

Life of James Brigham
(Jan. 8, 1744 – Nov. 29, 1814)
Private, Captain David Looney's Company
Virginia Militia
1776-1777



(Above photos taken by Jeff Brigance and Kenneth E. Byrd)

As documented by historian W. Dale Carter in the Sullivan County Historical Society archives and online postings, James Brigham was one of the early settlers of present day Sullivan County, Tennessee¹. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania² on Jan. 8, 1744³, possibly the son of emigrant John Brigham (b. 1690 in Edinburgh, Scotland)⁴ who may have arrived in Philadelphia in 1715⁵. James' mother is unknown at this time.

According to some Brigham family historians, James Brigham may have had the middle initial of "H."^{2,6} but this has not been confirmed. Sometime in the mid-1700s, James Brigham relocated to Virginia, near Roanoke¹ in the Augusta County area. He then married Louisa Looney (b. ~1739-1745, Looney's Creek, Augusta Co. VA^{5,6}), the only daughter of Thomas Looney and Margaret Harman (Harmon)⁶. Thomas Looney had earlier lived in Pennsylvania, listed on the tax roll of Nantmeal Township there in 1724⁷. He was also the first of the Looneys named on the muster roll of Augusta Co. VA in 1742⁸.

Thomas Looney owned 400 acres in Abb's Valley, VA (named for his brother Absalom Looney) along the Bluestone River¹; this land was later legally claimed by his daughter Louisa Looney Brigham sometime after Thomas' death ~1760^{7,8}. In 1766, Augusta Co. VA records indicate that James and Louisa Brigham sued her grandfather Adam Harmon re a monetary dispute^{6,8}; this was accomplished with the help of David Looney, Louisa's uncle and later James Brigham's commander in the militia, 1776-1777. Before the Revolutionary War during the 1760s, both James Brigham and David Looney were active members of the Virginia Militia in Augusta Co. VA and fought against Cherokee raiders.

Brigham family historian David Salmon asserted that James and Louisa Brigham relocated near the area of present-day Blountville, Sullivan Co. TN (then Virginia), ~1769-1770. They were joined by Louisa's apparent uncles, Moses Looney and his brother David Looney, thus being among the earliest settlers of what would become Tennessee⁸. Not too far away, in what is now the area of Bristol TN, John Shelby Sr. and his nephew Issac Shelby had also relocated at about the same time⁸. Both James Brigham and Moses Looney are also mentioned in a Jan. 29, 1770 Washington Co. VA court document; this is described in *Annals of Southwest Virginia* by John Preston Summers⁹.

Research by W. Dale Carter indicates that Pvt. James Brigham was on the pay roll of Capt. David Looney's militia company in 1776; he was garrisoned at the Moses Looney Fort at Gunnings, in then Fincastle County, Virginia (modern-day Sullivan County, Tennessee) and served as a spy for the militia at that time¹. Other sources state that Pvt. James Brigham was a member of Capt. John Shelby's Company, Col. Evan Shelby's 10th Regt Virginia Militia that was organized Jan. 1777². Recently, Jeff Brigance obtained Revolutionary War militia payroll documents from the North Carolina State Archives that document Pvt. James Brigham serving in Capt. David Looney's Company, and stationed "*on the Frontiers of Fincastle 1776*"¹⁰. As documented in Crane and Crane (2008), modern-day Sullivan Co. TN was at that time (1772-1777) Fincastle Co. VA. It is possible that Pvt. James Brigham may have participated in the so-called Cherokee Expedition of Col. Christian during July 1776 while stationed at Moses Looney Fort in then Fincastle Co. VA¹. In addition, Pvt. James Brigham while a member of Capt. David Looney's militia company is listed in Library of Virginia Archives as taking part in Lord Dunmore's War¹¹.

Although it has been claimed by several Brigham family historians, in various DAR/SAR applications, and in some publications^{2,12,13}, there is no extant

documentation that Pvt. James Brigham actually served under Issac Shelby at the battle of King's Mountain SC (October 7, 1780) or was one of the Overmountain Men^{14,15,16}. However, it is possible that James Brigham might have served in a support role as indicated by the Aug. 1, 1776 entry in the Day Book of Isaac Shelby (Durrant Collection, U. of Chicago), that lists "*James Briggam*" as providing beef to Shelby's men^{2,12,17}. Ten years earlier, a Dec. 26, 1766 document indicates that both James Brigham and David Looney were apparently stationed at Fort Chiswell, Wythe Co. VA¹⁸ and may have helped guard the strategically important shot factory and ammunition source there. A Nov. 19, 1778 Washington Co. VA court document describes James Brigham, Benjamin Looney, and John Looney helping appraise the estate of Archibald McNeil, deceased¹⁹.

