

ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS

of

JOEL REUBEN HITT

IN AMERICA

1714-1972

Lucile Hitt Hollingsworth

THE HOMELAND

For thousands of years people lived in the forests and mountains of what is now Germany, but Germany as a country is 100 years younger than the United States, not being formed until 1871 - more than a century and a half after our forefathers left there for the new world.

The city of Siegen is in the west central part of Germany on the Sieg River which flows into the Rhine at Cologne 50 miles west. Siegen is first mentioned in documents in 1077 although it was in existence long before this. In 1303 Siegen gained a measure of independence from the House of Nassau to whom taxes were paid, possessing its own city government administration with mayor and alderman and city court. Tax lists in 1566 - 1583 show some of the earliest ancestry of the families who left 150 years later for Virginia.

Siegen was rich in iron ore often near the surface so it could be taken from open-work mines. Mining became the principal industry. In the museum at Siegen is a primitive smelter dating back to 500 B.C. which shows how long these people had been mining. Their iron products were known all over Germany - they exported cannons, stoves and other small articles. Industrious, prosperous, democratic and well-educated, the people of Siegen were the Nordic type - usually tall with blue eyes, fair hair and skin and long-headed.

In 1713, 12 men left Siegen to come to Virginia to set up a mining operation for Gov. Spotswood. These men were lifelong friends, many of them related. Six were married and six were unmarried. They ranged in age from 21 to 52 years. The older men were leading citizens - all were business and property owners and guild members. They brought with them their old Pastor and his wife and children. With the wives and children the group consisted of 42 persons. They arrived in Virginia in the early Spring of 1714 and settled at a place they named Germanna.

Mary Ann

Agnes Martha

1823

Henry Martin
1720-1780

John Joseph Martin 1691-1757

Martha Katherine
Ottarback 1699-1720

Marion Ottarback
1664-1711-20

Elizabeth Ottarback
1689-1774

Peter Hitt 1681-1772

Lazarus Hitt
1750-1823

Joseph Hitt
1717- > 1790

Mary Cuntz
< 1730- > 1790

Catherine Weaver
1697- < 1730

John Henry Weaver
1667-1714-20

Peter Hitt
1745-1806

Mary

> 1806

Larkin Hitt
< 1790-

Nancy Hitt
1822-1895

Polly

Jesse Hughes
1788-1858

Dorcas Johnson
1792-1856

Benjamin Johnson, Jr.
died 1805

Ann

Elizabeth Gary
1833-1897

James David Robertson
1815-1891

Sarah Cox 1836-1891

James Robertson
1858-1908

Sarah Bourn
1860-1914

Reuben Martin
Hitt
1849-1933

Reuben
Hitt
874-1967

Elizabeth Margaria
Robertson
1885-

After
the year
① One of 12 years
"Hitts Family" were buried there
the 1st in 1717
and built a church

Joel Reuben Hitt (1874-1967) of Clinton, Miss. was descended from 5 of the 1714 German immigrants:

John Henry Weaver¹
Catherine Weaver (Mrs. Joseph) Cuntz
Mary Cuntz (Mrs. Joseph) Hitt
Lazarus Hitt
Reuben Hitt
Reuben Martin Hitt
Joel Reuben Hitt

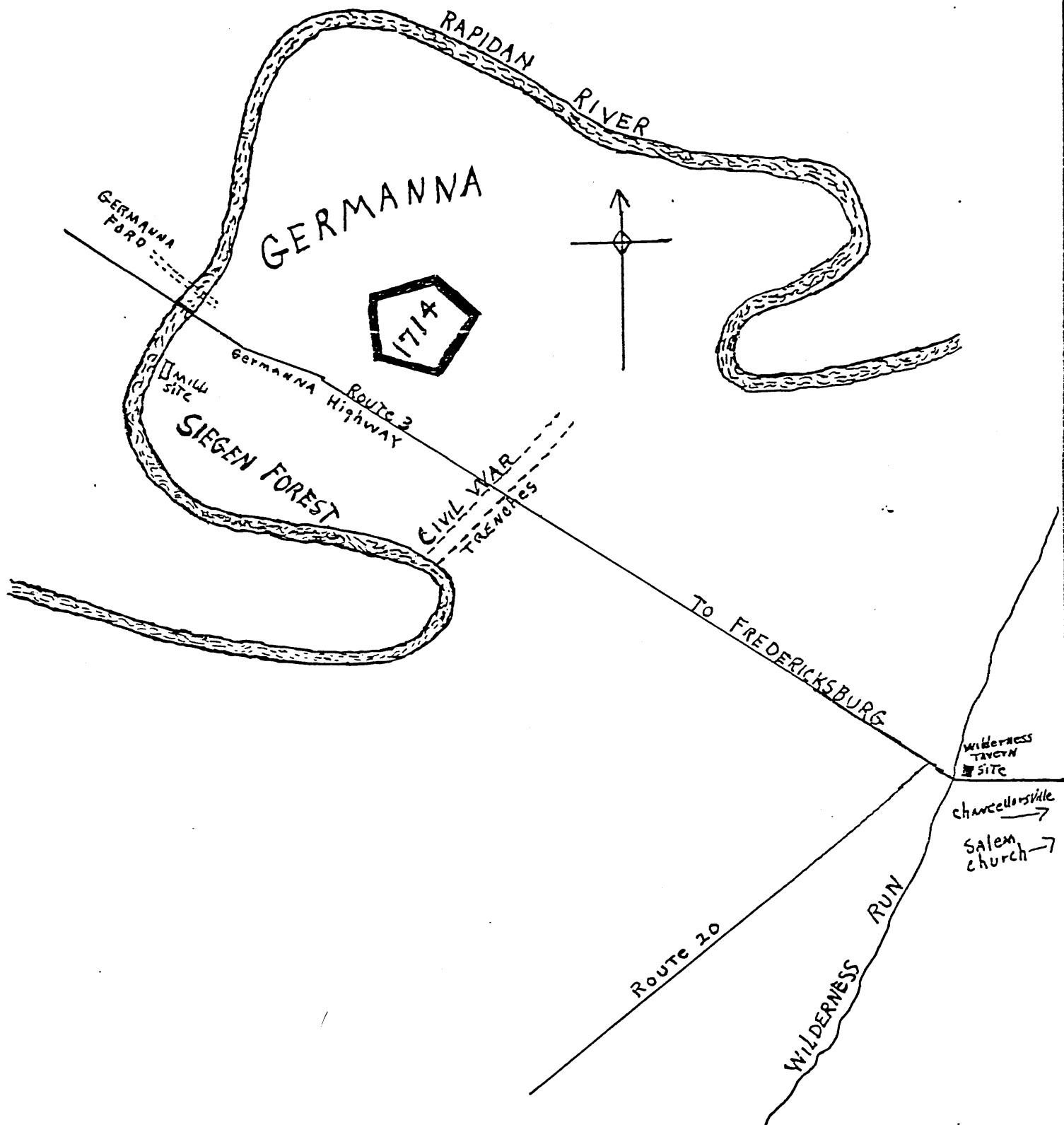
Joseph Cuntz¹
Mary Cuntz (Mrs. Joseph) Hitt
Lazarus Hitt
Reuben Hitt
Reuben Martin Hitt
Joel Reubin Hitt

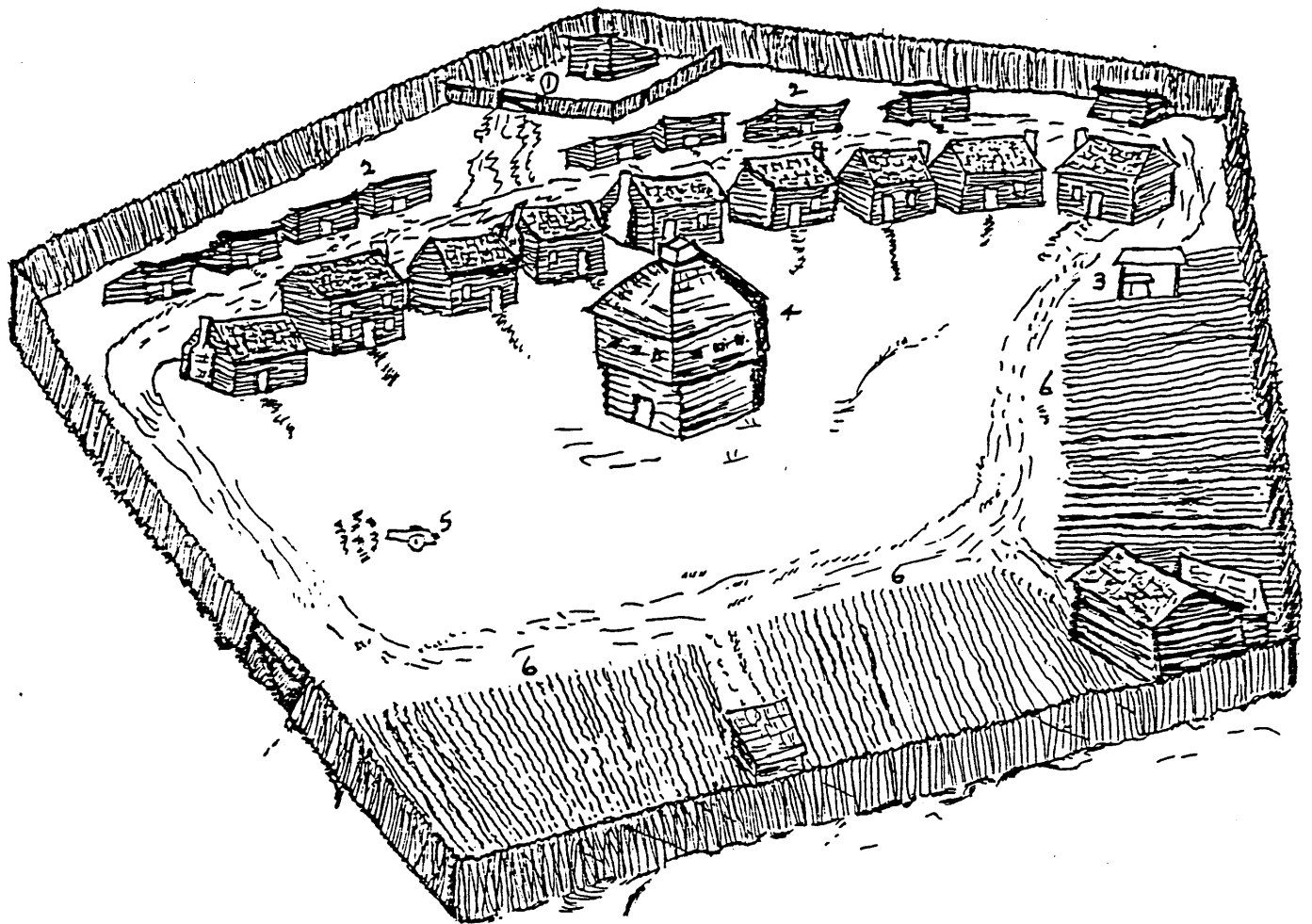
Harman Otterback¹
Elizabeth Otterback (Mrs. Peter) Hitt
Joseph Hitt
Lazarus Hitt
Reuben Hitt
Martin Hitt
Joel Reuben Hitt

John Joseph Martin¹
Henry Martin
Agnes Martin (Mrs. Lazarus) Hitt
Reuben Hitt
Reubin Martin Hitt
Joel Reuben Hitt

Peter Hitt¹
Joseph Hitt
Lazarus Hitt
Reuben Hitt
Reuben Martin Hitt
Joel Reuben Hitt

Peter Hitt¹
Joseph Hitt
Peter Hitt
Larkin Hitt
Nancy (Mrs. Reuben) Hitt
Reuben Martin Hitt
Joel Reuben Hitt





GERMANNA
1714

- 1. CHICKENS
- 2. STOCK
- 3. COMMUNITY WELL
- 4. BLOCKHOUSE — CHURCH
- 5. GUN
- 6. COMMUNITY GARDENS

GERMANNA

"Far and away the most ancient and most historical settlement in Orange County was Germanna in the peninsula formed by the Rapidan. Indeed there are few places in Virginia, which is to say in all America, that surpass Germanna in historic interest during the colonial period: Jamestown, Williamsburg, York and a few others; yet today Germanna constitutes not much more than a name and a memory, rich as it is in associations with the past". So wrote, in 1907, William Wallace Scott, who was State Law Librarian, a member of the Virginia Historical Society, and for ten years, State Librarian of Virginia. He had found in the library an old book, long overlooked, entitled Acts of Assembly Passed In The Colony of Virginia From 1662 to 1715, printed at London in 1727.

One of the last acts in this book is one to exempt certain German Protestants from the payment of levies for seven years, and for erecting the parish of St. George, passed in 1714: "Whereas certain German Protestants, to the number of forty-two persons or thereabouts, have been settled above the falls of the River Rappahannock, on the southern branch of the said river, called Rapidan, at a place named Germanna, in the County of Essex, and have there begun to build and make improvements for their cohabitation, to the great advantage of this colony and the security of the frontiers in those parts from the intrusions of the Indians, it is enacted that they shall be free from the payment of all public and county levies for seven years; as should be any other German Protestants who might settle there, always providing, however, that they did not leave Germanna and settle elsewhere".

The next section created the parish of St. George, extending for five miles on each side of the town, exempts it from all parish levies from the Parish of St. Mary, in Essex, and from the cure of the minister thereof, and "from all dependencies, offices, charges and contributions" of the same, and of "all levies, obventions, oblations and all other parochial duties whatsoever" relating to the same.

Some interesting historical facts are disclosed here: that Germanna was in Essex County at that time; that a special parish was established of which the ecclesiastical historians have taken no note whatever, the St. George parish of later years being a wholly distinct one, though embracing the original parish of that name; and, most of all, that these strangers in a strange land were placed there as a buffer against the Indians, a cruel thing to have done.

These German Protestants who came in 1714 were the "First Settlers" of Orange, then a part of Essex, afterwards of Spotsylvania, and not called Orange until 20 years later. Two more German colonies came to Germanna and settled nearby, one in 1717 and the other in 1719, but they were entirely distinct from the 1714 colonists. In fact the 2nd colony left Germany bound for Pennsylvania but landed in Virginia instead. Both 2nd and 3rd colonies were Lutherans and they took over the mining operations when the 1714 colony moved out in 1719.

The history of these Germans is very interesting and has been writ-

ten at large by several authors, the best and most comprehensive account of them being the "Kemper Genealogy", which treats the earliest colony, that of 1714. Gen. James L. Kemper, Gov. of Virginia soon after the war, was a descendant of one of these colonists. Their descendants are to be found all over the United States. I, too, am concerned with the 1714 colony, not because they were "first" but because my father, Joel Reuben Hitt (1874-1967) of Clinton, Miss., was descended from at least five of the twelve German men, "Heads of Family", who came over in 1714.

Governor Alexander Spotswood, who had obtained a Royal Permit from England to bring over miners to develop iron and possibly silver mines in the vicinity of Germanna, was unable to make much progress with this enterprise. He got the Baron de Graffenreid (whom I would call a promoter) to help him. Graffenreid, from Switzerland, was also interested because he thought there were large silver deposits on land he had patented. He enticed these twelve men to leave their homes in the old principality of Nassau-Siegen and town of Munsen. For centuries these people had been miners (I have a picture of the remains of an old smelter built about 500 B.C. near their old home and another of this same smelter reconstructed). So this was not a group who came to America seeking freedom of religion or refuge of any sort. They did not leave home not knowing where they were going, and what they were going to do and what they would be paid to do it. They came from one of the thriftiest and most intelligent provinces of Germany; they were master mechanics ~~and were master mechanics~~ and were an intelligent, progressive set of people, well-educated by the standards of that time. Compulsory schooling had been in effect since the middle of the sixteenth century. They brought their pastor and school teacher with them. They left Germany and sailed to England where they were met by Graffenreid. After some delay they left England and landed in America in April, 1714.

A note in the Essex County records (Deeds, Etc. 16, page 180) under date of 17, May 1720 reads as follows: "The Honorable Alexander Spotswood did put under my command eleven laboring men to work in mines or quarries at or near Germanna and we begun to work March 1715/16 and so continued til Dec, 1718". Signed by John Justice Albright. Then follows: "What is subscribed above by the Hoffman is true for I kept the accounts for him and was one of the men". Signed by H. Jacob Holtzclaw (one of the immigrants - the school teacher. Another immigrant, John Henry Weaver, died while they were building the fort and his son was too young to work - the reason there were only 11 men mentioned. This thirteen year old boy, Tilman Weaver, became the head of the family when his older brother died along with his father. He was helped by the other men and received his father's share of the land at Germanna)."

These twelve Germans who came to Virginia in 1714 have been named over and over by different historians throughout the years, some giving the names of the members of the families who came over with them - making a group of "about" 42 persons. I prefer the list compiled by Dr. B.C. Holtzclaw, Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Richmond and Genealogist for the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Va. These are the twelve men and their families who left Germany in 1713 and landed in

Virginia before April 27, 1714:

- I. Melchior Brumback, born 1685 from Muesen. A young bachelor who married Philip Fishback's daughter Elizabeth soon after coming to Germanna.
- *II. Joseph Cuntz, born 1674, from Oberfishbach, in Siegen, his first wife, Anna Gertrude, son John, born 1706, daughter Ann Elizabeth, born 1708, daughter Catherine, born 1715. Joseph's first wife died soon after coming to America and he married Catherine Weaver, daughter of the immigrant John Henry Weaver. His daughter Mary, by this marriage, married Joseph Hitt, Joel R. Hitt's great great grandfather.
- III. Philip Fishback, born 1661 from Trubach in Siegen; wife Elizabeth, son John, born 1691, son Harman, born 1696, daughter Mary Elizabeth, born 1687 and daughter Mary Elizabeth, born 1696.
- IV. Rev. Henrich Haeger, born 1644, wife Anna Catherine, and daughters Agnes, born 1697 and Anna Catherine, born 1702.
- V. John Huffman, born 1692 from Eisern in Siegen. Unmarried.
- *VI. Peter Hitt, born 1681 from Rehbach in Seigen. Unmarried.
- VII. Jacob Holtzclaw, born 1683 from Oberfishbach, wife Anna Margaret Utterback, born 1686, daughter of Harmon Utterback, and their two sons: John, born 1709 and Henry, born 1711.
- VIII. John Kemper, born 1692 from Muesen. Unmarried.
- *IX. Joseph (Jost) Martin, born 1691 from Muesen. Unmarried. (Joseph Martin married Mary Catherine Utterback, born 1699, daughter of the immigrant Harman Utterback; their granddaughter, Agnes Martin, became the wife of Lazarus Hitt and so the great grandmother of Joel Reuben Hitt).
- X. Jacob Rector, born 1674, from Trupbach; wife Anna Elizabeth, born 1685, daughter of Philip Fishback, and their son John, born 1711.
- XI. John Spilman, born 1679, from Oberfishbach. Unmarried. Married later Mary Elizabeth, born 1696, daughter of Philip Fishback.
- *XII. Harman Utterback, born 1664, from Trupbach, wife Elizabeth Hiembach, their sons John Philip, born 1692 and John, born 1702, and their daughters: Elizabeth, born 1689 (married Peter Hitt, the immigrant, and was Joel Reuben Hitt's great-great-great grandmother), Alice Catherine, born 1697, Mary Catherine, born 1699 (married later Joseph Martin), and Anna Catherine, born 1705 (married Harman Fishback).
- *XIII. John Henry Weaver, born 1667, from Eisern, wife Anna Margaret Huttman, son John, born 1693, daughter Catherine, born 1697 (Catherine became the second wife of Joseph Cuntz and so the great-great-great-grandmother of Joel Reuben Hitt), and his son Tilman, born 1701 who married later Ann Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Cuntz.

Reverend Haeger (number IV above) joined the other twelve after they had built the fort. He was their pastor and already over 70 years of age. His health was so bad that he had had to retire in Germany, but this didn't keep him from coming to America with his little flock. Although there were only twelve "heads of family" and his name is not on the granite marker at Germanna, there were actually thirteen including him; but I suppose because he was not

* Grandfather (forefather) of Joel Reuben Hitt.

able to work he was never included. His two daughters married two of the bachelor immigrants: John Fishback and John Huffman.

