

James Robinson and Sarah Holloway of Blount and Monroe Counties, Tennessee

James Robinson and his wife Sarah Holloway are well-attested as residents of Blount Co., TN. They lived there from about 1808 to at least 1824. Their home there was primarily in the Six Mile community, about 8 miles south of Maryville, where they lived at the western base of Chilhowee Mountain. They lived in Six Mile, Blount County from at least 1814 to 1823.

James was born before 3 Aug. 1753, apparently near Maryland and Pennsylvania. He fought in the American Revolution and was involved in some of the most memorable events of the war, including Washington's Crossing the Delaware, the Winter of Valley Forge and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. He was honorably discharged in Philadelphia in September 1782. James and Sarah seem to have married after James was discharged from the military. Sarah was born about 1762 in Virginia, her maiden name not found in period documents. However, DNA evidence strongly suggests that she was a daughter of William Holloway Sr. (c. 1729–aft. 1801) and Frances Meador of Cumberland and Bedford Cos., VA, making her the sister of Joseph and Billy Holloway Jr. of Six Mile, Blount County. James and Sarah seem to have married in upper east TN, where William and Frances lived in Washington County in the 1780s and 90s. After leaving Blount County, James and Sarah lived in adjoining Monroe Co., TN at the time of the 1830 census. James died 11 Dec. 1833 in Monroe County. Sarah seems to have died sometime after the 1830 census, presumably in Monroe County. James and Sarah Robinson were the parents of William, Rebecca, Sally, Letty, Betsy, Edward and John, described in detail below.

James Robinson appears in Blount and Monroe county records as Robinson, Robison, Robeson and Robertson, though his identity remains clear throughout. The same confusion recurs for his children. His sons appear as Robinson, Robison, Robeson, Roberson and Robertson. His daughter Sally appears as Robinson and Robertson. His daughters Rebecca and Letty appear as Robinson.

James & Sarah Robinson in Blount County, Tennessee

The first evidence that the Robinson family was in Blount County was on 18 Mar. 1808, when Henry Whitenburger (Wittenberger) and William R. Robinson witnessed a deed from Joseph Pate to Samuel Saffel (Saffell). The deed conveyed 67.5 acres on Lackey's/Lackey Creek in Blount County, just northwest of Maryville (Blount County Deed Book 1: 72–73, #111; see Thomas, *Blount County, Tennessee Deeds 1795 – 1819*, 16). William R. Robinson was the son of James and Sarah. Henry Wittenberger, who witnessed the deed with William Robinson, was of unknown relation to William Wittenberger, who had married Mary Robinette. The Robinette family shares DNA matches with the Holloway family. (The first Robinson in Blount County was Gailbraith Robinson. No relation has been found between him and James. Gailbraith Robinson was on the list of those living south of the Hawkins Line on Nine Mile Creek as of 8 Nov. 1796; see Burns, *History of Blount County, 1795 – 1955*, 36).

James and Sarah Robinson seem to have settled in Blount County in about 1808. In addition to the fact that their son William Robinson appeared in Blount records that year, John Boyd of the Six Mile community stated in James Robinson's military pension application of 1818 that he had known James Robinson for about nine or ten years. John Boyd had married Caty Holloway in Blount County in 1799, his second wife. Caty was the niece of Sarah Holloway Robinson, wife of James Robinson. John Boyd and Caty named a son James Robinson Boyd in 1810.

James and Sarah Robinson lived in at least two places in Blount County. They were in Walland, Miller's Cove in east Blount County at least as of 1813, and then in the Six Mile community in southern Blount County at least as of April 1814. James is mentioned in the Minutes of the Millers Cove Baptist Church of Walland on 22 May 1813. He appears to be referred to in the fragmentary entry of July 1812 that states, "Robinson to write the ch..." He also seems to be mentioned in 1813, when "Brethren Thos Morrison Robinson G. Snider & Billy Halloway" were designated as preparing a letter of charge against Brother Thomas Bodkin(s), who had requested the letter and was withdrawing from the church because of differences in principles. (This disagreement may have been an early rumbling of the schism between the Missionary and Primitive Baptist Churches, the division becoming official in Blount County in 1838.) James and Sarah left their home on Six Mile Creek in 1823, when they were once again in Walland at the Millers Cove Church. (*Millers Cove Baptist Church Minutes, Walland, Blount County, Tennessee, 1812 – 1824*, Transcribed by Thomas.)

James and William Robinson, Jeremiah Hammontree, Joseph Holloway and George Snider were members of the Six Mile Baptist Church, and all owned property on Six Mile Creek. James and William Robinson are not found to have had property surveyed in Blount County at the time of the 1807 property surveys (Fox, *Surveyor Entry Book – District South of French Broad & Holston – State of Tennessee 1807*). The Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church indicate that William Robinson and his wife belonged to the congregation when the minutes began to be kept in February 1813. James appears in the minutes as of April 1814.

James Robertson and Jesse Sample (Samples) are mentioned in Blount County probate records of Alexander Hammontree, who died in 1812. Jesse Samples purchased 12 pounds of tobacco from the estate. The estate owed James Robertson for two days work. Because James Robinson had such a strong association with the Hammontree family, and because no "James Robertson" is distinctly known within the community, this reference to James Robertson was probably to James Robinson. DNA testing indicates that at least some descendants of Jesse Samples are related to the Hammontree, Holloway and Robinson families. Note that the Alexander Hammontree who died in 1812 was the father of Jeremiah Hammontree, husband of Sarah Holloway (daughter of Joseph).

James Robinson witnessed the sale of 146 acres from James Murry to George Snider in 1817, and then witnessed the sale of the same property on Six Mile Creek from George Snider back to James Murry in 1821. On 15 Aug. 1817, James Murry sold 146 acres on Six Mile Creek to George Snider. The consideration was \$400. The property adjoined John Nell (Neal), John Boyd and Jeremiah Hammontree. Witnesses were James Robinson and Abraham Bayles (Blount County Deed Book 1: 462–63, #620; see Thomas, *Blount County Deed Book 1, 1795 – 1819*, 82). On 29 Aug. 1821, George Snider sold the same 146 acres back to James Murry. The consideration was \$500. The property adjoined John Neel (Neal) and John Boyd. Witnesses were James Robinson and John Boyd (Blount County Deed Book 2: 198–99, #232; see Thomas, *Blount County Deeds*,

1819 – 1833, 41). The property described here was the former property of Patrick Murray. George Snider was the minister who performed the marriage of Alexander Hammontree and Rebecca Robinson (daughter of James and Sarah).

John Boyd donated 2.6 acres to the Six Mile Baptist Church on 17 Sep. 1818. The property was described in the deed as having a "never failing spring." Witnesses were George Snider, James Robeson and Billy Holloway (Blount County Deed Book 1: 557; see Thomas, *Blount County Deed Book 1, 1795 – 1819*, 98). James Robeson was almost certainly James Robinson. According to the Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church, the church nominated John Holloway and James Robinson as trustees for recording the deed. The location of the property is marked by the Six Mile Cemetery. The Six Mile Baptist Church has since moved from its original location but remains nearby.

