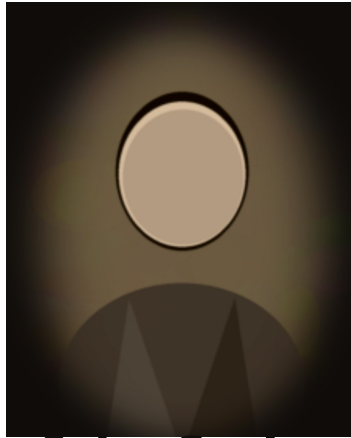




John Sevier

September 23, 1745 - September 24, 1815

Fort Decatur, Alabama

John Sevier - Revolutionary War commander, governor of the short-lived State of Franklin, and first governor of Tennessee - died near Fort Decatur on the Tallapoosa River in what was then Mississippi Territory (now Alabama) on September 24, 1815. He was seventy, one day past his birthday. Born September 23, 1745, in the Shenandoah country of Virginia, he crossed the mountains into the Holston and Watauga settlements, fought at King's Mountain, and became the hardy political face of early Tennessee statehood.

Voters returned him again and again as governor; later he sat in Congress. In 1815 President Madison sent him to help survey a Creek boundary after the war years - a frontier assignment that looked like ordinary federal duty until fever or sudden illness struck his camp. He was buried near the fort; decades later Tennessee reinterred him with ceremony on the Knoxville courthouse lawn, closing a circle between riverbank death and capital memory.

Fort Decatur was a commissioner's camp, not a retirement porch. He died in the field, still doing the map work of a republic that had outgrown the cabin clearings he once defended.

He died near Fort Decatur on September 24, 1815. Tennessee schoolbooks still open with Nolichucky Jack on the ridge.

Sevier's gift was frontier statecraft - turning militia reputation into lasting civil government. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 24 remembers the Virginia-born soldier who became Tennessee's first governor and died on a boundary survey.

Services

Died near Fort Decatur, Alabama (then Mississippi Territory), September 24, 1815. First governor of Tennessee; Revolutionary War officer; later reinterred in Knoxville.

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