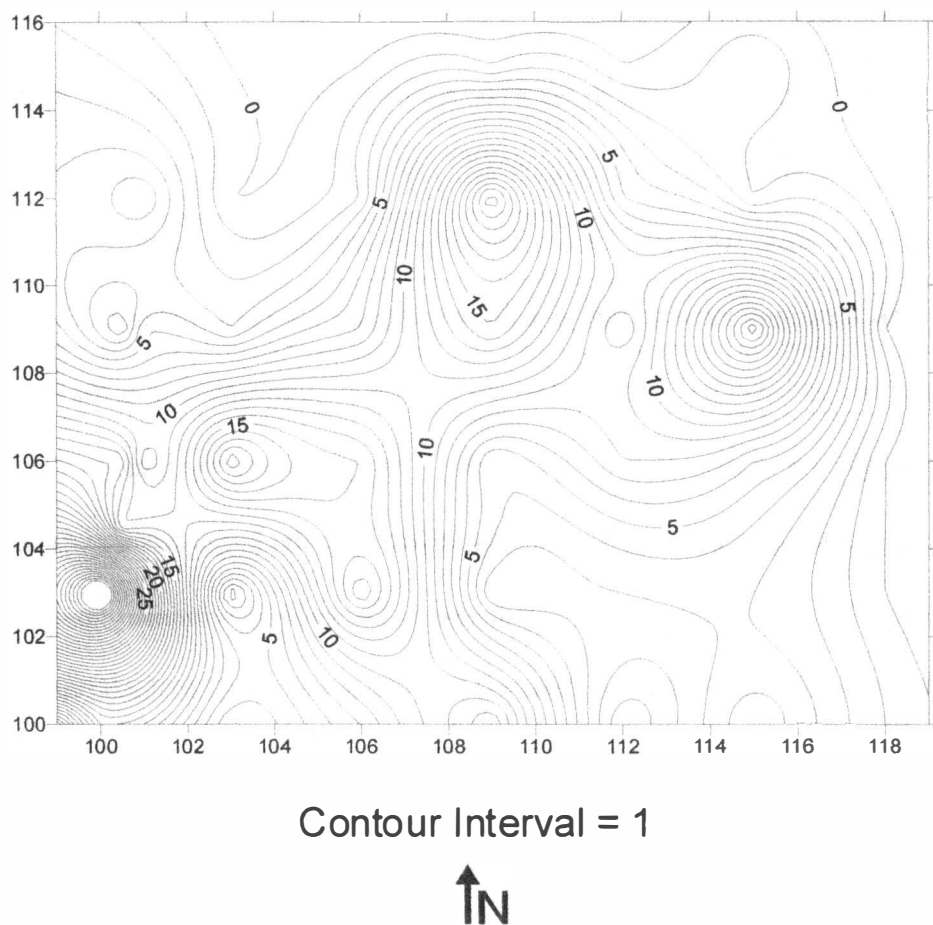


Figure 42. SURFER plot of the distribution of faunal remains in Area B

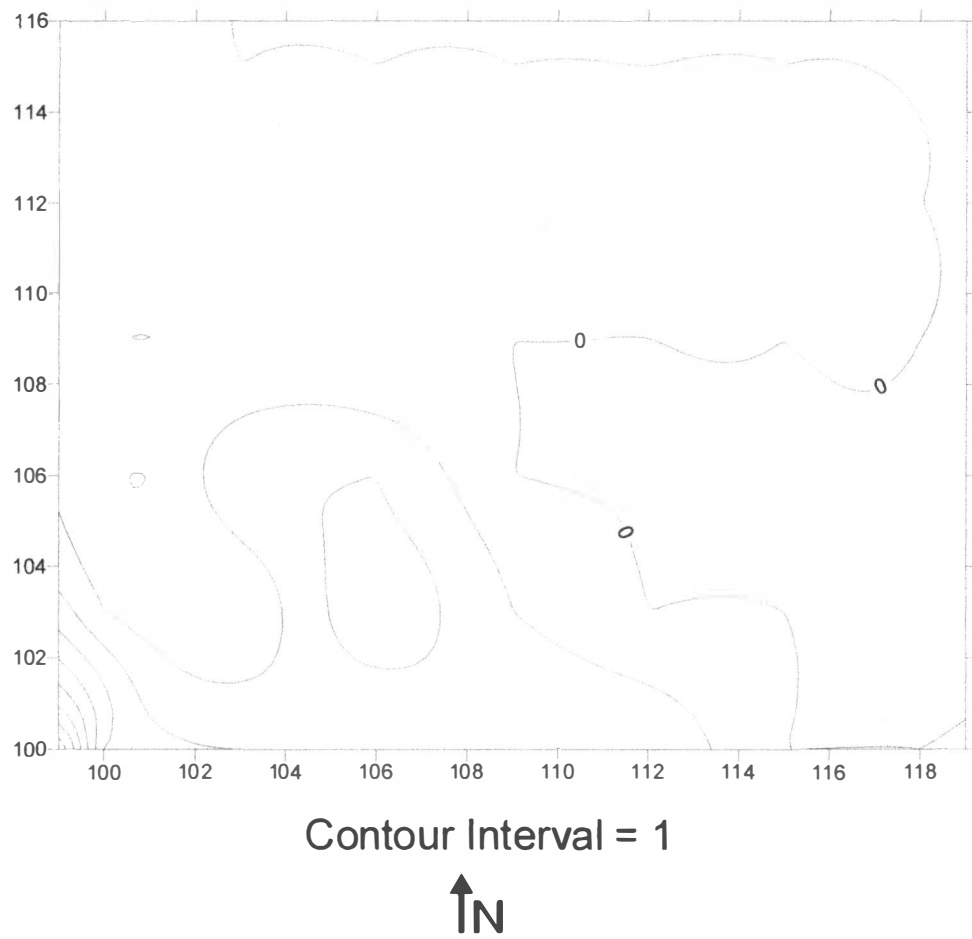


Figure 43. SURFER plot of the distribution of flat glass in Area B

pearlware fragment, a dark olive rum bottle, and a few cut nails are the only artifacts that probably date to the Sevier family occupation. It is not known where the fill in this feature originated.