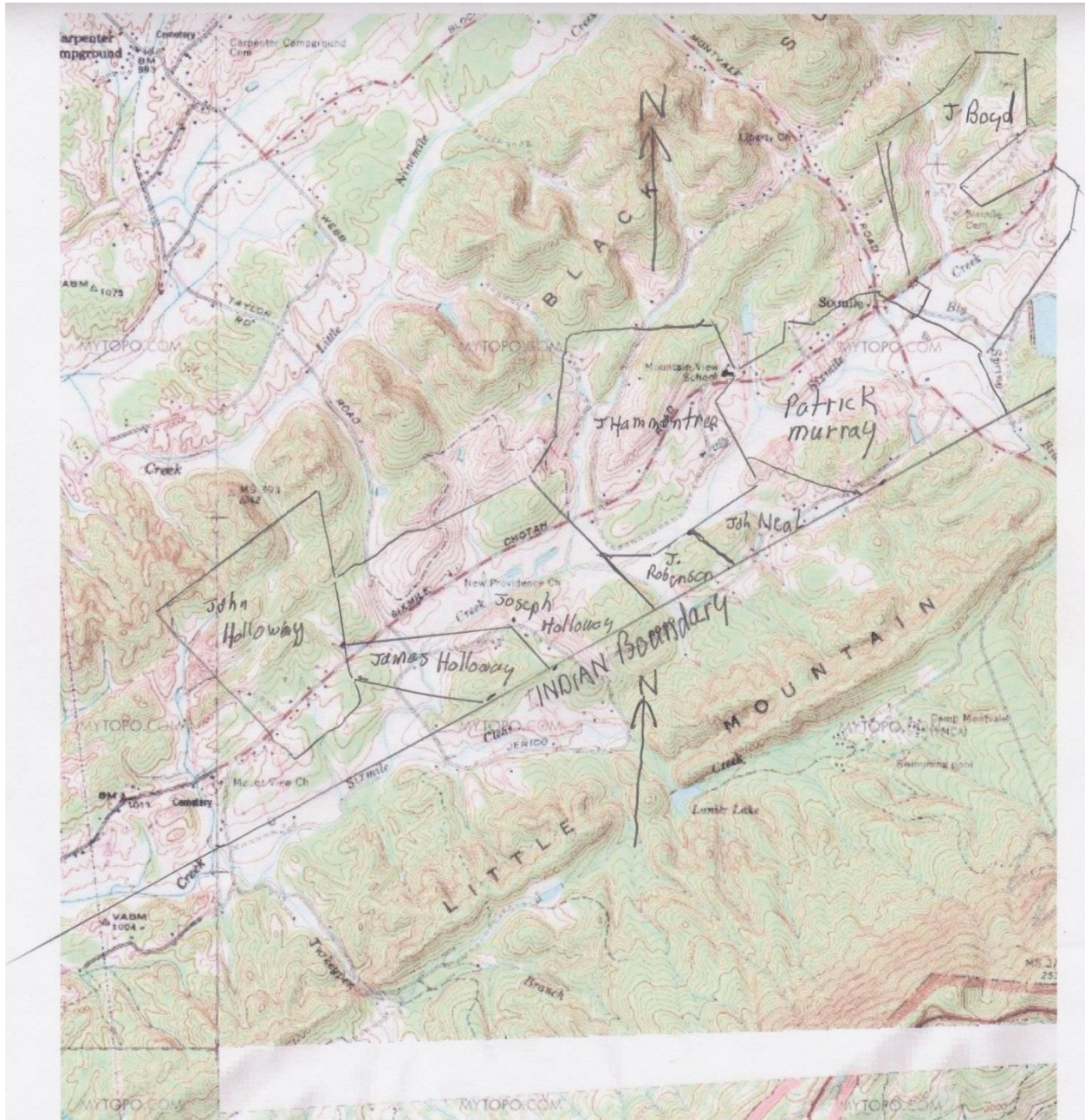
William Davis and Jas. Robeson (Robinson) witnessed a deed from Minter Holloway to Joel Baker on 24 Nov. 1820. The tract of 67 acres was on Six Mile Creek. The witnesses proved the deed in court in December 1821 (Blount County Deed Book 2: 199; see Thomas, *Blount County Deeds, 1819 – 1833*, 41). This property had been patented by James Holloway in 1810. James Holloway was the son of Joseph, and Minter Holloway was his brother.

James and William Robinson signed a legislative petition in 1820 with about one hundred land owners of Blount and Monroe counties, including members of the Hammontree and Holloway families. The petition concerned the sale of former Indian land that became available for settlement through Calhoun's Treaty of 1819. The treaty abolished the Indian Boundary established in the First Tellico Treaty of 1798. This was the Indian Boundary that bordered Robinson and Holloway properties to the east on Six Mile Creek. The petition concerned the sale of land by the State in Monroe County and a portion of Blount County. (Whitley provides a transcription of the petition and the names of its signatories (*Tennessee Genealogical Records: Records of Early Settlers From State and County Archives*, 131–32). Whitley dated the petition incorrectly to 1796. The Tennessee State Library and Archives identifies the petition as the first legislative petition of 1820, and thus references it as TSLA Legislative Petition 1820–1.)

James and William Robinson owned 31 acres on Six Mile Creek prior to December 1823. The property adjoined Jeremiah Hammontree, the Indian Boundary, and James Holloway. (This was the Indian Boundary abolished by Calhoun's Treaty in 1819. It had been drawn so as to leave Chilhowee Mountain in the possession of the Cherokee. This boundary constituted the eastern border of James and William Robinson's property.) The deed identifies White Oak Creek as the boundary between the Robinson property and James Holloway. The creek is not named on any published map. The deed refers to James as Robinson and Robertson, and to William as Robertson. According to Willie Hammontree's Map of Early Settlers of Six Mile Creek (as overlaid on a U.S.G.S. topographical map), the property of James and William Robinson is located in part at 2202 Jericho Road, Maryville. James and William's property on Six Mile Creek was purchased by Joel Baker in 1824 (Blount County Deed Book 2: 447–48, #529; see Jane Kizer Thomas, *Blount County, Tennessee Deeds, 1819 – 1833*, 93–94).

EARLY SETTLERS OF SIX MILE CREEK

by Willie Hammontree



The Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church make clear that James and William Robinson were prominent members of the congregation. James Robinson was unanimously elected and ordained as deacon on 15 Apr. 1814, a post in which he served as treasurer and administrator. He retained this position until he left the Six Mile community in November 1823. The Minutes also provide the names of Nancy, Sally and Letty Robinson (details below).

James Robinson in the Revolutionary War

The U.S. Congress enacted legislation on 18 Mar. 1818, providing military pensions for veterans of the Revolutionary War. According to records at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, James Robinson of Blount Co., TN was allowed a pension based on his military service in the Revolutionary War (Revolutionary War Pension #S39050; see Burns, *History of Blount County*, 289; Blount County History Book Committee, *The History of Blount County and Its People, 1795 – 1995*, 58, §212).

James applied for a military pension in Blount County Court on 2 May 1818. John Boyd and Billy Holloway also applied for military pensions at the same time. The three of them wrote a letter together on 27 May 1818, asking the Pension Office of the War Department for information concerning their applications. They wrote in the letter that although they fought in many of the same battles, they did not become acquainted with each other until their settlement there (in Blount County). They asked that information regarding their applications be sent to John Wilkinson, Esq. of Maryville, Blount County, so that word would immediately be communicated to them. The letter was signed by John Boyd, Billy Holloway, and James Robinson (see pension file of John Boyd, NARA # S39207). John, Billy and James were all members of the Holloway family. John Boyd had married Caty Holloway in Blount County in 1799, his second wife. Caty was the daughter of Joseph Holloway, brother of Billy. Based on DNA evidence, James Robinson had married Sarah Holloway, sister of Joseph and Billy.

A certificate of pension for James Robinson dated 2 Nov. 1818 was forwarded to John Wilkerson Esq. of Maryville. James was allowed a pension of \$8 per month, paid in arrears from 2 May 1818. James applied again on 3 Aug. 1820 for the pension to be continued, which did so until his death in 1833.

James Robinson declared in his pension application of 1820 that he enlisted in March 1776 as a private in the Maryland Line under the command of Capt. William Brown, who commanded the Putnam floating Battery (a gunship of the Pennsylvania Navy on the Delaware River) near Philadelphia. After one year, James was transferred to artillery service in the Pennsylvania Line under the command of Capt. Lee, later Capt. Simons (Simonds) of Col. Proctor's regiment and the brigade of Gen. Henry Knox. James served in the war without interruption until he was honorably discharged in Philadelphia in September 1782. The court record of 1818 describes his military engagements as follows:

during which time of service he was in many memorable and bloody engagements with the enemy particularly those of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth and lastly at the siege of York and Capture of Lord Cornwallis.

In his testimony of 1820, James described his military service in greater detail as follows:

I was in the Naval engagement with the Roebuck man of war once the Liverpool Frigate on the Delaware and afterwards in the Battery at Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, German Town and Monmouth and the Siege of York in Virginia where Lord Cornwallis was taken and several other skirmishes.

Brent Wiseman, a fourth great-grandson of James and Sarah Robinson, comments on James Robinson's naval engagements as follows:

His application mentions the "Roebuck man-of-war" and the "Liverpool Frigate", and that he was in a naval engagement with these two. This is a pretty well-documented event that happened in the spring of 1776... these two British ships sailed up the Delaware, threatening Philadelphia, which was more or less the capital city of the colonies. The British had the best ships in the world, yet they were held off by a group of 13 smaller colonial vessels in a series of battles, and the mission was unsuccessful.

The HMS Roebuck and HMS Liverpool first engaged American naval forces on 7 May 1776. The battle took place on the Delaware River near Philadelphia. The engagement included the Montgomery and the Putnam, two ships of the Pennsylvania Navy. According to military records, James Robinson served on both ships, though it is unclear when he encountered the Roebuck and Liverpool, except he said he did so while aboard the Putnam. James officially enlisted in the military in April of 1776, and was then stationed aboard the Montgomery at least as of 1 Jun. 1776. He thus seems to have engaged the Roebuck and Liverpool while stationed aboard the Putnam in 1777. In his military pension application, James related only those incidents when he engaged combat, and thus, for this apparent reason, seems to have omitted reference to serving on the Montgomery. The HMS Roebuck was commissioned in 1774 for service against the fomenting American Revolution. The warship was the prototype of twenty Roebuck-class ships. Ships of this class were double-decked gunships with 44 guns. The lower decks contained 18-pound guns and the upper decks 9-pound guns. The HMS Liverpool was launched in 1758. It was a 28-gun frigate. The Putnam was a "floating battery" or gunship created for service in the Revolution. The Putnam may have had the same armament as the Arnold, another floating battery commissioned at the same time. If so, the Putnam would have carried 18 guns, each with a caliber of 18 pounds.

