

"It is not the least debt that we owe unto history that it has made us acquainted with our dead ancestors, and out of the depths and darkness of the earth delivered us their memory and fame."

-- Sir Walter Raleigh.

In writing Index Cards for the descendants of Christopher Slusher, we have been struck by some of the first names that recur. Several names have cropped up with enough regularity to cause curiosity as to whom these children were named after. The name BALLARD PRESTON is used in several of the family lines: Cox, Quesenberry, Nester, Phillips, Shelor, Turman and maybe others. LORENZO DOW is another first name often given in the early generations. PEYTON or PAYTON, with various other first or second names, and FIELDING or FIELDON BRECKENRIDGE is another.

We asked Mr. Hatcher King about some of these. He said Ballard Preston was a son of Col. William Preston, who was a pioneer settler of Montgomery County, around Blacksburg, and that Ballard Preston was a Congressman, a politician and a famous orator, and that he stumped the State campaigning for Henry Clay for President in 1844 when Henry Clay ran against James Polk.

Lorenzo Dow was a pioneer preacher and said to be the first man to preach in Christiansburg, Va. after it was founded. Mr. King said he left namesakes in Botetourt, Montgomery, Floyd and Carrol Counties and perhaps farther West too.

We don't know who Peyton was, or Breckenridge, but the latter sounds like he should have been a Virginia general.

There was also a James Bennett, whose name was used quite often but Mr. King says he's never found out who he was either.

In our files, at the moment, there are more Slushers than any other name, naturally, we suppose, but there are others running close seconds: Harmon, Hylton, Quesenberry, Turman, Cox, Wade, Weeks, Weddle, Sutphin and Dickerson, etc. We haven't even filed the Elizabeth and Jacob and Christopher, Jr. cards, though Elizabeth and Jacob are made.

To tell you the truth, Index Cards are beginning to get out of hand! Its absolutely remarkable how many people one couple with 12 children can be responsible for peopling the earth with, and we do not have them all, of course, by a long shot! There isn't any way to have an absolutely complete genealogy of several generations of a family, as far as we know.

We're having some trouble too, with the spelling of names. One branch of the family will send in a name spelled one way and another branch of the same family has it spelled another way on their family sheets. Its kind of a problem. We don't care how the names are spelled, but do feel they should be spelled the same way if they appear twice in the book.

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Speaking of books, for curiosity, we wrote a publisher of genealogies and asked for a loose estimate on the cost of a fairly well-bound book of 500 pages and they said 300 copies would be \$2,357. and 500 copies would be \$2,768. This only includes production, not

Copyright fee (\$6.00) or freight charges (\$50-\$100) or postage and wrapping for mailing the books. This is not expensive, even with the extras added, for a book in this day and time, but, of course, we don't know right now how many pages there may end up being and right now we feel that the Index will probably be 500 pages by itself! This quotation is also for a book without pictures. We gather pictures would add quite a bit to the cost thereof.

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NOW: You do realize this is not only the Bicentennial year of our country, but also its the year of the fourth Biennial Reunion of the Slusher Family Organization to be held at the VFW Hall in Floyd, Va. on Sunday, JULY 18th. We want this to be the biggest, most completely fabulous Reunion yet.

Not too many plans have been completely formulated as yet, but we ARE all going to try to bring something which was made by, or belonged to an early member of the family. Anything you have which can be conveniently carried with you.

There will have to be an election of a new President this year. Mr. Slusher feels he has had the honor long enough and someone else should have it now.

Lunch will be a covered-dish dinner, and is always absolutely delicious. We hope to have copies of the parts of the genealogy we have completed there so you can check your family for correct spelling, dates, etc.

We hope to be able to start earlier in the morning and have the business meeting in the morning, since some people who live

some distance away tend to have to leave early in the afternoon.

We have asked for and not received any suggestions you may have for the program. But we do hope you'll talk to all your family far and near, and ask them to start planning now to attend if they possibly can. Lets all try to make this Reunion the best one.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Saturday, July 17th.

We know of several new members of our Organization coming from out of State and are most pleased with their interest and enthusiasm and we are looking forward to meeting them.

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Since the last Newsletter went out in October, we've acquired a new daughter-in-law, Deborah Johnson Slusher, wife of our youngest son, Gregory; attended two plays, one of which our other daughter-in-law wrote for the Bicentennial production of the little theater group in their town and in both of which our eldest son had a leading part; gotten our mother through a bad case of bronchitis caused by a broken rib acquired when one of our sons hugged her too hard (the doctor said you'd be surprised how often grandsons break their grandmother's ribs!); spent a week in Florida, along with half the population of the central section of the United States and Canada; and had an abscessed tooth for two weeks, along with the results thereof, and if you all have any sense at all you'll say a small prayer at least once a day that you never get an abscessed tooth!