Area C-Inside the Sevier Cabin

There were 424 artifacts recovered from Area C. As previously discussed, these artifacts were salvaged from three mounds of dirt containing west end artifacts, east end artifacts, and artifacts from under the north doorway in the cabin interior removed by the restoration staff from beneath the north wall sill. These artifacts include the Kitchen Group (N = 160, 37.7%), Architecture Group (N = 140, 33.0%), Furniture Group (N = 4, 0.9%), Clothing Group (N = 9, 2.1%), Arms Group (N = 1, 0.2%), Personal Group (N = 5, 1.2%), Activities Group (N = 33, 7.8%), and faunal remains (N = 72, 17.0%).

Kitchen Group

Artifacts recovered from this group include ceramics (N = 101, 63.1%), container glass (N = 58, 36.3%), and a modern wooden candy stick.

Ceramics Ceramics recovered from Area C include creamware (N = 12, 11.9%), pearlware (N = 14, 13.9%), whiteware (N = 47, 46.5%), European porcelain (N = 8, 7.9%), stoneware (N = 17, 16.8%), a redware sherd, and two unidentifiable burned earthenware fragments. Nearly all of this material (93%) was recovered from the east end of the cabin interior and from underneath the north doorway.

Nearly half of the recovered sample is whiteware, and 75 per cent of this is undecorated. Of the remaining assemblage, whiteware decoration includes spatter,

blue shell edge, decal, gilding, transfer printing, and underglaze polychrome. There are also two modern yellow glazed pieces that were recovered from this area. Of the identifiable vessel forms, 50 per cent are from flatware while cups, bowls, hollow ware, plates, platters, and a London style cup are also represented.

The pearlware sample is 50 per cent undecorated, but also includes underglaze polychrome decoration, annularware, and blue and green shell edge decorated pieces. Of the identifiable vessel forms, flatware is once again the most prominent, but also included are hollow ware, serving dishes, and saucers. The fragments were evenly distributed between the three locations of Area C.

All of the creamware is undecorated, and one piece is molded. With the exception of a soup plate fragment, all of the identifiable sherds are flatware. The sherds were only found at the east end of the cabin and under the north doorway.

Utilitarian vessels include a slipped redware sherd, salt glazed stoneware, slip glazed stoneware, and Bristol glazed stoneware. The overwhelming majority of this material was found under the north doorway.

Container Glass Container glass in Area C includes bottles (N = 9, 15.5%), a candy dish, a cup, a flask, glassware, a jar, panel bottles, a tumbler, and vessels classified as bottles or jars which are not identifiable as to type or function (N = 37, 63.8%). The only vessels that have a determinable date are those that have pressed decoration, dating from the 1820s to the present, leaded glassware fragments probably dating before 1870, and a panel bottle dating from the late 19th century (Faulkner pers. comm.).

Architecture Group

The Architecture Group in Area C includes nails (N = 123, 87.9%), window glass (N = 15, 10.7%), a tin roofing nail cap dating after 1890, and a modern 20th century screw.

Nails Nails were measured for manufacture type, size, and condition. There are mushroom-headed wrought nails dating before 1815 (N = 2), cut nails (N = 28), wire nails dating after 1890 (N = 68), and nails indeterminable in manufacture type (N = 25). The cut nails are either late fully machine cut, or unidentifiable as to type of cut. The majority of the nails were recovered from the west end of the cabin

As previously discussed, nail size is important because it aids in determining function. There are minimal numbers of heavy framing nails, those classified as 10d or above (Table 1). The siding and flooring nails (9d), and the shake and lath nails (2d and 3d) are the most common among the nails recovered from Area C.

Nail condition is also analyzed for Area C. Once again, Young's (1994) nail model appears to be inapplicable to the sample. While there are 24 broken nails, there are 54 unaltered nails, 17 pulled nails, and 1 clinched nail. While this distribution does not coincide with either of the nail models she proposes, it demonstrates that a large portion of the nails were lost during construction.

Window Glass Window glass was measured for color and thickness. Approximately 75 percent of the sample is clear, while the remainder is blue-green in color. The fragments recovered range in thickness from 1.73 millimeters to 4.63 millimeters, with a mean thickness of 2.67. Only six of the glass sherds were measurable according to Moir's (1987) formula, and they dated to the late 19th

century. This sample of window glass is relatively late in date and cannot be attributed to the early occupation of the cabin. It was also relatively evenly distributed across the cabin interior.

Furniture Group

The Furniture Group consists of three kerosene lamp chimney fragments and one whole cabinet hook. The kerosene lamp chimney fragments date between the 1870s and the 1920s. The cabinet hook is modern and dates to the 20th century.

Clothing Group

The Clothing Group consists of buttons and a metal shoe plate with a cut nail dating to the 19th century. The buttons consist of two shell buttons dating after 1890, a whole metal button of indeterminable date, and five plastic buttons dating after 1920. None of these artifacts are attributable to the Sevier occupation of the cabin.

Arms Group

The only artifact recovered in Area C included in the Arms Group is a whole .52 caliber musket ball. It dates between the late 18th century and the early 19th century.

Personal Group

Artifacts recovered in the Personal Group include two milk glass, cold cream jar pieces, a plastic blue bead, a plastic comb fragment, and the proximal end of a pencil. All of these artifacts are modern and date to the 20th century.

