

Charlotte Reeves Robertson
January 2, 1751 – June 11, 1843

Section 28.51 #280045

Charlotte Reeves was born on January 2, 1751 and grew up in North Carolina. After her marriage to James Robertson, she and her husband moved across the Appalachian Mountains to the Watauga Settlement which was Cherokee Territory. After nearly a decade in the area and after the family had survived periods of warfare, James Robertson led a small group, in 1779, toward the French Lick which lay some 200 miles west in the Cumberland wilderness.

Charlotte Robertson, along with four of her five children, several other family members and a few slaves, embarked on a river journey that covered 1000 miles. About 30 flat boats began the journey in December 1779. Several individuals were killed over the course of the voyage. Charlotte helped paddle the flat boat on which her family was travelling much of the final 200 miles upriver to where Nashville would eventually stand. The flat boats arrived at French Lick on April 24, 1780.

Charlotte experienced the ordeal of frontier life and Indian warfare for another 15 years. As the leader of the isolated settlements, James was frequently away for months at a time, but Charlotte managed to keep the family together and to help sustain the fledging community. By the time the Indian wars came to a close in 1795, she had given birth to six more children, her husband had been wounded three times, one daughter had died and two sons, including a twelve-year-old, had been killed by Indians.

Her sacrifices did not end when peace was finally achieved. She accompanied her husband to the Chickasaw Territory (now West Tennessee) where he was in service to the Federal government and where he died in 1814. Charlotte said, near the end of her life, that she would not relive what she had experienced during the Indians wars for the entire world. Charlotte died on June 11, 1843, and was buried at City Cemetery.

Paul Clements 2015

Source

Chronicles of the Cumberland Settlements 1779-1796. Paul Clements. 2012