

OUR STATE DOG

North Carolina's
Plott Hound



An exhibit created by the
Mountain Heritage Center
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina

Plott Hounds at Work

Plott Hounds are not cute or cuddly. They will not fetch your slippers or bring you the paper. But if you need a dog that will chase a 200 pound bear for days and never give up, they have no equal.

What is a Plott Hound?

The Plott Hound is North Carolina's state dog and it is a working breed. Plott Hounds have been raised in the United States for over 250 years and are the only recognized dog breed from North Carolina.

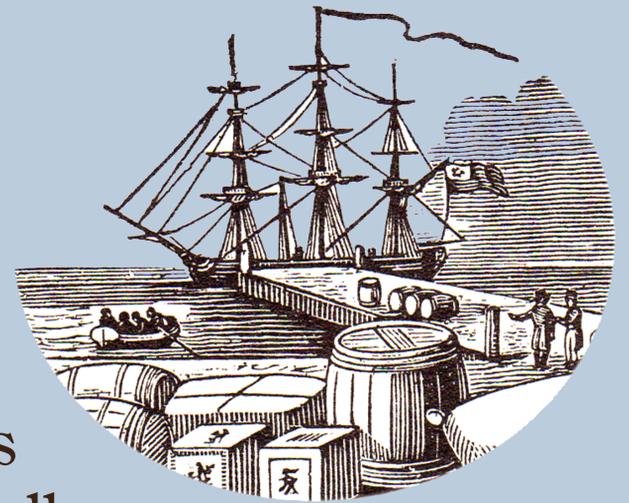
Plotts are bred to hunt bears, raccoons, wild boars and other animals. Plott Hounds are smart, tough, and will follow game for days at a time.

This is their
story.



Blackrock Waylon. Owned by Henry Keefer, Jr. of Sylva, North Carolina. Photo by Office of Public Relations, Western Carolina University.

Pure Americana: The Plotts come to America



The voyage from Germany to North America in 1750 was a long one, but Johannes Plott's five dogs weathered it well. Johannes' brother Enoch wasn't so lucky. He died and was buried at sea. Alone in a foreign land, Johannes arrived in New Bern, North Carolina in 1750 with little more than his pack of dogs and a determination to make a better life.



Mountain farm in the early 1800s. Mountain Heritage Center collection.

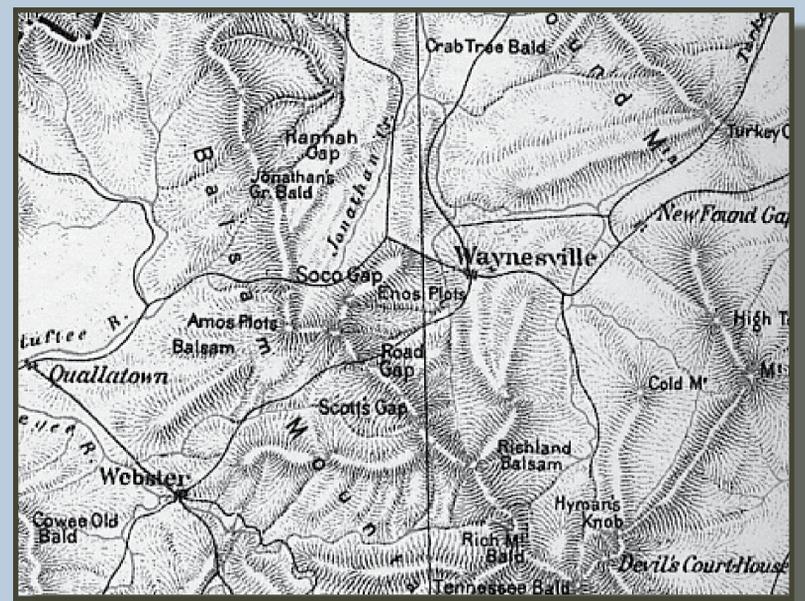
Johannes Plott

Johannes (later known as George) Plott arrived in America from what is now Germany in 1750. He was the son of a gamekeeper, and the five dogs he brought with him were bred to hunt wild boars in the forest. The dogs were probably a mix of Hanoverian *Schweisshund* and other breeds, but no one knows for sure exactly what they looked like.



Plotts in Haywood County, North Carolina

Not much is known about George Plott's early years in America; he moved frequently and took his dogs with him. By 1801, his son Henry lived in Haywood County, North Carolina on Plott Creek flanked by the towering mountains that would eventually be called the Plott Balsams. By the end of his life, Henry Plott owned 1,700 acres in western North Carolina and it was here that the Plott Hound became a distinct breed.



Map of Haywood County, Western North Carolina, 1880s. Mountain Heritage Center collection.