During the summer of 1714 these courageous men built Germanna, struggling to get shelter before the bitter cold set in. They must have worked on into the winter because the record shows that they started to work on the mines and furnace 1715/16. Very little of what they had been promised was given them. They felled the trees and built the stockade, a blockhouse, houses for themselves and shelter for their animals. Governor Spotswood did give them a gun and ammunition for it. A good description of Germanna was given by John Fontaine. He was interested in buying land and took every opportunity to learn what he could about the country. He visited Germanna in 1715 and several more times. He was a careful observer and kept a daily record of what he saw and did. He left Williamsburg on Nov. 9, 1715 on horseback and on the 20th was at Germanna. The following is taken from his journal: "..... 21st - our beds not being easy, as soon as it was day, we got up. It rained hard, but notwithstanding, we walked about the town, which is palisaded with stakes stuck in the ground, and laid close the one to the other, and the substance to bear out a musket shot. There are but nine families and they have nine houses, built in a line; and before every house, about twenty feet distance from it, they have small sheds built for their hogs and hens, so that the hogsties and houses make a street. The place that is paled in is a pentagon, very regularly laid out; and in the very center there is a blockhouse, made with five sides, which answer to the five sides of the great enclosure. This was intended for a retreat for the people, in case they were not able to defend the palisades, if attacked by the indians.

"They make use of the blockhouse for devine service. They go to prayers constantly once a day, and have two sermons on Sunday. We went to hear them perform their service, which was done in their own language, which we did not understand; but they seemed to be very devout, and sang the songs very well.....".

He also said that Germanna lay upon the Rappahannock River, 30 miles above the Falls and 30 miles from any inhabitants. It was from Germanna that John Fountain and Governor Spotswood and other gentlemen (The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe) left in 1716 to make their celebrated expedition across the Blue Ridge. Fontaine's account of this trip gives an excellent description of the "flora and fauna" and makes delightful reading.

In 1732 Colonel William Byrd, visiting Colonel Spotswood (at this time he had retired as Governor and had built a house near Germanna) wrote of a row of "ruinous" houses that German families had occupied years before, and said that those families had moved "higher" to land of their own. These were the houses that the 1714 Germans had left vacant in 1719. By 1732 they were falling apart. Colonel Byrd ("The Black Swan") wrote "A Progress to the Mines" describing in great detail this visit. He was there from the middle of Sept. until "well into October" and gives a good description of the furnace, the mines, the countryside and the amenities among the social "elite".

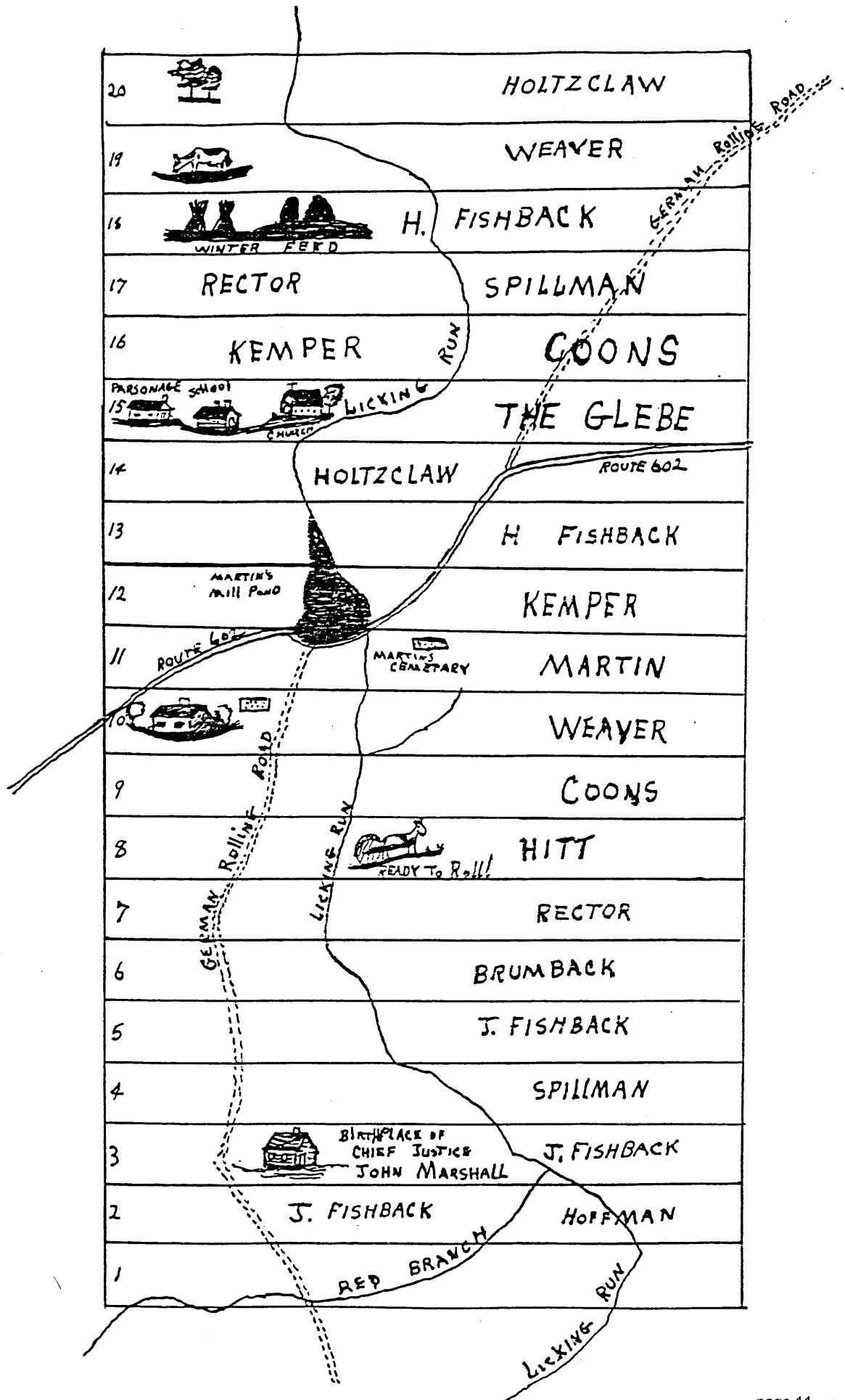
In the five years the 1714 immigrants were at Germanna, they cleared land, built Germanna Ford, roads, built Spotswells furnace, hauled ore, mined it and taught others how to mine. Feeling that they had

fulfilled their contract with Spotswood, a deep desire to own their own land and perhaps that they had not been treated fairly by the governor, they determined to buy land of their own and move out, so they did. The brief time spent at Germanna under the patronage of Governor Spotswood was overshadowed by privation and hardship- many of them had died- but it was also a period of great practical value as experience for the future. The last recorded act before leaving Germanna was recorded in a bill of complaint by Jacob Spilman forty years after leaving Germanna in which he testified that "sometime in the year 1718 certain Germans (heads of twelve families) made an entry of a large tract of land know as German Town, and the said Germans came to an agreement with each other, that they should be of equal expense and that the whole lands should be divided equally amongst all the partners by lot...". Thus they made freely a firm commitment to hang together lest they hang separately - a unique bond of mutual assistance, for the common welfare of all. So the little band of Germans, full of courage to face and overcome the hardships and dangers of an untamed wilderness and sustained by an unwavering religious faith, left Germanna and moved 19 miles out to Germantown where they still served as an outpost of defense on the frontier - a buffer between the colonies hugging the east coast and the "wild west". From Germantown they moved on out cutting the roads and trails leading westward across the Alleghanies, and their descendants went out in all directions over the United States; and in government, military and civil life, in business, religious services, literature and especially in education they have risen to prominence and honor.

" It is doubtful whether any other single group of men the same size, or ten times the size, in any part of the world has ever produced through two centuries an equal number of great men".

----- Josigh Shinn, noted historian.

GERMANTOWN



GERMANTOWN

It is not known exactly when the 1714 immigrants moved to Germantown. In the testimony of Spillman vs Gent case, some forty years after leaving Germanna (Fauquier County Miscellaneous Records, Land Causes, 1759-1807, Page 5 FF) Jacob Spilman states that "Sometime in the year of our Lord 1718, Jacob Holtzclaw, John Hoffman, John Fishback, Peter Hitt, Harman Fishback, Tilman Weaver, your orator's grandfather, John Spilman, and several other Germans made an entry of a large tract of land now lying situate in this County known by the name of German Town...". I have already shown that the men quit work for Governor Spotswood in Dec. of 1718. Since they were unhappy at Germanna and eager to get to their new home in time to "set up and pitch a crop" it seems logical to assume that they moved early in 1719 - possibly in Dec. of 1718. These Germans, being in a strange land and by nature methodical, would have waited until the survey was completed. They were the first people to enter for land in this vicinity, and Lord Fairfax wanted to get settlers on this frontier, so the land office would have taken steps to expedite the survey if necessary. Captain Hooper who surveyed the land was appointed sheriff of Stafford County in May, 1719 and held that office for at least two years, and it is not likely that he would have surveyed Germantown after he became sheriff. The patent papers were not issued until August 22, 1724, the long delay being due to the closing of the Land Office from 1719 to 1722 because of the death of his wife, Lady Catherine Fairfax. The earliest date recorded for the settlement was 1721, carved over the front door of the Weaver house which was still standing in 1927 but since then fallen.

Before our Germans could take up land, they had to be naturalized. The legalities were finalized in April and June, 1724 and are recorded in Spotsylvania Will Book "A", 1724. Each man had to go before the court and under oath give his name and the names of the members of his family and state when they arrived in Virginia. On page 74, "Peter Hitt stated that he and his wife Elizabeth (he had married Elizabeth Utterback by this time) came to Virginia in April, 1714 and certificate was granted him to take up land - 100 acres". The result was the granting of 1805 acres to the group. This made each family receive about 150 acres. At least four sold their extra 50 acres. The land was divided into 20 lots and each man received 1½ lots, the remainder being the Glebe - a section owned by all of them. On the Glebe was the church, pastorage, school house and land for grazing cattle etc. Some of the sons of the immigrants had married during the time they were at Germanna and needed land of their own, so they bought land from some of the original twelve.

From Rev. John Kemper's (grandson of John Kemper, the immigrant) memoirs, published in Kemper Genealogy, page 39, and written when Rev. Kemper was in his 70s: "..... and so they purchased or perhaps entered vacant land, each 200 acres, on a small stream called Liking Run, and called the place Germantown; and so it is called to this day..... Each man's land was surveyed in an oblong square, the run or creek passing through the middle of each tract..the families made the long trip (19 miles) to Germantown a-foot, carrying provisions on their heads...they worked their first

crops with hoes- the women taking part in both tasks with the men... my grandfather invented the first shovel plow ... in a few years they had large stocks of cattle...". Provisions are usually thought of as food and of course the movers took other things beside victuals. Certainly they had bedding, some household furniture, tools, corn and wheat for sowing, garden seeds, etc. If they had large stocks of cattle a few years later, they probably had cows and oxen, carts or wagons, and perhaps a few horses when they moved to Germanstown. At this time Rev. Haeger was nearer 80 than 70, and I doubt that he would have been able to walk 19 miles.

The families did not right away build on their own lots. They were on the frontier and in constant danger from hostile Indians. Today, on a hill overlooking Licking Run and the fertile fields bordering it, are the marks of a number of cabins that stood together, with perhaps a palisade surrounding them. Here the pioneers first lived, going out in the day to work their fields and returning at night. As time passed and they felt safer, the families erected homes on their own farms.

They prospered at Germanstown and soon added the cultivation of tobacco to their corn growing and stock raising. They built a road toward Falmouth over which they marketed their tobacco. It became known as the "German Rolling Road". When Pastor Haeger died in 1739 the inventory of his estate listed over 50 items, among them 9 head of cattle, a still, household furniture and bed linen, a clock, 2 silver cups, 275 pounds of pewterware, knives, forks, pots and dishes, a bible and other books, 3 lots of lumber, 3 spinning wheels, and eleven pounds, 14 shillings, and 4½ pence in cash. The appraisors were John Joseph Carter, John Kemper, and Peter Hitt. It is certainly fair to infer that the others were at least as well-off at that time. Rev. Haeger was 93 years old when he died. Born at Anthausen, near Siegen, ca. 1644, he was principal of the latin school at that town when a young man. Later he decided to become a minister and studied in the fine German Universities. He was pastor of the church at Oberfischbach and later served several congregations in the district. His last was St. Nikolai (St. Nicholas) Church where so many of the immigrants had been christened and married. He published several books and translated from Latin others.

Our forefathers wrote several times back to Germany asking for someone to come help Rev. Haeger, but no one ever came. After Rev. Haeger died, Joseph Holtzclaw, the schoolteacher, read to them at services in the church and they never did get another pastor. The land the church and cemetery were on was finally sold to a private owner after Joseph Holtzclaw died in 1760. Peter Hitt and his wife Elizabeth were the only ones of the original colonists left in Germanstown after 1760. The others had either died or moved away. By the time of the American Revolution all the descendants had moved away except for a Miss Weaver and her brother who lived on in the Weaver house, the original log house now boarded with poplar, until 1899.

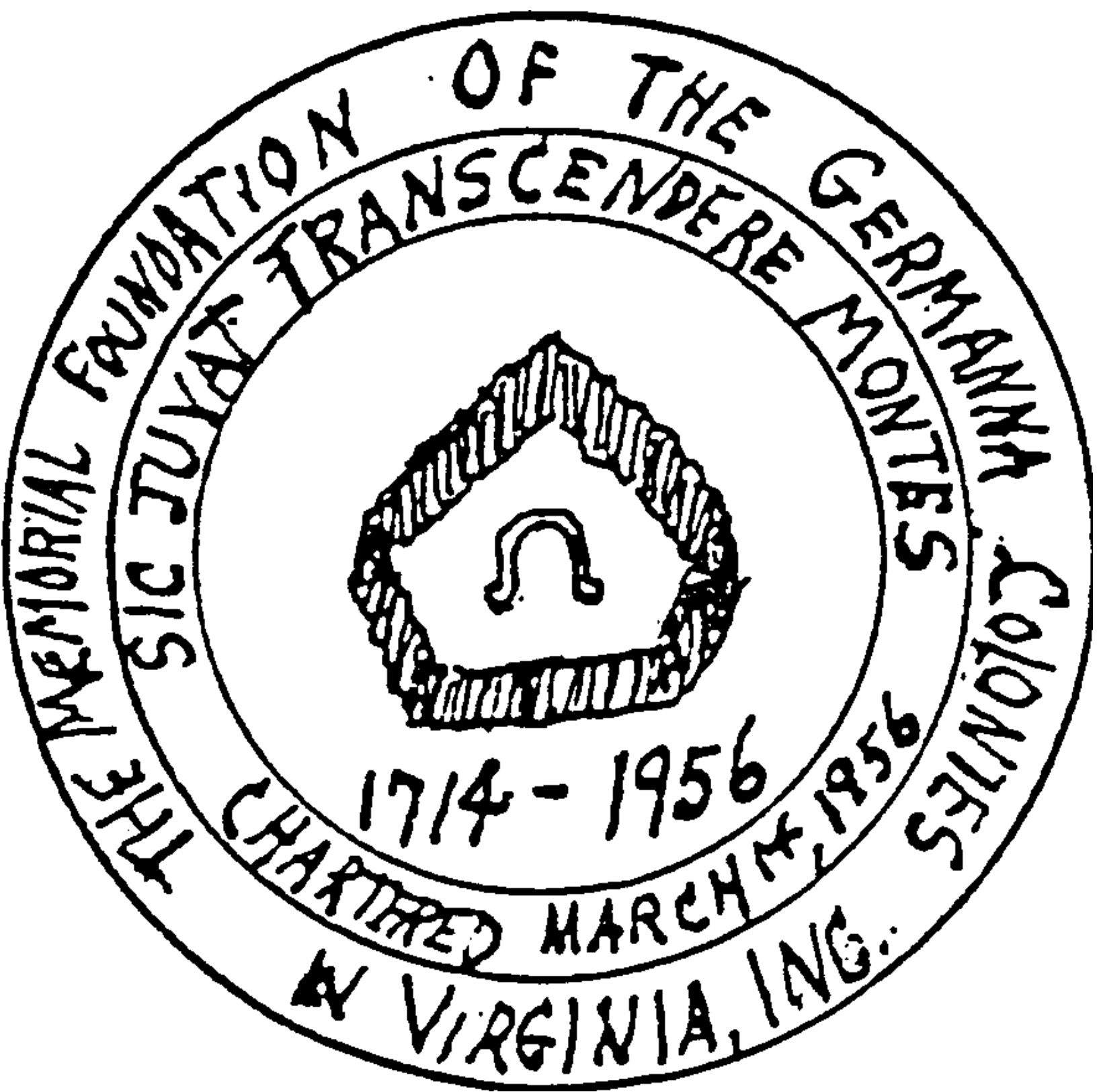
The diaries of several visiting missionaries give some general description of Germanstown: from the diary of Rev. Michael Schlatter

who visited Germanstown in May, 1748 -- "on the 12th we continued our journey toward the south-west, not without weariness and danger from wild beasts, 42 miles farther to New Germanstown. Here I preached on the 13th and spoke with the congregation, promising them that, by the grace of God, I would visit them again at some other time and remain with them longer (a promise he was not able to keep). In the afternoon we commenced our return journey to Monocacy (i.e. Frederick, Maryland)". The above is taken from the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Dec., 1903, pp 147-8. Volumes 11 and 12 of the "Virginia Magazine of History and Biography" print the diaries of Brothers Leonhard Schnell and Robert Hussey in 1743: "Nov. 23rd. It rained very hard. The man mentioned before brought me a horse early in the morning and went with us five miles further to a Reader in Germanstown on the Licken Run..... A large Reformed congregation lives there close together.... Mr. Holtzclaw received me kindly when he heard that I was a minister. He related to me that Mr. Rieger (pastor at Philadelphia and Germanstown, Pa.) had come twice a year to preach for them and to administer the communion, but now he had gone back to Germany and they were entirely forsaken..... On Sunday (24th) I preached to them in their church ... It is a very neat little church, kept in good order and clean. The people are very attentive and eager to hear. I felt God's grace and was quite at home among them. In the afternoon several men, together with the officers of the church came to see me. .. They said they had a parsonage, together with 100 acres of land and a garden, which a minister could occupy at once, if they had one, nor would they allow him to suffer want in other necessities of life..... (March and April, 1748) IX. Germanstown. It is like a village in Germany, in which the houses are far apart. It is situated along a little creek, called Licken Runn. They have as their Reader the old Mr. Holtzclaw who receives annually from each family thirty pounds of tobacco as salary..... (later) ... On July 30th, they came toward evening, to the Licken Run, or Germanstown, where they lodged with an old friend by the name of Holtzclaw. The little village is settled with Reformed miners from Nassau-Siegen. They live very quietly together and are nice people. On Sunday, July 31st, Bro. Joseph preached in the forenoon in their church, and Bro. Reuz in the afternoon. Afterwards several nice and intelligent men visited Bro. Joseph. He then had an opportunity to speak to them of the Savior".

Dr. Charles Herbert Huffman wrote in 1962 after several trips to Germanstown along with Dr. Holtzclaw and others, "The situation intrigues me very much. The land was laid out in the manner suggestive of feudal times. I have a feeling that the halflots on the northeast end were intended for grazing, hay and perhaps for wintering some stock. The owners quite possibly intended to use these lots as a common pasture. The long narrow farms would seem very inconvenient, but they follow the pattern of the European Germany. While in Germany I often watched the whole blooming family, sometimes with outside help, making hay or harvesting wheat on two or three acres, while on the adjacent strips other crews were doing the same thing. Therefore I can imagine the Germanstown families picking up every head of wheat and saving every blade of grass just as I saw the native Germans do. We were told of a spring where tradition has it that the Germanstown women brought their clothes and did their washing".

