

# David Hall Cabin

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on September 6, 2017)

The historic David Hall Cabin, built in 1799, is located just across the Clinch River near Claxton and east of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Bull Run Steam Plant. It is on the route of the earliest road in this area, the Emery Road. The cabin was the home of Revolutionary War Veteran, David Hall, who is buried nearby the cabin in the Hall Arnold Cemetery. The two-story cabin served as an Inn and Tavern during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Emery Road, cut and cleared in 1788, is the earliest road in this area which started just south of Clinch Mountain at present-day Blaine and continued to Nashville. It also passed through what is now Oak Ridge. The old road crossed the Clinch River and by way of the present route of Emory Valley road continued west to a later addition to the road, the concrete and rock bridge just east of the Midtown Community Center.

There is a historic marker near the bridge. This bridge is in need of attention! One of the pillars is falling away from the bridge! I took the TN state Historic Preservation Officer there and he agreed that something should be done to protect this historic bridge and repair the damage.

Libby and Harry Bumgardner have devoted an enormous amount of energy and attention to detail to make this uniquely historic group of cabins a memorable place to visit. Two additional cabins have been moved and reconstructed on the site of the original authentic David Hall cabin.

You have a chance to experience the hospitality and step back in time at this early home and business in Anderson County on September 9 and 10, 2017, from 10 AM to 6 PM. You will be able to experience authentic artistic work by both Blacksmiths and Tinsmiths. There will be leather good for sale. There will be demonstrations of butter churning. Flintlock rifle shooting and hatchet throwing. There will even be a hammer dulcimer player.

Additionally, you will be able to view many displays of historical documents and photos. There is no admission charge, however, donations to the David Hall Cabin Restoration Fund will be accepted. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

In 2001, the Anderson County Commission issued a Proclamation declaring November 3, 2001, "David Hall Day" and stressed the significance of David Hall, stating that he, "Fought at Kings Mountain in the Revolutionary War, served as an Indian spy under Captain Edmund Sams and also served under Colonel John Sevier." The log house he built is noted as "still standing and is believed to be Anderson County's oldest home and business."

Libby provided me a copy of a petition dated April 1, 1799, "To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee – "The Petition of sundry inhabitants of Knox County humbly sheweth, that their local situation is such as renders it very inconvenient for them to attend the usual solace of holding courts, general musters, elections, etc., some of us having at least from 25 to 40 miles to travel, and generally very bad roads, having sundry large water-courses, and ridges to cross, your Petitioners humbly conceive that their grievance might be much alleviated by a division of Knox County in the following manner(viz). Beginning at the Cross Mountains where the Knox Line intersects the Indian Boundary Line, thence with that line to the river Clinch, thence across the Big Valley on a ridge that divides the waters of Big Buffalo from those of Little Buffalo to the Chestnut Ridge, thence along the extreme height of said ridge to where the lower line of the Survey of Henderson, etc., crosses the same, thence along that line to the Top of the Copper Ridge, thence along the extreme height of said ridge to the mouth of Beaver Creek, thence to any point on the Tennessee that you in your wisdom may think proper, thence along the Indian Boundary Line to the place of beginning. And your petitioners will ever pray, (signed by David Hall and Peter Avery (an early explorer for whom the Avery Trace is named) as well as well over 150 others.

So, David Hall was among those who initiated the effort to define the boundaries of Anderson County and carve out from Knox County those who lived several miles from Knoxville.

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Libby also provided written evidence of the Hall Cemetery being cleaned off in 1924. The statement reads, "This is to certify that Walter S. Thomason of Clinton, Tenn., Route # 4, Box 48, has cleaned off the Hall Cemetery, better known as the Arnold Graveyard about one mile east of Edgemoor, Tenn., in Racoon Valley. I ask all the people that have kinfolks buried in this cemetery to donate to me, Walter S. Thomason, for cleaning off this cemetery, the amount you feel like giving. Or anyone that wishes to donate will be accepted and appreciated. If not able to give now any time you are ready to give will be thankfully received. Walter S. Thomason.

Finally, Libby provided a copy of the 1847 survey that identified the property owned by David Hall. The survey included mention of "half an acre for a burying ground." The purpose of the survey was to divide the property among the Hall family five years after David Hall's 1842 death.

David Hall's tombstone is among the first stones you come to when you walk the short distance from the cabin to the Hall Arnold Cemetery. Recently, a marker for his wife, Obedience Brazle, has been added beside David Hall's marker.

The David Hall Cabin is a treasure that has been preserved by Libby and Harry Bumgardner. If you want to experience their hospitality and explore the authentic cabins, plan to come by on September 9 or 10, 2017, and visit with them awhile as you enjoy the entertainment and historic buildings. Thanks to Libby and Harry for their dedication.



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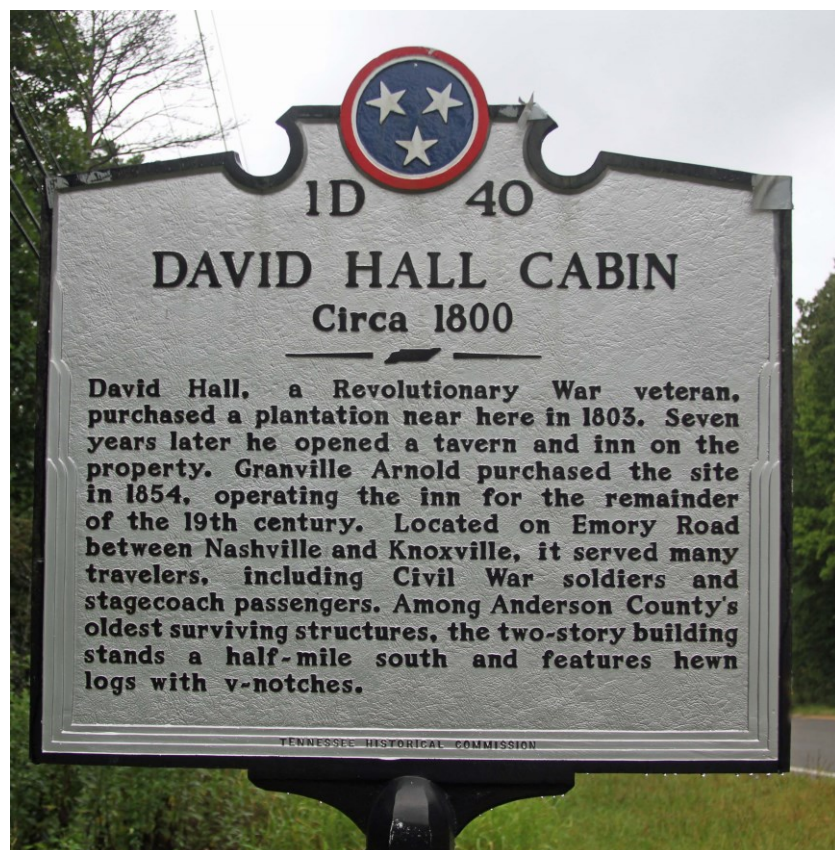
David Hall, Revolutionary War Veteran

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Obedience Brazle, wife of David Hall



Historical Marker