After the Revolutionary War, James Brigham entered a claim for 600 acres along Muddy Creek, Sullivan Co. NC; on Oct. 23, 1782 the grant was issued to him by the state of North Carolina¹ and at the price of "50 shillings for every 100 acres"²⁰. Another Sullivan County land deed for an additional 470 acres was obtained by James Brigham on Nov. 20, 1787²¹. On, Dec. 11, 1792, James Brigham deeded 30 acres to John Anderson, George Maxwell, and Richard Gammon - the Commissioners of Sullivan County – for the construction of the county courthouse and jail; this land is the site of present-day Blountville, Tennessee.^{1,20,22}

By 1796, James Brigham and his family next appear in Montgomery Co. TN, near the Cumberland River¹; there are documents indicating that he is in the area earlier than that. However, a state of North Carolina land deed to James Brigham recorded on July 20, 1796 grants him 100 acres in Sullivan County²³. On Sept. 2, 1797, James Brigham purchased 1,200 acres from John Shelby, the son of Evan Shelby^{1,24}. This land on the north bank of the Cumberland River is apparently in what became District No. 8 of Montgomery Co. TN²⁵; this is near the mouth area of Blooming Grove Creek on the side opposite Corbandale, which is down river from Palmyra, Montgomery Co. TN²⁵. There is some speculation that James Brigham may have been drawn to the Montgomery Co. TN area because of the early iron industry in the area²⁶. There are considerable documents re James Brigham and his family in the Montgomery Co. TN Archives that indicate multiple legal transactions with fellow pioneers in the area.

The October 1811 will of James Brigham is recorded in the Montgomery Co. TN Will Book B and was recorded during the January 1815 Court Term²⁷. A January 17, 1815 Execution of Will document for James Brigham Sr. was recorded in Montgomery County Court Minute Book 6 and reads as follows: "*The executing of the last Will and Testament of James Brigham Sr., dec. was duly proved in Open Court by the Oath of Burrell M. Williams and Jesse A. Brunson, Subscribing Witnesses, hereto and order to be recorded.*"²⁸. These documents support and confirm the Nov. 29, 1814 date of death carved on James Brigham's gravestone in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery³. Although not known for certain, his wife Louisa Looney Brigham may be buried next to him in an unmarked grave, but this needs to be researched further.

- Kenneth E. Byrd, 5th great-grandson of James Brigham (1744-1814)

Revised Dec. 8, 2015 Indianapolis, IN

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge here the following individuals who made this new gravemarker for **James Brigham** and its dedication on March 22, 2015 possible. In chronological order of help they are: **Cleo Cherry Grogan** (deceased), 3rd great-granddaughter of James Brigham, Murray KY; **Sarah Hillyard White**, 4th great-granddaughter of James Brigham, Lebanon TN; **Jeff Brigance**, Brigham Family Historian, Goodlettsville TN; **Gregory S. Miller**, Research Historian, Murray KY; **Jill Hastings-Johnson**, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN; **Carolyn Nobling**, Pastor of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Clarksville TN; **Madalyn R. Williams**, 4th great-granddaughter of James Brigham, Jackson TN; **Gueary Andrew Brigham**, 4th great-grandson of James Brigham, Dover TN; **H. David Wright**, Historian and Artist, Gallatin TN; **Jack Masters**, Historical Researcher of Middle Tennessee, Gallatin, TN; **Leah Taber**, Interpretative Ranger & Historian, Kings Mt. NMP, Blacksburg SC; **Laura Smith**, Archivist, Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City TN; **Shelia Steele Hunt**, Executive Director, Sullivan County Department of Archives and Tourism, Blountville, TN; **W. Dale Carter** and **Mary Bowery Carter**, Sullivan County and East Tennessee Research Historians, Kingsport TN; **Chris Kolbe**, Archivist, Library of Virginia Archives, Richmond VA; **Richard D. Hollis**, Vice President General Southern District Sons of the American Revolution Chair, 2017 NSSAR Congress Host Society Planning Committee Chair, Valentine Sevier Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Clarksville TN; and also members of the Valentine Sevier SAR Chapter, Clarksville, TN, especially **James J. Thweat**, **Cleo G. Hogan**, and President **Reber P. Kennedy**; members of the James Madison SAR Chapter, Jackson, TN, especially **John E. McCutchen**, President **Bill Hickerson** and **Randall Hall Chandler**; and finally members of the Tennessee Society SAR Color Guard and Commander **David Miles Vaughn**.



Historical impression of 1790s militia soldier by Bob Parker, Valentine Sevier Chapter SAR; taken during dedication of James Brigham Revolutionary War veteran grave marker at Mt. Pleasant UME Church Cemetery, Montgomery Co. TN; March 22, 2015.