The site of Germanatown had natural advantages and evidently had been selected with care and foresight. There is a considerable portion of bottom land along the stream; the higher fields are well drained, but not much hilly. Licken Run is a goodsized stream and provided a good site for a grist mill, sawmill, and other operations to be run by water power. At several places there are ledges of stones that are full of iron, and this probably had a good deal to do with the settlers making choice of this spot. Large flat stones mark the sites of the church, school house and parsonage. The old cemetery is there with the graves marked with small rough stones - no inscriptions. The Weaver family burial ground is still to be seen near the remains of the old Weaver house - also the Martin family cemetery. Martin's old mill dam is still there and the old German Rolling Road can still be seen, especially from the air.

Germanatown, long since, has been a "deserted village". Its name is not on the maps any more. Midland is near where Germanatown was and Bealeton, Opal and Calverton form a triangle enclosing it. But Germanna and Germanatown both lure the feet of pilgrims who honor courage and devotion and cherish a goodly heritage.



THE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION OF THE
GERMANNA COLONIES, INC.

Dr. Charles Herbert Huffman was the main organizer and first president of the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc. He died in 1970 at the age of 83 years. He was not descended from the Germanna Huffmans but became interested through his membership in the Reformed Church, now the Church of Christ. The Germanna colony of 1714, a congregation of German Reformed Protestants, with Rev. John Haeger as their pastor, were the first organized congregation of the German Reformed denomination in America. Dr. Huffman was prominent among those who erected in 1953 a monument to these twelve pioneers. Several articles describing the event were written and published. One of these articles, by chance, reached Germany and the City of Siegen and came to the attention of Mr. Albert Luck who had been commissioned to write the history of iron ore mining and manufacturing- the chief industry for centuries of Siegen and environs. The immigrants to colonial Virginia, by reason of their superior training, industry and skills prior to immigration had been deeply involved in this vast industry, and consequently had made enduring contributions to its development. Mr. Luck wrote Dr. Huffman asking permission to quote excerpts from the article and in the correspondence that followed, Mr. Luck told him that the St. Nicolai (St. Nicholas) Church, wherein so many of the 1714 immigrants had been baptised and married, had been destroyed by American bombers (all except the great tower) during the World War II, but had been rebuilt and would be reconsecrated on Dec. 16, 1954.

Dr. Huffman also learned that the church in Siegen had been in contact with us before in 1927. This piqued his interest and after much research he dug up about 20 letters that had been exchanged between Germany, Washington and Virginia. He found a copy of the first letter in the Virginia State Library:

Müsen, Freis Siegen
April 1927

His Excellency Coolidge,
President of the United States of America
Washington

Permit us to approach your Excellency with the following request:

Our protestant church community of Müsen celebrates on June 26th of this year the 300th anniversary of its existence, and we are publishing a pamphlet for this occasion. Since, 200 years ago, 12 miners from Müsen emigrated to America, to the State of Virginia and founded there the town of Germanna which is in ruins today, we like to retain also this incident in the book of our hometown. Since we know from American sources that the first blast furnace which those settlers have built in America is still standing in that place, we would be extremely thankful to your Excellency, if you could obtain for us a photograph of that cultural monument.

We believe that we are doing a deed of cultural value by publishing

ANNIVERSARY

this book and that we thus promote the old and friendly relations between our country and the United States.

The Evangelical Church Community of
Müsen, in Westphalia
Signed: Rev. Heider
Signed: Major (retired) Fritz Klein".

President Coolidge had turned this letter over to the State Department who in turn sent it to Governor Byrd in Virginia. Governor Byrd had the State Conservation and Development Commission take pictures of Germanna and Germantown and sent them back to Washington along with a historical description written by Dr. Hamilton James Eckenrode, Director of the Virginia State Library.

Dr. Huffman published all of the letters in his "The First Decade" pages 85-99. I will copy parts of one more - the letter Rev. Heider wrote expressing his thanks:

"Müsen, Kreis Siegen in Westphalia
July 15th 1927

To: Mr. J. Klahr Huddle
American Consul
Cologne (Rhine)
Kaiser Friedrich Ufer 83.

Being in possession of the photographs of Germanna which you have kindly sent us by order of the State Department in Washington, as well as the explaining text which you have kindly translated for us, we want to express our wholehearted and most sincere thanks in the name of our hometown as well as the entire district of Siegen..... sincere thanks to His Excellency the President and His Excellency the Governor of Virginia as well as the above mentioned Dr. Eckenrode and Horsley (took the pictures)

Müsen and the district of Siegen (Siegenerland) are looking back for about 2700 years of a traceable industrial past; so, it is to us of particularly high value to see how our forefathers took this knowledge with them to their new home and built the first furnace in America, of which we possess the ruins now in photographs.....

Sincerely and with the expression of deepest thanks,

Heider

Minister of the Evangelical
Community of Müsen".

The pictures and historical sketch sent to Rev. Heider are in the Museum at Müsen. A copy of the German book is in the Library of Congress of the United States, and a special copy, in that it was a presentation copy inscribed to the late Dr. Eckenrode by pastor Heider, (Dr. Eckenrode presented this volume to the library in 1929), is in the Virginia State Library. The book is entitled VON KINDELSBERG / UND MARTINSHARDT, edited by Heinrich Heider and published in 1927. I have been told that it is a beautiful book.

A small group of men - descendants and other interested persons - led by Dr. Huffman decided that those brave pioneers who had arrived

in Virginia in ~~1714~~ ¹⁷¹⁴ should be recognized for what they were and be accorded ~~the honor~~ they deserved. So the corporation was formed, chartered ~~in 1956~~ and now owns free from encumbrance 270 acres of the original Germanna Tract and has named it Siegen Forest. By authority of the Virginia State Highway Commission, Virginia Route 3 from Culpeper to Fredricksburg has been designated Germanna Highway. This Highway crosses the area where the first colony was settled.

The Germanna peninsula, now near the northeastern end of Orange County, Virginia, is formed by a large loop, almost a horseshoe bend, of the Rapidan, which is a stream here about 50 or 60 yards in width. It is really the mainstream of the Rappahannock, evidence of which appeared in the fact that it was taken as the southwest boundary of the Northern Neck, Lord Fairfax's extensive domain, when the boundaries were fixed in 1746. The peninsula comprises an area of approximately two square miles, about 1200 or 1500 acres. It is surrounded by forests on the south and west. The peninsula itself is still heavily timbered with oak, hickory, pine, poplar and other native trees - most of which are probably second or third growth.

Soon after acquiring the land, the Foundation donated 100 acres to the State for a college. The college has already been built, named Germanna Community College and is presently operating with Dr. Arnold Wirtala as President.

The land, Siegen Forest, will be maintained as a park, with reunions held every July.

An unsolicited comment by Dr. Earl G. Swen, eminent bibliographer, and Librarian Emeritus of William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 15, 1962: "The Foundation of the Germanna Colonies merits the highest commendation. I do not recall any group of descendants of colonists of a special region that has organized as you have to preserve the original home. What you have done is unique in American life".

ADDENDA

Virginia Historical Magazine. Vol. 7, pages 305-6:

The roster of Captain William Edmonds' company of Virginia troops in the French and Indian War . Captain Edmonda lived in Fauquier county, and it is believed that most of the men in his company were from the same county: (among the 70 men listed) Herman Hitt, Jno. Hitt, Jnr., Jno. Hitt, son of Joseph, John Hitt, Joseph Hitt. Sept. 25, 1761.

Endorsed:

Wm. Edmonds's Muster list, 1761

Thos. Harrison,
County Lieutenant.

The sons of Germanna were soldiers. They had fought in a number of wars against Indians to make them wise in the ways of wilderness warfare. They fought in King George' War and in the French and Indian War. When the Revolution started they served as the true veterans of the frontier and frontier wars , as soldiers, noncommissioned officers and junior-grade officers of the militia. Many of them were the riflemen in the famous Morgan's Rifles who made the march from the Valley of Virginia to Boston, 600 miles, and astonished everyone with the speed with which they moved over that 600 miles. They fought well, were wounded and died in the colonial cause. They were at Trenton and Saratoga and Brandywine. Early in the war General Washington selected an all-German bodyguard that would stay with him through the war. His cavalry troop, which escorted him throughout the war and to Mount Vernon at the close of the war, was made up of German Cavalrymen.

King George leased 30,000 Hessian soldiers from Germany and sent them to America to fight the colonists. When the Hessian soldier arrived in America, he was surprised to find his fellow countrymen living so free and prosperous. He could talk to them in his own language; he was impressed with their kindness and good treat-

ment if he were a prisoner or wounded and treated in a German home. Twenty percent of the 30,000 deserted, and the others were so shaken up by their uncertainty that they lost their will to fight.

It must be remembered that these German immigrants came to an English speaking country speaking German. Various clerks spelled their names various ways trying to spell what their ears heard. Heite became Hite , Heit , Hyatt, Hitch and Hitt. Kuntze was spelled Coons , Koontz , Kountz , Coontz and others. Holzklau became Holtzclaw. Hofmann became Huffman. Merten became Martin. Speilmann became Spilman. Utterback - Otterback. Weber became Weaver. Kemper was spelled Camper . Fischbach became Fishback. Richter became Rector. Brombach became Brumback.

Peter Hitt¹

Peter Hitt, the 1714 immigrant to Virginia, was born at Rehbach near Siegen, Germany in 1681, the son of Johann Jacob Heite and the grandson of Jacob Heite. On Jan. 6, 1707, at St. Nicholas Church, Siegen, Germany, Peter married Maria Lissbeth Freudenburg, born 1672, daughter of Johann Henrieck Freudenburg of Ferndorf. A son was born to them late in the same year and then they disappear from the records there.

Knittle, " Early 18th Century Palatinate Emigrations " and McWethy, " The Book of names Especially Relating to the Early Palatines and First Settlers in the Mohawk Valley " show that Peter Heite (Hitt), aged 28, with his wife Mary Elizabeth, and a son 1½ years old, emigrated from Germany in 1709 to the colony of New York. Peter and Elizabeth had another child born in 1709. Peter's wife and two children died in New York, and in 1711 he volunteered for an expedition against Canada. After this he went back to Germany and returned with the 1714 immigrants.

It is possible that Peter Hitt was influential in getting the group to come to America from Germany. He was closely related to some of the families (Kempers, Holtzclaws, Fishbacks and Rectors) . At any rate he did come back with them and soon after arriving married Elizabeth Otterback, daughter of Harman Otterback the 1714 immigrant who died soon after arriving. Their two oldest sons , John and Joseph, were born at Germanna. Peter's wife Elizabeth Otterback was born in 1689.

Peter and Elizabeth and their two small sons moved from Germanna to Germantown with the other original immigrants and their families. There they had three more sons and a daughter. Peter prospered at German town. In 1731 he and other members of the Germantown colony obtained a grant for 50,000 acres of land in the Shenandoah valley, but Peter never left Germantown. His name appears on legal papers year after year. When he died in 1772 he was the last of the 12 men who had settled Germanna in 1714 living in Germantown, the others having died or moved away. The fact that Peter was deeply loved and respected by his children is shown by the fact that each of his five sons had a son named Peter Hitt. His daughter named a son Peter but of course his last name was Rector. When Peter¹ died in 1772 he had a son, Peter², and 4 grandsons named Peter Hitt , making 6 Peter Hitts living in Fauquier County at one time. The next year Peter Hitt³ son of Peter Hitt² was born. Great fun for researchers!

Elizabeth was still living when Peter¹ died. Both of them are buried at Germantown.

Will of Peter Hitt¹ (Joel Reuben Hitt's G-G-G Grandfather)

Warrington, County of Fauquier: Wills

Will Book I, page 200. Will of Peter Hitt, March 23, 1772. Probated July 27, 1772, mentions wife Elizabeth. All estate to her during her life. Sons Harmon and Joseph qualified as Executors. Son John to have two negroes, Judy and her son John; to son Joseph, a negro man called Tom; to son Harman Old Tom and Hannah, two negroes; to son Peter a negro boy Ben. To daughter 100 acres of land, Plantation where I now live, and one negro boy. To son Henry Hitt 100 pounds cash which is all he is to have of my estate. After wife's descease it (the estate) is to be sold to the highest bidder and proceeds equally divided among all children hereafter named: John, Joseph, Harman, Peter, Mary.

Ex. two sons Harman and Joseph.

Witnesses: Harman Rector, Joseph Taylor, Peter P. Hitt
John Morgan.

Inventory dated Sept. 23, 1772, filed Nov. 23, 1772 by Berryman, Zacharias Lewis and Tilman Weaver.

Fauquier County Deed Book 5, page 335. May 24, 1773, Jacob Rector and Mary his wife (sell) to Jeremiah Darnall 100 acres on which Peter Hitt, decd., lived, one of the lots of land at Germantown:

Beginning at a white oak,
thence N 50 E 378 poles to a red oak corner,
thence S 40 E 40 poles to another red oak corner,
thence S 50 W 378 poles to a white oak corner,
thence N 40 W 40 poles to the beginning.

Same, page 415. Aug 24, 1773, Jeremiah Darnall and Catherine his wife (sell) to Tilman Weaver 100 acres on which Peter Hitt, decd., lived, being one of the lots in Germantown, with exactly the same metes and bounds as the preceding deed.

This was the last of the Hitts in Germantown.

Harman Utterbach, born ca 1664, son of Johannes and Anna (Stuell) Otterbach, was a "Fuhrmann" (carrier or carter), who transported goods and traded in / them. They were the important middle-men for the transport and export of the iron products of Nassau-Siegen. His full name, ¹Johanne Hermann, and his trade, are given in the record of his son's christening in 1692. Hermann Otterbach, son of Johannes Otterbach of Trupbach, married at Siegen Aug. 11, 1685 Elizabeth Heimbach (born 1662), daughter of Philipp Heimbach, decd., ²of Seelbach, and his wife, Maria Catherina Fischbach. Harman Otterbach and his wife and children immigrated to Va. in 1714, but during the five years of hardships and privations at Germanna, Harman, his wife and their 2 sons died, leaving only his 4 daughters. One daughter was married before they left Germany, and the others married 3 of the 1714 immigrants. All the Otterbachs in Va. descended from two of Harman's nephews who came over in the 1734 group.

Children of Harman and Anna Otterbach

- I. Margreth (Anna Margareth) Otterbach, chr. the 9th Sunday after Trinity, 1686. Married in 1708 Hans Jacob Holtzclaw, born 1683. Hans Jacob Holtzclaw was a school teacher, and taught the children and after their Pastor, Rev. Haegar, died, held services at the church. Anna Margaret died soon after they moved to Germantown and is buried in the church cemetery along with other members of her family.
- * VII. Ellsbeth Otterbach, chr. the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 1689. Elizabeth married Peter Hitt, the immigrant.
- III. Johann Philipp Otterbach, born Mar. 22, 1692 and chr. Easter Sunday, 1692. Died at Germanna in Va.
- IV. Johannes Otterbach, born May 6, 1693 and chr. on Jubilate Sunday, died at Germanna in Va.
- V. Johann Jacob Otterbach, born Nov. 23, 1695 and chr. the 1st Sunday after Advent, died Jan. 30, 1696.
- VI. Elizabeth Catrina Otterbach, born ~~xxxxxx~~ April 19, 1697. Married ca. 1715 John Kemper, the immigrant. Died ca 1745 at German Town and is buried there.
- VII. Maria Catharina Otterbach, born Nov. 5, 1699. Godmother, Catherina, wife of Philipp Heite (Hitt). Married John Joseph Martin, the 1714 immigrant. Died at Germantown and is buried there.
- VIII. Anna Catharina Otterbach, born Jan. 2, 1705, married in Va. Harman Fishback, the 1714 immigrant who came over with his father Philip Fishback and the rest of his family.

AT Germ

- I. John Hitt², the eldest son of Peter and Elizabeth Hitt, was born in Fauquier Co. Va. in 1715. Died in 1782. John was married 1st to Sarah ~~at?~~ and had:
1. John Hitt³, born before 1742 because he was in the militia along with his father in 1761. His wife was named Sarah. He left 7 children when he died. I have descendants of John³.
 2. Elias Hitt³, who held 25 acres of his father's land through 1787 but disappears from the tithables after 1783.
 3. Charles Hitt³ born about 1750

John Hitt married 2nd. about 1755 Mary ?, born 1736- died after 1802, and their children were;

4. Peter Hitt³, born ca 1756 died 1802. m. HANNAH JAMES
5. Susannah Hitt³, married Arthur Gladstone
6. Martin Hitt³, married Molly James
7. Aaron Hitt³, married Catherine Holtzclaw.

AT GERMANNA, in Essex CO. VA.

- II. Joseph Hitt², born in 1717, the 2nd. son of Peter and Elizabeth Otterback, Joseph married Mary Cuntze, daughter of Joseph Cuntz, the 1714 immigrant. This Joseph was the great grandfather of Joel Reuben Hitt of Clinton, Miss. Joseph's biography and list of children are given later. Page 6-

AT GERMAN TOWN ~~in Fauquier Co.~~ (NOW ORANGE) CO.

- III. Henry Hitt², born in 1719, married Alice Holtzclaw 3rd daughter of Jacob Holtzclaw, the 1714 immigrant. Henry Hitt moved to South Carolina the same time his brother Joseph did but settled in Edgefield Co. where he died before 1790. Henry and Alice had the following children:

4. Ed. 1. John Hitt³ m Frances Banks 1782 and went with his father to S.C., settling in Edgefield Co.
2. Peter Hitt³ b 1763 to S.C. with his father.
3. James Hitt³, went to Tenn.
4. Sarah Hitt³
5. Ailsey Hitt³
6. Susan Hitt³
7. Anna Hitt³

All the Hitts in Edgefield Co. moved away soon after settling there. When Joel Reuben Hitt checked there in the early 1930s not a single Hitt by name lived in that County.

- IV. Harman Hitt², born in 1721 in Fauquier Co. Va. and died there in 1820, aged 99 years. His wife was Mary Weaver, grand daughter of Jacob Weaver and of Joseph Cuntz, both 1714 immigrants. Harmon and Mary had 12 children:

1. John Hitt³, born 1746, married Sarah Day Pace and moved to S.C., Edgefield Co., where he died.
2. Elizabeth Hitt³, born 1748. Married Jacob Rector.
3. Moses Hitt³, born 1751. Died young.
4. Joseph Hitt³, born 1753. Died young.
5. Peter Hitt³, born 1755. Went to Edgefield Co. with his brother John and his uncle Henry where he died before 1790, leaving his widow, Charlotte.
6. Jesse Hitt³, born 1757, married Ann Rector.
7. Mary Ann Hitt³, born 1759, married Charles W. Ayers.
8. Sarah Hitt³, born 1761, married James Morrison.
9. Martin Hitt³, born 1763. Died in Ohio in 1832. Married and left 1 son, John Wesley Hitt. Martin Hitt was a noted Methodist Minister.

10. Benjamin Hitt³, born 1766, married Jane Smith.
11. Daniel Hitt³, born 1786, died unmarried in Fauquier Co. in 1825. Rev. Daniel Hitt was also a rather ~~distinguished~~ distinguished Methodist minister, and is said to have travelled thousands of miles as Bishop Ashbury's Companion. He also wrote and published hymns. In Samuel Hopkins Adams' novel, The Gorgeous Hussy, p 130, he says, "She (Peggy) memorized mournful hymns from the collection of Messrs. Hitt & Ware, who, though "of the Methodist Connexion," put forth their book "designed as a constant companion for the Pious of all Denominations." Frequently she was heard by her perturbed parents picking out on the harp-ischord that minor melody which begins, "Happy soul, thy days are ended," or humming, as she went about her work:

"Ah! lovely appearance of death
 What sight upon earth is so fair?
 Not all the gay pageants that breathe
 Can with a dead body compare."

12. Samuel Hitt, born 1770, married Ann Smith.

V. Mary Hitt², born 1723, married Joseph Rector.

VI. Peter Hitt², born in Fauquier Co. in 1726 married Sarah James in 1759. He died in Fauquier Co. in 1810. Peter and Sarah had 9 children:

1. Nimrod Hitt³, born ca. 1760. Revolutionary soldier, never married, and died in Culpeper Co. in 1825.
2. Joel Hitt³, born ca 1762. Married Elizabeth^{566?} and moved to Henry Co. Ky. where he died prior to 1810, leaving 6 children.
3. Dinah Hitt³, born 1764, died 1842. Married Tillman Kemper.
4. Miriam Hitt³, born 1766, ~~married~~ married Archibald Holtzclaw.
5. Reuben Hitt³, born ca 1770. Married Fanny ^{Samuel} ~~A~~ and continued to live in Fauquier Co.
6. Peter Hitt³, born ~~ca. 1772~~ 1772. Married Lucy Rosser and died 1806, leaving 5 children.
7. Elizabeth Hitt³, married John Arnold.
8. Nancy Hitt³, married John Miller Dec. 16, 1789.
9. Mary Hitt³, married Joseph Barnett Jan. 12, 1789.

