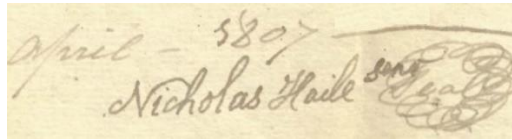


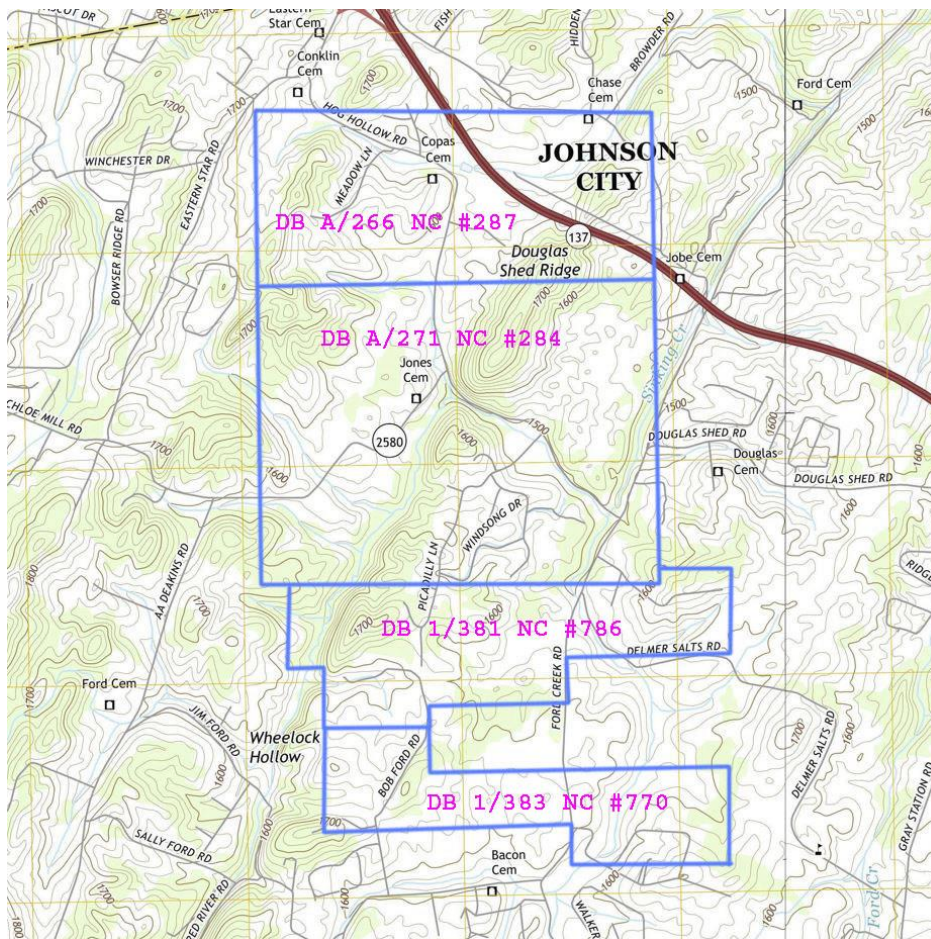
NICHOLAS HALE IS IT HALE, HAILE, OR HAIL?



The answer to the question above is that, at one time or another, all three are correct. Records in the late 1700s and early 1800s, usually spell it, "HAILE," and that's what I have used here. Nicholas Haile was one of the first members of the Hale family to arrive in northeast Tennessee. He was born on November 2, 1724 in Hailes Fellowship, Baltimore County, Maryland. The given name, Nicholas was given to many of the Haile sons, which makes researching quite difficult. In fact, this Nicholas' had several ancestors and descendants with the same name!

His wife was Ruth Aker or Acre; I've seen it spelled both ways. Both were living in Maryland, and it is reasonable to believe that they were married there. Nicholas and Ruth had at least eleven children: Richard, William, John, Nathan, Nicholas, Nathan, Amon, Joshua, Elizabeth (married ? Cage), Sarah (married ? Gray) and Ruth Haile.