Activities Group

The Activities Group includes a number of late 19th through 20th century artifacts. These include toys, garden tools, hardware, and miscellaneous items.

Toys Recovered toys include two 20th century glass marbles, a pair of children's scissors, and a paper doll head.

Garden Tools The garden-related item recovered is a metal cultivator that dates to the 20th century.

Hardware Hardware recovered includes 10 staples, a gasket, a metal file, and a hexagonal-headed bolt. All of these items are indeterminable as to date.

Miscellaneous Miscellaneous artifacts recovered include an iron machine fragment, an automobile fuse, numerous pieces of linoleum, a possible glass lens, a leather strip, iron fragments, a clear glass tube, and a modern screen fragment. All of these items have indeterminable dates or date to the 20th century.

Faunal Remains

There are 72 faunal remains recovered from Area C. These include Aves egg shells (N = 5) and a femur fragment, a cardinal skull, chicken bones and egg shells (N = 41), a slice-sawn cow femur shaft, eastern cottontail rabbit (N = 3), indeterminate mammal (N = 6), mollusk shell fragments and land snails (N = 3), pig (N = 7), rat (N = 3), and a carnivore or rodent-gnawed turkey femur. Nearly three fourths of this material was recovered from the east end of the cabin interior.

Chicken The majority of chicken remains recovered are egg shell. Also recovered are a left ulna, a right coracoid, and a foot bone fragment. Rodent gnawing is also found on a right humerus fragment and a left radius.

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (Sylvilagus floridanus) Recovered rabbit bones include a left frontal, a left mandible, and a right maxilla.

Pig (Sus scrofa) Pig fragments recovered include a femur fragment, a tooth fragment, and a tooth root fragment. Gnawing was found on a left ulna fragment, and a rib fragment.

Rat (Rattus rattus) Remains recovered include a right femur, a rodent gnawed right pelvis, and possible gnawing on a scapula.

Indeterminate Mammal Recovered mammal fragments include four unidentifiable bones, a foot bone fragment, and a cranial fragment.

Summary of Area C

Similar to Areas A and B, the artifacts recovered from Area C reflect the long history of domestic habitation in the main cabin at Marble Springs. Although out of context, the material from Area C provides additional evidence for the continued occupation of the cabin from the late 18th century through the 20th century. The abundance of artifacts recovered are statistically similar to those recovered from the interior of the cabin with the kitchen and architectural groups dominating the recovered assemblages.

The kitchen remains are indicative of a domestic location with an abundance of tablewares and also the presence of food storage and preparation vessels. These range in dates from the Sevier occupation period through the 20th century.

The only datable window glass from this period dates from the late 1800s into the 20th century. These sherds most likely came from later windows that were present in the later additions to the rear of the cabin. The abundance of wire nails dating after 1890 found in Area C also give evidence for the building additions and modifications on the rear of the main cabin.

CHAPTER 5

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS

The artifact assemblages from all three areas are used individually and collectively to provide answers to the research questions presented in Chapter 1. Below are remarks on the individual areas and their relationships, followed by an overall site conclusion. The research questions presented in Chapter 1 are then discussed using the synthesis of historical documentation and archaeological evidence.

Area A

The excavations at the rear of the Sevier cabin revealed extensive disturbance in this area, while the excavation at the corner of the attached kitchen revealed temporally diagnostic stratigraphy and material remains.

Units 1-4 provide evidence for the domestic use of the cabin location and a continued occupation from the late 18th century through the 20th century. The disturbed nature of the deposits represents gradual erosional modifications beneath a porch and later frame addition. The rolling contour of the site, in addition to the movement of rain water, caused a mound to accumulate at the rear of the cabin under the porch and addition, which explains the movement and mixture of artifacts. Because the occupation strata in the area were relatively shallow, their disturbance can most easily be explained by these natural factors.

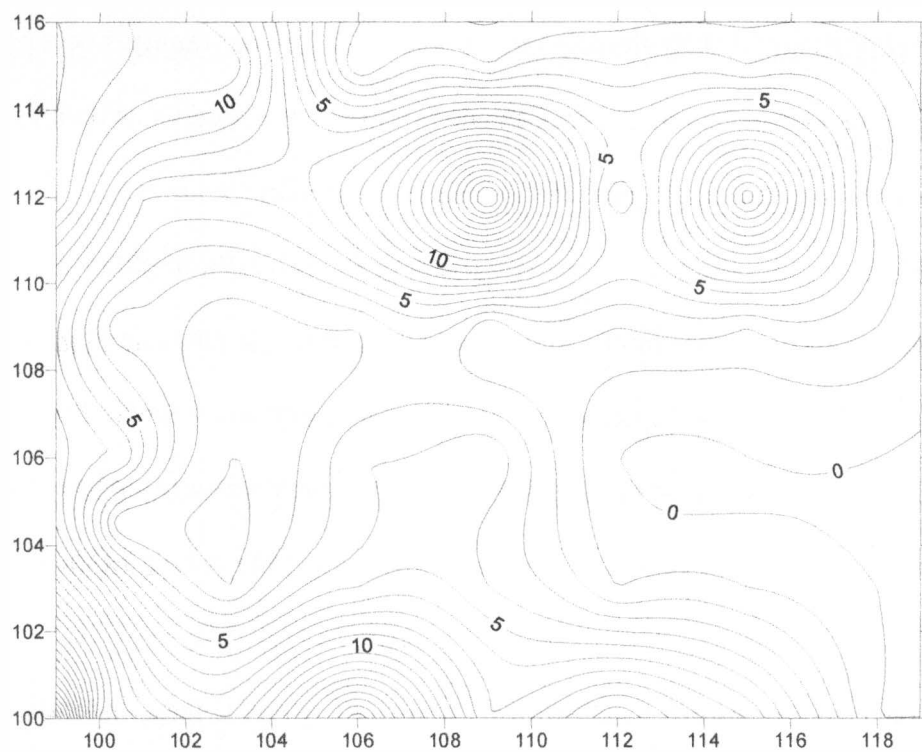
Recovered materials from Unit 5 represent an assemblage dominated by food storage, consumption, and preparation artifacts. The temporally diagnostic nature of

this unit represents the only one of its kind excavated for this study. Of the artifacts recovered from Unit 5 that could date to the Sevier family occupation, 80 per cent are kitchen related artifacts, while 19 per cent are cut and wrought nails. This result gives unarguable evidence for domestic activities in this area, specifically in the adjacent kitchen that can now be related temporally to the John Sevier occupation.