(photo taken by Jeff Brigance)

Addendum of Dec. 8, 2015:

Following very kind input and historical documentation by **Looney** and **Brigham** families researcher **Phillip L. Crane**^{1,29} (see above text and footnotes below), the original incorrect gravemarker for Pvt. James Brigham showing him as a member of North Carolina Militia was replaced by a new one correctly showing him as a member of Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War. After being provided

documentation to correct this mistake, **Rhonda Richards** of the VA Memorial Program very kindly authorized a replacement of the gravemarker with the correct Virginia Militia information on it. The actual replacement of the original incorrect NC Militia headstone was done on Nov. 23, 2015 with the help of the following individuals: **James Wilyard**, historian for the Mt. Pleasant UME Church, Clarksville TN; **Gregory S. Miller**, Research Historian, Murray KY; **Leon Todd**, Historical Cemetery Preservationist, Bardwell KY; **Jeff Brigance**, Brigham Family Historian, Goodlettsville TN; **Jill Hastings-Johnson**, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN; and **Kenneth E. Byrd**, Indianapolis IN, 5th great-grandson of **Pvt. James Brigham**.

Footnotes:

¹ W. Dale Carter and Mary Bowery Carter research in the Sullivan County Historical Society archives and online postings courtesy of Shelia Steele Hunt, Executive Director, Sullivan County Department of Archives and Tourism, Blountville, TN 37617 at:

http://www.historicsullivan.com/archives_manuscripts_0062.htm

http://www.historicsullivan.com/archives_manuscripts_0062_box003_item003.htm

http://www.historicsullivan.com/archives_manuscripts_0062_box002_item004.htm

http://www.historicsullivan.com/archives_manuscripts_0062_box001_item005.htm

The transcribed militia list for Capt. David Looney's Co. that documents James Brigham as a spy can be seen on page 58, *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (Feb. 1992). The transcribed document lists Nathaniel Clarke, Alexander Cavet, Thomas Blythe, William McBroom, Issac Linsey, and **James Brigham**; it then states "*The above six were spies at Moses Looney's Garrison under the Command of Capt David Looney on the Frontiers of Fincastle.*" **James Brigham** is listed as having served as a spy at Moses Looney's Garrison, Sept. 30 – Oct. 12, 1776 and apparently submitted/swore to by his commander, Capt. David Looney on Jan. 24, 1777. The original document was transcribed by Hunter Applewhite for his *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* article titled "Four Militia Lists, 1776-1777"; the original document is located in the North Carolina State Archives, Military Collection, Frontier Scouting and Indian Wars, Box 1. This information is also found in the recent book *Most Distinguished Characters on the American Frontier, Children of Robert (B. 1692- 1702 D. 1770) and Elizabeth Looney of Augusta (now Botetourt County), Virginia, and Some of their Descendants, Vol. II* (Madge Looney Crane and Phillip L. Crane, 2008; available at http://www.robertlooneybook.com/Home_Page.php). Crane and Crane (2008) also provide a VERY helpful and informative narrative re the confusing relationships between modern-day Sullivan Co. TN, Sullivan Co. NC, Washington Co. NC, Washington Co. VA, Fincastle Co. VA, Botetourt Co. VA, and Augusta Co. VA.

² Information posted by Sandra Lee Smith online at:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/m/i/Sandra-Lee-Smith-Missouri/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0128.html>

³ Birth and death date information carved into original **James Brigham** gravestone located in the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Montgomery Co. TN and initially posted by Jeff Brigance, Brigham Family Historian, Goodlettsville TN on Find A Grave website, Feb 11, 2010; this can be viewed at: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=48006874> . The gravestone was visited in the Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church Cemetery by Jeff Brigance, Gregory S. Miller, Research

Historian, Murray KY, and Kenneth E. Byrd, Indianapolis IN on Oct. 12, 2014; the gravestone's authenticity and its burial environment was confirmed at that time.

⁴ Information posted by Sandra Lee Smith online at:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/m/i/Sandra-Lee-Smith-Missouri/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0002.html>

⁵ LDS Family Group Record for James Brigham compiled by Cleo Cherry Grogan, Murray KY; copy given to Kenneth E. Byrd [hereafter KEB] ~1995. Notation reads "*From family papers in possession of Walter Lee Brigham, Dover TN now deceased*".

