

To the date of this stenciling, we have not heard from the genealogist on anything he may have found. If we hear more before we get through, we will put any information he sends on the back pages. We did have a preliminary report from him in November, but he had had knee surgery and then with Christmas coming, he thought he wouldn't get much done until after the first of the year, so we have hardly had time to hear as yet.

In the preliminary report, he stated that a likely ancestor of our Christopher was one Thomas Shlosser, who came to this country on the "Halifax" on 22 Oct. 1754. (Chris's brother John was born in 1754, and if his poor mother had to get on one of those boats, small as they were, and make that trip across the Atlantic Ocean either pregnant OR with a small child, she has my most profound respect!) The genealogist has been authorized to look further into it though and report, so if we hear nothing this time, we certainly should have something by the April letter. He said the names Christopher, Frederick and John appear in the Lebanon Township records and that this is probably where the immigrant ancestor settled.

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We were reading some old National Genealogical Quarterlies lately (April 1917) and there is an article concerning the Pennsylvania Militia Law of 1777. It says that genealogists who consult the valuable Pennsylvania Archives will observe that the Militia of the Revolution are arranged by Classes. (Remember that our Christopher was listed as being "First Class" in the Militia list?). They say, however, that such arrangement has no significance, but would show that if there is a repetition of a name in the same Battalion of the militia that different individuals are indicated. The Law reads:

Act of March 17, 1777

(Section VI) (Section IX, P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid That the several lieutenants aforesaid shall within three days after the respective elections aforesaid cause the several companies of militia in their respective precincts to be divided by lot into eight

parts, to be called classes, as nearly equal as may be and numbered from one to eight in numerical order and the said captains shall cause the names and surnames of the persons in the respective companies with the class to which each belongeth to be returned to the said lieutenants respectively at such time as they shall appoint within six days after such divisions are made.

(Section X) (Section XII, P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid That it shall be lawful for the executive council in case of invasion or rebellion within this state or in case the assistance of the militia of this state shall be requested by Congress to assist the continental army in this or any of the adjoining states, to call into actual service such part of the militia by classes as aforesaid as to them shall seem necessary the first draft to be composed of the class number one of each company, and in case the first draft shall not be sufficient for the exigency, then the class number two shall be drawn and so on by classes from time to time as occasion may require.

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In the early part of 1937, articles were written by Mr. R. T. Akers and printed in THE FLOYD PRESS, entitled "History of the Public Free Schools of Floyd County".

He began his first article by stating that he had been thinking of writing these articles for several years and that he fully realized that if it were to be done it must be done soon, because "my ability to do justice to the subject is not what it was several years ago." He continues:

"I should like if I may to picture in our minds eye the educational condition existing here - say in 1869 one year before the first public schools in the country.

We had then what we called pay schools provided a teacher could be secured and enough pupils secured to make the school which of course depended largely on the teacher's ability to teach. If he was qualified to teach the fundamental rules of arithmetic using Pikes text he expected his board and \$15.00 a month. The term was mostly 3 months and ran through December,

January and February. It was my privilege to attend one of these schools in winter of 1868 and '69. The school closed on Feb. 27, with a spelling match.

The teacher of this school, Mr. L. C. Duncan was considered one among the best of that day, his equipment consisted of McGuffies speller, reader and Pikes Arithmetic and a swamp dogwood switch 4 to 6 feet long.

These schools were taught in vacated dwelling houses there being but one house to my knowledge built in the county at time for school teaching except the Jacksonville Institute. I refer to the house built by Jacob Slusher, three miles west of Floyd. This was a neat building and was used for a number of years by the county school board.

A young man living here prior to 1870 that could read and write and understood the four fundamental rules of arithmetic was considered a good scholar, young women in that day rarely went far enough to learn the rules of arithmetic, but were contented or rather their parents were with reading spelling and some went far enough to learn to write.

(These articles were found among papers of Miss Molly Thompson, a retired school teacher of Floyd County. We will quote some more of one of them another time.)

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CHRISTOPHER SR. - JACOB - JEREMIAH - ETC +

These are the grandchildren of Jeremiah Slusher and his wife, Sarah Weddle Slusher

--BY HIS DAUGHTER MARY ELIZABETH, who m: John B. Hylton 28 Sept. 1865. He was a son of Capt. Henry A. Hylton, (son of Archelous & Catherine Weddle Hylton) and his wife Margaret Hylton, dau. Jesse & Elizabeth Weddle Hylton. John B. Hylton was b: 1 Apr. 1846, d: 11 Aug. 1892. Mary Eliz. was born 26 Apr. 1843, d: 11 Feb. 1917, buried in Jacob Slusher cemetery, Floyd County, Va. Mary Elizabeth m: (2) Ira Hylton in 1894.