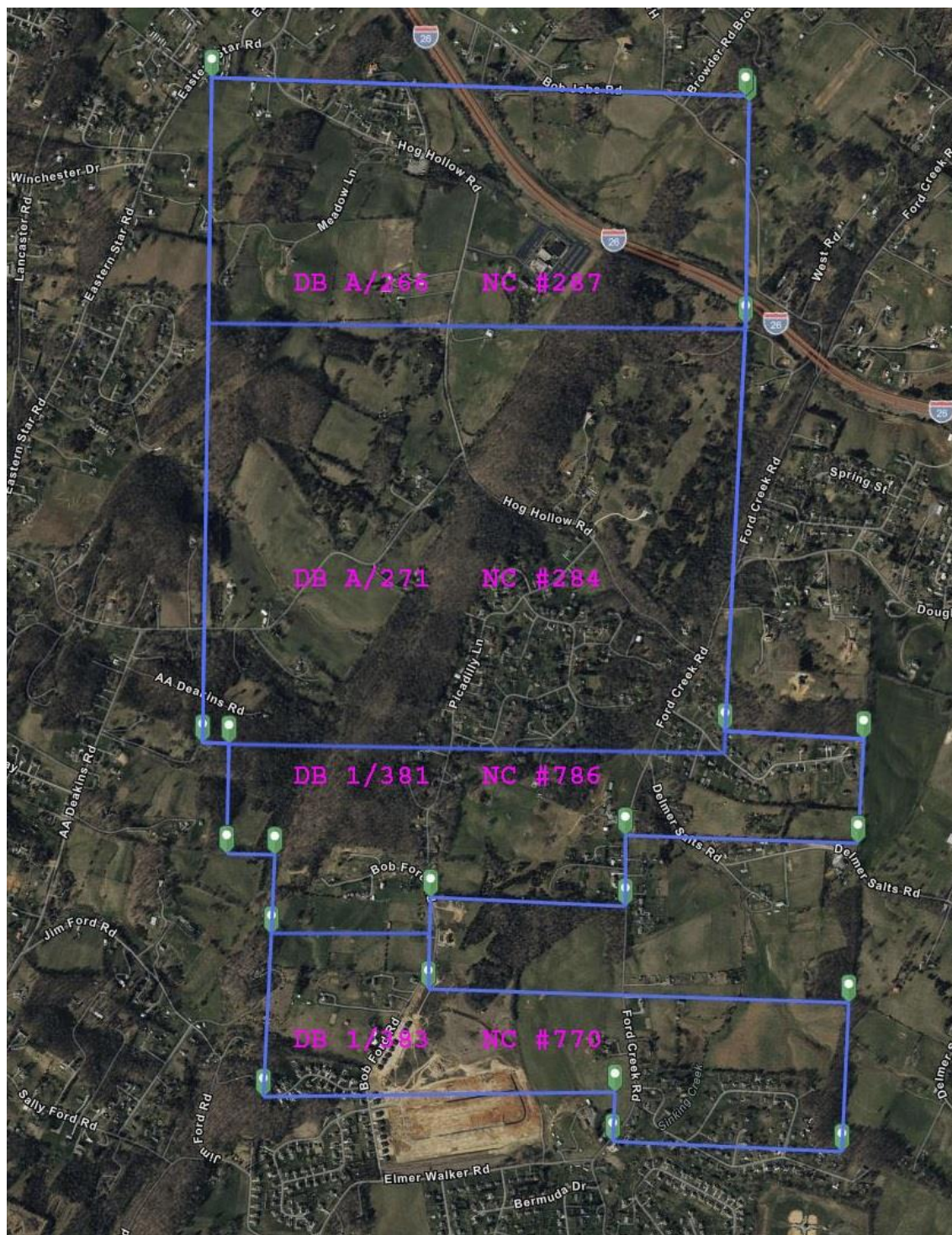
Deed book A bears record of the first North Carolina land grant to Haile. It is dated 1782 and contained 300 acres (NC grant 287). Also in Deed Book A, we find another grant # 284 for 640 acres on "Sinking Creek," also dated 1782.



