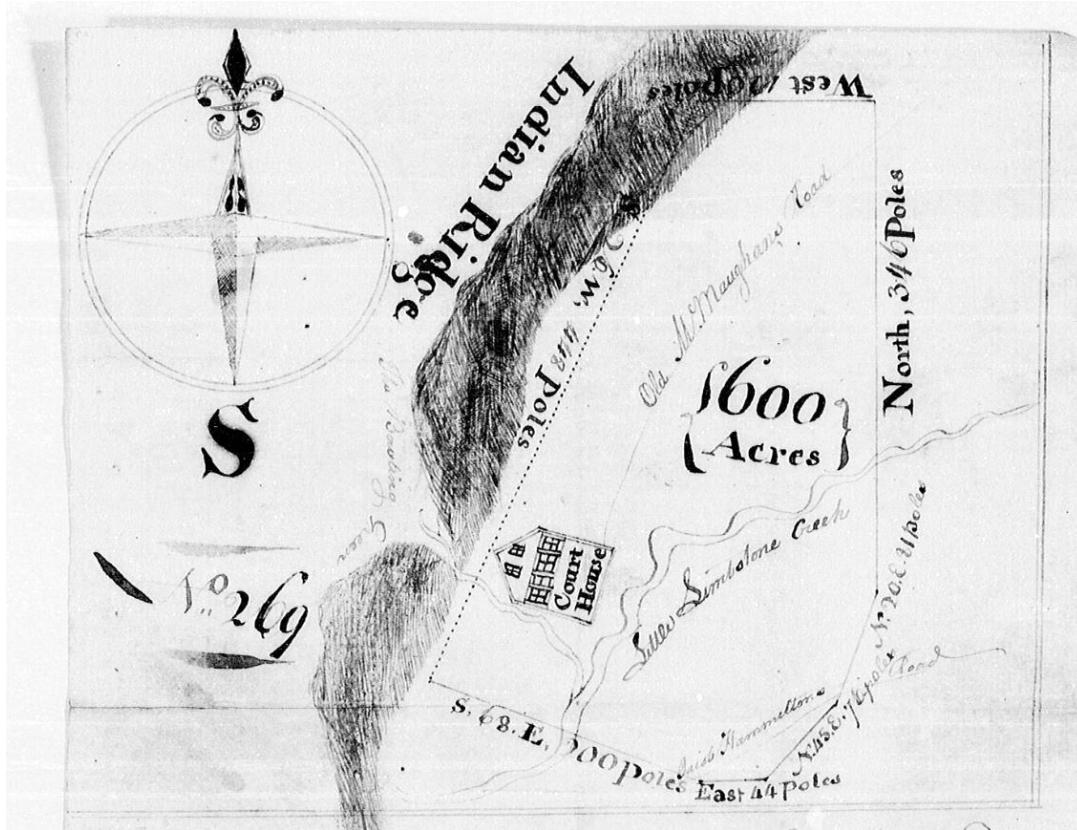


DAVID HUGHES,
OWNER OF JONESBOROUGH

If you live or work in Jonesborough, did you ever wonder who the original owner of the land here was? Did you ever wonder whose 600-acre grant you were living or working on? Well, let me tell you—it was David Hughes!



This beautiful image is found on the original survey, drawn by James Stuart, surveyor.

When we first began this project last fall, I looked on the database to see who owned downtown Jonesborough. I imagined it would be someone relatively famous in our circle of early characters here in the county. I was surprised to see that it was David Hughes, someone I believed to have only Sullivan County ties.

David's tombstone, a military marker, is standing in the New Bethel Cemetery in Sullivan County with a birth year of 1757. If this is true, and he is the same person, this means he was only about twenty-one years-old when he received his land grant! I am getting ahead of myself. Let me start at the beginning.

David Hughes was, by some accounts (and family trees), an immigrant from Ireland. Other accounts (and family trees) indicate that Pennsylvania was his birthplace. His pension claim states, “about the year 1777, he removed from the state of Pennsylvania to the frontier county of North Carolina (now Tennessee).” Proof of this fact is that he is listed on the 1778 and 1779 tax lists in Washington District, as seen below.

Isaac Wilson	344.00	3.10
John Gray	100.00	1.0.0
David Hughes	234.40	2.17.0
Joseph Martin	186.20	1.11.3
Zorah Martin	372.16.0	3.16.7
Henry Burham	406.4.8	4.3.3
Andrew Martin	113.0.0	1.3.3
Charles Arnington	845.0.0	0.8.13
	<u>£ 101.6.6</u>	<u>£ 1036.1</u>

1778

page 18

The first column shows the amount of his estate (property). The column on the right gives the amount of tax they are to pay.

