

JOHN CROCKETT SENIOR

'Tennessee Royalty'

Biography Courtesy of the Jonesborough Genealogical Society
excerpted from their book,

Early Settlers of Washington County, Tennessee

This 'coffee table' size book is a masterpiece of both information and production quality. The book may be purchased from the Jonesborough Genealogical Society.

The link to the Jonesborough Society is under 'Helpful Links' at our Website.

Frontiersman and soldier, John C. Crockett was born on August 10, 1754 / 1759, to David Crockett I and Elizabeth Hedge. He was of French Huguenot, Scots and Irish descent.

John married Rebecca Hawkins, daughter of Nathan Hawkins and Ruth Cole, circa 1780. In circa 1775 / 1776, John and Rebecca and their children moved to the Nolichucky Settlement on Limestone Creek, from Lincoln County, North Carolina. The David Crockett Birthplace State Park now preserves the site of his cabin, which still stands and has been restored from logs that were taken in a flooding of the Nolichucky River. Their children were: Sarah, James William, Aaron, Nathan II, Wilson, James Patterson, David Stern (Davy) II, Elizabeth, John C., Jr., and Rebecca II.

John C. Crockett, Sr. fought in the Revolutionary War. He was an Overmountain Man and fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain under Isaac Shelby.

In addition to serving in the military, John held many positions during his life time. He was a farmer, magistrate, land speculator, justice of the court, tavern keeper, and constable. In 1783, he was a commissioner for building roads and a frontier ranger. That same year he was on the Greene County, Tennessee tax list. He was the presiding magistrate when President Andrew Jackson received his license to practice law.



David Crockett The home of John C. Crockett, Sr. stands in the David Crockett Birthplace State Park, today. Courtesy of Elaine Scott Cantrell

He moved to the Cove Creek area and built a mill with Thomas Galbraith. Unfortunately, in 1794, a flood destroyed the mill as well as his home. After that venture, John Crockett, Sr. moved to present-day Hamblen / Jefferson County, Tennessee, where he built a log cabin and tavern on the road from Abingdon, Virginia, to Knoxville, Tennessee. The building is still in existence today and is an historical site. John's date of death was between 1802 and 1834. His wife, Rebecca, died on October 15, 1832, in Rutherford or Gibson County Tennessee. She is buried in the Tyson Family Cemetery.

Sources: 1. "David Crockett: His Life and Adventures". Abbot, James S.C., 2. "History of Rogersville, Tennessee. Vol. I" Price, Henry., 3. "The Overmountain Men". Alderman, Pat., 4. "Historical Marker in Morristown, Tennessee", 5. "King of the Wild Frontier, Autobiography". Crockett, David (Davy), 6. "Historical Southern Families". Armstrong, Zella., 7. "The King's Mountain Men". White, Katherine K., 8. French and Armstrong, "Antoine De Sauss Perronette De/ Crockettagne / Crockett Family of Tennessee". 9. Germana. "Germana Families (1st and 2nd Colonies)." Rootsweb's WorldConnect Project, March 14, 2010., 10. Nichol, Margaret Nolen. "David Crockett- Biography: David Crockett, Tennessean", 11. "David Crockett-Biography: A Tennessean at The Almo".

As with many famous men in the annals of history, some disagreements arise among knowledgeable Historians. John Crockett - the father of David Crockett - is no exception. The current Greene County Historian and a past President of the Crockett Descendants Association clarifies that the marriage date of John Crockett is uncertain, that any middle name or initial for him or his famous son, David, is not adequately proven, and John and Rebecca Crockett had only nine children. Also in dispute is the actual date of death of John Crockett and the location of Rebecca's death at her daughter, Rebecca Jane Crockett Foster's home and subsequent burial.

What all can agree with is both John Crockett and his esteemed son, David, have entered into the annals of East Tennessee History.

Life on the Frontier

Some Historians believe John Crockett was a son of David "The Elder" Crockett. Both he and his [purported] wife, Elizabeth Hedge Crockett were killed at their home near today's Rogersville on August 19, 1777 by Cherokee Indians led by Dragging Canoe. John and Elizabeth are believed to be buried in Rogers Cemetery, located in the oldest section of Rogersville.