⁶ Sarah White, Lebanon TN email to KEB, Jan. 23, 1998; stated "James H. Brigham" was the son of John Brigham from Edinburgh, Scotland. It is not known if this is accurate or what name the middle initial may stand for. Also, the mother of **James Brigham** is still unknown at this time. Online bio information for Thomas Looney (at: <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Looney-165>) asserts the following: "*Thomas Looney (Robert Sr.2, John1) was born 1718 in Isle of Man, and died April 15, 1746 in Augusta Co.(Now Rockbridge), VA. He married Margaret Jane Harmon, daughter of Adam Harmon. Fact 1: Died in an Indian raid. Fact 2: Died age 28 Fact 3: Was the first Looney named on the muster roll of Augusta Co., VA (information from Beverly Stevens-Looney's web page: <http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/l/o/o/Beverly-K-Looney/index.html>)*".

⁷ Letter from Elizabeth Looney, Washington DC to KEB, May 16, 1997. There is also some indication that Thomas Looney may have been a Quaker, but this is uncertain.

⁸ David Salmon, San Francisco CA email to KEB, Jan. 17, 1998; gives date of settled claim against Adam Harmon in Augusta Co. VA court documents as Dec. 26, 1776. Also source of information that David Looney helped Louisa and **James Brigham** in this legal imbroglio. One online source asserts that Moses Looney (b. ~1731, Looney's Mill Creek, Augusta Co. VA), David Looney Sr. (b. 1738, Augusta Co. VA), and Thomas Looney (b. 1718, Isle of Man – d. 1764) were the sons of Robert Looney Sr. (b. 1692 in Ballagilley Farm, Maughold Parish, Isle of Man, Ireland) and Elizabeth Lewellyn Looney (b. 1696 in Sheading, Kirk Lonan, Isle Mann, Ireland). If accurate, this indicates that Louisa Looney Brigham was the niece of both Moses and David Looney; see: <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Looney-60> . Online info from the same source describes Moses Looney thusly: "*June 1776, Lived in the western part of Fincastle County [VA]. February 07, 1780, At Moses Loney's house, Sullivan Co., N.C. organized and court was held there. 1780, Captain in the Militia Company of Mounted Gunmen. 1784, Tax Collector of Sullivan Co., TN. 1805, Captain of the Guard to the commissioners. 1790, Moved to Knox Co., TN. November 20, 1778, Recommended for Lt. of Militia, Washington Co., VA*" at: <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Looney-271> . David Looney Sr. (at: <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Looney-187>) is described in his bio information posted there: "*David Sr. Looney (Robert Sr.2, John1) was born 1738 in Augusta, Virginia, and died May 01, 1810 in Blountsville, Sullivan Co., Tennessee. He married Margaret 'Mary' McClellan 1755 in Virginia, daughter of John McClellan. 1744: Muddy Creek, 2 miles north of the Holston River, in what was then Washington Co., VA, but which became Sullivan County, North Carolina and eventually, Tennessee. He was a young captain in the Colonial wars, a young major in the militia in the earliest days of the Revolution, when he served in the North Carolina Militia. His service was under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby, who later appointed David Looney to the rank of Colonel. David served the duration of the Revolution and the fight for American Independence from Great Britain. When victory was achieved, he was awarded numerous land grants for his service to the cause of freedom. At war's end, David remained active in the militia, but he also began to take an active leadership role in the growth and development of Sullivan County, NC. The General Assembly of NC had, in October 1779, passed*

legislation setting up a neighboring county to Washington Co., This new county was named Sullivan County, to honor Revolutionary War hero, General John Sullivan. The Justices of the Peace in the new county, were, among several others, Isaac Shelby and David Looney. The men met on Feb. 7th, 1780 at the log home/fort of Moses Looney to organize the government of the new county. Quoting the SULLIVAN CO. NEWS, Vol 36, #6, dated February 7, 1980, which was the 200th birthday of Sullivan Co, state: "John Rhea was appointed Clerk and Nathan Clark, Sheriff. Isaac Shelby exhibited a commission from Governor Caswell, of North Carolina, dated November 19th, 1779, appointing him Colonel-Commandant, of the county. Other commissions appointed were Henry Clark, Lieutenant-Colonel, David Looney, First Major and John Shelby, Second Major, according to the documents. Looney's Fort is still standing. Behind the protective covering of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pope, Sr., the log fort is virtually intact and Sullivan contains have the unique privilege of standing in the exact location where their county was officially organized 200 years ago." DAR Lineage Books: Vol 112, ID# 111637 David Looney (1730-1810- Served as major and colonel, North Carolina troops. he was born in Augusta County, VA; died Sullivan County, Tenn. DAR Lineage Books: Vol 36, ID# 35046 David Looney (1738-1810), was appointed major 1779 and served under Col. Isaac Shelby. He was born in Augusta County, VA; died in Sullivan County, TN Also NO's 1786,2393,3934,4082,24408, 42084 . Fact 1: Occupation: Colonel in Revolutionary War, farmer Fact 2: Farmer Fact 3: David was appointed guardian to Margaret Looney, orphan of Daniel Looney Fact 4: 1766, Sold the home place near his parents Fact 5: 1770, Moved into the Holston on lands along the Indian frontier. Fact 6: 1774, Settled into a cabin on Muddy Crk. two miles N. of the Holston River. Fact 7: Military ranking: Capt. Major. Lt. Colonel then Colonel. Fact 8: 1779, Served as Major under Col. Isaac Shelby. (information from Beverly Stevens-Looney's web page: <http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/l/o/o/Beverly-K-Looney/index.html>) “.