The Montgomery was the flagship of Commodore Thomas Read beginning in April 1776. Read served as commodore in the Pennsylvania State Navy until receiving a commission in the Continental Navy in October that year. According to some sources, William Brown became captain of the Montgomery only after Read's transfer. However, Brown had already attained the rank of captain at least the year before, and commanded the Montgomery as captain while Read was still commodore. James Robinson's payroll for 1 Jun. to 1 Oct. of 1776 indicates he was serving on the Montgomery under the command of Capt. William Brown. It would have been customary for a captain and commodore to serve on a flagship together, in that their responsibilities were quite different. But beyond commanding Commodore Read's flagship, Capt. William Brown and the Montgomery played a principal role a few months later in assisting Gen. George Washington in his memorialized crossing of the Delaware. James Robinson seems to have been assigned to the Montgomery at that time, since his service record follows Capt. Brown from the Montgomery in 1776 to the Putnam in 1777. However, James Robinson states in his military pension application in 1820 that he participated in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. The Battle of Trenton was Gen. Washington's surprise attack against Hessian forces that occurred only hours after crossing the Delaware during the night of 25–26 Dec. 1776. Because the river-crossing was an act of stealth, naval artillery would not have been a priority on that occasion, particularly when all available naval resources were needed to ferry Gen. Washington's army from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. James Robinson and other artillery forces of the Montgomery thus seem to have been

dispatched to the surprise attack at Trenton. James then remained attached to artillery forces for the second Battle of Trenton against Lord Cornwallis on 2 Jan. 1777, and the ensuing Battle of Princeton the following day. After these three land battles, James returned to naval service aboard the Montgomery. James states in his pension application that he was in the "battery," that is, artillery, for these battles. (For a brief bio on Capt. William Brown and a photograph of his ivory satin waistcoat, see the article by Michael Shepherd at <https://foxhistoriccostume.wordpress.com/2015/03/>.)

Brent Wiseman has researched James Robinson's military records during the Revolutionary War. He has found military records on file in Harrisburg, PA that pertain to a James Robinson who served under the command of Capt. William Brown in the navy, and then under Capt. James Lee and then Capt. Jonas Simonds in artillery service, just as described by James Robinson of Blount County in his military pension application. These records indicate that James Robinson served under all three captains with William Robinson, a possible near relative. As indicated by muster rolls and payrolls, James and William Robinson held the position of matross. Both in the army and navy, a matross served with the artillery in assisting to load and fire cannon, as well as to maintain a ready supply of ammunition.

Matross was a soldier of artillery, who ranked next below a gunner. The duty of a matross was to assist the gunners in loading, firing and sponging the guns. They were provided with firelocks and marched with the store-wagons, acting as guards. In the United States Army, a matross ranked as a private of artillery (Wikipedia, *sub verbum*).

Brent Wiseman has found detailed information for James and William Robinson's military service through the online website of the Pennsylvania State Archives. He writes as follows:

These records are in the form of a card file, with each card pointing to an appearance on some kind of record, like a pay list or a muster roll. The cards are alphabetized. At the following link, I found 59 individual cards for "James Robinson": <http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp?view=ArchiveItems&ArchiveID=13&FL=R&FID=561723&LID=561822>

One card, No. 52, shows a James Robinson, Marine, serving under Capt. William Brown, June 1 - Oct. 1, 1776, "Served on the Montgomery as a Marine, Enlisted April 16, 1776." This almost certainly has to be our James. The Montgomery was one of the smaller ships which helped defend Philadelphia from the British ships Roebuck and Liverpool.

Card No. 53, dated June 1, 1777, reads, "Served on the Putnam. Age 21. Enlisted April 16, 1776. On duty in town. Total time in service: 1 year, 1 month, 15 days." Capt. William Brown listed as commander.

Brent states that there are 47 cards for William Robinson(s), some of which are close matches to James Robinson. These cards can be found at the same link as above.

Card 40 shows William as a "Marine" under Capt. William Brown, serving on the Montgomery, enlisting April 16, 1776, just like his brother. Card 41 shows that he served on the Putnam, was discharged from service May 1, 1777, age 18, after serving 1 year and 15 days (one month less than his brother James). Also interesting to note that William seems to be 18 at this time, three years younger than James.

Brent Wiseman also discovered that James and William Robinson endured the military encampment at the Winter of Valley Forge. With reference to the Valley Forge website (<http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/muster.asp>), Brent writes:

Entering the last name of Robinson and the state of Pennsylvania into the search engine reveals that James and William Robinson, matrosses of the 2nd Pa. Artillery Regiment under Col. John Lamb and the company of Capt. James Lee, were both on muster rolls taken at that bitter encampment. The 2nd Artillery Regiment, according to the website, "entered Valley Forge with 190 fit for duty", and "left Valley Forge with 126 fit for duty." Presumably James and William were among the 126.

Brent describes James and William Robinson's artillery service under Col. John Lamb as follows:

Another Ancestry collection "U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783" contains digitized images of actual muster rolls and payrolls that show detailed records of James and William Robinson's service in the Continental Army. There are too many for me to link them all, but the collection is searchable by name. Look for entries where James Robinson is listed as "Matross" in one of the regiments of artillery. (Other entries are probably not the right James Robinson.) For instance, here's one dated Oct. 30, 1777, showing James and William as matrosses in the 2nd Artillery Regiment under Capt. James Lee and Col. John Lamb... [Muster Roll 2nd Artillery Regiment Oct. 30 1777](#).

The earliest muster roll I have found for James is Oct. 1777 and the latest is Dec 1780. On every one of the muster rolls, James and William Robinson are found together, serving as matrosses. In all of them, Col. John Lamb is named as their regimental officer. Up through 1779 they are serving in the company of Capt. James Lee, and after that they are under Capt. Jonas Simonds.

A couple of cards indicate that James Robinson appears on muster rolls from the winter of 1778-79 at a "Camp Pluckamin" (or Pluckemin). Evidently Pluckemin, in northern New Jersey, has been memorialized as the site of an artillery encampment (or "cantonment") in 1778-79. It was a barracks for the troops, and Gen. Henry Knox, the artillery commander, later made it into a national military academy that was the precursor to West Point. It's on the National Register of Historic Places.

Card no. 43 lists James Robinson in the company of "Capt. Simounds", 2nd Regiment Artillery, under Col. Lamb. Card 44 lists James under "Capt. James Lee" in the same regiment. Card 45, dated 11 Sept. 1779, lists James under "Capt. James

Lee" in unit "Arty. - Brig.Gen. Knox". And card 46, dated March 15, 1779, lists him under "Col. John Lamb", in "Regt. of Artillery." All of these cards, I think it's safe to say, refer to our James.

Card 36 lists a James Robinson as a "matross" in the artillery at Yorktown (16-23 May, 1781).

According to the National Park Service website for Yorktown (which includes some great photos of cannons), "Artillery played a decisive role in defeating the British at Yorktown. According to Brigadier General Henry Knox, the American artillery commander, the Americans and French fired 15,437 artillery rounds at the British during the eight day bombardment. This is an average of 1.2 shots a minute!" <http://www.nps.gov/yonb/learn/historyculture/revolutionary-war-artillery.htm>.

Other cards are questionable. There was a James Robinson in a volunteer regiment raised by Pennsylvania called the "Seven Months Men", a state militia raised after the war around 1785. Further research is needed.

In his pension application of 1818, James described his date of enlistment and officers as follows:

I enlisted on or about March 1776 for the war, on the continental establishment, in the state of Maryland on the Maryland line, in Capt. William Brown's company, for the marine service on Board the Putnam Battery at Philadelphia, that he served in the same one year, when by mutual consent of the Officers of both companies was exchanged into Captain Lees company of artillery, Col. Proctor's regiment in which I served until the end of the war, when I was honorably discharged in Philadelphia on September 1782.