Area B

The artifact distributional patterns are not what would be expected underneath a log structure. As previously mentioned, distribution is often heaviest around the perimeter of the building due to material being swept beneath the structure from the activity area of the yard. Such concentrations reflect a disposal pattern outside of the house. Although this pattern occurs, it is also expected that a significant number of artifacts might be dispersed beneath the cabin if floors were not solidly built and artifacts slipped through the cracks. This latter situation is the case at the Marble Springs cabin because historical evidence from the Kirby family states that the early floors were puncheon floors. This type of floor has cracks and gaps between the uneven split logs through which small artifacts will continually fall through.

These concentrations beneath the structure's floor represent more of a use and loss depositional pattern within the cabin. As Figure 34 shows, there are concentrations of materials beneath the cabin, these artifacts having a terminal date of 1820 or earlier and can only be associated with the Sevier family's occupation. At a later time period, after the floor may have been boarded over, the artifact pattern should conform to the perimeter model. Figure 44 shows that this latter pattern is not



Contour Interval = 1



Figure 44. SURFER plot of the distribution of post 1850 artifacts in Area B

the case at the Sevier cabin as the concentrations of materials with an inception past 1850 show a very similar distributional pattern to that of the Sevier family's occupation.

Figure 44 may be indicative of the distribution of a specific artifact as opposed to the overall distribution of post 1850 artifacts. Removing the curved glass sample from this figure may confirm that the remainder of the post 1850 artifacts recovered demonstrate the perimeter model. The faunal materials, flat glass, and many of the ceramics and architectural materials are seen on the south and west walls of the structure. This also supports the hypothesis that the floor was replaced between the Sevier period occupation and approximately 1850, most likely in the 1830s.

Area C

The conclusions that can be drawn concerning Area C independently are not decisive in that there was a small sample size, and there was no archaeological or stratigraphic context. Independently, it demonstrates a domestic area because of the high frequencies of kitchen and architectural artifacts.

Overall Site

Artifact frequencies were computed to compare the three investigated areas (Table 2). Although the sample size is relatively small, the frequencies represent similar activities occurring in the areas of the Sevier family cabin throughout its occupation. Signifying domestic occupation, the Kitchen Group and the Architecture Group were the predominant assemblages. The high percentage of architectural material may be accounted for by the continued destruction of the attached kitchens and several modifications and restorations that have taken place on the main cabin.

Table 2. Artifact Distribution Percentages by Group

Group	Area A	Area B	Area C
Kitchen	46.4	22.4	37.7
Architecture	38.5	33.3	33.0
Furniture	1.1	1.5	0.9
Clothing	1.0	2.0	2.1
Arms	0.2	0.4	0.2
Personal	0.5	1.2	1.2
Tobacco Pipe	0.1	0.2	0
Activities	6.0	14.6	7.8
Faunal Remains	6.2	24.3	17.0
Total	100	100	100

Research Questions

Archaeological investigations at the Sevier cabin addressed five questions posed in Chapter 1. The historical documentation, correlated with the archaeological evidence, has provided the following answers to these questions.

Architectural evidence confirms that the main cabin has a construction date during the late 1700s. Since it is known that John Sevier occupied his property at Marble Springs in the 1790s (Sevier 1790-1815), it can be concluded that the structure was built either by Sevier or prior to his occupation of Marble Springs. The construction of the house is typical of Appalachian log houses built during the frontier and pioneer periods in East Tennessee. It conforms to the style, size, and shape, to early log houses still standing in the region (Morgan 1990).

Archaeological evidence indicates that the main cabin site is the location of a domestic structure that was occupied from the late 1700s through the 20th century. A wide variety of artifacts were found associated with this dwelling dating from the

late 18th century which continue to be used through the beginning of the 19th century. The abundance of these artifacts demonstrates that there were occupants in this location during the Sevier period.

These two types of evidence indicate this cabin is the original structure and location of the home John Sevier and his family occupied from the late 1790s until his death in 1815. Rumors that the cabin was destroyed during a fire or the tornado of 1929 are unfounded considering the architectural and archaeological findings of this project. Future dendrochronological work on the Sevier cabin should confirm the date of the pine logs used to build the structure and support the conclusions of these archaeological investigations.

There is speculation that the Sevier cabin already was present when the Seviars moved to the site. There is no mention in John Sevier's personal journal (Sevier 1790-1815) concerning the construction of his cabin here. While keeping his journal, he makes references to the building of a barn on his Marble Springs property, as well as the purchasing of materials for his proposed house in downtown Knoxville and for repairs to buildings at Marble Springs. It would only make sense that the construction of a structure of similar importance to his downtown mansion would also merit discussion in his personal journal. This omission suggests that the cabin may have been constructed before Sevier purchased the Marble Springs property.

Although the exact date that the Sevier family moved to the Marble Springs plantation is not known, it is known to have occurred during the 1790s. This project hoped to narrow this date more specifically, but the archaeological data were not that temporally sensitive. Historic documentation indicates that after the mid 1790s, land

grants were not issued again until 1806 (Griffey 2000). Therefore, the Marble Springs property, surveyed and granted to John Sevier in 1807, was occupied well before this time.