Nicholas was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and received four North Carolina Land Grants for his service. All were in the Eastern Star and Ford Creek areas of Washington County.

These plats indicate the four land grants by Nicholas Haile.
North Carolina grant # 287
North Carolina grant # 284
North Carolina grant #786
North Carolina grant #770

(Note: The brown line indicating Highway 137, is now Interstate 26.)



The tax lists have many Hail/Hale/Haile surnames listed, but as mentioned above, there were several named “Nicholas.” The earliest entry on the tax lists that I can be relatively confident of the identity is listed in Murray’s Company in the 1793 listing. Some researchers often suggest that the 1724 Nicholas was Nicholas Jr., and his father was Nicholas, Sr. If you will notice the signature at the beginning of this article, his signature bears, “Sen” at the end. In 1793, there are two listed, both

Nicholas Sr. and Nicholas, Jr. in Murray's Company. Pretty sure one of these is the correct one. Thomas Murray made the tax list in this part of the county, as well.

Most agree that Haile's wife died in 1807, I must wonder if that was what prompted him to write his will. Neighbors, Loyd Ford and George Jackson signed Nicholas Haile's will as witnesses on 29 Apr 1807. This will mentions his children and property and how it was to be divided.

Nicholas was a slave owner and he asked that his "mulatto man, bob" be set free at his death. Nicholas lived for several more years before passing away mid-1818. On July 22, 1818, sons, Amon Haile, Richard Hale, and Nathan Hale [spelling of their signatures left as written] petitioned the Washington County court that the "mulatto man, known by the name of Robert Hopkins should be set at liberty, and become a free man..."

July 22^d 1818.

State of Tennessee

To the Worshipful Court of Washington County

Greeting whereas Nicholas Haile Sen^r Deceased hath decreed and left in his last Will and Testament that his malatto man known by the name of Robert Hopkins should be set at liberty and become a free man therefore we the lawful heirs of the said Nicholas Haile Sen^r do Pray your Worship to Adopt such legal method as your Worships may think proper in order that the request of our ^{good} Sen^r Parrant may be Confirmed. And as it respects the Character of the said Hopkins the underneeth subscribers do testify in the affirmative

names of the heirs

Enoch Jobe
Loyd Ford
Grant Ford
John Britt
James Ford
John Proffitt
John Steadman
Marmaduke Daniel
Joshua C. Hale
Walter Chase
James Cocke
John Hulse
James Hail
James Arterburn
William Hulse, Sen^r.
William Hulse, Jun^r.
James P. Hulse
Abraham Hulse
John Copass
George Jackson
Isaac Elsea
Jonathan Bacan (sic),
among others.

Amos Haile
Richard Haile
Nathan Haile

Names of the Subscribers
James Arterburn
William Hulse Sen^r
William Hulse Jun^r
James P. Hulse
Abraham Hulse
John Copass
George Jackson
Isaac Elsea
Jonathan Bacan

Petition to the
Washington County
Court to free
Robert Hopkins.

This petition was
signed by several
neighbors, including
Enoch Jobe
Loyd Ford
Grant Ford
John Britt
James Ford
John Proffitt
John Steadman
Marmaduke Daniel
Joshua C. Hale
Walter Chase
James Cocke
John Hulse
James Hail
James Arterburn
William Hulse, Sen^r.
William Hulse, Jun^r.
James P. Hulse
Abraham Hulse
John Copass
George Jackson
Isaac Elsea
Jonathan Bacan (sic),
among others.

It is unknown where Nicholas and his wife, Ruth are buried, but there are many cemeteries on and around the Haile property that are possibilities: Copas Cemetery, Jones Cemetery, Bacon Cemetery and several others. My best guess is the Bacon Cemetery on Elmer Walker Road. It is one of the oldest cemeteries in the area, and appears to have been a community cemetery early on. Many descendants of the earliest Haile families still live in this area. I am proud to be one of those descendants.