In his 1820 pension application, James adds that Capt. Lee was succeeded in command by Capt. Simons (Simonds). His enlistment and officers were described in the record as follows:

Early in the revolutionary war in the month of March in the year 1776 as well as he recollects, in the City of Philadelphia he entered as a private with Capt. Brown who commanded the Putnam floating Battery that in a very short time he was transferred to Capt. Lees Com. of Col. Proctor's Regiment of Artillery of General Knox's Brigade that said Capt. Lee, was succeeded in the Common Company by Capt. Simons – that this deponent was thus enlisted and continued without intermission in the Military service of the United States during the whole of the said war.

Capt. Jonas Simonds' company was in Col. Lamb's Continental Artillery Regiment from January 1777 through September 1778, and then remained in the same regiment from April 1779 to October 1780, when it was renamed the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment. Capt. Simonds' company then transferred to the 4th Continental Artillery Regiment under Col. Thomas Proctor as of January 1781. According to military records, Capt. Jonas Simonds and the 4th Continental Artillery Regiment fought in the Southern Campaign of the war beginning in 1781. Lord

Cornwallis was commander of the British troops in the south, especially Charleston, until his troops moved to Virginia and were forced to surrender at Yorktown. (For information on Capt. Jonas Simonds, see <http://pasocietyofthecincinnati.org/Names/JonasSimonds.html>.)

James Robinson, matross, and William Robinson, matross, were listed as soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line who received depreciation pay after the war (Montgomery, *Pennsylvania Archives Fifth Series*, 4: 192). Depreciation pay was given due to the fact that the value of wartime pay had become worth very little.

John Boyd appeared in Blount County Court on 2 May 1818, providing a deposition on behalf of James Robinson's military pension application. John's deposition reads as follows:

Be it remembered that this day came John Boyd before me the above named James Turk presiding Justice or aforesaid being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he has been acquainted with the said James Robinson for 9 or 10 years – that although they both served in the revolutionary war against the Common enemy yet he was not personally acquainted with him at that time – yet from the relation that said James has given this deponent from time to time of transactions taking place in the service and from the well known good Character of J Robinson this deponent believes every fact by him above stated.

There are several puzzles involved in making sense of military records for James and William Robinson and then in reconciling these records to information given in their pension files and to their personal circumstances. The first most basic puzzle is in trying to determine which records pertain to James and/or William. In addition to the military records mentioned above, there were a James and William Robeson serving together as privates in Capt. William Wilson's company, part of Col. Thomas Proctor's regiment. James Robinson does not mention Capt. William Wilson in his pension application, and the James and William Robeson mentioned with Capt. Wilson were not referred to as matrosses. This evidence highlights the possibility that James and William Robinson, matrosses, might not have been the only pair of brothers with those names serving under Col. Thomas Proctor. Additionally, the following link provides a muster roll of Col. Thomas Proctor's muster roll, dated 31 Jul. 1776. A James Robinson, matross, is mentioned on this muster roll. However, this date of July 1776 conflicts with the time when the James Robinson of present interest was serving under Capt. William Brown aboard the Montgomery, thus once again highlighting the problem of determining which records pertain to the present discussion (<http://usgwarchives.net/pa/1pa/1picts/proctor/pf1.html#sketch>).

The William Robinson who served with James Robinson in artillery service under Capt. William Brown, Capt. James Lee and Capt. Jonas Simonds seems to have been James' brother or other near relative. He was not the William Robinson of Bedford Co., VA who died in 1817, husband of Mason Gibbs, who served in the Revolutionary War with his older brother James. Daniel Mitchell provided an affidavit for Mason Gibbs Robinson's widow's pension application in 1853 (NARA #R8909). He stated that Mason's husband William Robinson died in 1817, and that his older brother James died a while before him. This James Robinson, older brother of William, died in Bedford Co., VA before his estate was inventoried on 19 Nov. 1813 (Bedford County Will Book 4, 1811 – 1817: 106). This James Robinson of Bedford Co., VA, brother of William

Robinson and brother-in-law of Mason Gibbs Robinson, was thus not the James Robinson of Blount Co., TN from 1808 to 1824 who died in Monroe County in 1833.

The Family of James Robinson & Sarah Holloway

James Robinson stated in his pension application on 2 May 1818 that he was 64, and on 3 Aug. 1820 that he was 67, thus placing his date of birth between 3 May and 3 Aug. 1753. James testified in August 1820 that his family consisted of the following individuals:

My family besides myself consists of my wife and five children, my wife Sarah Robinson aged 58 years... – my children are Sally Robinson about twenty years old – Letty 18 – Betsey 16 – Edward over 14 and John over 12 years old... (Military Pension transcribed by Roberta Pierson; see White, *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, vol. III, N – Z: 2919).

Unfortunately, James' enumeration of his family members in his pension application included only his dependents who were still at home. The pension was need-based as pertaining to the applicant's assets, income and dependents. With James born in 1753 and his wife Sarah in about 1762, they may well have had children who were grown and out of the house before 1820. These unnamed children would appear to have included William (born about 1788) and Rebecca (born about 1795), and perhaps other unknown children.

James Robinson testified in regard to his military pension in 1820 that he owned 31 acres in Blount County "on the verge of said county of Blount among knobs." This is a striking match to the Blount County deed indicating that James and William Robinson owned 31 acres together on Six Mile Creek adjoining Jeremiah Hammontree, the Indian Boundary and James Holloway (Blount County Deed Book 2: 549–50, #529; see Thomas, *Blount County Deeds, 1819 – 1833*, 93–94). An inspection of the former property of James and William Robinson as described in this deed (in the area of 2202 Jericho Road) shows it to be situated on Six Mile Creek amidst the knobs and knolls of the western base of Chilhowee Mountain. This western base marked a portion of the Indian Boundary abolished by Calhoun's Treaty in 1819, and thus James referred to his property aptly in 1820 by describing it as on the verge of the county. His property was as far as settlement had extended toward Indian land at the base of the mountain. Thus, as evidenced by property records, the James Robinson who testified in court that he owned 31 acres on the verge of the county and who received a military pension in 1818 and 1820 was one and the same as the James Robinson who owned 31 acres on Six Mile Creek and who was a member of the Six Mile Baptist Church.

Further, the names of James' children as given in his 1820 pension application correspond with Robinsons in the Six Mile community and afterward. James listed his children at home in 1820 as Sally, Letty, Betsy, Edward and John. The Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church mention Sally and Letty, as well as William, while the minister of the Six Mile Baptist Church (George Snider) performed the marriage of Rebecca Robinson and Alexander Hammontree in 1818. Betsy, Edward and John were James' only children named in his pension application who are not found in other records of Blount County, though Edward and John are found by name with the family years later in adjoining Monroe County, where Betsy seems to be found anonymously in the 1830 census. A deed of Monroe County in 1836 indicates that Edward and John Robison (Robinson)

had been living with Sally Robinson Hammontree's family before the property was sold, with Rebecca Robinson Hammontree's family living next door. Thus all the children James listed in 1820 can be found either in the Six Mile community at the time or in Monroe County in following years. James and Sarah were also close neighbors with their adult children in Monroe County by at least 1830, as were William and his wife Nancy. James' youngest four children were Letty (Lydia), Betsy, Edward, and John. Letty and Betsy are found in the Six Mile Church Minutes but not in Monroe County. Edward and John are found in Monroe County but not in the church minutes. James, William, Rebecca and Sally are found in both Blount and Monroe records. (Rebecca and Sally are found in Monroe County as inferred from their Hammontree husbands).

James testified in his pension application that he gave his military discharge paper to U.S. Senator Jesse Franklin of North Carolina in 1805. He did so in the hope of receiving a bounty land warrant for his military service, stating in his pension application that he lived in North Carolina at the time. (Jesse Franklin was Senator from North Carolina from 1799 to 1805, and then served a later term as Senator and then as Governor.) This is curious in that Rebecca and Sally tend to report in their censuses that they were born in Tennessee. Thus it seems James and Sarah were living in North Carolina in 1788 at the time of William's birth, then in Tennessee from at least 1795 to 1798/9 for the births of Rebecca and Sally, then back to North Carolina by 1805, and then back to Tennessee before John's birth in 1808/9. Birthplaces for Lydia, Betsy and Edward from 1802 to 1806 remain unclear.

According to the Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church, on "Satterday November the 21th 1818," the church "received sister Sally Robinson by exp" (that is, by experience). Letty Robinson was received into the church on 19 Oct. 1822 ("received sister Letty Robinson by exp"). Sally Robinson Hammontree left the congregation on "Saterday Febuary the 16th 1822," about a month after her marriage to Harris Hammontree. The minutes on that date state as follows:

Sister Salley Robinson now Sally Hammontree requests a letter from the church
the church grants her a letter.

On 15 Nov. 1823, James Robinson asked the church for a letter of dismissal for his family.