Sevier's personal journal begins to mention vacationing and hosting guests at his plantation as early as 1796. He continues making references to visiting his farm and plantation as late as June, 1800, but then there are significant gaps in his journal and he begins primarily to discuss his political activities. There is a brief comment in July, 1801, referencing bricks, which were not present at Marble Springs and can only be assumed to be for the continued construction of his downtown mansion.

Interestingly, the downtown property had been sold to his son on April 25 of that same year. The first obvious reference to his permanent occupation of the Marble Springs plantation was in August, 1804 (Sevier 1790-1815).

Another interesting detail is that when the current State of Tennessee was under the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina, the land grants were issued through the North Carolina State Government. This situation may be the reason why it has been popularly assumed that a grant of land for 640 acres granted in 1795 broadly located south of the French Broad River was the location of Marble Springs. The State of North Carolina gave this grant. During this time, land changed hands between owners very frequently, and the more popular and noteworthy "gentlemen" of the time traditionally owned the majority of the land in East Tennessee and leased the properties. Examining deed records for Knox County and looking at any of the more affluent names such as William Blount and J.G.M. Ramsey provides evidence that a few wealthy men owned the largest portions of land.

The financial status of John Sevier has always been an element of question. His popularity as a military and political hero to the State of Tennessee overshadows his financial defeats, which are poignantly displayed by reading his personal journal. There are repeated entries concerning granting money to friends and family members to assist them with their own financial situations. Yet, Sevier did not have the funds to build his own home upon his arrival in Knoxville. His permanent move to Marble Springs has always been downplayed as a retreat to a modest and traditional lifestyle, which could easily be the case as he has been repeatedly spoken of as an honest and simple man. But it remains to be determined whether this was done out of necessity or by choice.

Archaeological investigations point toward an efficient, but simple, lifestyle at Marble Springs. Historical evidence suggests that the Sevier family hosted numerous guests at their plantation. There is archaeological evidence for an abundance of “everyday” kitchen artifacts, which are typically cheaper and more durable in quality than finer porcelains and teawares. There is also evidence that points to the lifestyle of an elite family, such as the porcelain teaware imported from China. These types of services were traditionally used when hosting guests, and archaeological evidence indicates that this use was the case as they appear to have been used in a different location than other more common flatwares and tablewares inside the cabin.

The distribution of artifacts from the area inside the main cabin indicates that there were distinctive functional areas that could be determined from archaeological evidence. The use of food consumption related artifacts was concentrated in two areas, one that appeared to be related to more common everyday use, and the other

exhibiting both common tablewares and those that were typically used for guests, were more expensive, and had specialized functions, such as teaware.

Concentrations of architecture related artifacts were located in areas where repairs and maintenance would most likely occur, such as near the doors and staircase. Window glass was concentrated near the only existing window, and faunal remains appeared to be disposed of in one location. Clothing items, such as pins and buttons, were concentrated in the southern and western areas near the hearth and window. These may have been light sources for the detailed work of these activities. This area may have served as a primary activity area within the house because of the ample light sources from the southern-facing door and window. The area was also in close proximity to the fireplace, which would provide warmth during the cooler seasons in East Tennessee.

CHAPTER 6

COMPARISON WITH KNOXVILLE'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

As previously noted, domestic archaeology has become increasingly important when exploring the early history of Knoxville. Archaeology at the historic houselots and frontier homesteads of the early socially elite has supplemented historical documentation about many of Knoxville's financially elite, its political heroes, and its early founders. In this chapter, I compare Marble Springs with the residences of four of Knoxville's most prominent historical figures, as well as provide a summary that supplements Marble Springs' archaeological evidence with additional sites in Knoxville such as the Roddy and Walker households.

William Blount's Mansion

George Washington appointed William Blount Governor of the Southwest Territory in 1791. Blount was a land speculator in East Tennessee and went on to serve as a United States Senator and to sign the United States Constitution. His overwhelming influence made his home a central location for political and social events in Knoxville, and John Sevier makes references in his personal journal to attending many functions at Governor Blount's home (Sevier 1790-1815).

Blount's mansion is credited as the earliest frame structure west of the Appalachian Mountains. The original structure had two rooms on the main floor and a half story loft. Other buildings on the grounds included the Governor's office, a detached kitchen, slave quarters, a cooling room, and a possible smokehouse (Hamby

1999). Archaeological data examined for this comparison were included in a report comparing the slave quarters to a midden directly to the rear of the Blount mansion. The artifact data used here are from the Blount family midden.

The Blount midden produced 372 faunal remains, 90 per cent of which were mammals. The Marble Springs assemblage contained 521 faunal remains, the majority of which were also mammals. An unusually large amount of chicken remains were recovered at Marble Springs, but nearly all of them were chicken egg shell fragments. Fish, snail, and a cardinal crania were the only non-mammal remains recovered from Marble Springs. No wild mammals were recovered from the Blount midden while turkey, fish, and eastern cottontail rabbits were found in small numbers at Marble Springs.

There is a wide distribution of ceramic wares at Blount Mansion that constitute what is typically found in the home sites of Knoxville's upper class: creamwares (plain, annular, and overglazed enameled), pearlwares (plain, polychrome handpainted, underglaze blue, transfer printed, and edge decorated), whitewares (plain, transfer printed, and gilded), and porcelains (English and Chinese exported overglazed and underglazed). These represent a wide variety of decorated wares and styles for personal use as well as for special service. A sample of utilitarian coarse earthenwares also represents the preparation and storage of food at the Blount kitchen similar to that at Marble Springs.