1. Elin Hitt b. 3-21, 1760
2. Nimrod Hitt b. July 21, 1762
3. Dinah Hitt b. 7-15, 1764
4. Joel Hitt b. 2-26, 1765
5. Miriam Hitt b. 1-14, 1766
6. Macey Hitt b. 1-6, 1772
7. Reuben Hitt b. Aug. 25, 1773
8. Nancy Hitt b. June 14, 1774
9. Peter Hitt b. Apr. 1, 1776

Family Bible
 Record came
 in after she
 was written -

- I. Peter Hitt¹(1681-1772), the immigrant with wife Elizabeth.
- II. Peter Hitt²(1726-1810), wife Sarah James. (Son of Peter¹)
- III. Peter Hitt³(1756-1802) (John², Peter¹) wife Hannah James.
- IV. Peter Hitt³(1740-18??) (Joseph², Peter¹) wife Mary Hitt. To S.C. after war
- V. Peter Hitt³(1763-18) (Henry², Peter¹). Moved to Tenn. after 1784.
- VI. Peter Hitt³(1755-178?) (Harman², Peter¹) Moved to S.C. Wife Charlotte.
- VII. Peter Hitt³(1773-1806) (Peter², Peter¹) wife Lucy Rosser.

Peter Hitts In Virginia - Old
 Peter, the immigrant, his son and
 Grandsons -

Joseph Hitt², the second son of Peter Hitt¹ and his wife Elizabeth Otterback was born in Fauquier Co., Virginia in 1717. Joseph Hitt and his oldest son, "John Hitt son of Joseph" are shown in Capt. William Edmonds Company of Fauquier Co. militia in 1761. (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 7, p. 305-6). His son John had to be at least 18 years old at that time. Joseph Hitt² married Mary Cuntz, daughter of Joseph Cuntz, the 1714 immigrant. She was one of the younger children when Joseph Cuntz wrote his will in 1730:

Stafford Co. Will Book 1729-48, pp 22-3. Will of Joseph Cowntz, dated Oct. 18, 1730 and probated Feb. 10, 1731, leaves to son Henry "my plantation" and if he die without issue, it is to go to daughter Mary Cownts (Henry was under 16); to son Tilman Cownts 100 acres bought of William Russell; ~~to son Tilman Cownt~~ to daughters Ann Eliz., Anna Catherine, and Mary 40 acres on Licking Run joining Jacob Holtzclaw; Tilman Weaver is appointed executor, and is to have "my servant Jeremiah" and the 4 youngest children until they come to maturity; test, Jacob Holtzclaw, John Kemper, Joseph Martin, Peter Hitt.

Henry and Tilman Cuntz died without issue and Fauquier Co. Deed Book 1, p. 323, May 27, 1763 shows Joseph Hitt and Mary his wife, Harmon Kemper and Katherine his wife, and Ann Elizabeth Weaver (widow) sold land which they inherited as sisters and co-heirs of Tilman Cuntz, decd. This deed shows that the descendants of Joseph Cunts are to be found only through these 3 daughters and their husbands.

The Fauquier Co. records show Joseph² and Mary buying and selling land, paying land taxes, rent and personal taxes. Fauquier Deed Book 4, p. 405, Nov. 1, 1771, Lord Fairfax deeds to Joseph Hitt, Mary his wife, and Elisha their son 158 acres in the Manor of Leeds. He paid land taxes in 1783. The personal tax list of 1783 shows that he paid taxes for personal property but no tithable, showing that he had ~~either died or~~ moved away.

The U.S. Census of 1790 shows Joseph Hitt and Mary, his wife and their son Elisha living in Laurens Co., South Carolina. Nearby lived his 2 sons Lazarus and Peter and their families. There is no record of Joseph's having bought land in Laurens Co. He must have ^{own} land that his sons bought. Joseph and Mary were getting old and probably had come along with their sons just to be near them. No further record of the youngest son, Elisha, can be found to this time. Joseph and Mary died after 1790, at which time Joseph was 73 years old. Family tradition tells that Joseph called Mary "Poly", and Mary always made Joseph make the coffee, saying in her thick German accent, "Choe, you make de coffee so goot!"

Joseph (Jost) Cuntz , the 1714 immigrant, was christened March 22, 1672 in the church at Oberfischback and married in the same church Feb.7, 1704, Anna Gertrud, daughter of Martin Reinschmidt of Lower Wilden. Joseph was the son of Johannes Kuntz and his wife Elsa Schuster . All four sons of Johannes Kuntz were members of the Steelsmiths and Tool-makers Guild of Ferndorf, Freudenberg, and the Four Villages. Joseph's wife, Gertrude, died soon after they came to Virginia, and in 1724 he married Catherine, daughter of John Henry Weaver (1714 immigrant) and his wife, Anna Margaret Huttman. Joseph died 1731 at Germantown, and he and his wife and three of his children are buried there.

Stafford County Will Book 1729-48, pp. 22-3. Will of Joseph Cowntz, dated Oct. 18, 1730 and probated Feb. 10, 1731, leaves to son Henry "my plantation", and if he die without issue, it is to go to my daughter Mary Cownts; to son Tilman Cowntz 100 acres bought of William Russell; daughter Ann Elizabeth (wife of) Tilman Weaver; daughter Anna Catherine; daughter Mary; daughter Catherine 40 acres on Licking Run joining Jacob Holtzclaw; Tilman Weaver is appointed executor, and is to have "my servant Jeremiah" and the 4 youngest children until they come to maturity; test, Jacob Holtzclaw, John Kemper, Joseph Martin, Peter Hitt.

Fauquier Co. Deed Book 1, p. 323. May 27, 1762, Joseph Hitt and Mary his wife, Harman Kemper and Katherine his wife, and Ann Elizabeth Weaver (Tilman Weaver was dead at this time) sell 100 acres which they inherited from Tilman Cowns, decd. This deed shows that the descendants of Joseph Cuntz are to be found only through these 3 daughters, since the other children had died without issue.

Children of Joseph Cuntz and his ^{1st wife} Anna Gertrud Reinschmidt

- I. John (Johannes) chr. Apr. 18, 1706 at Niederndorf. Died unmarried before 1730.
- II. Anna Elizabeth, chr. Dec. 23, 1708 at N'dorf. Married Tillman Weaver.
- III. Elizabeth, Chr. Sept. 8, 1711, died Sept. 12, 1711.
- IV. Christian, born Aug. 30, 1712, died Oct. 4, 1712.
- V. Catherine, born 1713-14 either in England or on the way over to Va. Married Harman Kemper.

Children of Joseph Cuntz and his ^{2nd} Wife , Catherine Weaver

- VI. Henry, minor in 1730, died without issue.
- VII. Tillman, minor in 1730, lived for several years after coming of age but died without issue.
- ★ VIII. Mary, minor in 1730. Married Joseph Hitt?
- IX. Anna Catherine , died young.

John Henry Weaver (Johann Henrich Weber) born 1667 and chr. at Eiserfeld Exaudi Sunday, 1667, a posthumous child. The Roedgen church books show that Johann Henrich Weber, son of Johannes Weber, decd., of Eiserfeld, married Nov. 19, 1691 Anna Margarethe, daughter of Johann Huttman and his wife Anna. John Henry and Ann Weaver left Eisern in 1913 and immigrated to America with their ~~three~~ sons John and Tillman, and their daughter Catherine. John Henry died soon after they arrived in Va. because when the 1714 colony began work on the iron foundry at Germanna in 1716, his name was not included in the list. The Roedgen church books show the following children.

Children of John Henry Weaver and Anna Margarethe Huttman

- I. Johannes Weber, born at Eisern and chr. in 1693, Came to America with his parents and died at the same time his father did.
- II. Johann Henrich Weber, born 1696, and chr. the 7th Sunday after Trinity and died at Eisern in 1697 and was buried Jan. 6.
- III. Cathrin Weber, born 1697 and chr. Dec 29, 1697. She came to America with her parents and became the second wife of Joseph Cuntz, the 1714 immigrant, dying prior to 1730, when Joseph made his will.
- IV. Tillman Weber, born 1701 at Eisern and chr. Jan. 9, 1701, became the head of the family when his father and older brother died. The other 11 men represented him until he became of age. He married Ann Elizabeth Cuntz, daughter of Joseph Cuntz, the immigrant, about 1725 and had 9 children. He died in 1760 and is buried along with his wife and other members of the family in the family burial ground on the original Germantown lot. The Weaver family lived longer at Germantown than any other immigrant family.

*Mary Cuntz, granddaughter of John Henry Weaver
married Joseph Hitt. She was the daughter
of Joseph Cuntz & his 2nd wife, Cathrin Weber.*

9

Children Of Joseph Hitt² and his wife, Mary Cuntz

- I. John Hitt³ born ca. 1740 in Fauquier Co. Va. In the militia in 1761. There is much uncertainty about this John Hitt. It is possible that he is the John Hitt who died in Culpeper Co. in 1836 leaving wife Lurana, daughters Eliz. Jeffreys and Miriam Smith, and sons Joel, Joab, James and John. If this is true he would have been a very old man - over 90.
- II. Joseph Hitt³ born in Fauquier Co., Va., moved to Culpeper Co. and appears in the records there from 1890 on until he died in 1826, leaving sons William, John, Joseph, and James, and daughters Elizabeth (wife of Russell Vaughn), Mary Barnes and Peggy Vaughan.
- III. Lazarus Hitt³ born ca. 1750 in Fauquier Co. Va. Married Agnes Martin and moved to Laurens Co. S.C. with his brother Peter³ and Father.
more of this HAZARBS - PAGE 12.
- IV. Elisha Hitt³, born in Va. Moved to S.C. with his father and is shown living there with his father and mother in 1790 but there is no further record of him at this time.
- V. Peter Hitt³, born in Va. ca 1745. He moved with his wife, Mary, and his Brother, Lazarus, to Laurens Co., S.C. I have left Peter Hitt³ last in the list of Joseph's children so that I can show the line on descent of Nancy Hitt who married Reuben Hitt and came to Webster Co. Miss. Peter Hitt³ died in Laurens Co., S.C. in 1806.

Peter Hitt³ (Joseph², Peter¹) *66 grand father of J.R.H.*

The first deed to a Hitt in Laurens Co., S.C. Clerk's Office, Laurens, S.C.
Book B-pll8

Indenture made Nov. 8, 1785 (in "the tenth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America"). Peter Hitt purchased from Samuel and Jane Eakins for 85 pounds Virginia money. A tract of land containing 185 acres granted to Eakins by his Excellency William Moultrie, Esq. Governor of S.C. on waters of Little River, known as Mathias Cooks old survey, shape, form, and boundaries as the original. Sold in fee simple without condition. Signed:

Samuel & Jane Eakins

Witnesses: Thomas Wm. Fakes
Wm. Cason

The 1790 census showed 3 Hitt families living in Laurens Co: Peter Hitt, Lazarus Hitt and Joseph Hitt. Peter Hitt with wife, 1 son over 16, 4 sons under 16. The distribution of Peter Hitt's estate in 1806 shows these sons:

Will Book C, pp 210-222.

Feb. 3, 1806. Mary Hitt, widow of Peter Hitt, consents to appointment of David Hitt and Thomas Hitt (sons) as administrators of the estate of her husband. -- Letters of administration granted to Thos. Hitt and David Hitt on Estate of Peter Hitt, Mch. 3, 1806, with warrent of appraisement mentioning Patrick Todd, Lazarus Hitt and Josiah Crews as bondsmen. ----- Mch. 3, 1806 Bond for \$ 3, 000 for Admin. of estate of Peter Hitt signed by David Hitt, Thomas Hitt, Lazarus Hitt, Pat Todd and Josiah Crews. Appraisal of goods and chattels of Peter Hitt including 5 slaves, 5 horses, 33 hogs, \$2225.75 by Lazarus Hitt, Wm Rushing, Drury Sims, Mch. 3, 1806. P222 gives record of sale of goods.

Larkin Hitt received \$460.97 cash , Thomas Hitt \$ 681.50 and Mrs. Mary Hitt \$ 263.63. It was customary at this time to sell at auction all the personal property of the deceased with the heirs given first chance to bid while the real estate was divided among the heirs or distributed according to the deceased's wishes. I have numerous transcripts of legal papers concerning Peter Hitt³ and Lazarus Hitt³ and their children.

Children of Peter Hitt³ and his wife , Mary Hitt

I. Thomas Hitt⁴ ^{b CA 1777}, over 16 in 1790, died before 1847. Sarah^{dean} Hitt, his widow , died 1847 and their son, Peter Carter Hitt was adms. of her estate. I have his descendants. John, SARAH, Nellie, NARCISSE, FRANCES, Alex⁺, Rebe

II. David Hitt⁴ was born 1776, married Jane Meek, left Laurens CO. in 1822 and came to Green Co., Ala. where he died in 1857. I have his descendants, many of whom came into east Miss.

III. Abner Hitt⁴ ^{CA 1777}, under 16 in 1790, married a daughter of Drury Sims and died in Laurens in 1828. John Hitt⁴ ^(Joseph², Peter¹) was adms. of his estate. SARAH

IV. Larkin Hitt⁴ ^{Great G. father - CA 1778}, under 16 in 1790, Larkin was a methodist minister. He was married twice, and at this time it is not known where he died.

Children of Larkin Hitt and his 1st wife, Polly

1. Polly⁵, died young in S.C.
2. Becky⁵, came to Miss. with her sister Nancy and married David Lovett. No children.
- Grand mother 3. Nancy⁵, born Jan. 5, 1822 in Laurens Co. This is the Nancy Hitt who married Reuben Hitt⁴ from Miss. and was the grandmother of Joel Reuben Hitt.

Children of Larkin Hitt and his 2nd wife

1. Hamilton Hitt⁵ { An old note in my father's papers: }
2. Patrick Hitt⁵ { "well educated young men in S.C." }

V. Benjamin Hitt⁴, born 1779 in Va. , moved from Laurens Co. S.C. to Ala. with his wife, Nancy Curnal, in 1822. Died in Dec. 1860 at the home of his son David near Newton, Miss.

John Joseph Martin (Johann Jost Merten) was born at Muesen, Nassau-Siegen, Germany, May 24, 1691, and died at Germantown, Va. about 1757. He was the son of Hans Jacob Merten (b. 1660, d. Aug. 26, 1693) and his wife Anna Barbara Wurmbach, daughter of Frederick Wurmbach, Associate Justice of ~~Muesen~~ the District Court. His grandparents were Jacob Merten of Muesen, Justice of the Court of Mines (b. 1634, d. Oct. 19, 1689) and his wife Margaret Eichen. After Joseph Martin's father's death, his mother married ~~Melchior Brombach~~ Johann Georg Brombach of Muesen, and her eldest son by this marriage was Melchior Brombach (b. 1695), who was another of the 12 men who came to Va. in 1714. John Joseph was a bachelor when he came to Va. in 1714. He married Mary Catherine (Maria Katherina) Otterbach (b. 1699), daughter of Hermann and Elizabeth Otterbach. Mary Catherine ^{died} some time after 1724, and John Joseph married Eve ^{died} ¹⁷²⁴. I have numerous transcripts of legal papers concerning John Joseph Martin and his family. They owned the mill on Licking Run at Germantown, and He and both his wives and several members of his family are buried there on the original land. The remains of the mill and the old burial ground are still to be seen.

Children of John Joseph Martin and his wife, Mary Catherine Otterbach

- ★ I. Henry Martin, born ca 1720 at Germanna, died ca 1780. His wife was Mary Ann Martin, who died ca 1782. ~~Henry married Mary Ann Martin who died ca 1782. Henry and his sons appear in many Fauquier records.~~ Henry Martin and his sons appear in many Fauquier records.
- II. Tillman Martin; born ca 1728.
- III. Joseph Martin, born ca 1731, married Catherine Holtzclaw. Died 1793.
- IV. John Martin, born ca 1735, died 1823. Married Caty?, 2nd wife in 1803, Peggy Elliot.
- V. James Martin
- VI. Mary Martin, died before 1763, married Jacob Thomas.
- VII. Eve Martin.

GG Grandfather

Children of Henry Martin and Mary Ann Martin

- I. Samuel Martin, moved to Woodford, Ky. before 1781.
- II. Benjamin Martin married Joanna and moved away after 1789
- III. Reuben Martin married Joanna? and moved to Fauquier Co., S.C. in 1789.
- IV. Agnes Martin moved with her ^{husband} brother, Reuben Martin to S.C. in 1789. Married Lazarus Hitt³ (Joseph², Peter³)
- V. Jacob Martin
- VI. Peter Martin
- VII. Joel Martin

GG Grand

Lazarus Hitt, son of Joseph Hitt and his wife Mary Cuntz, was born ca 1750 in Fauquier Co., Va. He disappears from the Fauquier records the same time that Joseph² did. Since no will of Joseph and Mary has been found naming their children, it was hard to prove that Lazarus was the son of Joseph. Joel Reuben Hitt⁶ (Reuben Martin⁵, Reuben⁴, Lazarus³, Joseph², Peter¹) of Clinton, Miss. back in the 1930s worked out a "proof" that Lazarus was the son of Joseph, which I will show below. Since that time, as proven records of the children of the other sons of Peter¹ have come in, it has been generally accepted that Lazarus was the son of Joseph. (16)

Lazarus Hitt - by Joel Reuben Hitt (1874-1957)

- " Deed book F p466. Dec 21, 1798, Lazarus Hitt buys for 45 pounds sterling money land (80 a) lying on Cain creek in Laurens Co. Witt. by Henry Hitt and Curtis Curnal. This indicates that Lazarus Hitt was the son of Joseph Hitt and Mary (Polly) Coons and the probability is strengthened by the following:
1. The number and ages of the children of Lazarus Hitt as shown by the census of 1790 prove that he could hardly have been born later than 1750.
 2. In that case he was likely a son of one of the sons of the immigrant Peter Hitt.
 3. The immigrant Peter had only 5 sons as shown by his will: Peter, Henry, John, Joseph and Harmon.
 4. The distribution of the estate of Peter², will Book 5, pl15, Fauquier, Va. shows that he had no son Lazarus.
 5. The deed of Harmon Hitt², Deed Book 13, p432 to a trustee for his children shows that he had no son Lazarus.
 6. Likewise, the records of Henry² and John² contain no reference to a Lazarus.
 7. This leaves Joseph to be the father of Lazarus. "

Lazarus Hitt married Agnes Martin, granddaughter of the immigrant John Joseph Martin¹ and his wife Mary Catherine Otterback, and the daughter of Henry Martin² and his wife Mary Ann Martin. The 1790 census shows Lazarus Hitt, with his wife, 3 daughters, 4 sons under 16 years, and 1 son over 16 years, living in Laurens County, S.C. It has not been found just when Lazarus Hitt first bought land in S.C., but is assumed that he bought about the same time his brother Peter did. At any rate, he first sold land in 1793: Clerk's Office, Laurens, S.C., Book F.p48. Indenture made Dec.8, 1793. Lazarus Hitt, planter of Laurens Co., sold to John Smith, Jr. for 55 pounds sterling, a tract of land on waters of Saluda River, & on the north side of Bank's Branch, containing 100 acres, being the same more or less granted to William Esler in 1773 by his excellency William Ball, Gov. of S.C. Witnessed and sealed Dec.29, 1793. Witnessed by Wm. Smith, James Smith, and Henry Hitt. Wm. Smith swore to transaction on March 19, 1795 - before Angus Campbell, J.P. This ^{shows} proves that he had bought land before he bought the 80 a on Cain creek in 1798. Lazarus Hitt's name appears on numerous legal documents in Laurens Co. Transcripts of these documents are in my possession. Lazarus was a minister and preached often although there is no record of his ever having been ordained. His wife, Agnes, died and he married again about 1813 Elizabeth -?- and had a daughter, Evy, who was a minor when he died in 1823. His son John was adms. of his estate. The following papers can be found in Laurens Co. S.C. in Bdle. 35 and Bdle. 85
Aug. 16, 1823. Administrator's Bond of John Hitt, for estate of Lazarus Hitt, with Henry Hitt and Lewis Ball as sureties.