B Robinson applyed for letters of dismissal for himself and wife and daughter
the church grants them letters

The daughter mentioned here seems to have been Letty, who had been received by the church in 1822. The fact that James did not include a second daughter and two sons in this request suggests that Betsy, Edward and John had not become members of the church by that time. The index of the church minutes lists this entry under William Robinson rather than under James, which seems an obvious error, since William had left the church three years earlier, and James becomes conspicuously absent only hereafter. On 20 Dec. 1823, the minutes refer to Barnes/Barns Holloway as filling in (as treasurer) in the absence of James Robinson in taking up and administering the church's contributions. The minutes continue hereafter through September 1826 without further reference to the Robinson family (*Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church: 1813 – 1826*, transcribed by Burns).

Upon leaving Six Mile in 1823, James Robinson was once again affiliated with the Miller's Cove Baptist Church in Walland, eastern Blount County. The Minutes of the Millers Cove Baptist Church indicate his presence there in 1824 (Thomas, *Millers Cove Baptist Church Minutes, Walland, Blount County, Tennessee, 1812 – 1824*, 127).

James & Sarah Robinson in Monroe County, Tennessee

James and Sarah were living in Monroe Co., TN during the 1830 census, as were all of their known children. The census lists James Robeson (Robinson) age 70–80 and wife 60–70. With them were four young adults, two males 20–30 and two females 20–30. These individuals seem to have been Letty, Betsy, Edward and John. Living nearby were William Robeson (Robinson) and wife (Nancy), both ages 40–50. Rebecca's and Sally's families were also nearby, listed as families of Alexander Hammontree and Harris Hammontree. All these families appear in the census in Regiment 98. (Early tax lists in Monroe County were organized by regiments.)

According to his Revolutionary War pension file, James Robinson is shown as drawing his annual pension of \$8 per month from 1818 to 1833. His pension file ends with the notation, "Died 11th Dec'br 1833. Paid 1st qtr 1834" (National Archives and Records Administration, *U.S. Pensioners, East Tennessee 1818 – 1832*, 544; *1833 – 1852*, 128). Brent Wiseman discovered this information in August 2015. No information for James or Sarah has been found after this point.

There was a James Robinson who witnessed a deed in Blount County between John Jones Jr. of Washington Co., VA and William D. Davis in 1835. The deed was dated almost two years after James Robinson, husband of Sarah, died in Monroe County in 1833. The James Robinson in 1835 might have been an unknown close relative of James and Sarah. Fifteen years before this other James Robinson witnessed the Jones-Davis deed, John Jones Jr. of Washington Co., VA purchased 228 acres on Ellejoy Creek in Blount County from John Pitner/Pinter. The deed was dated 13 Dec. 1820. The consideration was \$600. The property adjoined John McNalley, Benjamin Tipton, James Davis and Robert Murrin. Witnesses were Adam Pitner, Isaac Lindsay and John Kincannon. The property had been granted to William Johnston in 1810 (Blount County Deed Book 2: 206–07, #241; see Thomas, *Blount County Deeds, 1819 – 1833*, 42). Then on 26 Aug. 1835, John Jones of Washington Co., VA sold the same 228 acres to William D. Davis. The consideration was \$500. The property was on Ellejoy Creek in Blount County, adjoining John McNeely, Benjamin Tipton, James Davis and Robert Mannen. Witnesses were James Robinson and Jesse Brown. The deed was proved in court September 1835. Jesse Brown testified that James Robison (Robinson) was then residing in Virginia (the deed refers to this James as Robinson and then as Robison) (Blount County Deed Book 3: 63–64, #767; see Thomas, *Blount County Deeds, 1819 – 1833*, 141). The John McNalley in the deed of 1820 was the John McNeely in the deed of 1835. So too, the Robert Murrin in 1820 was the Robert Mannen in 1835. William D. Davis, the grantee in 1835, seems to have been a near relative of James Davis, an adjoining neighbor in both deeds. (Note that Joseph Holloway and William Jeffries witnessed two deeds on Ellejoy Creek involving Philmer Green/Greene in 1817.) The location of John Jones Jr. in Washington Co., VA may be a clue as to where James Robinson moved to in Virginia. Donna Parten has proposed that the James Robinson in the 1835 deed was the James Robertson who was mentioned in the estate papers of John Jones Sr. of Washington County in 1830. (Donna is a descendant of James Robinson and Sarah Holloway of Blount County through their son William Robinson and then through William's granddaughter Malinda Thompson who married Jeremiah Hammontree Jr. According to Y-DNA evidence

coupled with documentary evidence, Donna is also a likely descendant of John Jones Sr. of Washington Co., VA.) John Jones Jr. of Washington Co., VA was born about 1776, the son of John Jones Sr. who emigrated from Wales. John Jr. married Rachel Robinson in Washington County on 3 May 1798. The parentage of this Rachel Robinson is unknown. John and Rachel were the parents of an unknown daughter born about 1800. After Rachel's early death, John married Patience Main on 18 Jul. 1802. The unnamed child born to John and Rachel is listed with John and Patience in the 1810 census but not in the 1820 census. She may have married by then. (She is not mentioned in John Jr.'s will.) John's purchase of 228 acres in Blount County in 1820 may have been on behalf of his unknown daughter and her husband. The James Robinson who witnessed the 1835 deed looks to have been the brother of Rachel Robinson who married John Jones and the uncle of their unknown daughter born about 1800. John Jones Jr. died in 1836 in Washington Co., VA. John Jones Jr. was financially well-off, purchasing property with his father early on and then purchasing the properties of his brothers when they left Virginia. John Jr.'s will refers to his brick home. Washington Co., VA borders Tennessee at Johnson County and Sullivan County. The seat of Washington County is Abingdon.

Descendants of James Robinson & Sarah Holloway

James and Sarah Robinson were the parents of seven identifiable children, perhaps having other children who remain unknown. Their known children were: William, born about 1788 in North Carolina, married Nancy MNU, died after 1850 in Monroe Co., TN; Rebecca, born about 1795 in Tennessee, married Alexander Hammontree, died after the 1860 census of Catoosa Co., GA; Sarah/Sally, born about 1798/9, probably in Tennessee, married Harris Hammontree, died in 1861 in Walker Co., GA; Lydia/Letty, born about 1802, place unknown, marriage and death unknown; Elizabeth/Betsy, born about 1804, place unknown, marriage and death unknown; Edward, born about 1806, married Mary MNU, died after 1860 census of McMinn Co., TN; and John Wesley Sr., born about 1808/9 in Tennessee, married Nancy Mathis, died on 9 Mar. 1884 in Bradley Co., TN.

Note that James' wife was referred to by name only once in period documents. James identified his wife as Sarah in his military pension application of 1820. No indication is given in period documents as to her maiden name. However, Sarah passed down Holloway-Meador DNA to all their children, causing her to appear as a daughter of William Holloway Sr. and Frances Meador of Cumberland and Bedford Cos., VA. Big Y-700 testing indicates that James' Y-descendants match Robinson families who came out of Pennsylvania or the surrounding region.

James and Sarah's known children settled in Monroe, McMinn and Bradley counties, TN and in Walker Co., GA. All these areas are near Chattanooga, Hamilton Co., TN. These children are detailed below.

William R. Robinson (c. 1788–aft. 1850), son of James and Sarah, was married twice. William R. Robinson married Sally Witcher on 29 Sep. 1808 in Blount County (Little, *Blount County, Tennessee Marriages*, 242, 309). Sally Witcher Robinson seems to have been divorced from William Robinson and then to have become Sally Hicks. William's second marriage was to Nancy MNU. According to the Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church (February 1813), William Robinson was briefly married to and then divorced from his first wife, Sally Hicks, and then married at some undetermined time, having entered into this second marriage at least before 1813.

The church minutes do not make clear the name of his second wife, though they do mention a Nancy Robinson. William was the William Robeson in the 1830 census of Monroe Co., TN and then again the William Robison in the censuses of 1840 and 1850. The 1850 census indicates that he was 62 and his wife Nancy 70, both born in North Carolina. If Sally Hicks' maiden name was Sally Witcher, then William seems to have been the William R. Robinson who married Sally Witcher in 1808 and the William Robison of Monroe County. William and Nancy's daughter Jane was born about 1809.

The Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church for "Saturday April 16th" (1814) read as follows: "received Sister Nancy Robinson by exp" (that is, by experience). Nancy was probably the wife of William Robinson. (There is no specific evidence that James and Sarah had a daughter Nancy.) On "Friday April the 11th 1820," the Six Mile Minutes state that "B William Robinson and wife dismissed from this church by letters." These letters were means of transferring membership from one congregation to another. William and Nancy seem to have moved to Monroe County at this time. Other members who transferred their membership the same day included B (Brother) Stephens and wife, James Reagan and wife and Minter Holloway.