Alexander Ramsey's House

Francis Alexander Ramsey accompanied James White on land explorations in Knox County in 1783 and obtained a land grant for his home in 1786. In 1793, the Ramsey family moved to Swan Pond and erected a hewn log structure to live in while their stone house was being built on the same property. The stone house was built in 1796 – 1797 from locally quarried stone. It is a two-story late neoclassic Georgian house with a later kitchen similarly constructed on the northeast corner (Tate 1972).

The Ramsey family was a very prominent family in Knoxville during their time. They were doctors, lawyers, politicians, historians, and involved in public service (Roberts 1986). Francis Alexander served as a member of the State of Franklin's council and also as a clerk of the superior court. He later continued to serve on the superior court for the State of Tennessee's Washington District and Knox County.

Archaeological investigations at Ramsey House first were conducted in 1973 and 1976, but the excavations done in 1985 are used here as a comparative sample because they were near the stone house. The original scope of the project aimed to locate the foundation of the earlier log structure. Although the remains of the log building were not located until very recent field seasons, the 1985 project provided basic information about the site and the archaeological assemblage used for this comparison.

As seen in Table 3, the 1985 assemblage data is comparable to that from Marble Springs. There is a slightly larger kitchen group assemblage and a slightly smaller architecture assemblage, but both are indicative of domestic locations. The

Table 3. Artifact Frequencies for Marble Springs and Ramsey House

Group	Marble Springs	Ramsey House
Kitchen	36.1	43.2
Architecture	36.2	29.7
Furniture	1.3	2.4
Arms	0.3	0.2
Clothing	1.5	0.7
Personal	0.9	0.2
Tobacco	0.1	0.1
Activities	9.1	22.3
Faunal	14.5	1.1
Total	100	100

lower architecture group frequency may be indicative of house type: the stone Ramsey house would have used less nails than the wood-constructed Marble Springs cabin.

There is also an extremely small faunal assemblage at Ramsey House, which may indicate that there is a specific disposal area for this material at another location not in the vicinity of these excavations.

The higher frequency of activities group artifacts at the Ramsey House may be misleading. Although there was a large portion of stable and barn material recovered, nearly 90 per cent of the activities group consists of miscellaneous hardware, 75 per cent of which is unidentifiable metal fragments.

The ceramic assemblage is once again comparable to that of Marble Springs. The refined earthenwares constitute 66 per cent of the Ramsey assemblage and 72 per cent of the Marble Springs assemblage. Within this group, the individual wares are nearly identical in their frequency. The coarse earthenwares are also very similar, consisting of 17 per cent of the assemblage at Ramsey House and 20 per cent at

Marble Springs. The porcelain occurrence also is nearly identical, being 6 per cent of the assemblage at Ramsey House and 8 per cent at Marble Springs.

Nicholas Gibbs House

Nicholas Gibbs was one of the early pioneers of Knoxville and Knox County. He was noted as a prominent member of the community and held local offices such as justice of the peace (Faulkner 1988). Like so many of his contemporaries, he speculated on land in the area while still living in North Carolina. A family history states that he built his log home in East Knox County in 1792 (Faulkner 1988).

The log house was originally a single pen, story-and-a-half structure, but at an early date, a frame pen was added to the east end. By the mid-nineteenth century, an ell kitchen was built on the rear of the log house. In the 1950s, modifications involved the construction of new rooms where the ell and the additional pen had been located.

Archaeological excavations at the Gibbs house were conducted beginning in 1987 in the rear activity yard to investigate for outbuildings on the farm. Although initially inconclusive in their research goals, the excavations yielded extremely significant information about the lifeways of Nicholas Gibbs in the late eighteenth century. They also verified the date of construction for the log cabin (Faulkner 1988).

Comparisons between the Marble Springs and Nicholas Gibbs house materials used the entire assemblage from Areas A, B, and C at Marble Springs, and the assemblage included in the 1987 testing done at the Gibbs house. The material from the excavation at the Gibbs house was the assemblage most archaeologically relevant to the Sevier domestic occupation at Marble Springs. In order to compare the artifact

frequencies between these sites, modifications needed to be done either to include the faunal assemblage into the Gibbs house frequencies, or to remove it from the Marble Springs frequencies. It was decided to do the latter and to include any relevant information concerning the faunal assemblages after the discussion of the artifacts.

Comparison of the artifact frequencies at the Gibbs house with those at Marble Springs suggests similarities and differences between the two frontier pioneers who settled in East Tennessee (Table 4). Although the public status of John Sevier was certainly higher, both men resided in log cabins and made a living surviving primarily on their own goods and property. As Table 4 shows, the frequency of kitchen related artifacts is significantly higher in the Gibbs house assemblage than at Marble Springs. The fact that at Marble Springs the artifacts were recovered in direct association with a known domestic location, while at the Gibbs house the artifacts were recovered in relation to an outbuilding location and midden area possibly accounts for this difference. A domestic location should have a relatively high frequency of kitchen

Table 4. Artifact Frequencies for Marble Springs and Gibbs House

Group	Marble Springs	Gibbs House
Kitchen	42.3	70.0
Architecture	42.4	20.0
Furniture	1.5	1.3
Arms	0.3	0.2
Clothing	1.8	1.7
Personal	1.0	0.1
Tobacco	0.1	--
Activities	10.7	6.9
Total	100	100

and architectural artifacts, while the midden would be representative only of materials discarded purposely by the occupants of the associated structure. This midden location may simply be the place selected for the discard primarily of kitchen related items.

The frequency of specific types of ceramics can indicate similarities in financial status between the two families. For example, Faulkner (1988:37) states that Nicholas Gibbs “set an austere table with plain creamware and blue shell-edge pearlware flatware, an underglaze polychrome pearlware tea service, and used an heirloom white salt-glaze scratch blue tea set for special occasions. Although the regularly used dishware at Marble Springs could be considered comparable to the Gibbs house assemblage, with plain creamware flatwares and underglaze polychrome and edge decorated pearlwares, the Sevier family had imported Chinese porcelains for their tea service and for special occasions. The use of porcelains may indicate that the Sevier’s were somewhat financially better off than the Gibbs, but overall, the two assemblages are typical of what would be seen in two late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries domestic locations in Knox County.

