

History of Our Tennessee State Society's Gavel



Fifty-two years ago Esther M. Pearce presented the Tennessee State Society a gavel to be used at State meetings. As you can see, it is made of oak. The plaque fastened to it reads:

PRESENTED
TENNESSEE SOCIETY N.S.D.A.C.
BY
ESTHER M. PEARCE
1958
WOOD FROM COL. JACOB
BROWN

TREATY OAK
1772

Esther lived in Jonesboro, Tennessee, and was a direct descendant of Col. Jacob Brown.

Jacob Brown (1736-1785) trader, store owner, smithy, and soldier, was the founder of the Nolichucky settlement that united with Watauga in 1775. Three years earlier, in 1772, under “a great oak tree at his Sycamore Shoals house,” Brown met with Oconostota and other Indian chiefs to conclude a lease of land—a treaty. For an unknown amount of money, Brown secured a similar lease, or treaty, from the Indians of a large section of the Nolichucky valley on both sides of the river. The tree became known as a “treaty oak.” Read more about Brown in Max Dixon’s: *The Wataugans: First Free and Independent Community on the Continent* .