William Robeson (Robinson) and his wife (Nancy) were living near his parents James and Sarah in the 1830 Monroe County Census. With them were a daughter 15–20 and a son 10–15. Their daughter Jane was already married and out of the house. The daughter 10–15 was Rebecca, and their son 5–10 was James.

In the 1840 Monroe County Census, Wm. Robison (Robinson) and wife were 50–60. With them was a male age 20–30. This male seems to have been their son James.

William Roberson (Robinson) witnessed a deed of trust in Blount County on 28 Mar. 1843 between Jeremiah Hamentree (Hammontree) of the one part and James Hammontree and John C. Greenway of the other part. The deed was also witnessed by Enoch Robnett (Robinette) (Blount County Deed Book 12: 326). The Jeremiah and James Hammontree (Jr.) mentioned here were sons of James Hammontree Sr. and his wife Nancy Holloway. William Robinson's son James had married Jeremiah and James' first cousin Louisa Jane "Liza" Hammontree the year before. Enoch Robinette, who also witnessed the deed, was a son of Moses Robinette. Moses Robinette (1750/55–1846) and his unknown wife were the parents of Mary, Rachel, Moses, George, Benjamin and Enoch. Mary Robinnett married William Wittenbarger (Wittenberger) in Blount County on 30 Jan. 1796. As referenced above, Henry Whitenburger (Wittenberger) and William R. Robinson witnessed a deed from Joseph Pate to Samuel Saffel (Saffell) on 18 Mar. 1808. The property was on Lackey's Creek in Blount County, northwest of Maryville. According to the 1850 Blount County Census, Henry Wittenberger was born about 1785, and his wife Eliza about 1788. Eliza's maiden name is unknown. DNA testing has shown that descendants of James and Sarah Robinson have DNA matches with the Robinette family of Blount County.

Jane Robinson, daughter of William and Nancy, married Samuel Thompson in Blount County on 17 Jul. 1827. They were married by George Ewing, Justice of the Peace. Samuel seems to have been Samuel S. Thompson, born 1807, son of Samuel and Sarah Thompson. Jane's brother James Robinson married in 1842 and named a son William Thompson Robinson in 1848. Samuel and Jane Robinson Thompson were the parents of Malinda Thompson, the second wife of Jeremiah "Jerry" Hammontree Jr. Jeremiah Hamintree (Hammontree) and Malinda Thomson (Thompson)

were married in Blount County on 11 Jul. 1850. They were married by Leonard L. McFarling, JP. Malinda was born in Blount County, reportedly on 25 Oct. 1826, though she was probably born in 1828, given that her parents were married in 1827. DNA testing has shown that descendants of Jeremiah Hammontree Jr. and Malinda Thompson share the same Robinson DNA as other descendants of James and Sarah Robinson, the great-grandparents of Malinda Thompson Hammontree. This DNA evidence confirms the view that Malinda Thompson Hammontree was a daughter of Samuel Thompson and Jane Robinson, and that Jane Robinson Thompson was the daughter of William and Nancy Robinson. Jane Robinson Thompson seems to have died before May 1848. Samuel Thompson, her apparent widower, married Dorcas Brown on 14 May 1848 in Blount County. Samuel and Dorcas were the parents of Margaret Thompson (Tallent). Samuel Thompson died in Blount County in about 1870.

Rebecca "Becky" Robinson, daughter of William and Nancy, was born about 1814 in Blount County. She appears to have been William and Nancy's daughter 10–15 in the 1830 Monroe County Census. Becky married Benjamin Perkins, who was born about 1803 in North Carolina. Becky and Benjamin settled in northwest Georgia, as did other members of the Robinson and Hammontree families. The *Walker County Messenger* (Georgia) reported on 27 Jul. 1902 as follows: "Wm. Hammontree and wife went to Rocky Face Thursday to attend the funeral of their aunt, Mrs. Perkins." This notice appeared under the heading REO. (Reo was a community on the Walker-Whitfield County line. Rocky Face is in Whitfield Co., GA.) William Hammontree of Reo was a great-grandson of James and Sarah Robinson, the grandson of their daughter Sally Robinson Hammontree. It is not known how William Hammontree or his wife could have been related to Mrs. Perkins who died in 1902 unless Mrs. Perkins was the daughter of William and Nancy Robinson, making her the first cousin of William Hammontree's father, James M. Hammontree. DNA testing has confirmed that descendants of Becky Perkins are descended from James and Sarah Robinson. Thus the Mrs. Perkins who died before Thursday, 24 Jul. 1902 seems to have been Rebecca "Becky" Robinson Perkins (1814–1902), daughter of William and Nancy Robinson and wife of Benjamin Perkins. In the 1850 Walker County Census, Benjamin Perkins was 45 and Becky 35. In the 1870 Catoosa County Census, Benjamin was 67 (born in NC) and Becky was 56 (born in TN). In the 1880 Whitfield County Census, Benjamin was 85, Becky 73 and their grandson Henry 6 (born in Arkansas). Benjamin died in Whitfield County after 1880. Benjamin and Becky were the parents of John, born 1831; James W., born 1833 and Margaret Matilda "Matilda," born 1836. Henry's death certificate in Loudon Co., TN gives his name as John Henry Perkins, 1874–1935, identifying him as the son of John Perkins born 1831. Matilda married Timothy Roberson. Margaret and Timothy were living with her parents in the 1870 Catoosa Co., GA Census, along with their children. William Robinson, son of James and Sarah, named his daughter born 1814 Rebecca, that is, Rebecca Robinson (Perkins). Then in 1827, William's sister Rebecca Robinson Hammontree returned the favor, naming her only son William Robinson Hammontree.

James Robinson, son of William and Nancy, was born about 1819 in Blount County. He was the apparent son 20–30 in the household of Wm. Robison (Robinson) in the 1840 Monroe County Census. James married Louisa Jane "Liza" Hammontree in Monroe County on 25 Feb. 1842. Liza was born February 1824 in Tennessee, daughter of Jacob Asbury "Jacob" Hammontree and his wife Jane MNU. Jacob Hammontree and Jane MNU lived near William and Nancy Robinson and other members of the Robinson family in the 1840 Monroe County Census. (DNA testing has

shown that Jane MNU Hammontree was not a daughter of James and Sarah Robinson, as per their divergent mt-DNA results.) James and Liza's son Jacob Asbury Robinson was born about 1850.

William and Nancy Robinson were charter members of the Big Creek Baptist Church in Monroe County. The church was organized in 1834. Their son and daughter-in-law James and Liza Robinson were also listed as charter members, though they were not yet married when the church was organized (Toomey, *Jubilee Three: History of the Sweetwater Baptist Association and Its Affiliated Churches, 1830 – 1980*, 215–16).

In the 1860 census, James and Liza Robison (Robinson) lived in Sweetwater, Monroe County. James died in Monroe County sometime afterward. Louisa appears in the 1880 census living with her son Jacob Robinson. In the 1900 census, Liza Jane was living with her son William T. Robinson. She died in Monroe County after 1900.

William and Nancy are found in the 1850 Monroe County Census. The census lists them as William Robison age 62 and wife Nancy age 70, both born in North Carolina. Nancy Robison was a widow in the 1860 census, living with James and Louisa Robison. Because these censuses identify William's wife as Nancy, it is likely she was the Nancy Robinson received by conversion into the Six Mile Baptist Church on 16 Apr. 1814.

Rebecca Robinson (c. 1795–aft. 1860), daughter of James and Sarah, was born in Tennessee, as indicated on her 1860 census. Rebecca married Alexander Hammontree in Blount County on 22 Dec. 1818, their marriage performed by George Snider, Minister of the Gospel (Little, *Blount County, Tennessee Marriages 1795 To 1915*, 116, 241; Sistler, *Early East Tennessee Marriages*, vol. 1 (Grooms): 151; vol. 2 (Brides): 312). George Snider was minister of the Six Mile Baptist Church, having purchased the former property of Patrick Murray. Rebecca's parents James and Sarah lived on Six Mile Creek next to the Hammontree family, who in turn lived next to George Snider, all of whom were members of the Six Mile Baptist Church. Rebecca's conversion into the church is not recorded in the church minutes, suggesting she had become a member before the minutes began to be kept in 1813. Rebecca's husband Alexander Hammontree (c. 1796–bef. 1860) was born in Tennessee, son of Jeremiah Hammontree Sr. and Sarah Holloway. Alexander witnessed a deed on Six Mile Creek on 3 Dec. 1813, when his father Jeremiah Hammontree sold 47 acres to Edmond Holloway. Joseph and Billy Holloway also witnessed the deed (Blount County Deed Book 1: 353–54, #478; see Thomas, *Blount County Deed Book 1, 1795 – 1819*, 66). Rebecca was an apparent widow in 1860, living with the family of her daughter Nancy (Hammontree) DeMore in Ringgold, Catoosa Co., GA.