James White’s Second Home

James White is credited with being the founder of Knoxville, Tennessee, having established the James White Fort that grew into the city of Knoxville. Sometime after 1786, James White moved from his fort to his second home in East Knoxville, a plantation approximately one mile east of First Creek (Faulkner 1984).

White was a member of the State of Franklin's legislature and its Constitutional Convention, along with the national Constitutional Convention. He served many offices in Knox County including justice of the peace, an Indian Commissioner of Tennessee, and a county representative to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention. White served as an elected Senator in the First General Assembly of Tennessee, he became Speaker of the Senate, and he served as Brigadier-General of the Hamilton District in Alabama during the Creek War of 1813 (Faulkner 1984).

The second home of James White at his plantation was a saddlebag house: a log structure having two pens and a central chimney, typical of settlers of English descent. It was also one-and-a-half stories high and probably had a loft above the two pens. The house was later weatherboarded. Archaeological investigations were conducted when highway construction for the South Knoxville bridge was planned through the location of the James White house. Phase II excavations were done after a 1981 survey and were completed during October, 1981. Phase III excavations occurred during June and July, 1982 (Faulkner 1984).

This saddlebag house was occupied by James White in the late 1780s and remained largely in the family until 1849 when Samuel McCammon built a larger, statelier house on another portion of the property. The McCammon family dismantled the log house in 1852. This gives the artifact assemblage a *terminus post quem* during the 1850s because no one was living in the area after this date.

The artifact assemblages of Marble Springs and the James White site are very similar in their composition (Table 5). Kitchen and architectural artifacts dominate

Table 5. Artifact Frequencies for Marble Springs and James White's Second Home

Group	Marble Springs	James White
Kitchen	36.1	41.7
Architecture	36.2	42.1
Furniture	1.3	0.1
Arms	0.3	0.1
Clothing	1.5	0.1
Personal	0.9	0.1
Tobacco	0.1	0.1
Activities	9.1	1.9
Faunal	14.5	12.6
Total	100	100

both locations, while faunal remains are also evident. The activities group constitutes a significantly smaller percentage of the artifacts at the James White site than at Marble Springs.

The ceramic assemblage is relatively consistent between the two sites. The refined earthenwares comprise 71 per cent of the total ceramic assemblage at Marble Springs, while these wares represent 87 per cent at the James White site. The frequencies for individual refined earthenwares are not comparable because the James White site was not occupied after the 1850s and the late nineteenth century and twentieth century ceramics abundant at Marble Springs skew the percentages.

The slightly higher frequency of porcelain at Marble Springs (8% versus 5%) suggests the Sevier's placed importance on setting a good table for guests, although the sample size is small. The presence of the porcelain also supports the documentary sources that Sevier hosted guests at his Marble Springs plantation.

Coarse earthenwares are slightly more frequent at Marble Springs, constituting 20 per cent of the assemblage there, but only 12 per cent at the James White site. The higher percentage at Marble Springs may indicate more dependence on the storage of food products because of the family's more self-sufficient livelihood and their distance from town.

In summary, the artifact assemblages for these two sites are similar in nature. Both were domestic occupations dating in the late eighteenth century. The abundance of late nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts at Marble Springs are not relevant to this discussion.

Summary

The upper class status of the John Sevier family is supported by these comparisons of the artifacts from their home with those from the homes of other Knoxville elite and early settlers. Sevier's financial status is assumed to be lower than popular estimates because of his incredible financial debts and his inability to finish building his house after his arrival in Knoxville. His personal journal makes many references to monies owed and debts paid throughout its 25 year duration.

Examining the square footage of the Sevier cabin and comparing it to others in Knoxville demonstrates that the cabin itself is of average size and not a grandiose structure as some have thought. The Sevier cabin is approximately 396 square feet, while the Walker House built during the 1830s is 410 square feet. The original Ramsey log cabin built in the 1790s was 400 square feet and the Gibbs House was 432 square feet. Additionally, the median square footage of the common square log cabin

sizes discussed in Morgan (1990) is 384 square feet. This comparison demonstrates that the Sevier cabin is not exceptional, even though it was occupied by one of Knoxville's most distinguished.

The estate inventories of John Sevier, Francis Alexander Ramsey, and James White also provide an interesting comparison. While it is known that James White distributed his personal goods to his children before his death, there is no evidence that either John Sevier or F.A. Ramsey also did this. White's estate inventory is short in comparison to Sevier's, and nearly nonexistent in comparison to Ramsey's inventory.

For example, there are only six animals listed in White's inventory, while there are 22 in Sevier's and over 100 in Ramsey's estate inventory. The sparse amount of furniture listed in White's inventory indicates that he probably gave most of this to his children before his death. The amount listed in Sevier's inventory is indicative of what would have fit into his one room cabin with the loft bedroom. The vast amount in Ramsey's inventory indicates a large multiple room house. Interestingly, Sevier's inventory indicates a number of silver teaspoons and dessert spoons, as well as many tea china sets, tea boards, and other fine silver serving accessories. The inventory from Ramsey appears to be comparable to that of Sevier in this regard.

The comparison of the archaeological ceramic assemblages between these five sites is very similar. Each has an array of popular early creamwares and pearlwares with typical decorative techniques. Later whitewares were more varied because of a wider assortment of decorative techniques. Porcelains were important in all of the examples and gave evidence of fine dining services for guests and special occasions. These porcelains probably were neither cheap nor easy to obtain and normally were

only purchased by upper class and elite citizens. It should be noted, however, that although John Sevier had fine imported porcelain tea wares, there is not yet any archaeological evidence for the expensive, imported Canton underglaze blue handpainted porcelain dinner sets that have been recovered at the Blount Mansion, Ramsey House, and James White sites (Faulkner 1984, 1986, 1993, 2000).

