Eliaseph Munson

Clan Solomon

Daniel Boone Connections

by Diane L. (Teague) Webb

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"Boone at Cumberland Gap." Architect of the Capitol

Daniel Boone[1] is a wonderful read for genealogists with Kentucky "roots." Daniel Boone (1734-1820) is often recognized as American's famous frontier hero. A man of legend. He was born in Exeter Township near Reading Pennsylvania, rasied in the Quaker faith, and a devoted family man. He scouted the trans-Appalachian west for purposes of settlement before any other English-speaking American, surveyed and helped build the Wilderness Road, and led settler struggles agains the Shawnee defenders of Kentucky. Boone was a complex character—on the one hand was an Indian-fighting frontiersman, yet he objected to that reputation, proclaiming his belief in Quaker tolerance as his forbearers did before him. His lengthy hunting and trapping expeditions encourage the popular depiction of him as a misanthropic man of the woods.

Even though my 5th great grandfather, Eliaseph Munson nor his brother-in-law Benjamin Van Cleave were mentioned in the Boone book, I believe Eliaseph Munson knew Daniel and his brother Squire Boone, Jr. through family connections who lived in what was then Rowan County (now Davie County). Benjamin Van Cleave's sister, Jane married Squire Boone.

After Eliaseph's untimely death in 1778 in Rowan County, his wife, Sarah, moved to Wilkes County, North Carolina with their children and remarried Moses Adams. The couple later moved to Scott County, Kentucky.[2]

To understand the ties of Eliaseph Munson, we need to talk about his brother-in-law, Benjamin Van Cleave.Benjamin and Eliaseph's sister Ruth were married on 14 Jul 1765 in Rown County, North Carolina. The couple then removed to Lynn Station, Jafferson County, Kentucky.

Benjamin had a land grant for 400 acres recorded in Jefferson County in December of 1779. They purchased an additional 1,000 acres ten years later. They sold this property in 1794 and moved to Shelby County, Kentucky.

On 17 Jan 1797, they sold 330 acres which was part of a 2,000-acre tract. On 16 May 1797, they purchased 100 acres from Squire Boone in Shelby County. Squire Boone is recognized as starting the first settlement in Shelby County along with 13 other families. Benjamin's will was probated in August 1819 in Shelby County, naming his widow Ruth and children as heirs.

Eliaseph's widow Sarah and husband Moses Adam, along with Sarah's sons Allen and William Munson were also on the move to Eagle Creek, Scott County, Kentucky by 1799.

Eliaseph Munson was the son of Samuel Munson and second wife Mary Allen. Eliaseph was born around 1748 in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. The First Presbyterian Church of Morristown was the sight of the 1748 baptism of Eliaseph and sister Ruth.

Eliaseph moved to Rowan County, North Carolina prior to 1765. He married Sarah (unkown) around 1768 there, probably at the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church which was settled by people who had moved into early Rown County from New Jersey. Eliaseph's land claim was near this church on Sugar Tree Creek.[3] On 15 Sep 1783, Daniel Mosley and wife Elisabeth sold 240 acres to John Brnats on the southside of Sugar Tree Creek adjacent to Peter Eaton, Shadrack Williams, Eliaphes Munson, Jeremiah Clark, Henry Richards, Andrew Hunt and William Hunt. Daniel Boone and his brother Squire lived on the North Yadkin River not far from the Eliaseph Munson land claim.[4]

Eliaseph and Sarah had three boys: Moses, Allen, and William. When Eliaseph died in 1778 in Rowan County, Benjamin Van Cleave, sister Ruth's husband, served as Administrator for the estate on behalf of wife Sarah.

[1] *Daniel Boone*, John Mack Fargher, 1992,
[2] *Biographical Memoirs of Hancock County*, Indiana, BF Bowen, Logansport, 1902

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Historically, not only was the Revolutionary War going on during this time, Rowan County was considered the frontier of colonial America. The living was difficult. The potential causes of death were endless. While we don't know how Eliaseph died at the young age of 30 it could have been by accident, illness, or even Indian or War related reasons.

His son William Munson was my 4th great grandfather, dying in 1821 in Turkey Foot, Scott County, Kentucky.

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[3] Land Deed, Rowan Co NC Bk 10, pg 242

[4] Custom House, Early Land Grant Map, Rowan Co.

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