David Hughes.	4 16 0	1 16.5
1 Entry of acres of Land below		10.15 0
4 big creek on Holston Ri.	50 0 0	537.0:0
3 Head of Horses	450 0 0	
Ready Money	12 0 0	12.0.2
Bond or Interest	25 0 0	2.4
		8.16 6
Samuel Giberson		

1779

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David Hughes

1 Entry of __ acres of Land below [?]	50:0:0
big creek on Holston Ri	450:0:0
3 Head of Horses	12:0:0
Ready Money	25:0:0

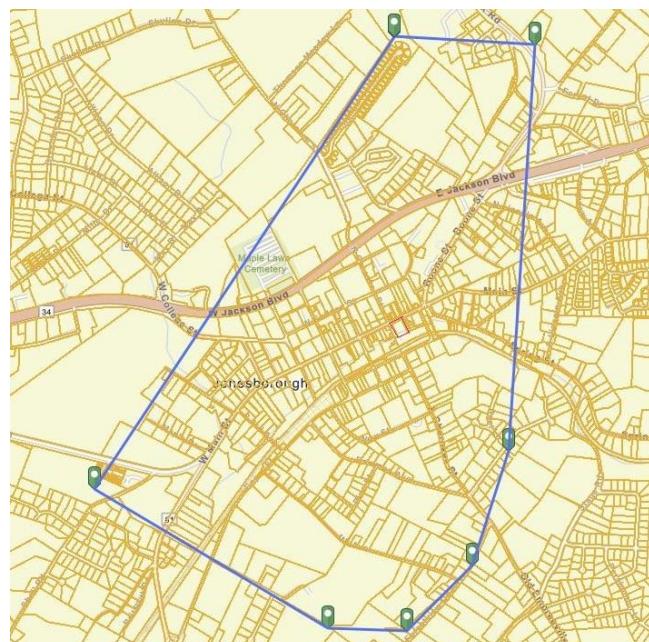
Total 537:0:0

Tax 8:6:6

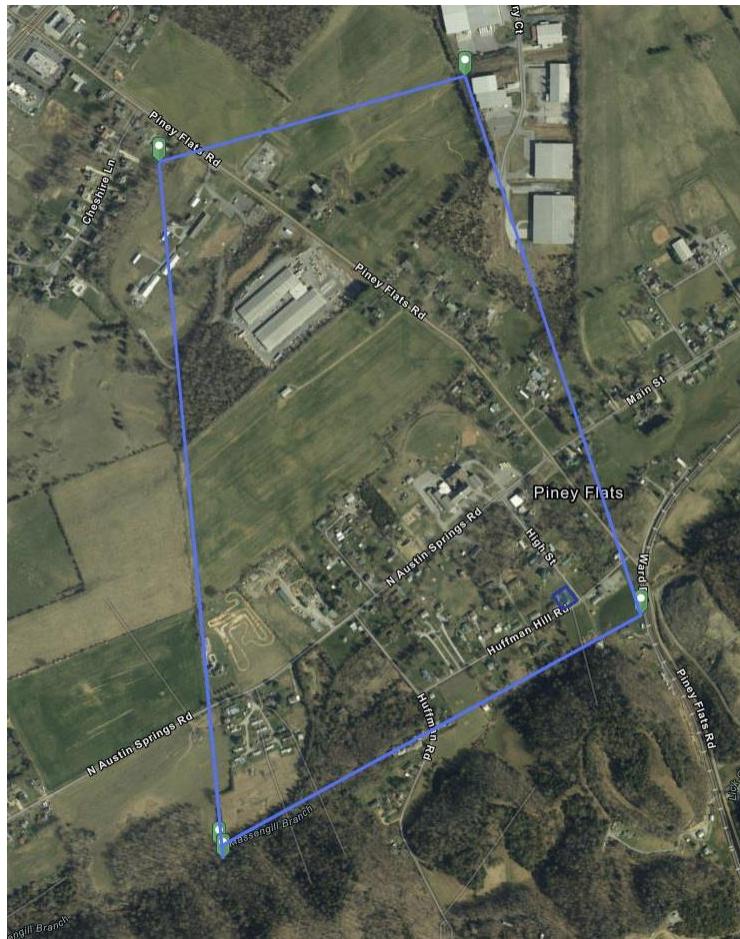
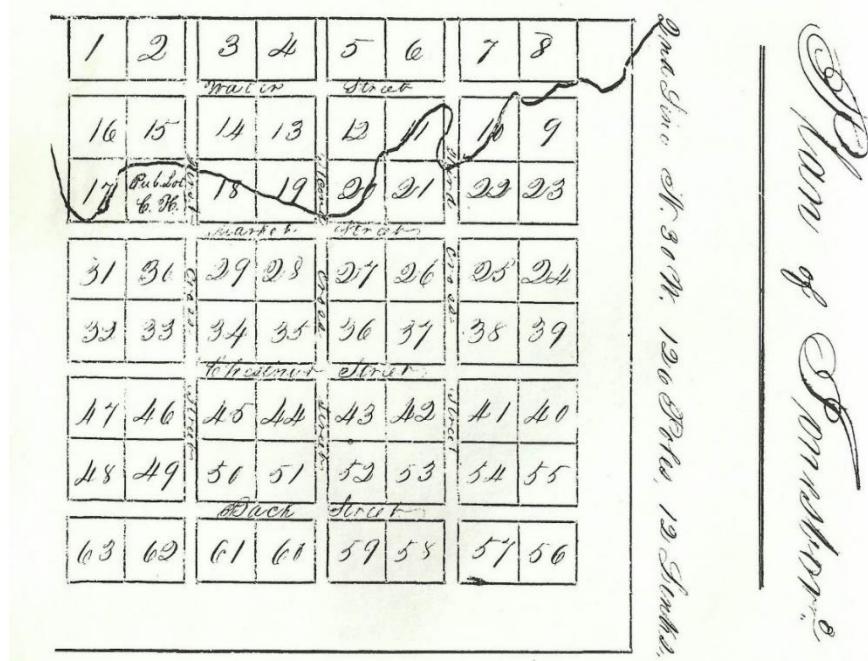
David Hughes' wife was named Anna, and they were the parents of five children, James, William, Robert, Thomas, and Elizabeth.

