

#### STEPHEN COPELAND, FIRST TO SETTLE OVERTON COUNTY

In the early spring of 1799, Col. Stephen Copeland, a representative of one of the old families of North Carolina, accompanied by his son Jo, who was afterwards familiarly known as Big Jo, left the good old country of Jefferson to seek a home in the new country beyond the Indian line. Following the Indian Trail over the dark ravine and precipitous cliffs of the Cumberland Mountains, where the venomous serpent and ravenous beasts kept their vigils by night and by day, these fearless pioneers, laden with scanty supplies which they had brought with them from Kingston, pursued their lonely journey. A beautiful cane break in the valley of the roaring river arrested their attention, and recommended itself as a desirable location and there . . . they pitched there camp, and planted the first crop of corn that was ever grown in the limits of Overton County. While here, Col. Copeland hunted many days and camped many nights with the famous Indian chief, Nettle Carrier, whom he always remembered as a kind and devoted friend, a generous and congenial companion, and a nobleman by nature. . . . After they were done cultivating their crop, Col. Copeland and his son returned to Jefferson County for the rest of their family.

Goodpasture, Albert V. Overton County Address of Albert V. Goodpasture. Cumberland Presbyterian Publishing House, Nashville, TN. 1877. Pp6-7. (*The above is an excerpt from the address given in Overton County at the Independence Day Celebration in July 4, 1876. His purpose was to give the history of the settlement of Overton County since its known beginnings.*)