⁹ Copy of pages from Annals of Southwest Virginia, 1769-1800 by John Preston Summers (1929); provided by Cleo Cherry Grogan, Murray KY to KEB ~1996. Excerpt reads: “At court held for Washington County, Jan. 29, 1770, ordered that **James Brigham**, David Maxwell, John Adair, John Adams, Moses Looney, George Maxwell, Enas (?) Eaton, and Thomas Ramsey, or any these of them being first sworn appraise the estate of Denby (?) Shea, deceased, and make report to court.”

¹⁰ Jeff Brigance, Goodlettsville TN provided copies of NC State Archives Revolutionary War Militia payroll documents held in NC State Archives, Raleigh NC to KEB, Dec. 14, 2014. This document is filed in the Treasurer’s and Comptroller’s Military papers, North Carolina State Archives. It is titled as follows: “A Pay Roll of Captain David Looneys Company of Militia on the Frontiers of Fincastle 1776”. Along with **Captain David Looney**, it lists Lt. John Anderson, Ensign George Maxwell, Sgt. William Raspberry, Sgt. John Cain, and the following Pvts: James McCain, William Craig, Jesse Maxwell, David Smith, Gilbert Glenn(?), Robert Gilliland, James Blythe, Mose Cavet, James Holler Sr.(?), James Abel, Jonathan Jusan(?), John Adams, William McMullin, Jesse More, David Maxwell, John Daves, Gilliam(?) Anderson, Joseph Glinkead, Robert Williams, Robert Gray, **James Brigham**, John Adair, Ephraim Grimes, Thomas McLaughlin, Jno.(?) Looney, Jacob Vanes(?), Benjamin Looney, Thomas Blythe, William McBroom, Peter Looney, John Hearn, David Grimes, Thomas King, John Whitcraft, Alexr. Cavet, Bartlet Hanson, Philip Hanson, James Holles, William Holles, Jesse Adams, and David Glinkead. Apparently 1776 payroll docs for Capt. David Looney’s Company are also listed in Fincastle Co. VA militia payrolls, in the Library of Virginia archives, Richmond VA; see: http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/organization_records.htm Virginia. Militia. Fincastle County. Militia payrolls, 1776. Accession 28406. 7 leaves. Photostats (negative).

¹¹ Emails and links sent to KEB by Chris Kolbe, Library of Virginia Archives, Richmond VA on Jan. 6, 2015. URL:<http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetDW.pl?dir=0325/B0007&card=21> Title Link **Brigham, James**. Gen. note County: Fincastle County. Note Company commander: **Capt. David Looney**. Note

Recorded on: p. 270. Note Listed in index: p. xvii. Other Format Available on microfilm (Miscellaneous Reel 78, last item). Photostat copy also available.

¹² DAR application # 388027; in Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Tennessee, L.W. Bates and H.C. Marsh (1979), Tennessee Society of NSDAR. States **James Brigham** was Private serving under Capt. Issac Shelby.

¹³ **One Heroic Hour at King's Mountain** (1968; 2d edition) by Pat Alderman, Overmountain Press, Johnson City TN. On page 58, **James Brigham** is listed as a "King's Mountain Soldier"; on page 56, David Looney is listed as being a Captain and Moses Looney is listed as a Lieutenant.

¹⁴ Leah Taber, Interpretative Ranger & Historian, Kings Mt. NMP, Blacksburg SC email to KEB, Oct. 28, 2014. There is no record of **James Brigham** in the battle participant roster compiled by Dr. Bobby Moss, in **The Patriots at Kings Mountain** (1990).

¹⁵ Laura Smith, Archivist, Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City TN email to KEB, Nov. 10, 2014. In the John Biggs "Pat" Alderman papers 1918-1983 (see description at link: <http://www.etsu.edu/cass/archives/collections/afinda/id/a149.html>) here is no information on **James Brigham**, or possible sources used by Pat Alderman in compiling his Overmountain Men list or list of Kings Mt. Soldiers. It is therefore unclear exactly where Alderman found proof for his assertion that **James Brigham** was an Overmountain Man and at Kings Mountain with Issac Shelby.