Even during the frontier period, it is believed that more serving vessels were required for formal dining, such as that historically documented to have taken place at the home of the governor at Marble Springs. But, comparisons of ceramic tableware vessels from Marble Springs and the Gibbs, Roddy, and Walker households in Knoxville, all early pioneer yeomen farmers, do not suggest this type of dining at Marble Springs. Using only identifiable tableware vessels, it is seen that Marble Springs has comparable percentages of plates, saucers, and cups as these households. There is a virtual absence of platters and serving vessels in the Roddy and Walker assemblages. At the Gibbs House, five per cent of the assemblage is platters and three per cent is serving vessels (Faulkner and Baumann 1996). Interestingly, at Marble Springs only one per cent of the ceramic assemblage is platters and one per cent is other serving dishes, perhaps indicating that guests at Marble Springs were not served elaborate, formal meals, or the Seviers simply did not have full sets of formal dinner ware.

These comparisons suggest that although John Sevier appeared to be in a dire financial situation, he still maintained his high political, military, and public figure status. His humbler living arrangements may have assisted in easing his financial stresses, allowing the family to indulge in a few finer material possessions for certain

occasions. A popular story about the Sevier family describes the Marble Springs home as

...resembling a hamlet rather than a single dwelling. The principal apartment in the Governor's house was the reception room, which occupied the whole of one of the cabins, and was furnished in a manner approaching elegance, its puncheon floor being partly covered on great occasions with an imported carpet which had been presented to the Governor's wife, as the lady was universally styled, by some of her seaboard admirers. But the precious rug never made its appearance except to honor some distinguished guest, some high official or titled foreigner. They were no sooner gone than it was carefully dusted and rolled away to one side of the room by Jeff and Suzy, old servants who had been reared in the family... (Sevier and Madden 1961)

Although the Sevier family was not able to maintain a splendid downtown Knoxville mansion, they were repeatedly deemed as respectable and honorable, yet firm in their ways. Perhaps J.G.M. Ramsey (1853:710) said it best when he recalled that Sevier "received his guests in the olden style of primitive hospitality and backwoods etiquette."

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Marble Springs State Historic Site attempted to answer several questions about the domestic life of Governor John Sevier and his family. Although Sevier was one of the original land speculators of Knoxville, and one of its most significant historical figures, his historic homestead ironically has been ignored because of lack of funding for nearly all of its public existence.

Domestic archaeology has become increasingly important in Knoxville as the local public becomes increasingly interested in their own history. Although well documented historically, this study of John Sevier's material culture has assisted in a better understanding of the Governor and his lifestyle. Archaeological investigations have provided a strong Sevier-era artifact assemblage, in addition to providing ample amounts of material culture from the families that lived in the main cabin through the earlier twentieth century. Many of the artifacts, including redware, creamware, and much of the pearlware, can be attributed to only the Sevier period occupation of the site; while many other artifacts can only be attributed to families residing at Marble Springs after the mid-1800s.

This thesis presents the synthesis of the amply documented historical record and the newly recognized archaeological evidence of John Sevier and his Marble Springs plantation. It aimed to expand on, explain, and clarify a number of questions concerning the historical information known about the site. A number of these goals were reached, including establishing archaeological evidence for the location and time

period of the main cabin at the site and determining functional areas within the cabin interior.

Many of the questions examined could not be answered definitively and presented other questions for future investigation. The exact date of construction of the main cabin could not be ascertained, and it was concluded that this structure could have been built before the Sevier family moved to the plantation. Additionally, the date that the family moved there could not be determined more specifically because of the lack of specific historical documentation pertaining to this issue and the wide range of dates for most archaeological artifacts. It could only be concluded that there was, in fact, a structure in that location during the 1790s.

The financial status of John Sevier and his family was examined archaeologically and demonstrated that the high status publicly accorded to this individual does not appear to be reflected by the lifestyle of the family at Marble Springs. The question still remains whether the modest lifestyle that John Sevier lived was by choice or by necessity. Was it his goal to emulate F.A. Ramsey and William Blount when entertaining guests, or was he a simple man who enjoyed the rustic lifestyle of his single pen log cabin? This question can only be answered by knowing what the individual felt was important, and not by what they could afford for their home. John Sevier furnished his home and took care of his political and family obligations. Whether this was the life he wanted or if he desired to imitate his more financially superior contemporaries cannot be answered archaeologically.

Excavations at Marble Springs have demonstrated the importance of studying local historic locations, and have involved both the university community and those

interested in the Governor's history. There were many archaeological limitations with this site because of the disturbances and the small amount of materials recovered from excavations, but this union has assisted in synthesizing the historical documentation and the archaeological material to provide a history that can be used to educate the public about one of Tennessee's early, prominent citizens.

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VITA

Jennifer L. Barber was born on February 9, 1977, in Westfield, New York. After graduation from Westfield Academy and Central School, a year of foreign study in Ankara, Turkey, peaked her hidden interest in history, and she no longer desired to pursue her ambition of being a physical therapist. While taking a required social science introductory anthropology class, Jennifer was influenced by an enthusiastic visiting professor from the University of Buffalo. She transferred to the University of Albany to study MesoAmerican archaeology and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in May, 2000. During college, an internship at the New York State Historic Preservation Office under Lois Feister led to independent studies, research projects, and eventually a summer position as a field and lab technician in historical archaeology. Lois' influence and interest in Jennifer's archaeological future are what persuaded her to pursue graduate work at the University of Tennessee. This thesis presents the culmination of her work at the university and she appreciates the many opportunities she received during her studies there.