" David Anderson of Laurens District: Whereas you have granted to me the adm. on the Estate and Effects of Lazarus Hitt Deceased and as
N.D. 1823 - 1824 - 1825 - 1826 - 1827 - 1828 - 1829 - 1830 - 1831 - 1832 - 1833 - 1834 - 1835 - 1836 - 1837 - 1838 - 1839 - 1840 - 1841 - 1842 - 1843 - 1844 - 1845 - 1846 - 1847 - 1848 - 1849 - 1850 - 1851 - 1852 - 1853 - 1854 - 1855 - 1856 - 1857 - 1858 - 1859 - 1860 - 1861 - 1862 - 1863 - 1864 - 1865 - 1866 - 1867 - 1868 - 1869 - 1870 - 1871 - 1872 - 1873 - 1874 - 1875 - 1876 - 1877 - 1878 - 1879 - 1880 - 1881 - 1882 - 1883 - 1884 - 1885 - 1886 - 1887 - 1888 - 1889 - 1890 - 1891 - 1892 - 1893 - 1894 - 1895 - 1896 - 1897 - 1898 - 1899 - 1900 - 1901 - 1902 - 1903 - 1904 - 1905 - 1906 - 1907 - 1908 - 1909 - 1910 - 1911 - 1912 - 1913 - 1914 - 1915 - 1916 - 1917 - 1918 - 1919 - 1920 - 1921 - 1922 - 1923 - 1924 - 1925 - 1926 - 1927 - 1928 - 1929 - 1930 - 1931 - 1932 - 1933 - 1934 - 1935 - 1936 - 1937 - 1938 - 1939 - 1940 - 1941 - 1942 - 1943 - 1944 - 1945 - 1946 - 1947 - 1948 - 1949 - 1950 - 1951 - 1952 - 1953 - 1954 - 1955 - 1956 - 1957 - 1958 - 1959 - 1960 - 1961 - 1962 - 1963 - 1964 - 1965 - 1966 - 1967 - 1968 - 1969 - 1970 - 1971 - 1972 - 1973 - 1974 - 1975 - 1976 - 1977 - 1978 - 1979 - 1980 - 1981 - 1982 - 1983 - 1984 - 1985 - 1986 - 1987 - 1988 - 1989 - 1990 - 1991 - 1992 - 1993 - 1994 - 1995 - 1996 - 1997 - 1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001 - 2002 - 2003 - 2004 - 2005 - 2006 - 2007 - 2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011 - 2012 - 2013 - 2014 - 2015 - 2016 - 2017 - 2018 - 2019 - 2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025 - 2026 - 2027 - 2028 - 2029 - 2030 - 2031 - 2032 - 2033 - 2034 - 2035 - 2036 - 2037 - 2038 - 2039 - 2040 - 2041 - 2042 - 2043 - 2044 - 2045 - 2046 - 2047 - 2048 - 2049 - 2050 - 2051 - 2052 - 2053 - 2054 - 2055 - 2056 - 2057 - 2058 - 2059 - 2060 - 2061 - 2062 - 2063 - 2064 - 2065 - 2066 - 2067 - 2068 - 2069 - 2070 - 2071 - 2072 - 2073 - 2074 - 2075 - 2076 - 2077 - 2078 - 2079 - 2080 - 2081 - 2082 - 2083 - 2084 - 2085 - 2086 - 2087 - 2088 - 2089 - 2090 - 2091 - 2092 - 2093 - 2094 - 2095 - 2096 - 2097 - 2098 - 2099 - 2100 - 2101 - 2102 - 2103 - 2104 - 2105 - 2106 - 2107 - 2108 - 2109 - 2110 - 2111 - 2112 - 2113 - 2114 - 2115 - 2116 - 2117 - 2118 - 2119 - 2120 - 2121 - 2122 - 2123 - 2124 - 2125 - 2126 - 2127 - 2128 - 2129 - 2130 - 2131 - 2132 - 2133 - 2134 - 2135 - 2136 - 2137 - 2138 - 2139 - 2140 - 2141 - 2142 - 2143 - 2144 - 2145 - 2146 - 2147 - 2148 - 2149 - 2150 - 2151 - 2152 - 2153 - 2154 - 2155 - 2156 - 2157 - 2158 - 2159 - 2160 - 2161 - 2162 - 2163 - 2164 - 2165 - 2166 - 2167 - 2168 - 2169 - 2170 - 2171 - 2172 - 2173 - 2174 - 2175 - 2176 - 2177 - 2178 - 2179 - 2180 - 2181 - 2182 - 2183 - 2184 - 2185 - 2186 - 2187 - 2188 - 2189 - 2190 - 2191 - 2192 - 2193 - 2194 - 2195 - 2196 - 2197 - 2198 - 2199 - 2200 - 2201 - 2202 - 2203 - 2204 - 2205 - 2206 - 2207 - 2208 - 2209 - 2210 - 2211 - 2212 - 2213 - 2214 - 2215 - 2216 - 2217 - 2218 - 2219 - 2220 - 2221 - 2222 - 2223 - 2224 - 2225 - 2226 - 2227 - 2228 - 2229 - 2230 - 2231 - 2232 - 2233 - 2234 - 2235 - 2236 - 2237 - 2238 - 2239 - 2240 - 2241 - 2242 - 2243 - 2244 - 2245 - 2246 - 2247 - 2248 - 2249 - 2250 - 2251 - 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2538 - 2539 - 2540 - 2541 - 2542 - 2543 - 2544 - 2545 - 2546 - 2547 - 2548 - 2549 - 2550 - 2551 - 2552 - 2553 - 2554 - 2555 - 2556 - 2557 - 2558 - 2559 - 2560 - 2561 - 2562 - 2563 - 2564 - 2565 - 2566 - 2567 - 2568 - 2569 - 2570 - 2571 - 2572 - 2573 - 2574 - 2575 - 2576 - 2577 - 2578 - 2579 - 2580 - 2581 - 2582 - 2583 - 2584 - 2585 - 2586 - 2587 - 2588 - 2589 - 2590 - 2591 - 2592 - 2593 - 2594 - 2595 - 2596 - 2597 - 2598 - 2599 - 2600 - 2601 - 2602 - 2603 - 2604 - 2605 - 2606 - 2607 - 2608 - 2609 - 2610 - 2611 - 2612 - 2613 - 2614 - 2615 - 2616 - 2617 - 2618 - 2619 - 2620 - 2621 - 2622 - 2623 - 2624 - 2625 - 2626 - 2627 - 2628 - 2629 - 2630 - 2631 - 2632 - 2633 - 2634 - 2635 - 2636 - 2637 - 2638 - 2639 - 2640 - 2641 - 2642 - 2643 - 2644 - 2645 - 2646 - 2647 - 2648 - 2649 - 2650 - 2651 - 2652 - 2653 - 2654 - 2655 - 2656 - 2657 - 2658 - 2659 - 2660 - 2661 - 2662 - 2663 - 2664 - 2665 - 2666 - 2667 - 2668 - 2669 - 2670 - 2671 - 2672 - 2673 - 2674 - 2675 - 2676 - 2677 - 2678 - 2679 - 2680 - 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3253 - 3254 - 3255 - 3256 - 3257 - 3258 - 3259 - 3260 - 3261 - 3262 - 3263 - 3264 - 3265 - 3266 - 3267 - 3268 - 3269 - 3270 - 3271 - 3272 - 3273 - 3274 - 3275 - 3276 - 3277 - 3278 - 3279 - 3280 - 3281 - 3282 - 3283 - 3284 - 3285 - 3286 - 3287 - 3288 - 3289 - 3290 - 3291 - 3292 - 3293 - 3294 - 3295 - 3296 - 3297 - 3298 - 3299 - 3300 - 3301 - 3302 - 3303 - 3304 - 3305 - 3306 - 3307 - 3308 - 3309 - 3310 - 3311 - 3312 - 3313 - 3314 - 3315 - 3316 - 3317 - 3318 - 3319 - 3320 - 3321 - 3322 - 3323 - 3324 - 3325 - 3326 - 3327 - 3328 - 3329 - 3330 - 3331 - 3332 - 3333 - 3334 - 3335 - 3336 - 3337 - 3338 - 3339 - 3340 - 3341 - 3342 - 3343 - 3344 - 3345 - 3346 - 3347 - 3348 - 3349 - 3350 - 3351 - 3352 - 3353 - 3354 - 3355 - 3356 - 3357 - 3358 - 3359 - 3360 - 3361 - 3362 - 3363 - 3364 - 3365 - 3366 - 3367 - 3368 - 3369 - 3370 - 3371 - 3372 - 3373 - 3374 - 3375 - 3376 - 3377 - 3378 - 3379 - 3380 - 3381 - 3382 - 3383 - 3384 - 3385 - 3386 - 3387 - 3388 - 3389 - 3390 - 3391 - 3392 - 3393 - 3394 - 3395 - 3396 - 3397 - 3398 - 3399 - 3400 - 3401 - 3402 - 3403 - 3404 - 3405 - 3406 - 3407 - 3408 - 3409 - 3410 - 3411 - 3412 - 3413 - 3414 - 3415 - 3416 - 3417 - 3418 - 3419 - 3420 - 3421 - 3422 - 3423 - 3424 - 3425 - 3426 - 3427 - 3428 - 3429 - 3430 - 3431 - 3432 - 3433 - 3434 - 3435 - 3436 - 3437 - 3438 - 3439 - 3440 - 3441 - 3442 - 3443 - 3444 - 3445 - 3446 - 3447 - 3448 - 3449 - 3450 - 3451 - 3452 - 3453 - 3454 - 3455 - 3456 - 3457 - 3458 - 3459 - 3460 - 3461 - 3462 - 3463 - 3464 - 3465 - 3466 - 3467 - 3468 - 3469 - 3470 - 3471 - 3472 - 3473 - 3474 - 3475 - 3476 - 3477 - 3478 - 3479 - 3480 - 3481 - 3482 - 3483 - 3484 - 3485 - 3486 - 3487 - 3488 - 3489 - 3490 - 3491 - 3492 - 3493 - 3494 - 3495 - 3496 - 3497 - 3498 - 3499 - 3500 - 3501 - 3502 - 3503 - 3504 - 3505 - 3506 - 3507 - 3508 - 3509 - 3510 - 3511 - 3512 - 3513 - 3514 - 3515 - 3516 - 3517 - 3518 - 3519 - 3520 - 3521 - 3522 - 3523 - 3524 - 3525 - 3526 - 3527 - 3528 - 3529 - 3530 - 3531 - 3532 - 3533 - 3534 - 3535 - 3536 - 3537 - 3538 - 3539 - 3540 - 3541 - 3542 - 3543 - 3544 - 3545 - 3546 - 3547 - 3548 - 3549 - 3550 - 3551 - 3552 - 3553 - 3554 - 3555 - 3556 - 3557 - 3558 - 3559 - 3560 - 3561 - 3562 - 3563 - 3564 - 3565 - 3566 - 3567 - 3568 - 3569 - 3570 - 3571 - 3572 - 3573 - 3574 - 3575 - 3576 - 3577 - 3578 - 3579 - 3580 - 3581 - 3582 - 3583 - 3584 - 3585 - 3586 - 3587 - 3588 - 3589 - 3590 - 3591 - 3592 - 3593 - 3594 - 3595 - 3596 - 3597 - 3598 - 3599 - 3600 - 3601 - 3602 - 3603 - 3604 - 3605 - 3606 - 3607 - 3608 - 3609 - 3610 - 3611 - 3612 - 3613 - 3614 - 3615 - 3616 - 3617 - 3618 - 3619 - 3620 - 3621 - 3622 - 3623 - 3624 - 3625 - 3626 - 3627 - 3628 - 3629 - 3630 - 3631 - 3632 - 3633 - 3634 - 3635 - 3636 - 3637 - 3638 - 3639 - 3640 - 3641 - 3642 - 3643 - 3644 - 3645 - 3646 - 3647 - 3648 - 3649 - 3650 - 3651 - 3652 - 3653 - 3654 -

the said deceased did depart this life indebted to Sundray persons - to present part and also for the purpas of Making a Divishion among the Legatees of said Decd prays that you could take our case into consideration and grant me an order of sale to be holden on the Plantation of said decd and credit of 12 months from the sale thereof & your Petitioner will be Ever Bound ----- this 16th day of August, 1823.

John Hitt, adm."

Sale Oct.2nd, 1823

Lazarus Hitt

John Hitt Adms.

Ready Money Book Accts	2.75
Plantation Tools	36.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
House Hold and Kitchen Furniture	74.57 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hogs and Cattle	47.02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Horses and Riding Chasis	98.00
Corn and Fodder	66.09 $\frac{1}{2}$
Note of Ham and James Ligon	100.00
Note of John Hitt	37.00
One Gun	5.00
Total	<u>\$466.56 $\frac{3}{4}$</u>

(How they collected the fractions of a cent is beyond me.)

Feb. 22, 1825. John Hitt, adm. of Lazarus Hitt, Reports moneys paid in 1823.

Paid Reuben Hitt on note	\$9.00
Oct.7,'23 " D.Anderson, ordinary fees	8.29
Feb.5,'24 " Lewis Ball moneys in hand of said Deceased for repairs on meeting house	13.62 $\frac{1}{2}$
"Wm. Ligon for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gals. of brandy for corn shucking of said Deceased.	1.50

Aug. 25, 1826. A return to the Ordinary of Laurens District of the Estate of Lazarus Hitt, Deceased, by John Hitt, Administratoe of said Estate, and the amount of Moneys paid to the Legatees:

Amount paid to Elizabeth Hitt	\$123.31
" " " Henry Hitt	30.83
" " " Lewis Ball	30.83
" " " Reuben Hitt	30.83
" " "A.Andrews for Benjamin Hitt	30.87
" " " John Garlington	26.54
" " " Simpson & Dunlap	4.28

\$277.49 $\frac{1}{2}$

Jesse Hitt, Deceased, one of the Legatees, departed this life leaving seven children, minors, entitled to the sum of \$30.83, to be divided amongst them. Evie, a Daughter of said Deceased, also a minor, entitled to the sum of \$30.83- which money I have ready to pay over to any person entitled to receive the same by law.

My part as son of sd Deceased and Legatee, hsym of \$30.83.

John x Hitt, Administrator.

mark

Box 85, Bundle 27, Laurens, S.C., Mch.7, 1833. Martin Ball makes Bond for Guardianship of Evie Hitt, minor of Lazarus Hitt, \$60. John Ball and Lewis Ball, sureties. Nov.27, 1833, Martin Ball, Guardian of Evy Hitt, receipts for \$48.09 from John Hitt, adm. of estate of Lazarus Hitt, Evy's part in full.

I. Henry Hitt⁴, born 1771 in Va., died 1830 in Laurens Co. S.C. He married Elizabeth Stevens, born 1771 - died 1844. Henry Hitt was a baptist minister and was the only son of Lazarus Hitt who remained in S.C. He left his estate to his wife " during her natural life or widowhood consisting of negroes, horses and other stock, household and kitchen furniture and plantation tools. Land on which he lived , 390 acres, on north side of creek (Cain Creek) for her support if she does not marry until Benjamin becomes 21. (sons Benjamin, Henry and Martin were under 21 when Henry wrote his will in 1828) ". Elizabeth didn't marry again , and when she died followed Henry's instructions to the letter. I have transcript of their wills - 12 pages including sale bill. The negroes sold brought nearly \$ 15,000. Most of them were bought by Henry's sons. As I have said before, it was customary to sell all the personal property by public auction, giving the members of the family of the deceased preference in the bidding. Real property was allotted by will.

1. Jesse Hitt⁵ born 1798 m Elizabeth S. Ball, dt. Wm Ball Halden daughter b6-2
2. Elizabeth Hitt⁵ born 1801 died 1826. Married Abraham Hollingsworth. Her children shared in Henry's will in 1830
3. William Hitt⁵, born 1808 - baptist minister.
4. Henry Hitt⁵, born ~~1811~~ 1810
5. Martin Hitt⁵, born ~~1804~~ 1812
6. Benjamin Hitt⁵, born 1814

Descendants of Henry Hitt⁴ still live on the original farms in Laurens Co. Miss Juanita Hitt (Jesse⁷, Ranier⁶, Benjamin⁵) has written that she has in her keeping a little chair that her great grandfather Benjamin² held onto and pushed along to learn to walk - and so did her grandfather, her father and she. Her father told her an old, odd story of Ben Hitt⁵: He was an extensive slave owner during that period and at a sale of slaves he bought quite a robust negro girl. It is said that he told her that after she had given birth to 20 negro slaves he would set her free. She gave birth to the 20 (in fact 21), but this 20th child was called "Free Jack". Free Jack later became the blacksmith for the community. The signs of this blacksmith shop are still in the front yard of the home of H.E. Hitt⁷ (Henry Lewis⁶, Benjamin⁵). H.E. Hitt's widow , Bessie Hollingsworth Hitt, wrote Joel Reuben Hitt in 1937 that the old Hitt home was a simple log and frame structure and still standing in a field near her home near Cross Hill, S.C.

II. Jesse Hitt⁴, born 1773. Died before 1823 in S.C. leaving widow and 7 children. Jesse married 1st. ~~828??~~ Hamilton and they had one son , Marshall Hitt. After his wife died, Jesse married her sister, Nancy Hamilton and they had 6 children, the oldest of whom was Jesse, jr. This Marshall Hitt and Jesse Hitt, Jr. with his mother and sisters and brothers came to Ala. with other Hitt kin. Jesse Jr. died in Green Co. Miss.

III. Daughter⁴, born 1775. Never married and died before Lazarus. 1823 Sarah d7-2 1846

IV. John Hitt⁴, born 1777. Not much is known about John. He married and had a daughter, Fanny Hitt, born 1799, died 1864, who became the 2nd. wife of Abraham Hollingsworth and was the grandmother of Mrs. H.E. Hitt of Cross Hill ,S.C. He also had 2 sons, Koon and John. It is possible that he "flowed south" into Ala. with the other Hitts. His grandchildren John Hollingsworth, Joe Hitt and Robert Hitt were in Laurens Co. He could have left 3 grown children in S.C. Died Aug 6, 1846

Sons - Lazarus - M. Charlotte Stephens 1-5-1836 in Ala - Green co -
 Oswald - Alred, son of John, M. Alcy, Jarman in South co. in 18

- V. Daughter⁴, born 1779, married Lewis Ball. One son, Martin ~~Ball~~ (B 1808) was guardian of Evie Hitt, Lazarus' minor daughter. Martin was a Baptist minister. He came to Miss. and became a noted evangelist. His son and ~~grandson~~ followed in his steps.
- VI. Reuben Hitt⁴, born 1781 in Va. died 1855 in Webster Co., Miss. This is the Reuben Hitt who was the grandfather of Joel Reuben Hitt⁴ (1874-1967) of Clinton, Miss. He was married 1st. to Martha Hamilton and 2nd. to Nancy Hitt. His biography and children are given later. Page 16.
- VII. Benjamin Hitt⁴, born ~~1783~~^{Aug 15, 1786}, married Milly ?. Benjamin and Milly sold their land to his brother Henry in 1823 and went to Ala. He died in Sumter Co. in 1850 - ~~Sept 11~~¹⁷.
- VIII. Daughter⁴, born 1783 married John Garlington.

Children of Lazarus Hitt and his 2nd. wife, Elizabeth

- I. Evie⁴, born ca. 1814

Virginia St. Library, 12th & Capitol Streets, Richmond VA 23219

I do hereby certify that I have recd of Lazarus Hitt three Quarts of Brandy furnished by the said Lazarus Hitt for the use of the Common Wealth agreeable to an Act of Assembly entitled an act for procuring a supply of provisions & other necessaries for the use of the Army.

20th Sep - 1780

3 Quarts Brandy £ 18-15

William Omond Com: of the Tax for Traugier Co.