1. Silas Monroe b: 15 July 1866, m: Sarah J. Prater in 1885. Was living in Roosevelt, Okla. in 1917.

2. Elza Noah b: 25 Feb. 1888; m: 1885 Alpha Emarilla Weddle. Living in Curta, Wash. in 1917.
3. Stephen F. b: 24 Dec. 1869; m: 1889 Naomah Weddle, moved to California
4. Joseph B. b: 17 May 1871, m: Louise Weeks, lived Troy, Idaho in 1917
5. Jeremiah A. b: 15 Nov. 1873; m: 1894 Kate Dickerson. Lived in Floyd, Va.
6. Eva Catherine b: 2 Mar. 1876; m: 1893 Joe John Moses.
7. Henry W. b: 12 July 1878; m: 1897 Emeline Dickerson, had 6 child., was killed in a construction accident.
8. Norman Edward b: 4 Sept. 1880; m: 1901 Jennie L. Weeks; lived Moscow, Idaho in 1917.

These 1917 dates are from Mary Eliz. Slusher Hylton's list of heirs, 1917.

-- BY HIS SON, FRANCIS LEROY SLUSHER, who m: Elizabeth Harter 31 May 1866 in Floyd Va. Elizabeth Harter was the dau of Adam Harter and Margaret Stigleman and was b: 21 Jan. 1842, d: 14 Jan. 1931 at 89 years of age. Francis Leroy Slusher was b: 13 May 1845, d: 24 Feb. 1875.

1. Margaret E. Slusher, b: 16 Apr. 1867; m: May 1883 in Floyd to Josiah Howell, d: 4 Oct. 1927 (14 children).
2. Adam Harter Slusher, b: 12 Aug. 1869; m: 19 Oct. 1904 Rachel Hylton; d: 6 March 1961.
3. Almeda Ellen Slusher, b: 31 July 1873 m: 1889 Wm. Marion Keith d: 12 Nov. 1893.
4. Norman Eddy Slusher b: 10 June 1874, d: 30 June 1936, m: 26 June 1897 Lula Ada Barringer.

-- BY HIS DAUGHTER NANCY ELLEN, who was b: 9 Feb. 1849, d: 21 June 1921, m: 20 Feb. 1868 James Bennett Turman, who was b: 15 May 1848 and died 1 Oct. 1930. Both are buried in Kate Pratt cemetery 8 mi. SW of Floyd Court House.

1. Sarah Jane Turman, died as an infant.
2. John Wesley b: 1873, m: Amanda O'Bryan
3. Malinda C. Turman b: 1870, m: 6 Jan. 1889 Samuel D. Harter in Floyd, Va.

(Cont'd)

4. Liona Ellen Turman, b: 1876 m: Landon Salmons in Patrick Co.
5. Mary Adeline Turman b: 1879 m: James Walter O'Bryan
6. Elizabeth A. Turman, b: 1881 m: (1) Edward Meters (2) Charles E. Waters.
7. Elmer Lee Turman
8. James Millard Turman

These birth dates are from 1880-1890 censuses.

-- BY HIS SON MILLARD FILLMORE SLUSHER, who was born 15 Mar. 1850, d: 5 June 1899 and who m: (1) Sarah Jane Finn on 8 Apr. 1875, & Tabitha Attaway Slusher, a first cousin, dau of Francis Marion Slusher, on 13 Oct. 1892. Sarah Jane Finn was b: 22 Feb. 1860 d: 4 Dec. 1891, a dau. of Richard and Nancy Finn. Children by Sarah Jane Finn:

1. Francis Leroy Slusher, b: 14 Feb. 1876, m: 1902 Susan Connor.
2. Samuel W. Slusher, b: 28 Apr. 1879 m: Maude Fain 27 Dec. 1900 in Patrick Co.
3. Louannie E. Slusher, b: 16 Aug. 1881, m: Ellis D. Fain 4 Sept. 1905.
4. Calvin O. Slusher, b: 24 Aug. 1889 m: Barbara Akers in 1920, Floyd Co.

Children by Tabitha A. Slusher

1. Noah Christian Slusher b: 13 Apr. 1896 m: Lura M. Finn in 1915 in Floyd Co.

-- BY HIS SON JAMES BENNETT SLUSHER, who was b: 4 Apr. 1851, d: 14 Apr. 1921, m: 22 Dec. 1870 Nancy W. Dickerson, who was b: 10 Oct. 1845 d: 23 Sept. 1923, dau. Early and Susan Dickerson.

