

An Act to Cut and Clear a Waggon Road to the Settlements on the Cumberland River in
the Mero District

Historical Note

On May 26, 1790, President George Washington signed into law an act of Congress passed earlier in the month that established the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio (Southwest Territory). Embracing the western lands ceded by the state of North Carolina on December 22, 1789, the new territory was to be governed under the terms of the Ordinance of 1787, which created its predecessor, the Northwest Territory. It was believed that road building was essential for the territory in order to gain statehood. This act, passed September 27, 1794, created a lottery to pay for a wagon road from the Southwest Point to the settlements on the Cumberland River in the Mero District.