Reuben Hitt was born in Fauquier County, Virginia May 24, 1781. The son of Lazarus Hitt and his wife Agnes Martin Hitt, Reuben left Va. when he was four years old and came to South Carolina with his family in 1785. The first U.S. census in 1790 shows him living with his parents in Laurens Co., S.C., a nine year old boy at that time. His old grandfather, Joseph, and his Uncle Peter and their families had come from Va. at the same time. They bought land which they paid for with "Virginia money". It is possible that they came earlier because they disappeared from the Fauquier Co. records in 1783, which could indicate that they left Va. as early as 1782. At any rate, the first deed in Laurens Co. S.C. to a Hitt was dated 1785. Reuben had been born during the Revolution and as soon as the war was over many of the Va. Hitts moved out to seek new lands. Washington had declared the war at an end in April, 1783 and the final treaty was signed in Sept. of the same year.

Reuben Hitt married a daughter of Robert Hamilton, Martha Hamilton, as shown by Robert Hamilton's will, Box 32, Bundle 15, Laurens, S.C. Executors of this will were Reuben Hitt and Robert Hollingsworth, another son-in-law. Martha died before this estate was settled in 1816, and Reuben received her share.

Reuben Hitt bought 142½ acres on Mudlick creek for \$213.75 in 1813 (Clerk's office, Laurens, S.C. Book K - 137) and after his wife died lived on there until the early 30s when he decided to move his family to Mississippi. His oldest son Lazarus had married in S.C. and may have come on to Miss. before Reuben since Lazarus sold his land in 1826. It's more probable though that they all came at the same time. Many of the S.C. Hitts had started moving out ~~xxxxxx~~ in the early 1820s, moving south to Alabama seeking fertile land. Many who came to Ala. moved on over into East Miss. Reuben and his children came directly to Choctaw ~~xxxxxx~~ territory and settled there. Although parts of Miss. (south, south central, along the gulf coast and up the Miss. river) had been settled before, the north and northeast was a densely wooded wilderness. Choctaw Co. was formed in 1833 and ~~Chickasaw~~ Chickasaw in 1836. With no roads and slow modes of travel, the north Miss. Hitts seldom saw their kin living in east Miss. In fact, it was quite a trip to visit nearby. In those days of frontier life the settlers wore little that was not made at home (homemade coonskin caps and deerskin leggings) and ate little that was not produced on the farm.

Reuben bought land in what is now Webster Co. organized in 1874, and his boys bought land nearby ~~in~~ that was formed into ~~into~~ Calhoun Co. in 1852. Soon after coming to Miss. Reuben's youngest son, William, died and is the first person buried in Gary cemetery near Embury, Miss. He was 18 years old. His other children married, ~~and~~ and settled in homes of their own. Reuben must have been lonely because he went back to South Carolina in the early 1840s and wooed and won Nancy Hitt, a 20 year old cousin whom he had held on his knee when she was a baby. Nancy was the granddaughter of Peter Hitt and his wife Mary Hitt, being the daughter of their 4th son Larkin Hitt. She was only 20 years old when Reuben married her while Reuben was 61. Their first child was born in Laurens, S.C. and when she was 9 months old they returned to Miss. where they had 5 more children.

Reuben died in 1855 but Nancy lived on until 1899., Sept. 19. Both are buried in Gary Cemetary about 6 miles south of Slate Springs near the post office called Embry, Miss. in Webster Co.

Old Reuben was a full-blooded German, being directly descended from 5 of the 13 German immigrants who came to Va. in 1714. His mother was Agnes Martin, granddaughter of John Joseph Martin; his grandmother was Mary Cuntz, daughter of Joseph Cuntz; and his great grandmother was Elizabeth Otterback, daughter of Hermann Otterback. Hermann Otterback and his 2 sons died soon after reaching America, leaving only daughters so he has no descendants by name. Reuben hated slavery and there is no record of his ever owning one, although his brothers did. He was full of the pioneering spirit. An old ~~xxxxxx~~ handwritten note states that Reuben went to Indiana in 1839 but found the climate so cold that he stayed less than a year. He was 72 years old when his last child was born and still in good health until he sickened and died in 1855. His other Great Grandmother was Catherine Weaver, d. of John Henry Weaver.

Children of Reuben Hitt and his first wife Martha Hamilton

1. Lazarus Hitt born S.C. 1801 - died Miss. 1859. Married Edna Fachie born 1799 Buried in Pleasant Hill cemetary near Slate Springs in Calhoun Co. Miss.
 - A. Whitfield Hitt, born 1819 in S.C. married Amelia Easley, born 1824 in Ala. and had children: 1. Francis M. born 1841, 2. James W. born 1844, 3. Nancy born 1848.
 - B. Eliza Hitt (Reuben Wash. Hitt was killed in the Siege of Corinth)
 - C. Betsy Hitt
 - D. Reuben Washington Hitt born Feb. 25, 1823 - died 1864. Married Mary Jane Williford (1825-1902) and had children: 1. John L. born 1850, 2. F. Caught born 1851, 3. Francis Marion born Mar. 2, 1852 - died Jan. 22, 1935, Married Mary J. Batchelor, 4. William L. (1854-1916), 5. James Reuben (1856-1940), 6. George Washington (1858-1939), 7. Sally Hitt born 1860, married - Barton, 8. Eliza born 1862, married David Fox and moved to Ark.
2. Martha Hitt married ---- Smith.
3. James Hitt born Jan. 23, 1810- died 1889. Married Martha Parker (1820-1884) July 27, 1837. Both buried at "Mulberry", a community burial ground near Lodi, Miss. James owned a store at Bellefontaine, Miss. and was Sheriff of Choctaw Co. in 1852. Children were: 1. Priscilla Alice born Sept. 21, 1838, married David Malone, 2. Reuben born May 28, 1840, lost a leg at Battle of Perryville and died soon after unmarried, 3. Richard born Sept. 1, 1842 and died Oct. 28, 1852, 4. John Hitt born Apr 20, 1844, killed in Batt. of Franklin Nov. 30, 1864.
4. William, died at 18 years of age and was the first person buried in Gary Cemetary.

Reuben Hitt married a daughter of Robert Hambleton as shown by Robert Hambleton's will, Box 32, Bundle 15, Laurens, S.C: April 18, 1812 appraisors appointed for estate of Robert Hamilton for whom Robert Hollingsworth and Reuben Hitt are executors; Aug. 23, 1816 return of Robert Hollingsworth executor of Robert Hamilton dec'd showing distribution to heirs:

"Paid to Reuben Hitch one of Legatees the whole of his legacy	\$27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paid to John Semple Husband of Betsy Hamilton his legacy in full	"27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paid to Jepey Hitt husband of Nancy Hambleton his legacy in full	27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paid to Thomas Heard husband of Marey Hambleton his legacy in full	27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paid to Jepey Hitt guardian of Marshall Hitt the sum of one of the legatees	27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Retain in my own hands as husband of Jane Hambleton one of legatees	27.93 $\frac{1}{2}$

- I. Sarah (Sally) Hitt⁵, born Feb. 22, 1844 in Laurens County, S.C. Came to Webster County, Miss. when 8 months old. Married James Smith. Children: Jennie, Mollie, Reuben, Alice, Florence, Emma, Billy, Tommy and Wilborne.
- II. Henry Hitt⁵, born June 3, 1847, died Jan. 7, 1931. Married Sept. 19, 1872, Tabitha Jane Swindoll, born Dec. 19, 1852, died May 25, 1905. Henry married 2nd Docia Ware and they had 2 children, but Henry and Tabitha Jane had children:
 - A. William Lee Hitt, b. June 9, 1873, d. Nov. 28, 1906.
 - B. George Hitt, b. Sept. 16, 1875, married Maggie ~~—?~~ ^{Bennett}
 - C. Nancy Theodocia Hitt, b. Dec. 24, 1878, d. Aug. 3, 1879.
 - D. James Henry Hitt, b. Aug. 7, 1880.
 - E. Simeon Flavius Hitt, b. June 4, 1883, married Susie Tally.
 - F. Martin John Thomas Hitt, b. May 4, 1887.
 - G. David Cooper Hitt, b. Feb. 4, 1891.
 - H. Carrie Dot Hitt, b. Aug. 28, 1893, d. July 2, 1894.
 - I. Alma Janie Hitt, b. Dec. 4, 1895, Mar. Arthur Carroll, Nov. 4, 1916.
- III. Reuben Martin Hitt⁵, born Apr. 16, 1849 at Bellefontaine, Webster County, Miss., died Sept. 13, 1932 at Goss, in Marion County Miss. Married Mary Emma Hughes. More of Reuben Martin later.
- IV. Nancy Ann Hitt⁵, born Bellefontaine Feb. 9, 1851, died April 10, 1919. Married Thomas Swindoll, born Sept. 5, 1841, died May 16, 1920. Children:
 - A. Belle Swindoll m ? Wall.
 - B. Reuben Swindoll
 - C. Xeles Swindoll
 - D. Sarah Georgia Swindoll, born 1883, married Reuben Imri Oswalt, both living Bellfountain in 1970.
 - E. Debbie Swindoll.
- V. George Washington Hitt⁵, born Dec. 16, 1853 at Bellefontaine, died May 25, 1927 at Goss in Marion County, Miss. Married Jan. 27, 1878 Henrietta Gillis, born Sept. 30, 1854, died Dec. 28, 1911. Children:
 - A. Kate Hubbard Hitt, b. 1881, m. Dewitt Ellzey and had one child, Edith Ellzey, who married Dave Black and had 2 boys: Dave Black, Jr. and Robert Black.
 - B. Pearl Hitt, b. 1882, d. Aug. 7, 1917. Married ? Hancock and had Aubrey Hancock and Odie Hancock. Married 2nd. W.B. Knapp and had Mavis Knapp, m. Irving Drake; and William Knapp, Jr. who married Thelma Sanders.
 - C. Luther Martin Hitt, b. 1878, d. Dec., 1963. Married and had 2 children: Luther Earl Hitt and Jack Hitt, unmarried, died June, 1969.
 - D. Grover Hitt, b. 1885, d. Oct. 20, 1907. Not married.
 - E. Maie Hitt, b. 1887, d. Jan. 11, 1907. Not married.
 - F. Fox Ezra Hitt, b. Feb. 8, 1892, d. Aug. 8, 1969. Married Nov. 5, 1925, Eula Florence Sanford from Monroe, La. Children:
 1. Walter Dell Hitt, b. Aug. 13, 1926. Married Betty Jo Thurman. Children: Lewis Ray Hitt, b. Mar. 27, 1949; Barbara Dell Hitt, b. Jan. 18, 1954. Living, 2621 7th Ave., Laurel, Miss. 39440 in 1972.
 2. Robert Dunn Hitt, b. Aug. 23, 1927, m. Beulah Proter. 4 children.
 - G. Zack Hitt, b. 1899, married Willie Lou Stucky. No children.
 - H. Alvin Hitt, b. 1889-d. Feb. 1, 1918. Never married.
 - I. Pratt Hitt, b. 1897, d. June 26, 1898.

Reuben Martin Hitt⁵
(Reuben⁴, Lazarus³, Joseph², Peter¹)

Papaw's (F)

Reuben Martin Hitt was born April 16, 1849 at Bellefontaine, Webster County, Miss. when his father, Reuben, was 68 years old and his mother, Nancy, was 27 years old. Old Reuben died when Martin was a small boy, 6 years old, but his mother was young and strong and kept the family together and managed to raise them with the help from good neighbors and from her stepchildren. Lazarus, Reuben's oldest son, was 21 years older than Nancy, his stepmother, and died just a few years later, but James, the other son, lived on to 1889.

Papaw's (M)

On Dec. 24, 1872, Martin married 17 year old Mary Emma Hughes, born Sept. 20, 1855. Mary Emma was the daughter of Joel Hughes, born Nov. 20, 1830 and killed in the Battle of Shiloh April 6, 1862, and his wife Elizabeth Gary Hughes. During the next 20 years they had 8 children. Mary Emma's mother (Mrs. Joel Hughes) lived with them.

Martin Hitt was a planter and a teacher. He built a school house and conducted classes for all the children in the community. By the time his oldest son, Joel Reuben, was 12 years old he was helping by teaching the younger children and hearing the classes of the others when Martin had to go to the fields.

In 1897, Reuben Martin decided to take his family to Texas. He had heard that they had fine schools and churches there and the opportunities were great. However, when winter came, they found the cold almost unbearable. The children were sick all winter, and during the 2nd winter, Grandmother Hughes died (Elizabeth Gary Hughes). That was the final straw! Martin packed up and came back to Miss. This time he settled in Marion County, near Columbia, Miss. Soon after returning to Miss., Martin's wife, Mary Emma, became ill and died Feb. 3, 1901. At this time none of Martin's children was married although several were grown. His youngest was only 9 years old.

He continued to maintain a home for his children and see that they got a good education - all became teachers except one. One daughter never married and looked after her father until he died after a long illness Sept. 13, 1932. Both Martin and Mary Emma are buried in the Bunker Hill cemetery in Marion County, near Columbia.

Martin Hitt was the only grandparent I had - the others having died either before I was born or so soon after that I didn't remember them. I remember Grandpa well. He was a tall, slender, small-boned man with twinkling blue eyes, very erect even when an old man, and had a peculiar gait - a loose-kneed way of walking with the legs swung from the hips and the knees swinging outward slightly while the body seemed to glide along on wheels. This gait was so pronounced in my father and my 4 brothers that when any one of them approached, it was impossible to tell which one it was until he came close enough for you to see the features of his face. I never lived near enough to spend much time with Grandpa, seeing him only on visits, family reunions etc., but I was always so happy to be at his house. He always had a bunch of little children around him and could entertain them for hours (his grandchildren). Also, he had a wonderful fruit orchard and grape arbor. And always he had a tobacco patch. No one

else could grow tobacco there . I guess Grandpa had a green thumb. He could put up with anything from the children but just don't bother his tobacco patch. He rolled the tobacco into cigars and smoked it in his pipe.

When he died those of his grandsons who bore his body to the grave were very proud.

I found an old letter in my father's papers from a man Grandpa had taught in Webster County. There's no envelope. Perhaps Mr. Golden attended Grandpa's funeral and handed the pages to my father.

" Dear Joel - Here are some verses in memory of your sainted father. Glad I saw you today. You are a great man. I thank God for your life of usefulness. Webster County had produced some great men. You are one of them. May God bless you and those you love.

Your old boyhood friend,
Wm. M. Golden

"In loving memory of my dear old teacher Prof. R. M. Hitt
By William M. Golden

" My dear old teacher is at rest,
From sorrow he is free;
He's gone on home to be with God,
Throughout Eternity.

*

"He lived a life above reproach,
His heart was true and kind;
He left this earth of sin and woe,
A better home to find.

*

*

" He taught me in my childhood days,
Always to be a man:
He taught me not to say:"I can't",
But always say: "I can".

" And I accepted what he said,
A long long time ago;
He taught me that The Son of God,
Would make me white as snow.

" And I thank God for his dear life,
For all that he taught me;
And praise the Lord we'll meet again
When I put out to sea."

Jessie Hughes
(Great Grandfather of Joel Reuben Hitt)

Jesse Hughes, born Oct. 14, 1788 in Virginia, came to South Carolina as a young man and married there Dorcas Johnson, born in S.C. July 10, 1792, daughter of Benjamin Johnson, Jr. and his wife Ann. Jesse and Ann came into Ala. (Tuscaloosa), and all their children were grown before they came to Miss. - Billy ,the youngest was 14. Jesse and Ann came to Miss. with some of their children in 1845 and settled in what is now Webster County. I have the old land deed that was made to him three months after his oldest son Daniel had bought it. Daniel did not come to Miss., however he did purchase, for \$750, a big tract of land in 1845 but sold it to his father very soon. Jesse died Nov. 6, 1858, and his wife died July 29, 1856. Both are buried near Slate Springs in Webster County, Miss.

Children of Jesse Hughes and Dorcas Johnson Hughes

- I. Mary Ann Caroline (Polly) Hughes, born Nov. 20, 1811, died Oct. 25, 1896. Buried at Bethany in Webster County. Married 1st. to Leroy M. Finnell; 2nd to Jacob Fox. Had large family.
- II. Joseph Hughes born Nov. 3, 1813. Died young.
- III. Daniel Hughes born Aug. 17, 1815, died Feb. 14, 1859 (thrown against a tree by a horse), buried near old home place in Tuscaloosa County, Ala. Married Charlotte Bell and had large family.
- IV. Ann Hughes, born June 14, 1817. Married Malachi Fox.
- V. Sarah Hughes, born June 12, 1819. Married Henry (Hally) Fox and became the mother of Capt. Fuller Fox and the grandmother of Gen. Fox Conner.
- VI. Eunice (Unity) Hughes, born Aug. 27, 1821, married Milton Mills.
- VII. Elizabeth Hughes born Aug 19, 1823. Married Tennessee McGuire.
- VIII. Grace Hughes born Oct. 20, 1826. Married Thomas Perry Macon.
- IX. Joel Hughes born Nov. 20, 1830. Died April 6, 1862. More of Joel later.
- X. William Hughes, born Dec. 29, 1832. Married Harriet Moore - no children. (This is the Billy mentioned in the letter from Joel Hughes to his wife Elizabeth Gary Hughes. Joel asks that his younger brother not volunteer until he , Joel, came back home. Joel never came back home for he was killed soon after he wrote. Billy did volunteer and died).
- XI. Martha Hughes, born in Ala. Nov. 12, 1838. Died in Webster County, Miss. March 15, 1908. Married Reuben D. Ransom and had large family.

Joel Hughes

(Joel Reuben Hitt's Grandfather)

Joel Hughes was born in Tuscaloosa County, Ala. Nov. 20, 1830. He came to Choctaw County (now Webster County) with his parents, Jesse Hughes and Dorcas Johnson Hughes, and other members of the family when he was 17 years old. They settled on land adjoining that of the Hitts and the Garys and in 1851 Joel married Elizabeth Ann Gary, daughter of Mose Gary.

Joel was a farmer , but he also wrote legal papers. In that time it was considered a great art to be able to write a beautiful hand. I have several samples of his handwriting with flourishes and curls. When the Civil War started Joel volunteered and was killed in the Battle of Shiloh April 6, 1862. His wife died in Texas where she had gone with her daughter Mary Emma Hughes Hitt in 1899.

Joel and Elizabeth had five children: Joseph Hughes, Ann Hughes, Mary Emma Hughes, James Hughes and Joel D. Hughes. I don't have the dates of birth of all these children right now. Of course Mary Emma was born 1855 and became the wife of Reuben Martin Hitt. Joel David Hitt was born August 19, 1861 and was the baby his father couldn't remember except that he looked like his brother James.

I will give Joel Hughes' letter (the last one he wrote) he wrote to his wife Elizabeth just as he wrote it. (I have the original). It tells what kind of a man Joel was better than I could. Also it is interesting because it describes the conditions , and agrees with what has been written in history. Bruce Catton, in The Civil War, telling about the Battle of Shiloh, writes that Sherman and Grant are attacked by the confederates from Corinth under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, " the green-as-grass rebels marched 25 miles, ambling along, whooping and shouting, firing their guns just to see if they would work, driving their officers into a frenzy".

Joel Hughes was a Lieutenant when he wrote this letter but was elected Captain of his company the next day. The Margaret mentioned in his letter was a house servant.

Dear Lizzie,

As I have a chance to send you a letter by hand I will write a few lines tonight to let you know that I am well. I sent you a letter day before yesterday by mail giving you a description of my tower of sickness after we came up here. I wrote to you that I had got well but the exposure in getting with the Regiment gave me a bad cold. With this exception I am now in good health. I have no war news to write. It is expected however that there will be a fight near here in a short time. The pickets of the two armies have been fighting some between this place and the Tennessee River a distance of about twenty miles. It is reported by pickets that they are concentrating heavy forces fifteen or twenty miles from this place. We have a heavy force in this vicinity and all along the Railroad between this place and Tusculumbia and it is now believed by all hands that we will have a big fight between here and the river. One or two of the Regiments of our brigade went of(f) in that direction last night after dark without tents or anything but their blankets. We are all ready for them. Our company and Battalion is armed with the finest kind of Springfield muskets plenty of cartridges and all right. The only thing in our way is sickness. There are several of our boys very sick. Tip Holland, Wm. Arnold, James Simpson and several others are very sick. I have 32 in our company on the sick list. We have 100 men in our company. ~~22~~ 20 of them are at home and 79 in Camps and 1 in the hospital at Tusculumbia. Poor fellow he is ^{without} without any of his friends with him and I fear that he will die. We are going to send one or two of the boys off to a house in the morning. We have no straw or plants(plank?) to sleep on here. James Ingram is discharged and he will start home in the morning and carry this letter to you. Captain Pittman will also go home if he is able. He had resigned and been discharged or will get his discharge tomorrow. We will elect another Captain in a few days. I cannot tell who. There are but few however in the Company qualified to discharge the duties of the office. Some of them want me to run but I don't think that I shall.