¹⁶ W. Dale Carter, Kingsport TN email to KEB, Nov. 18, 2014: "*I have checked my research files and I find no documentation that **James Brigham** was at the battle of King's Mountain.*"

¹⁷ Image of Issac Shelby's daybook mentioning "**James Briggam**" can seen at following link: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=48006874&Plpi=73950971>. Document is thought to have been created by Issac Shelby (or with his approval) on Aug. 1, 1776 at Beaver Creek, Southwest Virginia.

¹⁸ In **The Preston and Virginia Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts**, (1915) State Historical Society of Wisconsin; copy of page 59 made by Cleo Cherry Grogan, Murray KY and sent to KEB ~1996. The notation (call number?) "2QQ98" appears on the copy. The transcribed text of the letter reads as follows: "*Dec. 26, 1766. **Brigham, James** and David Looney. Fort Chiswell. Letter to William Thompson, Back Creek. Financial matters in which Looney and Henry Harmon are involved. Witnessed by Anthony Bledsoe. L.S. 1 p. Endorsed: Letter **Brigham** Looney.*" Online version at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=gjYUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=The+Preston+and+Virginia+Papers+of+the+Draper+Collection&hl=en&sa=X&ei=gsr9VOyqEOPdsATMtYGQAQ&ved=0CCoQ6AEwA#v=onepage&q=The%20Preston%20and%20Virginia%20Papers%20of%20the%20Draper%20Collection&f=false>. Fort Chiswell, Wythe Co. VA was the site of an important shot factory (tower) during the Revolutionary War and a main supply of ammunition to Patriots; see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackson_Ferry_Shot_Tower. American Fort historian Peter Payette describes Fort Chisell VA at his website <http://www.northamericanforts.com/East/vasowest.html> and writes: "*(1758 - 1790), Fort Chiswell. A Virginia colonial militia outpost until 1776, built as a supply depot for expeditions against the Cherokee in North Carolina and Tennessee. After 1776 it served as the county seat of Montgomery County, and as a defense for the nearby lead mines on the New River. The British unsuccessfully attacked it in 1780. The Wilderness Road to Kentucky started here. The site was excavated in 1976 prior to highway construction, which destroyed most of the site. Site marked by a stone cairn.*" Another useful online resource by Mr. Payette is the American Forts East website at:

<http://www.northamericanforts.com/East/tn.html> . He there describes two forts built/maintained by David and Moses Looney: (1) David Looney's Fort "... near Fairview, on Muddy Creek, about two miles up from the South Fork Holston River, built before 1774."; and (2) Moses Looney's Fort, described thusly: "(1770's), near Rock City. A settlers' blockhouse used as the first court for Sullivan County in 1780. Brother to David. Located on Island Road, about one and one-half miles from the mouth of Boozy Creek. The log house was still standing in 1980, although altered and modernized. " Peter Payette also describes Moses and David Looney as being brothers and the sons of Robert Looney of Virginia.

¹⁹ In Wills of Botetourt County Virginia book (date, publisher, page?); copied by Cleo Cherry Grogan, Murray KY and sent to KEB ~1996. Text reads as follows: "At a court held and continued for Washington County, Virginia November 19, 1778 ordered that Joseph Kinkaid, **James Brigham**, Benjamin Looney, and John Looney, or any three of them here first sworn appraise the estate of Archibald McNeil, deceased, and return to court."

²⁰ Historic Sullivan: A History of Sullivan County, Tennessee, with Brief Biographies of the Makers of History by Oliver Taylor (1909, King Printing Company, Sullivan Co. TN), pages 137-138; copy made and sent by Cleo Cherry Grogan to KEB ~1996. Online version at: https://books.google.com/books?id=8fITAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Historic+sullivan+%2B+oliver+Taylor&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ns_9VKjnJNaOsQSnk4GgDw&ved=0CCIQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Historic%20sullivan%20%2B%20oliver%20Taylor&f=false .

²¹ Sullivan Co. TN deed book 1, pp. 290-291; copy made and sent by Cleo Cherry Grogan to KEB ~1996. Excerpts from document read: "State of North Carolina No. 457", "Nov. 20, 1787", "recoded Sept. 7, 1789", and "...470 acres lying and being in our county of Sullivan."

²² Goodspeed's History of Sullivan County, Tennessee (1887, Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago and Nashville) online at: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/tn/sullivan/history/sullivangspd.txt> and also at: <http://www.combs-families.org/combs/records/tn/sull-gs.htm> .