Rebecca Robinson and Alexander Hammontree were the parents of six children: Jane, born 1819/20; Mary, born about 1821, married Samuel Stewart in McMinn Co., TN on 14 Mar. 1841, may have died in childbirth with her second child in 1845 or shortly thereafter; Nancy A. born about 1824, married William R. DeMore about 1845 in Tennessee, died 18 Oct. 1883 in Athens, Clarke Co., GA, buried in Oconee Hill Cemetery; unknown female, born 1825–1830; William Robinson "William" Hammontree, born 5 Sep. 1827 in Monroe Co., TN, married first to Tabitha Eleanor "Tabitha" Shirley about 1852 in Walker Co., GA, married second to Sarah S. (Sarah) Roberts Dean on 20 May 1879 in Clarke Co., GA, died 25 Jan. 1918 in Keith, Catoosa Co., GA, buried in Dunagan Cemetery, Whitfield Co., GA; Rebecca Caroline "Caroline," born 16 Jun. 1832 in Bradley Co., TN, married Ransom Adolphus "Ransom" Jones on 19 Jan. 1851 in Bradley

County, died 12 Jun. 1897 in Whitfield Co., GA, buried beside her daughter Mollie Jones Houston in Dunagan Cemetery in Rocky Face, Whitfield County.

Sarah "Sally" Robinson (c. 1798/9–1861), daughter of James and Sarah, was married to Harris Hammontree. Sally's birth is given by censuses in the range of 1795 to 1803. The census of 1830 gives her age as 20–30, the census of 1840 gives 40–50, 1850 gives 47 and 1860 gives 65. Family reports based on different family Bibles give her birth as early as 14 Nov. 1797, and as late as 1799. The year 1797 seems too early, conflicting with the fact that Sally's father stated in court in August 1820 that she was "about twenty years old." Burial records suggest that Harris was 1 year older than Sally. Because Harris was born about 1797 or 1798, Sally's year of birth seems to have been about 1798 or 1799. Harris and Sally were both born in Tennessee, except that one census gives Sally's place of birth as Virginia.

Sarah "Sally" Robinson married Harris Hammontree in Blount County on 12 Jan. 1822. They were married by Archibald Maxwell, JP. (Sarah's name was given on the marriage license as Sarah Robertson.) During their early marriage, Harris and Sally lived in Monroe and Bradley counties, TN, and then moved to Walker Co., GA. Harris and Sally were the parents of at least nine children, all seemingly born in Monroe County, except the ninth and tenth, possibly born in Bradley County. (According to censuses, all the children were born in Tennessee.) These children were: unknown female, born about 1823; James M., born about 1824, married Mary Jane "Polly" Jones on 11 May 1846 in Murray Co., GA, died before 1898 in Walker Co., GA, buried in Friendship Cemetery; Jesse, born about 1826, married Nancy Neal in 1846 in Murray Co., GA (that part of Murray County later formed into Whitfield County), died before 1870 in Dalton, Whitfield Co., GA; Elizabeth, born 1827; John Wesley "John," born 30 Dec. 1828, married Josephine Frances "Josie" Carlisle in about 1855, died 5 Mar. 1895 in Dripping Springs, Washington Co., AR, buried in Dripping Springs Cemetery; Edward Alexander "Ed," born 23 Jan. 1833, married Sarah Amanda Ellen "Ellen" Tate in about 1858, died 28 Feb. 1914 in Maysville, Benton Co., AR, buried Maysville Cemetery; Lydia Ann "Lettie," born 1834, married Caleb Ross "Caleb" Hendrix; Rhoda Jane "Rhoda," born 1837, married first to James A. Griffin, married second to Rev. Peter Rice; and William Marion "Marion," born 1840, died 1860 in Walker County, buried in Friendship Cemetery. (The 1840 census either gives Elizabeth's age too young or else omits her and adds an unknown female 5–10, possibly a daughter of the unknown adult woman 20–30 also listed in the census. There is an unknown adult woman in the censuses of 1830 and 1840, each possibly with their own daughter 0–5. Corresponding entries do not exist for these unknown children in other censuses for the family.)

Lydia "Letty" Robinson, daughter of James and Sarah, was born about 1802, and her sister Elizabeth "Betsy" Robinson was born about 1804. No marriage or death information has been found for either of them. They may have married in Monroe Co., TN, where marriage records do not exist prior to 1838.

Edward and John Robison (Robinson), sons of James and Sarah, lived on the property of Harris and Sally Robinson Hammontree in Monroe County prior to June 1836. The property adjoined Alexander and Rebecca Robinson Hammontree, with other members of the Robinson family living nearby. On 1 Jun. 1836, Harris Hammontree sold 225 or 230 acres to David Trundle. The consideration was \$500. The property adjoined a conditional line with Alexander Hammontree. The conditional line was revised in the deed as between David Trundle and Arch

Sloan (signifying that Alexander Hammontree had sold his property to Arch Sloan, though a specific deed to that effect has not been found). Other neighbors were Arch Sloan and John Morgan. The property was described in the deed as the former residence of Harris Hammontree, John & Edward Robison (Robinson). Witnesses were Arch and Alex Sloan. Harris was not present when the deed was registered on 2 Apr. 1847 (Monroe County Deed Book O, 1848–1854: 74–75).

Edward Robinson, son of James and Sarah, was born about 1806. According to censuses, he was born in Tennessee or Virginia. He was married to Mary MNU in about 1833, probably in Monroe County. Edward and his family appear in Monroe County for the 1840 census. The census shows Edward Robison (Robinson) 30–39 and wife 20–29. With them were two daughters, 5–10 and 0–5. These daughters seem to have been Catherine and Jane. Edward and family were then in the 1850 and 1860 censuses of McMinn Co., TN. Edward and Mary were the parents of Catherine, born about 1834 (probably married as the first wife of James Monroe Smith); F. Jane, born about 1836, married as the second wife of James Monroe Smith, died 1897 in McMinn County; William, born 1838; Elizabeth, born 1843; and Thornton, born 1846. The death certificate of James Monroe Smith's eldest daughter gives her mother's name as Catherine. Terri Fogarty Rumans suggests that James Monroe Smith was married first to Catherine Robinson and then second to Catherine's sister, Jane Robinson. (Terri Fogarty Rumans is a 3G granddaughter of Edward and Mary Robinson through their daughter Jane Robinson Smith.)

John Wesley "John" Robinson (Sr.), son of James and Sarah, was born in Tennessee on 1 Oct., probably in 1808 or 1809. (According to his gravestone, he was born 1 Oct. 1812, though that year conflicts with censuses and his father's statement, and thus seems to be incorrect.) John married Nancy Emmiline "Nancy" Mathis about 1835. She was born about 1815. Her gravestone gives her birth as 29 Sep. 1822. Perhaps she was born 29 Sep. 1815. John acquired a Tennessee Land Grant in the Ocoee Surveyor District of Tennessee on 9 May 1841. The grant was for 80 acres in Bradley County, signed by Governor James K. Polk, later President of the United States. John and his family were in Bradley County in the censuses of 1850, 1860 and 1870. John was listed as John Robison in 1850 and 1860 and as John Robinson in 1870. Nancy died there in Bradley County on 10 Jul. 1867, and then John died on 9 Mar. 1884. They are buried in the (Old) Lebanon Cemetery in Bradley County. (The cemetery belonged to Lebanon Methodist Church before the property was taken over by the Baptists.) Steve Robinson, a 2G grandson of John and Nancy, describes their gravestones as follows:

Nancy died in 1867, her husband, John, died in 1884, while a daughter, Mary, died in 1906. The style of the grave stones changed during the period 1867-1906, yet all three of these gravestones are identical and are of the design that was prevalent during the early 1900's. Apparently, when the children put together the details of Mary's funeral, John and Nancy had no gravestones (or at least not nice ones.) Thus the stones for John and Nancy were not purchased until the time of Mary's funeral, when identical stones were placed on all three graves. The stones for the parents had incorrect birth years. This is verified by numerous census records.