Lizzie I want to hear from you so bad. It only lacks one or two days of being a month since I heard from you and I am uneasy about you for fear some of you are sick. Poor little children how bad. I want to see them all. Lizzie I have forgot how the little babe looked and I cannot recollect how he looked to save my life only by knowing that he (we belong to General Wood's brigade the 1st of this division) favored Jimmy, but it is impossible for me to see any of you at anytime soon as there is no chance to get a furlough home. The 15th Regiment came to Decatur Ala while I was there sick. Several of the boys went to see me. They were all nearly worn out. Dear Lizzie, let not our separation depress your feelings too much, but be as lively as possible and take care of your children and what you have around you. Be careful about fire and make Margaret be careful. I am uneasy about the old chimneys for fear they will burn up all you have. Then be careful how the fires are left at night. Don't let none of the little children go to the spring by themselves. There is no day passes (by? hole in paper) but what I think about these things and it makes me uneasy. Lizzie send me a letter by everyone that is passing. Tell my friends to write to me. There are several of our boys at home. Dennis Dil is there, James Goldson, Nail Dickens, Tell Taylor to find out when they start back and write by them, as letters are uncertain by mail. Tell Taylor to write to me and tell me how he is getting along. If Billy has not volunteered tell him to stay at home until I come home if I ever do. Lizzie it is getting late and I must close my letter. When I go to bed at night I can feel the cold ground under me though the weather has moderated and is tolerable pleasant here now. All of our neighbor boys are well. I saw Jacob Bingham the other day. He was well. They are now at Iuka. Nearly all of our officers are sick except myself and Langston. I have boxed up one pair of pants and my overshirt and started them home. I will not want them nor cannot carry them with me. I am allowed a company desk, and the Major allows me to carry my trunk in place of a desk. Lizzie do for yourself and children the best you can, and if any of you gets sick have the doctor with you. Write and give me all the news. Nothing more at present but remain your Absent friend until we meet again. Goodbye Lizzie.

Direct yours

thus:

Or send your letters to Albert Young
and let him back them for you.

To the care of
Lt. D. J. Langston
Commanding
Co. D of 38 Batt.
Miss. Infantry

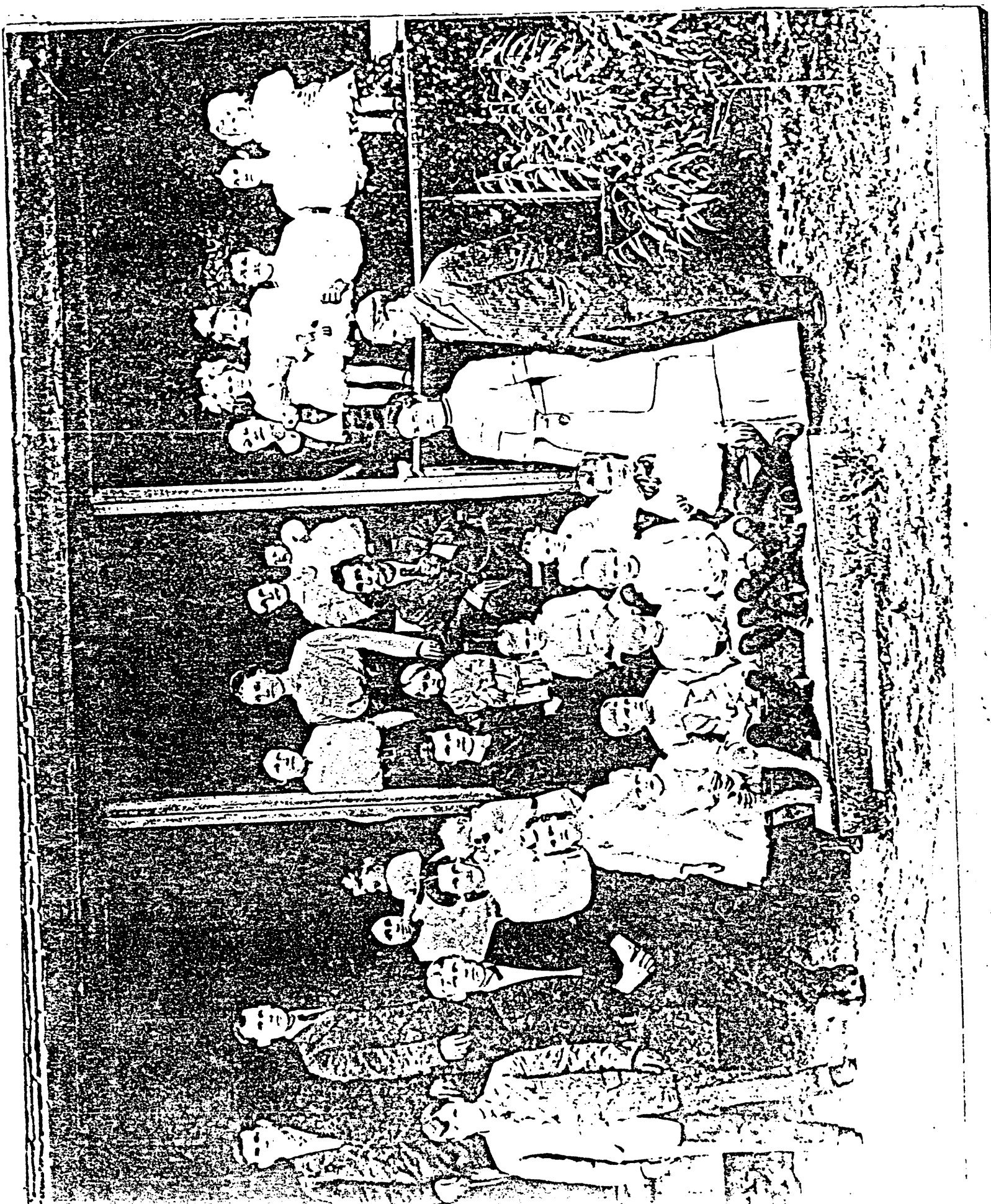
Joel Hughes

Joel Hughes
Corinth
Miss.

1. Joel Reuben Hitt, born Oct. 24, 1874 at Bellfontaine, Webster Co. Miss. Married Elizabeth Robertson, born Feb. 12, 1885, at Columbia, Miss. Dec. 25, 1904. Joel died July 22, 1967 and is buried at Clinton Cemetery in Clinton, Miss. Joel and Elizabeth had 7 children.
- II. Martin Hughes Hitt, born Feb. 23, 1876 in Bellfontaine, Webster Co. Miss. Married Sally McNeese Dec. 6, 1902. Sally born 1882-died Feb. 3, 1972.
 1. Jessie Fern Hitt, born Sept. 28, 1902, Married 1st. Oscar Gibson and had two children: A. Evelyn Noverta, died when baby and B. Jessie Meile married Jerry Monce. 2nd. husband was Roy Williamson. Fern living in Jackson, Miss. at 3119 Alameda Drive in 1972.
 2. Moody Hitt, married Alberta Turnage and had 7 children: Fay Jean m Jimmy Langford and has 2 children, Jimmy and Glenda; B. Jacqueline m James Rayborn and has 3 children Eliz., Pamela and Rebecca; C. Peggy Joe m Warren Thomas; D. Phillip Glen m Elka - - and has 3 children Gordon, Phillip and Gwendoline; E. Charles Hughes m Margret Smith and has 1 son Charles Hughes; F. Gary m Jerry Stephenson and has 1 son Erick; G. Tim m Carolyn Williamson.
 3. William Taft Hitt married Floyd Robbins and had 2 children: Patsy and Lynn m --- Robbins.
 4. James Otis Hitt, born May 26, 1918. Died in car wreck Dec. 6, 1964. Married March 28, 1949 to Irma Lillian Campbell, born Sept. 28, 1926, daughter of Garner Thomas Campbell, b. Liberty, Miss. Oct. 2, 1903 and his wife Arthurine Bell, b. Columbia, Miss. Dec. 3, 1903. Jim Otis and Lillian had 2 children: Martin Thomas Hitt, b. Columbia, Miss. May 3, 1950 and Irma Lillian Hitt, b. Columbia, Miss. March 27, 1953.
- III. Alice Irene Hitt, born at Bellfontaine in Webster Co., Miss. Aug. 17, 1878. ~~Married James Hitt, b. 1907, Dr. Burrel Samuel Hood, who died at Bond, Miss.~~ Married Thomas Calvin Robbins April 12, 1903. Alice died April 30, 1951 and both are buried at Bunker Hill in Marion Co., Miss. Alice and Calvin had 4 sons: A. Grayson Robbins, b. 12-23-03, m Odie Allen; B. Mason Robbins b. 10-13-04, m Lucile Polk; C. Stanley Robbins, b. 9-6-06, m. Augusta Simmons and had 2 children: ~~William~~ and James Thomas; D. Martin Robbins B. 8-11-08, m. Katie Mae Weatherford.
- IV. Edgeworth Shyves Hitt, born Dec. 30, 1880 in Bellefontaine. Died Oct. 27, 1936 and is buried at Hattiesburg, Miss. Edgie married June 16, 1907 Dr. Burrel Samuel Hood, who died at Bond, Miss. when his children were small. They had 2 children: 1. Thelma Thorne Hood, b. Sept. 11, 1908. M. H.L. Kelly. No children; and 2. Burrel Samuel (Bill) Hood, b Feb. 7, 1911. Married Juel Boyd and had 3 children: Bill Hood III, Fred Hood, and Candy Hood.
- V. James Washington Hitt, born June 16, 1883 at Bellefontaine, Miss, Died Dec. 17, 1962. Married in June, Ida Morris, born Aug. 23, died Aug. 7, 1966. Both are buried at Bunker Hill, Miss. They had 2 children: 1. James Aven, b 3-16-08, m Ethel Daniels and had 1 son, James William Hitt and 2. Emma Mary Hitt, b 9-10-09, m Garvin Allen and had 2 children: James and Charlotte.
- VI. Elizabeth Jane Hitt, born Nov. 30, 1885 at Bellfontaine. Never married. Died Oct. 14, 1956. Buried at Columbia, Miss.
- VII. Winnie Folsie Hitt, born May 16, 1888 at Bellfontaine. Married Aug. 15, 1917 to Louis Grey Hood. Living in Columbia, Miss. 1972. Three children: 1. Louis Grey Hood, Jr. born Nov. 30, 1918. Died Jan. 30, 1942 in plane crash at Randolph Field, Texas. Pilot, WWII. Unmarried; 2. Elizabeth Byrle Hood, born Oct. 13, 1920 at Goss, Miss. Married Edgar Earl Sims Feb. 24, 1946. Living at Columbia, Miss. 1972. three children: (a) Byrle Hood Sims,

Folsie TAUGHT School from the age of 14 for more than 40 yrs.

Children Of Reuben Martin Hitt and his wife Mary Emma Hughes: ^{contd.} ²⁵ ²⁶ ²⁷ ²⁸ ²⁹ ³⁰ ³¹ ³² ³³ ³⁴ ³⁵ ³⁶ ³⁷ ³⁸ ³⁹ ⁴⁰ ⁴¹ ⁴² ⁴³ ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ ⁴⁸ ⁴⁹ ⁵⁰ ⁵¹ ⁵² ⁵³ ⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ ⁵⁷ ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ ⁶¹ ⁶² ⁶³ ⁶⁴ ⁶⁵ ⁶⁶ ⁶⁷ ⁶⁸ ⁶⁹ ⁷⁰ ⁷¹ ⁷² ⁷³ ⁷⁴ ⁷⁵ ⁷⁶ ⁷⁷ ⁷⁸ ⁷⁹ ⁸⁰ ⁸¹ ⁸² ⁸³ ⁸⁴ ⁸⁵ ⁸⁶ ⁸⁷ ⁸⁸ ⁸⁹ ⁹⁰ ⁹¹ ⁹² ⁹³ ⁹⁴ ⁹⁵ ⁹⁶ ⁹⁷ ⁹⁸ ⁹⁹ ¹⁰⁰ ¹⁰¹ ¹⁰² ¹⁰³ ¹⁰⁴ ¹⁰⁵ ¹⁰⁶ ¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁸ ¹⁰⁹ ¹¹⁰ ¹¹¹ ¹¹² ¹¹³ ¹¹⁴ ¹¹⁵ ¹¹⁶ ¹¹⁷ ¹¹⁸ ¹¹⁹ ¹²⁰ ¹²¹ ¹²² ¹²³ ¹²⁴ ¹²⁵ ¹²⁶ ¹²⁷ ¹²⁸ ¹²⁹ ¹³⁰ ¹³¹ ¹³² ¹³³ ¹³⁴ ¹³⁵ ¹³⁶ ¹³⁷ ¹³⁸ ¹³⁹ ¹⁴⁰ ¹⁴¹ ¹⁴² ¹⁴³ ¹⁴⁴ ¹⁴⁵ ¹⁴⁶ ¹⁴⁷ ¹⁴⁸ ¹⁴⁹ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵¹ ¹⁵² ¹⁵³ ¹⁵⁴ ¹⁵⁵ ¹⁵⁶ ¹⁵⁷ ¹⁵⁸ ¹⁵⁹ ¹⁶⁰ ¹⁶¹ ¹⁶² ¹⁶³ ¹⁶⁴ ¹⁶⁵ ¹⁶⁶ ¹⁶⁷ ¹⁶⁸ ¹⁶⁹ ¹⁷⁰ ¹⁷¹ ¹⁷² ¹⁷³ ¹⁷⁴ ¹⁷⁵ ¹⁷⁶ ¹⁷⁷ ¹⁷⁸ ¹⁷⁹ ¹⁸⁰ ¹⁸¹ ¹⁸² ¹⁸³ ¹⁸⁴ ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ ¹⁸⁷ ¹⁸⁸ ¹⁸⁹ ¹⁹⁰ ¹⁹¹ ¹⁹² ¹⁹³ ¹⁹⁴ ¹⁹⁵ ¹⁹⁶ ¹⁹⁷ ¹⁹⁸ ¹⁹⁹ ²⁰⁰ ²⁰¹ ²⁰² ²⁰³ ²⁰⁴ ²⁰⁵ ²⁰⁶ ²⁰⁷ ²⁰⁸ ²⁰⁹ ²¹⁰ ²¹¹ ²¹² ²¹³ ²¹⁴ ²¹⁵ ²¹⁶ ²¹⁷ ²¹⁸ ²¹⁹ ²²⁰ ²²¹ ²²² ²²³ ²²⁴ ²²⁵ ²²⁶ ²²⁷ ²²⁸ ²²⁹ ²³⁰ ²³¹ ²³² ²³³ ²³⁴ ²³⁵ ²³⁶ ²³⁷ ²³⁸ ²³⁹ ²⁴⁰ ²⁴¹ ²⁴² ²⁴³ ²⁴⁴ ²⁴⁵ ²⁴⁶ ²⁴⁷ ²⁴⁸ ²⁴⁹ ²⁵⁰ ²⁵¹ ²⁵² ²⁵³ ²⁵⁴ ²⁵⁵ ²⁵⁶ ²⁵⁷ ²⁵⁸ ²⁵⁹ ²⁶⁰ ²⁶¹ ²⁶² ²⁶³ ²⁶⁴ ²⁶⁵ ²⁶⁶ ²⁶⁷ ²⁶⁸ ²⁶⁹ ²⁷⁰ ²⁷¹ ²⁷² ²⁷³ ²⁷⁴ ²⁷⁵ 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26

JOEL REUBEN HITT⁶

(Reuben Martin⁵, Reuben⁴, Lazarus³, Joseph², Peter¹)

Joel Reuben Hitt, the oldest son of Reuben Martin Hitt and his wife Mary Emma Hughes Hitt, was born on Oct. 24, 1874 at Bellefontaine, in Webster County, Miss. By the time he was 12 years old he was helping his father teach school by hearing the classes of the younger pupils and keeping order while his father had to be out of the classroom. Later he attended school in Eupora, Miss.

As I have mentioned before, in 1897 Grandpa, Reuben Martin, decided to move his family to Texas. Earlier his half-brother James' daughter, Priscilla Alice Hitt Malone (1838-1888), had moved to Texas on account of her health, and I'm sure this influenced Grandpa in his decision. From the memoirs of Priscilla's daughter, Martha Florence Malone Waller (1857-1936) (sent to me by Mrs. J.H. Soper, Priscilla's great granddaughter), who went to Texas with her parents:

" ** my husband and I, with our baby daughter, moved with my parents to Fort Worth, Texas, on account of my mother's health. It was at that time a cosmopolitan community of five thousand people, with fine schools and many churches. There was an Episcopal Church with a splendid rectory, a brilliant preacher, a fine choir; for twenty years I sang in the choir of Saint Andrew's Church, and for thirty years was the president of the Altar Build. Society then was far superior to what it is today (1934). We had splendid concerts, opera, lectures, theater.

"My father bought a home on the corner of Fourth and Burnett Streets, and my husband built next door. "

In Texas, Joel attended Coronal Institute, completing the course of ⁴ in 197.

study there at Athens in two years. Nearly fifty years later my youngest brother Joel, Jr. wrote his father from Wharton, Texas where he had gone to obtain information regarding a subject of one of his cases (F.B.I.): " I talked for some time with Mrs. Sid Border, who was Eola Hudgins before she married. She asked me where my home is located and I advised her with pride that it is in Mississippi. She said that she had gone to school with a boy named Joel Hitt and that she thought I might be related to him. She further stated that it was between the fall term of 1894 and the closing term of 1898 at Coronal Institute. I said, "Lady, that was my Dad". She went on to say that Joel Hitt was a handsome, slim, neat, clean, industrious lad and I said that was my Dad! She didn't recall whether or not she had any classes with you but was of the opinion that she had not had much association with you. But - she remembered you and that is some-

at Columbia, Marion County, Miss. he married Elizabeth Margania Robertson, born Feb. 12, 1885, daughter of James Robertson (1858-1908) and Sarah Bourn Robertson (1860-1914) and granddaughter of James David Robertson (1816-1891) and his wife Sarah Cox Robertson (1836-1891).

Joel stayed in Marion County until the Fall of 1914, teaching and preaching. He had been ordained by the Antioch Church. He taught all week and preached every Sunday. My Mother helped him every way she could. She played the organ, sang solos and duets with him while the latest baby lay on a pallet nearby. During this period Daddy consolidated two schools. All of his life I heard him say he didn't know whether he was a teaching preacher or a preaching teacher. He came to Mississippi College, a small Baptist College in Clinton, Miss. founded in 1826, to study for the Ministry but even as he entered he helped with the teaching of Math. I don't know if Math teachers were so scarce or if he were so good - probably both. He taught fulltime during the Summers. I think the teaching won out over the preaching, although he did organize the Salem Baptist Church in a community near Clinton and Pastor it for 22 years, rushing out every Sunday after Sunday School to preach. Most of his Ministry was as a layman in the First Baptist Church, the college-related church here in Clinton.

In the Fall of 1914 Joel came to Clinton alone and entered Mississippi College. My Grandmother Robertson lay dying with cancer and didn't want my Mother to leave her. Grandmother had been carried to New Orleans where the doctors operated too late to help her, and she was brought back home to die. Daddy agreed that mother could stay with her. It was a terrible time. Daddy was very ill with the new "Spanish Influenza", Grandmother died and James, Mother's fifth baby, was born there at Mother's old home. I don't know if Daddy got much learning that year or not what with his running back and forth from Clinton to Columbia. Daddy had many virtues; promptness was not one of them. Among the few things I remember about that Winter is Daddy's running to catch the train for Jackson. He never arrived at the station until the train was pulling out and always had to run up the track, straining to get a hand on the last projectile on the last car as the train picked up speed. I don't think he was ever left behind, but I'm sure everyone's nerves suffered. I remember my Mother's grief - it frightened me - and Daddy's trying to comfort her and I remember my new baby brother.

