

The Footsteps of John Sevier

John Sevier

John Sevier was an American soldier, frontiersman and politician, and one of the founding fathers of the State of Tennessee. He played a leading role, both militarily and politically, in Tennessee's pre-statehood period, and was elected the state's first governor in 1796. Sevier helped defend Fort Watauga against an assault by the Cherokee.



Start your journey to follow the footsteps of John Sevier by visiting his home at Marble Springs (pictured above). The Marble Springs Plantation which was owned by John Sevier is now a state historic site in South Knoxville. It is open from 8:00 a.m. To sunset and features various activities throughout the year for families and reenactors. Its living history exhibits are considered some of the best in Tennessee and attracts thousands of tourists to the site annually. The facility also features an on-site interpretive center and includes the home and outbuildings common to the era.

The only original building at Marble Springs, the two-story main cabin, has been restored and furnished with Sevier family items and other frontier pieces. Additions include a kitchen, a loom house, a smokehouse, a spring house, and a barn. The Walker Cabin, Circa 1830, has been moved to the site and features artifacts and a video presentation.

At the age of 17, John Sevier married Sarah Hawkins. They had 10 children. After Sarah's death he married Bonnie Kate Sherrill. They also had 10 children.

1220 W. Governor John Sevier Hwy, Knoxville, TN 37920 • 865-573-5508



Take another step back in time as you visit the grave of Governor John Sevier. Tennessee's first governor and his wife Bonnie Kate are both buried on the front lawn of Knoxville's Old Courthouse. A monument recognizing his first wife, Sarah Hawkins, is also on the courthouse lawn.

Sevier arrived on the Tennessee Valley frontier in the 1770s. In 1776, he was elected one of five magistrates of the Watauga Association and helped defend Fort Watauga against an assault by the Cherokee.

During his term as governor, Sevier made the acquisition of Indian lands a priority and consistently urged Congress and the Secretary of War to negotiate new treaties to that end.

300 Main Street, Knoxville, TN 37902