John and Nancy were the parents of: Sarah J., born about 1838, died before 1929; James, born about 1839, married Mary K.; William, born about 1841, seems to have died as a Union soldier in the Civil War at the Battle of Nashville; Martha Caroline "Caroline," born about 1843, not married,

died 2 Feb. 1919 in Walker Co., GA, buried in Garman Memorial Gardens near Kensington; Mary A., born 16 Oct. 1845, not married, died 29 Oct. 1906 in Bradley County, buried in (Old) Lebanon Cemetery; Hiram Douglas "Hiram," born 17 Nov. 1847, married Nancy Victoria Smallwood, died 4 Jan. 1920 in Shawnee, Pottawatomie Co., OK, buried in Mount Zion Cemetery; John Wesley "John" Jr., born 11 Nov. 1850; married Ida Louise Powell, died 10 Mar. 1940 in Chattanooga, Hamilton Co., TN, buried in Tryon Cemetery, Tryon, Chattooga Co., GA; Nancy Emmiline "Emmiline," born 25 Dec. 1853, married William Newton Mahan on 30 Dec. 1886 in Walker Co., GA (his second marriage), died 7 Dec. 1929 in Dunlap, Sequatchie Co., TN, buried in Rankin Cemetery; Elizabeth, born about 1855, died before 1929; Robert Alexander "Robert," born 1856, married Nancy Annie Wilson, died 18 Jul. 1929 in Walker Co., GA, buried in Wesley Chapel Cemetery; and Eliza C., born 28 Aug. 1859, married Othaniel Bolding (his third marriage), had no children, died 25 Sep. 1935 in Davis, Murray Co., OK. John Sr.'s middle name was given as Wesley on the death certificate of his son Robert Alexander Robinson. John Sr.'s wife Nancy Emmiline had her maiden name given as Mathis on death certificates for three of her children, Robert Alexander, Martha Caroline and Nancy Emmiline Robinson Mahan. Eliza R. Bolding's death certificate gave her mother's maiden name as Copeland.

Supplemental Information for Descendants of James & Sarah

It is clear that Alexander Hammontree married Rebecca Robinson, though it has been questioned whether his younger brother Harris married Sarah Robinson or Sarah Robertson. Sarah's name appears in period documents as both Robinson and Robertson. Blount County marriage records indicate that Harris Hammontree and Sarah Robertson were married on 12 Jan. 1822 (Little, *Blount County, Tennessee Marriages*, 117, 241; Sistler, *Early East Tennessee Marriages*, vol. 1 (Grooms): 151, vol. 2 (Brides): 311). An inspection of the original marriage license shows that Sarah's name is clearly written as Robertson. As a Robertson, Sarah, more often known as Sally, has been identified as a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Darby Robertson (*Walker County Georgia Heritage Book, 1833 – 1983*, 199). Joseph Robertson filed an application for a military pension in Blount County in 1832, where he died in 1834. But although Joseph owned property in Blount as early as 1796, most of his family history occurred in Greene Co., TN, four counties northeast of Blount. Sally is not included among the known children of Joseph and Margaret Robertson, and it is possible that her attribution as such was never made until the Walker County Heritage Book did so in 1984. On the Robinson side of the issue, the following entry appears in the Minutes of the Six Mile Baptist Church: "Sister Salley Robinson now Sally Hammontree requests a letter from the church. The church grants her a letter." The date for this entry was "Saterday, Febuary the 16 1822." This letter signifies that Sally Robinson Hammontree was transferring her church membership a month after the county marriage record gives the date of 12 Jan. 1822 for the marriage of Harris Hammontree and Sarah Robertson. The church minutes might be thought to be more reliable than the county clerk on the matter of Sally's identity, owing to personal familiarity on the part of the church clerk. Mary Nan Campbell Greeson and Sybil Reed Tate wrote in 1989 that Alexander and Harris Hammontree "may have married sisters," and then state, "Harris married Sally Robinson 19 [sic] Jan 1822 in Blount County, Tennessee" (*Our Jones Family: Ransom Adolphus Jones, 1821 – 1898*, 20). However, this controversy has taken place too often without a full inspection of all the available evidence, either with respect to the church minutes, property records or James Robinson's military pension application. The church minutes indicate that James Robinson was a pillar of the Six Mile Baptist Church, whereas Joseph

Robertson was apparently not a member. Because Alexander Hammontree and Rebecca Robinson were married by the minister of the Six Mile Baptist Church in 1818, Sally's membership in this same congregation, where she is identified as a Robinson and then a Hammontree, causes her to appear much more as a Robinson than a Robertson. Additionally, a Monroe County deed for Harris Hammontree in 1836 indicates that Edward and John Robison (Robinson) were residing on the property there with Harris' family. James Robinson had identified Sally, Edward and John among his dependent children in his Revolutionary War pension application in 1820. James Robinson's property record of 1824 shows that he and his son William owned 31 acres together on Six Mile Creek adjoining the Hammontree property. James' name is given in the deed as Robertson and Robinson, his son's name given as Robertson. Sally's name as Robertson on her marriage license does not separate her from the family of James Robinson so much as it shows her inclusion in a family whose name appears in period documents as Robinson, Robison, Robeson, Roberson and Robertson. Taken altogether, most especially in that James Robinson named Sally Robinson as his daughter, "about twenty years old" in 1820, a year and a half before she married Harris Hammontree, it is clear that, according to documentary evidence, Harris Hammontree married Sarah "Sally" Robinson, the Hammontree and Robinson families both belonging to the Six Mile community. In addition to the documentary evidence, DNA testing renders the question of Sally's identity as a Robinson beyond reasonable doubt. It is thus clear that Alexander and Harris Hammontree married Robinson sisters, the Hammontree and Robinson families living next door to each other across Six Mile Creek.

Archibald Maxwell, Justice of the Peace, performed the marriage of Harris and Sally in 1822. John Maxwell, John Murray and Archibald Maxwell witnessed the will of Billy Holloway in Blount County on 23 Sep. 1825. Archibald Maxwell moved to Crawford Co., IL in the 1850s, along with Silas Malcom and his wife Ann "Nancy" Hammontree and other residents of Blount County.

Rebecca Robinson Hammontree's name was given in Blount County marriage records as Rebecca Robinson, and her marriage was conducted by George Snider, minister of the Six Mile Baptist Church, where the Robinson and Hammontree families were members. Rebecca's only son was named William Robinson Hammontree, the apparent namesake of her older brother, the William Robinson of the Six Mile and Big Creek communities.

Alexander and Harris Hammontree married Robinson sisters. Thus the children of Alexander and Rebecca were double first cousins with the children of Harris and Sally. First cousins share two grandparents, whereas double first cousins share all four grandparents.

In addition to having two daughters marry into the Hammontree family, James Robinson and Sarah Holloway had a grandson and great-granddaughter do so as well. James Robinson, grandson of James and Sarah through William and Nancy, married Louisa Jane "Liza" Hammontree in Monroe County in February 1842. Liza was the daughter of Jacob Asbury Hammontree and Jane MNU. Jacob was a first cousin of Jeremiah Hammontree Sr., husband of Sarah Holloway. Also, James and Sarah's great-granddaughter Malinda Thompson married into the Hammontree family, marrying Jeremiah "Jerry" Hammontree Jr. on 11 Jul. 1850 in Blount County (his second marriage). This means that Jeremiah Hammontree Sr. and Sarah Holloway had three sons marry into the Robinson family. Their eldest sons Alexander and Harris married daughters of James and Sarah Robinson, while their youngest son Jerry Jr. married a great-granddaughter of James and

Sarah. Malinda Thompson Hammontree, the second wife of Jeremiah Hammontree Jr., was a granddaughter of William Robinson and Nancy MNU through their daughter Jane Robinson who married Samuel Thompson.

Ellen Caldwell Hammontree (1861–1960) and Lillian Robinson Griffitt (1874–1953) posed for a picture together in 1953, shown below. Ellen was the widow of John Willaford Hammontree (1853–1942), son of William Robinson Hammontree (1827–1918). Lillian Robinson Griffitt was the widow of Rev. William Morgan Griffitt and the daughter of John Wesley Robinson Jr (1850–1940). This means that Willaford Hammontree and Lillian Robinson Griffitt were second cousins in the Robinson family, a relation Ellen and Lillian clearly understood in taking this picture. Willaford and Lillian were great-grandchildren of James Robinson and Sarah Holloway. Willaford was a grandson of Rebecca Robinson Hammontree, Lillian a granddaughter of John Wesley Robinson Sr. (The photograph was provided by Sue Henney Christensen, a great-granddaughter of Lillian Emma Jene Robinson Griffitt.)



Ellen C. Hammontree and Lillian Robinson Griffitt

Sources: Terry DeMore Abston, Sue Henney Christensen, Sara Tate Ham, Willie Hammontree, James S. McGuire Jr., Donna Parten, Roberta Pierson, Terri Fogarty Rumans, Elizabeth Robinette Gregory Simmons, Steve Robinson, Sybil Reed Tate, Kathy Segars Teasley, Marcelle White, Brent Wiseman, the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and the Walker County, GA Public Library.

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