David Hughes served several short terms with the militia, amounting to twenty-one months, and he is listed as being at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He received a North Carolina land grant, #188 for 600 acres on both sides of Little Limestone in October 1782. It is recorded in Deed Book A, page 246, Washington County, Tennessee.

The courthouse is near the center, marked by red.



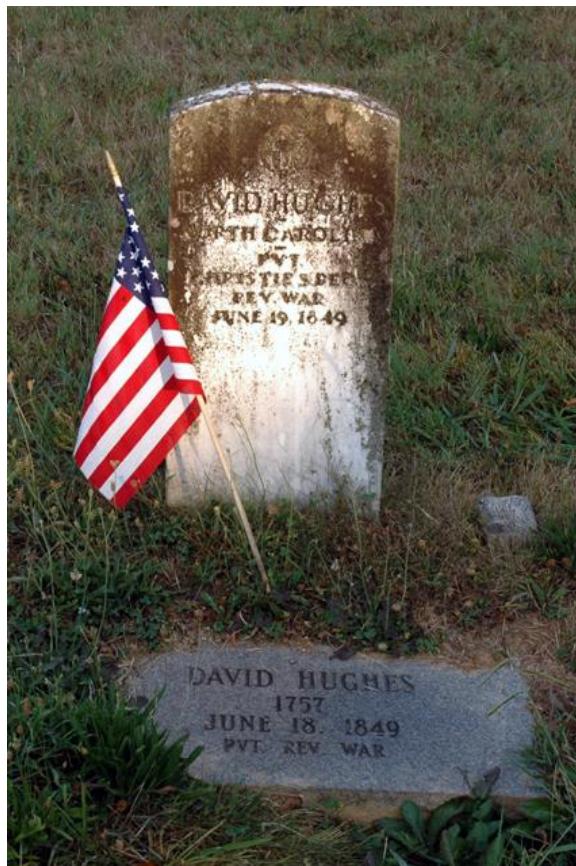
Within a matter of six or seven months, he had sold 500 acres of this property to James Allison, reserving one hundred acres, "as the same is now laid off for the use of the town of Jonesborough and public building of the county." P. 273, Deed Book A. Between those few months, Hughes gave the land for what is now Jonesborough and what became sixty-three town lots.



Hughes also received a Land Grant # 306 for two hundred acres of land in Washington County, on "Cooper Creek," in the Piney Flats area of present-day Sullivan County.

David Hughes moved to Sullivan County after receiving a land grant (#373) for 150 acres on Whitetop Creek, Sullivan County in 1788. It was there that he joined the New Bethel Presbyterian Church. The church was founded by Joseph Rhea in 1777, organized by Samuel Doak in 1782, and is still an active congregation today. The original house of worship was completed in July 1777, but it was destroyed by Tories in 1779. This did not deter the congregation. Log cabins served as meeting houses until 1873, when the present church was built.

He is buried in the New Bethel Church Cemetery, as is his wife, Anna and at least two of his sons, Thomas and Robert.



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