The parentage of John Crockett and his wife's name is also now under dispute among Historians as is the Crockett's Huguenot ancestry. With the recent development of DNA testing over the last ten years, and the ever increasing advances in DNA databases, this has now provided a new tool in the Genealogical toolbox. What has been readily acknowledged to be 'fact' in the past is now open to challenge because of DNA testing. No doubt, disagreements and 'refinements' to history have been and will continue to be brought about because of this new science.

The State of Tennessee placed a marker in 1927:

"Here lie David Crockett and his wife, the grandparents of Davy Crockett, who were massacred near this spot by Indians in 1777."



Rogers Cemetery, Rogersville

The David Crockett Descendants Association is a leader in the new field of DNA-based genealogy. The following article appeared in the August 2018 Crockett Newsletter and is presented here with permission:

Davy Crockett - Could someone please tell me.....

By Warren Lawrence, Crockett Family DNA Project FamilytreeDNA August 30, 2009

Davy's ancestry farther back than his grandfather has not been identified although there has been much speculation.

Davy, in his autobiography, tells that his grandparents were killed by Indians near present day Rogersville, Tennessee in 1777. Those grandparents are identified as David (commonly called David the Elder) and Elizabeth Crockett

There is much speculation as to the parentage of the elder David Crockett, but NO documents identifying parents have been found. Speculation has tried to tie him into the family of Antoine de Crocketagne but honestly INSUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION has been found to establish Antoine's line to ANY of the Crockett's who immigrated to the United States.

Reading "Project Background", "Project Goals", and "Results" on the Crockett FamilytreeDNA page will bring out some good points of information.

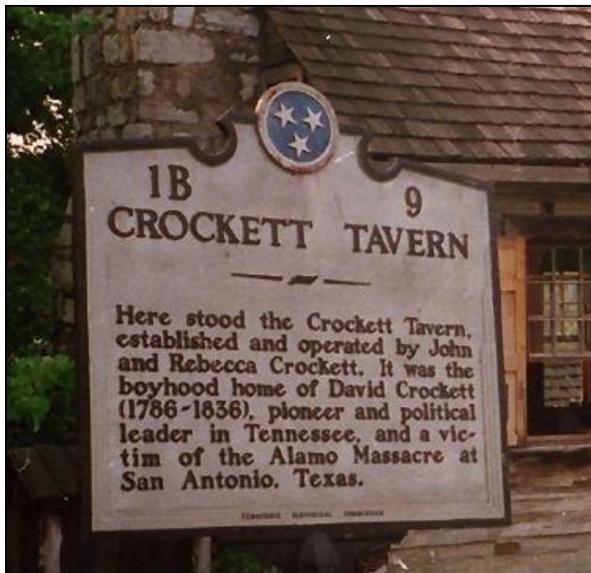
Davy's family line's DNA values are given in subgroup Two and has a Haplogroup of I2b1 which is much different than Haplogroup R1b2 of most of the other Crockett participants. So a lot of us who have tried to claim Davy as a relative are going to have to give up that claim, sorry.

DNA testing results by participants in the project show that Davy's Crockett family is not related to the family lines of Joseph Lewis Crockett, Jr. and Samuel Crockett/Ester Thompson who have also been speculated as being related to Antoine and to Davy's grandfather. Subgroup Five shows the DNA results of a proven descendant of Joseph Lewis Crockett, Jr (#83171) and a proven descendant of Samuel Crockett (#50382) and some other Crockett's with early Virginia roots. Subgroup five and the subgroup two are clearly not related.

This is a long message to say that I think Davy's great grandparents and beyond are not yet known. Too many Family Trees have been put out onto the internet containing family tails, here say and unproven claims, then accepted and propagated by others without proof to their accuracy, I am afraid.

Setting genealogical issues aside, John Crockett was indeed a Revolutionary War Soldier, and his most famous son, David, was a Soldier under Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. Both father and son are true American Hero's.... and they should be remembered and honored as such.

Few men of their times or today's time would be their equal.



**The John Crockett Tavern
Museum and Tennessee
Historic Site
Morristown, Hamblen County,
Tennessee:**



**David "Davy" Crockett,
a Tennessee Legend**

- **Son of Revolutionary War Soldier,
John Crockett Senior**
- **War of 1812 Soldier under General
Andrew Jackson**
- **Tennessee Statesman**
- **Famed Frontiersman**
- **Defender of the Alamo**