²³ State of North Carolina land deed No. 695, recorded in Raleigh NC on July 20, 1796; for 100 acres in "...lying & being in our County of Sullivan..." to **James Brigham** for "...the sum of fifty shillings for every hundred acres...". Deed document is also signed by Samuel Ashe, and describes him as "...our governor Captain general & Commander in Chef at Raleigh..". Ashe was a member of both the North Carolina Provincial Congress and the North Carolina militia during the American Revolution; see information at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Ashe_\(North_Carolina\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Ashe_(North_Carolina)).

²⁴ Montgomery Co. TN Archives microfilm, Sept. 2, 1797 land deed, Montgomery Co. TN Deed Book B, pp. 181-182; 1200 acres to **James Brigham** from "John Shelby Son of Evan 1200 acres on Cumbr. R.". Document found and copied by (1) Gregory S. Miller, Research Historian, Murray KY, (2) Jill Hastings-Johnson, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN, and (3) KEB on Oct. 13, 2014. Document reads: "This indenture made this Second day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety seven Between John Shelby son of Evan Deceased of the County of Sullivan & State of Tennessee of the one part and **James Brigham** of the County of aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said John Shelby for and in consideration of the Sum of Twelve hundred Dollars to him in hand paid the receipt where of is hereby acknowledged hath and by these presents doth grant bargain alien(?) enfeoff(?) and confirm until the said James Brigham heirs & apigns forever [unreadable here] to said(?) parcel of land containing Twelve hundred acres be the same more less lying and being in the County of Montgomery & State of Tennessee lying [on?] the Cumberland River on the End of John Shelby's, son of John Shelby South line strikes said River thence North three hundred & fifty eight poles

thence West five hundred & thirty seven poles thence South three hundred & fifty eight poles to the said River thence along the said River according to the meanders thereof to the place of Beginning with all and singular the woods, waters, water course proper(?) commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said tract of Land belong or appertaining and the and the reversions(?) remainder & remainders rents & [unreadable here] thereof all the Estate right title interests property claim and demands(?) of him the said John Shelby his heirs etc.(?) of in & to the same Every part of parcel thereof either in law or equity. Too have & to hold the said tract of Twelve hundred acres of land with the appurtenances & unto the said **James Brigham** heirs & apignes forever Against the Lawfull [sic] title claim and demand of all and every person or persons whatsoever shall land(?) will warrant and foever defend by these Presents. In Witness whereof the Said John Shelby hath hereunto set his hand & Seal the day and refurbish(?) above written. Signed John Shelby – Sealed & Delivered in the presence of **James Brigham**, William Brigham, D. Brigham. The above Deed was proved in open Court at April term 1798 by the oath of David Brigham who was a Subscribing Witness. Test. Francis Prina(?) P.R. July 4, 1798.”

²⁵ Early period map of District No. 8, Montgomery Co. TN; copied and provided by Jill Hastings-Johnson, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN to Gregory S. Miller, Research Historian, Murray KY and KEB on Oct. 13, 2014. **James Brigham** land location information in email from Jack Masters, Middle Tennessee historian, Gallatin TN to KEB on Oct. 22, 2014.

²⁶ Phone conversation between Richard D. Hollis, Valentine Sevier Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Clarksville TN and Gregory S. Miller, Research Historian, Murray KY ~Jan. 3, 2015 and described to KEB shortly thereafter. Also, the presence of saltpeter caves in the area like Cooper Creek Cave in Montgomery Co. TN may have been of keen business interest to **James Brigham** as well.

²⁷ Montgomery Co. TN Archives microfilm, Oct. (no date) 1811 will for James Brigham, recorded during January Court Term of 1815, Montgomery Co. TN Will Book B, pp. 77-78. Document found and copied by (1) Gregory S. Miller, Research Historian, Murray KY, (2) Jill Hastings-Johnson, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN, and (3) KEB on Oct. 13, 2014. Document reads: “In the name of God amen, I **James Brigham** of the County of Montgomery & State of Tennessee being of perfect mind & memory calling toward the uncertainty of the mortal life & knowing it is [unclear] appointed for all man to die, do make & ordain this my last Will and Testament. And in the first place I commit my sole [sic] to God for he [?] first gave it me, my body to be buried in a Christian like manner. Of my worldly [?] good of Estate I bestow as follows, viz. I give to my beloved wife **Louisa Brigham** during her natural life, my plantation on which we now live, with all the Negroes now in my possession also my stock of every kinds, households of kitchen furnitures[sic], farming utentials etc. And at her death the Negroes & other property to be divided as my will directs. 1st It is my will to give my Daughter **Jane Greene** three thousand acres of land which **Alexander Greene** is[?] bound to me fore, on the waters of Duck River, being part of said Tract whereon said **Greene** deceased had[?]. Also I give to my Daughter **Jane Greene** one equal share of six Negroes and their increas[sic] namely **Hanna, Fann, Will, Moses, Aron, and Betty**, during her natural life & after her death to go to **Louisa L. Greene** Daughter of said **Jane Greene**. 2nd I give to my Daughter **Elizabeth Shelby** two equal shares of six Negroes & their increas[sic] namely, **Hanna, Fann, Will, Moses, Aron, & Betty**[sic]. 3rd I give to my Daughter **Polly Bayliss** one equal share of six Negroes & their Increas[sic], namely **Hanna, Fann, Will, Moses, Aron, & Betty**. 4th I give to my Daughter **Louisa Harmon** two equal shares of six Negroes and their increase namely **Hanna, Fann, Will, Moses, Aron & Betty** during her natural life, and after her death to go the heirs of her body. N.B.[?] the words entertained[?] in three places of there[?] Increase to[?] note before the also [?] giving & Sealing of this with. 5th I give to my Son **David Brigham** the land on Which He now lives on agreeably to the lines [unclear] [unclear] him [unclear] in addition to what I have already given him. 6th I give to my son **William Brigham** one Dollar in addition to what I have already given him. 7th I give to my son **Thomas**