We are having a harder and harder time trying to get this paper out. Getting it mimeographed is the main problem, since we don't work in an office any more. People don't use mimeographs much now - they use electronic copiers and they are expensive.

Also, since we've imparted almost all the early genealogy of the family that we've been able to find, AND since no one will write us what they'd like to read in it, or which lines they'd like to see, or anything else, we wonder if it has served its purpose, per se.

Perhaps now we need to have someone write a paper of more contemporary news of the family: weddings, births, deaths, promotions, honors, changes of address, queries, questions, quotations, prognostications, recipes, essays, graduations, etc., ad infinitum. Some people, lets face it, aren't interested in genealogy, but they do like news.

We do feel that as an organization we should have some sort of letter or paper in order to keep up with each other and to keep up interest in the Organization. Is quarterly too often? Who would like to do this? WHO has a mimeograph, or access to one?

It certainly would BE appreciated if you'd send your comments on this question to us because it is to be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and at the Reunion. SOMETHING has to be done by SOMEONE! We've had the job for six years now, and rather feel a change of editor and format is overdue. Perhaps it should be printed instead of mimeographed. Maybe twice or three times a year is enough.

Supposedly you have noticed the number of items from cheap and ugly to VERY beautiful and VERY expensive (also cheap, ugly AND expensive) that are being offered for sale under the heading of "things you simply cannot afford NOT to buy" in this our Bicentennial year? Well, one organization is offering us our own personal "SLUSHER" Flag.

It has the name SLUSHER under a seal or an eagle, along with some other things on it and is some 16" x 24" large (small?)

At any rate, we are reliably informed that this flag is NOT as advertised and worth about 98¢ instead of the \$9.95 charged for it.

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OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTORS

Does anyone in the Slusher (or allied, intermarried families) belong to the DAR or the SAR? In other words, has anyone proven Revolutionary Service of any of our ancestors. This should have certainly been gone into earlier and should certainly be done now for the Bicentennial.

We know that HANS GEORGE PHLEGAR'S service has been proven. He was father of JOSEPH PHLEGAR, who m. Nancy Boone and they were parents of MARGARET PHLEGAR who m. (1) Ananias Slusher, son of David Slusher, son of Christopher, Sr;

Hans George Phlegar was also father of David Phlegar, who m. NANCY SLUSHER, dau. of Christopher, Jr; and grandfather of Isaac Phlegar who m. MARGARET HARMAN, dau. of Elizabeth Slusher Harman, dau. of Chris. Sr.; and grandfather of Eliza Phlegar, wife of NOAH SIMMONS son of Caty Slusher, dau. of Chris. Sr.; and grandfather of John Phle-

gar, who m. MARY ANN HARMAN, dau. of Elizabeth Slusher, dau. of Chris. Sr.

And the Revolutionary Service of HANS GEORGE GOODYKOONTZ (Gutekunst) has been proven and is evidenced by the tombstone of his wife Margaret, in the Zion Lutheran Church cemetery in Floyd. It reads:

MARGARET GOODYKUNTZ

Died 3/1819

Widow of George Gutekunst

1732-1784

A Soldier of the Revolution

From Northampton Co. Pa.

Born Heiterbach, Wurttemberg,
Germany

Buried Frederick Co. Va.

Hans George Gutekunst was the father of Maria Magdalena Goodykoontz, who m. Joseph Phlegar (above. He was also father of Maria (Polly) Goodykoontz, who m. William Gilham, whose son, Isaac Gilham, m. Mary Slusher, daughter of Christopher, Jr.

CHRISTOPHER SLUSHER, SR., himself, served in the 2nd Battalion of the Lancaster County, Pa. Militia and we know of one man who has joined the SAR on his service.

Please let us know if there are others. This surely NEEDS to be documented during this YEAR. All of our members ancestors who served in the Revolution need to be recorded

This goes for the family members who are not direct descendants also - because although you are only Slusher by marriage, your children and grandchildren are descendants, if you know what I mean. (Boy! did I mess that sentence up!)

We feel this is a very good and important Bicentennial project for our family to pursue and can't think why it wasn't begun before. Too many Index Cards, probably. Surely in all these families represented in those cards, there were many Revolutionary soldiers. We've traced four back besides those above.

Send name of the Patriot, wife's name, if known, children, his service and place of birth and death if known, and proofs of service - just where proofs of service can be found!

Address to W. S. Slusher,
206 Rivermont Drive, McMinnville,
TN. 37110.

Please do cooperate on this, and don't view this request with lethargy and lack of enthusiasm. If you'll send in the information right away, we'll have it for the Reunion which, of course, is when we need it and should have it!!

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Have mimeograph available this afternoon. Better take advantage of it.

Please keep the Reunion in mind. We'll try to get another reminder out before July 18th, but in case we can't, we surely do expect to and look forward to seeing you there.