Although my Mother was the fourth child in a family of ten children and had a sister seven years older, she was the one who mothered the sisters and brothers left orphaned when Grandmother died since Grandpa Robertson had died six years earlier. Her baby brother was only ten years old, and two sisters were twelve and fourteen. When we came to Clinton in the Fall of 1915 these two sisters came with us and stayed until they finished their education at Hillman College, a school for girls here in Clinton at that time. The two younger brothers stayed with us some but were mostly in and out.

Daddy graduated in the Spring of 1917 and went to Clark College at Newton, Miss. to teach Math, but was called back to Miss. College ~~when to be head~~ Sharp had to retire on account of bad health. From that time on he was head of the Math department until he had to retire a quarter of a century later. After ~~xxxxxxx~~ his health became ~~so bad he had to retire~~, he went back to teach numerous times whenever there was a special need.

Once when he went to the cemetery at night to check on a freshly dug grave to see that it had been put in the right place, my two little boys went with him. As he was peering about ~~with~~ in the dark trying to see the markers the flashlight suddenly went out. He had stepped too close to the edge and fallen into the grave breaking the flashlight. He was unhurt and the little boys pulled him out. 20

Once when he was over 80 he went with two negro men to survey some land for a friend. The men had gone on ahead carrying the pole and chain. As Daddy was climbing over a high fence a barb caught him in the seat of the britches and he couldn't jerk loose. He told me when he got home that he would have hung there and fluttered 'til he died if the men hadn't looked back to see him and come back to get him down.

For a quarter of a century Joel taught steadily at Miss. College - day and night, for no one who was not able to keep up and asked for help was turned down. Daddy either met them at night in the classroom (if there were several) or had them come to the house and worked with them privately until they were able to keep up with the others. He wrote his own textbooks for some of the subjects and devised a new method of bookkeeping, and also a new method of trisecting an angle. He was always solving some knotty problem for some company and to the best of my knowledge was never stumped. I don't ~~ever~~ remember ever seeing him sit without paper and pencil in his hands, even if he had fallen asleep, and every scrap was covered with figures. What is amazing is that he never earned a degree except that Bachelor of Arts in 1917. He longed to study further, but the few times he was able to get off (in the summers) and went to La. State University to study, they persuaded him to teach instead. After he retired from teaching the college conferred ^{on him} the degree of Doctor of Letters.

Never robust, by 1943 his health had failed to such a degree that under pressure from the doctors and family he had to retire from teaching although he ^{originally} ~~said~~ with tears in his eyes that he wouldn't live a year if he had to quit teaching. His civic ~~work~~ and church work and surveying kept him occupied and he improved so that in a few years he was able to teach again and several times taught special classes or filled in for those who needed a leave of absence. Also at this time he took up golf and as with every thing else he put his mind to became quite proficient. He didn't have the strength to hit the ball very far but was consistent and accurate. He made the headlines on the sport page of the Jackson papers when he made his first hole-in-one in his 70s. Later when my boys took up golf he gave them pointers. I remember his teaching them after he was so weak he couldn't swing the club without staggering and one would hold him steady by ~~the~~ slipping his hand under his belt in the back and holding him up. He rode on the motorcycle with them, was thrilled to ride in the A-model Ford and went to the Airport in Jackson and sat in the co-pilot's seat and was amazed at all the instruments. He would have loved to fly and I was too afraid to agree for by this time his heart had failed several times. He may have been failing in other ways but his spirit and enthusiasm never failed in the least.

Soon after he came to Clinton he was elected to the board of Aldermen in 1922 to be exact - and in 1924 became Mayor. While he was Mayor the old plank sidewalks were replaced, streets were paved with "Bilbo Bricks", the first well was dug (I remember this so well because for many years the Company who dug the well ~~gave~~ Daddy every Christmas a huge box of chocolates which went like the proverbial snowball as soon as it arrived) and a fire department started. After six years

city hall built.

as mayor, in 1930 he became Clerk. ~~As I remember this position time~~
~~no one received any pay~~. At this time no city employee received any
pay. Daddy's financial burden had become very heavy and it was decided
that he should become Clerk and receive \$ 25 dollars a month. So ~~from~~
from 1931 to 1952 he served simultaneously as Alderman and Clerk. In
1952 he gave up his service on the Board but continued as clerk until
1957 when he had to give that up too.

When Highway 80 (now known as Clinton Blvd. and College Street) was
built through Clinton it came right through the Clinton Cemetary. The
cemetary was on a hill and the highway had to be cut through. Daddy
was so upset when he saw the graves being destroyed , and about the
same time he received a letter from a man asking about his grand-
father's grave. Daddy took a few negro men and rescued the stones-
some broken - and everything he could find. He organized the Clinton
Cemetary Association , had it incorporated and secured the charter.
He worked tirelessly getting all the lots surveyed and all the metes
and bounds in order, and in setting up an endowment fund (and working
to increase), insuring that the cemetary would never again be disturbed.
He served as President of the Association the rest of his life. ~~and~~
~~never quit planning~~. The Cemetary is now a beautifully landscaped plot
enclosed by a high fence with gates that are locked at night , a care-
taker, a tool house and a small building that ~~was~~ an office for
the President, a room for meetings and a place for records.

From the time he came to Clinton , Daddy taught the Men's Bible Class
until he was too old to go to Sunday School. He was Sunday School sup-
erintendent several times, a Deacon . Many sought his wise council and
advice and he was always willing and anxious to serve in any way possi-
ble. Never very strong in body, ~~he~~ always carried a heavy burden of re-
sponsibility, ~~and~~ he was blessed with a natural sense of humor and a
warm personality that won the love and admiration of old and young alike.
He has friends and students all over the world who are grateful to him
for the things he taught them, not only from books but in how to live.
He took great pride in all his students, and especially those who went
on to hold high positions. One of his favorites , Dr. Bailey Price,
was awarded the ~~Distinguished Service Award~~ 1970 Award for Distin-
guished to Mathematics by the Mathematical Association of America, Inc.
~~in an article~~ in the American Mathematical Journal: " While a student
and teacher at Miss. College Bailey Price and his patron teacher, Dr.
Hitt, often conferred on furthering the teaching and use of Mathematics.
The foregoing recognition and citation are evidence that the goals
~~and~~ of Dr. Hitt and his protege have been achieved. The genius of one
master teacher produced another master teacher".

In the Baptist Record , Nov., 1904, Pastor Estes Bass, reporting on
a Revival at the Prine Springs Church in Marion County : " Prof. J.
R. Hitt and Miss Lizzie Robertson added greatly to the interest of
the meeting by their deeply spiritual songs".

By 1957 he had hardening of the arteries to such a degree that ~~if~~
~~his~~ ~~to~~ ~~his~~ ~~and~~ any exercise or excitement that caused his heart to
beat faster had to be avoided. His heart was fine , but when it tried
to pump blood that wouldn't flow it stalled, kicked back and stopped.
The third time this happened , the doctors convinced him that he had
to stop all outside activities. He still enjoyed life - dressed every
morning, ate what and when he wanted at the table, bathed himself and
enjoyed visitors. During this time his greatest pleasure was riding
about town and seeing what progress was being made. He never tired of
looking at Clinton, and I spent a great deal of time driving him about~

3
sitting in the middle of the seat with my arm about his shoulders and his head on my shoulder. He never was a big man, as a young man not ~~quite~~ six feet and weighing at the most 160 pounds. By the time he was 60 years old he weighed 125 pounds and when he died he weighed less than 80 pounds, but he always stood straight and held his head up. He just dwindled away and died in his sleep July 22, 1967. He was buried in his beloved Clinton Cemetery. ~~His~~ Elizabeth Robertson Hitt still lives in the old home here in Clinton at 102 East Main.

I remember Daddy's sitting in a straight chair grading papers or figuring on a problem on his knees while all the kids played a game of basketball all around him, knocking him about - he never seemed to notice the noise, and unless he got a hard lick or was almost turned over he paid no attention. He had the greatest power of concentration which earned for him as for others the accolade "absent-minded-professor". Once when he was teaching he was crossing the Campus and stopped to talk with a student for a few minutes. When they finished talking and started away Daddy stopped, called to the boy and asked him in which direction he was walking when the boy stopped him. Upon learning that he was walking toward the classroom, Daddy said, "Well I guess I have eaten lunch". The old U.S. Highway 80 came right through town and Daddy had to cross it on his way home. Cars have actually brushed his clothes because he paid no attention to them whatsoever if he had a problem on his mind. At the same time he always had time to listen to any problem however small if asked for help and gave it that same concentration.

in 1950
From a "Life Sketch" written by Mariah Johnson Latimer: "What a vast amount of work this kindly generous man has done. Not too strong in body but of a valiant spirit, he has given his all to God, his family and to his community. He loves the college and gave it the best years of his life. He has comforted the sick and bereaved, he has helped the poor, preached many a funeral sermon and steered countless college students into paths of rectitude and right. From his own rich experiences he has helped scores of ministerial students over difficult times. Faithful and just in all his relationships, Dr. Joel Reuben Hitt has been a blessing through the years. We who knew him best, give thanks to God for his life and are inspired to nobler living by his wonderful example. ***** May Truly he has lived and served grandly".
From a newspaper article written by Dr. M.P.L. Berry in 1954: "One cannot even attempt to reach the true worth of a man who has so dedicated his life to the betterment of mankind, one who ~~through the years~~ throughout his entire life has given of his physical strength and devotion to every good cause, to the upbuilding of Clinton, and to the inspiration of youth coming under his influence. Briefly stated, his is a life well lived".

Katheryn
Mary Anna Robin

Children Of Joel Reuben Hitt And Elizabeth Margania Robertson

- I. Thomas Stanfield (Dick) Hitt⁷ was born at Goss, Marion County, Miss. Dec. 1, 1905. Married Floyd Sigrest , daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper F. Sigrest of Jackson, Miss. in Jackson on Dec. 25, 1930. Floyd Sigrest Hitt was born Nov. 28, 1907. Dick made a career of coaching, having coached at Miss. College, Miss. State University, University of Wyoming, University of Arkansas and University of Tenn. In 1961 he left the U. of Tenn. and came home to manage the Miss. Memorial Stadium at Jackson. Their present address is 1621 Meadowbrook Road, Jackson, Miss. 39211. Dick and Floyd have three children:
- A. Mary Katherine Hitt⁸ was born May 10, 1936 at Jackson, Miss. Married Marion York in Ark. in 1955 and had one son:
1. John Richard York, born May 29, 1957 in Dayton, Ohio.
Married 2nd Charles Stitt and had two children:
1. Katheryn Teresa Stitt⁸, born Aug. 17, 1966 in Jackson, Miss.
2. David Michael Stitt⁸, born Sept. 10, 1967 in Jackson, Miss.
Present Address: 565 Kirkley Drive, Jackson, Miss. 39206.
- B. Thomas Richard Hitt⁸, born Jan. 31, 1938 at Jackson, Miss. Married in Knoxville, Tenn. Shirley Marie Pickle . Tom has a car-rental business in Jackson. He and Shirley have three children:
1. Richard Andrew Hitt⁹, born Nov. 23, 1960 in Knoxville, Tenn.
2. Clinton Thomas Hitt⁹, born Oct. 14, 1964 in Knoxville, Tenn.
3. Marie Robin Hitt⁹, born Dec. 22, 1964 in Jackson, Miss.
Present address: P.O. Box 62, Madison, Miss. 39110.
- C. James Franklin Hitt⁸, born March 19, 1946 in Starkville, Miss. Married in Jackson, Miss. on March 8, 1970 Mary Margaret Mackey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Mackey of Jackson, Miss. James is a Landscape Engineer. Their present address is 3993 Highway 51 S, Memphis, Tenn. 38116.
- II. Lucile Wilmoth Hitt⁷ was born at Goss , Marion County, Miss. July 21, 1908. Married Jack Hollingsworth, born Jan. 1, 1906, son of Joseph Andrew Hollingsworth of Hollandsale, Washington County, Miss. and his wife Ella Sawyer Barefield Hollingsworth. Joseph Andrew Hollingsworth was born in Ala. Nov. 29, 1847 and died 1941. Ella died Oct. 19, 1908. Jack Hollingsworth is a heavy equipment salesman. Present address is 715 Dunton Road, Clinton, Miss. 39056. Two sons:
- A. Joel Hitt Hollingsworth⁸, born May 19, 1936 in Jackson, Miss. Joel is unmarried and selfemployed. Present address : 200 Debuys Road, Apt. 113 , Miss. City Station, Gulfport, Miss. 39501.
- B. Jack Hollingsworth, Jr.⁸ , born May 31, 1939 at Jackson, Miss. Married Aug. 20, 1965 at Prentiss, Miss. Sandra Polk, born Aug. 7, 1944, daughter of Spurgeon Moody Polk and Willie May Parish Polk of Prentiss. Jack is a pilot for Delta Air Lines. Address is P. O. Box 98, Prentiss, Miss. 39474. Children:
1. Jack (Trey) Hollingsworth III, born Oct. 7, 1966 at Covington, La.
2. Michelle Leigh Hollingsworth⁹, born Sept. 5, 1968 at Covington, La.
3. E. Ric Hitt Hollingsworth⁹ born Sept. 27, 1972 at Hattiesburg, Miss.
4. John Andrew Hollingsworth⁹ born March 13, 1979 at Hattiesburg, Miss.
- III. Bruce Owen Hitt⁷ was born Sept. 8, 1910 at Goss, Miss. in Marion County. Married Dorothy Maxwell April 9, 1934 , daughter of Willis Louis Maxwell and Floy Garrett Maxwell of Camden, Miss. (After Dot's father died her mother married Dewitt Talmadge Langford of Lena, Miss. where Dot was reared). Dot was born Nov. 6, 1910 . Bruce has been an insurance adjuster living the longest at Greenville. Miss., but for

the last four years has also been a gentleman-farmer at the old Langford home place in Lena, Miss. Address: Lena, Miss. 39094. Bruce and Dot have three children:

- A. Sandra Floy Hitt⁸, born July 3, 1940 at Monroe, La. Married Otto James Zoller, Jr. of Biloxi, Miss. on June 10, 1961 in Greenville, Miss. and had one son:
 - 1. Todd Dewitt Zoller⁹, born April 13, 1964 at Sandra married 2nd. Richard Mascagni March 12, 1969. Present address is 1326 St. Joseph Street, Greenville, Miss. 38701.
- B. Chere Norene Hitt⁸, born Oct. 17, 1947 at Greenville, Miss. Married Michael Roger Rosella of Greenville, Miss. and has two children. Present address is 559 Joan Circle, Greenville, Miss. 38701.
 - 1. Michelle Elizabeth Rosella⁹, born Feb. 15, 1967 at Greenville, Miss.
 - 2. Michael Roger Rosella, Jr.⁹, born July 21, 1969 at Greenville, Miss.
- C. William Bruce Hitt⁸, born Sept. 21, 1950, at Greenville, Miss. Killed in a car wreck June 22, 1968, Bruce is buried in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens at Greenville, Miss.

IV. Flora May Hitt⁷ was born Nov. 5, 1912 at Buford, Marion County, Miss. Married James D. Taylor Dec. 25, 1932 in Clinton, Miss. James, born Sept. 9, 1908 was the son of John Webb Taylor, born May 26, 1871 and his wife Lula Martin Taylor, born April 10, 1871, of Florence, Miss. James is in the lumber business. Their present address is P. O. Box 564, Pensacola, Florida 32502. James and Flora have three girls:

- A. Patricia Lucille Taylor⁸, born Feb. 26, 1935 at Greenville, Miss. Married March 20, 1960 in Tallahassee, Fla. to Maurice Clark Whitfield, born Aug. 1, 1930. Whit is employed by Stuart-Irby in Jackson, Miss. Their present address is 145 Pecan Hill Drive, Clinton, Miss. 39056. Pat and Whit have three children:
 - 1. James Clark Whitfield⁹, born May 15, 1957 in Birmingham, Ala.
 - 2. John Dudley Whitfield⁹, born March 11, 1960 in Birmingham, Ala.
 - 3. Susan Elene Whitfield⁹, born Oct. 14, 1965 in Greenville, Miss. *Elene*
- B. Sarah Rebecca Taylor⁸, born Jan. 13, 1938 at Florence, Miss. Married in Tallahassee, Fla. Charles H. Nye May 30, 1959. Charles is a Pinkerton Man. Their present address is 5042 Sauvie Court, New Orleans, La. 70129. Charley and Rebecca have two children:
 - 1. Charles Taylor Nye⁹, born Dec. 18, 1959 in Birmingham, Ala.
 - 2. Brenda Michelle Nye⁹, born Sept. 6, 1962 in Birmingham, Ala.
- C. James Elizabeth Taylor⁸, born Nov. 3, 1942 in Florence, Miss. Married Sept. 5, 1964 in Pensacola, Fla. to Kurt Everitt Bonifay. Kurt is in the lumber business in Pensacola. Address is 709 E. Olive Road, Pensacola, Florida 32504. Kurt and Liz have two children:
 - 1. Kurt Everitt (Rhett) Bonifay⁹, born Nov. 13, 1967 in Pensacola, Fla.
 - 2. Sarah Elizabeth Bonifay⁹, born Nov. 3, 1969 in Pensacola, Fla.

James Hughes Hitt⁷ was born Dec. 30, 1914 at Goss, Marion County, Miss. Married Virginia Rogers April 25, 1936. No children. James was killed in the Battle of The Roer while serving with the 102 Division in Germany, World War II. He was buried in Holland and at the end of the war, his body was returned to Clinton, Miss. and buried in the Clinton Cemetery.

- VI. Joel Reuben Hitt, Jr.⁸ was born Dec. 30, 1916 in Clinton, Miss. Married Evelyn Eddleman Dec. 19, 1936 in Clinton, Miss. Evelyn born Feb. 5, 1917, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Eddleman. Joel has been a special agent with the F.B.I. since 1942. Their present address is 3867 Camelbia Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608. Joel and Evelyn have two sons:
- A. Joel Reuben Hitt III⁹, born Jan. 30, 1942 in Jackson, Miss. Joel married Aug. 14 in Mobile, Ala. in the year 196 Sara Nell Calloway, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tucker N. Calloway. No children. Address 1111 Clairmont Road. Apt. P-1, Decatur, Ga. 30033.
 - B. Richard Leo (Dick) Hitt⁹, born June 19, 1950 at Washington, D.C. Dick is a student at Florida State University.
- VII. Carolyn Elizabeth Hitt⁷ was born April 12, 1919 at Clinton, Miss. Married William Rayford Priester, Jr. Dec. 26, 1935. Billy is a Lamar Life Insurance salesman and also owns his own agency. Their address is 109 Washington, Natchez, Miss. 39120. Children:
- A. Margaret Janice Priester⁸, born Oct. 17, 1937 at Ferriday, La. Married Paul Henry Byrne, Jr. at Natchez, Miss. Aug. 17, 1963. Paul is a geologist. Their address is 203 Dana Road, Natchez, Miss. 39120. Two adopted children:
 - 1. Robert Priester Byrne⁹, born April 25, 1968.
 - 2. Susannah Scott Byrne⁹, born Oct. 27, 1970.
 - B. William Rayford (Bill) Priester III⁸, born Sept. 20, 1940 at Ferriday, La. Married Jean Marie Hicks at Natchez Dec. 28, 1961 - Bill is a dentist. Bill and Jean and their two children live at 7536 Bentley Drive, Indianapolis, Ind. 46224.

~~William Bradford Priester~~

 - 1. Shan Marie Priester⁹, born Sept. 28, 1962
 - 2. William Bradford Priester⁹, born Dec. 23, 1963
 - C. Robert Ishmael (Bob) Priester⁸, born Nov. 23, 1947 at Natchez, Miss. Bob died August 31, 1965 on the football field at Ole Miss where he was just beginning his sophomore year. He is buried at Natchez, Miss.