Brigham a Negro Boy by the name of **Anthony** in Addition to what I have already given him. 8th I give to my Son **John Brigham** One Dollar in addition to what I have already given him. 9th I give to my Son **James Brigham** a Negro boy named **Lewis**, and one other by the name of **Bob** which I give to my Son **William Brigham** and he has Since sold him to **James Brigham** And at the death of his Mother, the land I now live on to & conditional lines made between **David Brigham** and my self, Together with the Stock of every Kinds, household & Kitchen furniture farming utentials etc. that is then in possessions of him & his mother, I herewith charge him **James Brigham**, with all of Debts and the Legatees that I have directed to be paid. As for my old Negro woman **Judea**, I leave her to make choices which of my Children she will live with, & for their trouble in maintaining her and for taking care & treating her well, I give them her youngest Child named **Dave**. I do hereby revoke & Disavow[?] all former Wills by me made & Confirm this to be my last Will & Testament, In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto for my hand Seal this day of October 1811. **James Brigham** {Seal} Test. **B. M. Williamson, Asahel Brunson Sr., Jesse A. Brunson.** Recorded January Term 1815.”

²⁸ Montgomery Co. TN Archives microfilm, Jan 17, 1815 will execution document for **James Brigham**, Montgomery Co. TN Court Minutes Book 6, page 45. Document found and copied by (1) Gregory S. Miller, Research Historian, Murray KY, (2) Jill Hastings-Johnson, Archivist, Montgomery County Archives, Clarksville TN, and (3) KEB on Oct. 13, 2014.

²⁹ The following May 7, 2015 email and image sent by **Phillip L. Crane** to **Kenneth E. Byrd** succinctly and accurately describes how the mistake was made and the confusion re **Pvt. James Brigham’s** service in the Fincastle Co. VA militia during the Revolutionary war:

Ken,

As I have pointed out, even Hildebrand's map [see image below – KEB], which before my work, was the best available to show Fincastle County, was incorrect. If you study his actual map, the VA-NC (TN) line ran straight across. But it didn't (until the line was surveyed in 1779). From the time **David Looney**, **James Brigham** and numerous others moved to the area north of the Holston River about 1770, until the line was surveyed in 1779, they believed (and were considered as such) as being in Virginia. **It was Fincastle County from 1772-1776**. So, on Hildebrand’s map, he should have dipped the line down to include the area north of the Holston River where **Looney**, **Brigham**, etc. lived (see small area in black on my attached map). In the page in my Vol. II where I show the Hildebrand map, my caption says, "This map does not take into account that the Virginia-North Carolina line (the southern limit of Washington County, Virginia) was not surveyed until 1779. This will be explained in MDC {the book my mother and I did}, pp. 479-80)." On these pages it explains that **Dr. Thomas Walker** was appointed by Virginia and **Richard Henderson** for North Carolina to survey the line, which was done in 1779. After that both **Looney** and probably **Brigham** served in the North Carolina militia (as well as the state of Franklin) at the same time.

The payroll of **Capt. David Looney's** company (which included **Brigham**) that is printed in Vol. II is headed "**Captain David Looney's Company in Fincastle County, Virginia.**" **Virginia had a Fincastle County; North Carolina never did.**

Part of the problem was that this Payroll was found in North Carolina Archives. But as I have read, that is because later Virginia insisted that North Carolina pay them back for these expenses, and copies were sent to NC. It is ironic that the NC ones have survived but no trace of the one in VA has been found. So don't feel bad about the confusion.