1. Lilly A. Slusher b: 8 May 1872 d: unmarried on 30 Jan. 1891.
2. Jacob C. b: 1875 m: Princess Laymon in Indian Valley
3. Arthur Lee Slusher, b: 1876 m: 1893 (1) Lillie A. Moses (2) in 1899 Nannie Wickham.
4. Hillary M. Slusher, b: 1879 m: 1904 (1) Fannie Ballinger (2) Rosa Jones Martin.
5. Walter Early Slusher b: 1880 m: 1904 Alice M. Royal.
6. Julia A. Slusher, b: 1886 m: 1906 James D. Connor

-- BY HIS DAUGHTER LILLIAN ROSEBELL, who was born 17 Feb. 1847, d: 18 Feb. 1922, m: 28 Feb. 1864 William H. Weeks, who was b: 27 Feb. 1847, d: 11 Dec. 1911, son of James and Mandy Weeks. Both buried in Levi Keith Cemetery, Floyd Co.

1. Bob Weeks
2. James S. Weeks, b: 5 Apr. 1872 d: 17 May 1961 m: Jathina Keith in 1889.
3. Sarah E. Weeks, b: 1872 m: (1) Abijah Hylton on 27 Dec. 1920 (2) James Hylton.
4. Chank Weeks m: Nantico M. Jenney in 1893, moved to Nebraska & died there.
5. Clayton Weeks m: Cora Harman, moved to Hanover Co., Va., near Ashland.
6. Texas Weeks m: Asa Finn (Fayne)
7. Nancy Weeks (Nannie) m: Wm. Marion Keith
8. Liz Weeks, never married
9. Robert Weeks, m: Rosa Kepp, went to Indianapolis, Ind. Robert & son, only child, were killed in auto accident 6 mi. S. of Frankfort Ky 28 Dec. 1938, wife injured but survived.

-- BY HIS SON DARIUS WILLIAM SLUSHER, who was b: 4 Sept. 1858 d: 28 June 1934, m: (1) 19 Dec. 1878 Susan Slusher, (dau. Lewis Hamilton Slusher, son of David) who was b: 22 Dec. 1860 d: 1 Aug. 1906 and (2) Minnie Sumpter in 1908 who was b: 20 July 1870 d: 29 Oct. 1971.

Children by first wife:

1. Ida Mae b: 31 Dec. 1879 d: 7 Aug. 1900
2. Hamilton J. Slusher b: 28 Apr. 1887 d: 11 Dec. 1965 m: 24 Sept. 1912 Viola Baker.
3. Della M. Slusher b: 14 Aug. 1893 m: (1) Clayton Graham 3 Apr. 1912 (2) David Guinn.
4. Sarah Beulah Slusher, b: 7 Oct. 1899 m: 30 Dec. 1914 to Oscar Talmond Moles, d: 21 Jan. 1963.

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Continuing our study of family lines allied and intermarried with the Slushers, we have some small information on the Hyltons, the source of which we don't have since it has been handed to us through SEVERAL "copiers". Some of the information

came from Mr. & Mrs. King, our researchers. man and sister Esther Smith. Law suits following proved John to be a brother and Elizabeth a sister.

The Hylton-Hilton name appears to be of Saxon origin and records of the Hylton name are found in England long before the time of the Norman conquest. The name appears in various forms of spelling - the older records spelling it Hilton and the Floyd and Carroll families in Va. spelling it Hylton.

A Hilton Castle, built in 940 A.D. near Durham, England, still bears the Hilton arms engraved on the walls. A Hilton was one of the first 12 Royal Peers created, and also one was a surety of the Magna Carta. Jarnord de Hulton went on the crusade to Palestine in 1241.

The Hyltons are reputed to have come to this country from England to fight in the American Revolution under George Washington though there were Hyltons in this country much before the Revolution. Hugh Hylton 36 years old, arrived on the ship Edwine in 1619.

Some of the first records in Virginia which may or may not concern our branches of Hyltons are found in The Douglas Register, which is an account of births, marriages and deaths from records kept by the Reverend William Douglas from 1750 to 1797 in Goochland Co. Va.

A James Hylton m: Susannah Walton and (2) Lucy Wade;
John m: Obedience Cox;
Elijah m: Susannah
Nathaniel Newman m: Elizabeth
Elizabeth m: Lewis
Samuel m:
George m: Bethania Neville Allen in 1760
Esther m: Smith.

Other early records show that James owned land in Bedford and Henry Cos.; John had land in Bedford in 1760 and Floyd Counties. George owned land in several counties with the bulk in Amherst and Nelson. Samuel was issued land grant in 1775 - 195 acres. There are several Virginia grants of land to Elijah, in 1772 and in 1775, another located on Burks Fork of Big Reed Island Creek and on West Fork Little River in What is now Floyd County, Va..

James Hylton d: 1786 in Bedford Co., and named his brother George executor of his will; George's will in 1813 Nelson Co. named his brothers James, Elijah, Samuel New-

Records show that Nathaniel Newman Hylton lived in Patrick Co. Va. when it was formed in 1791. He filed a pension application in Patrick Co. for service in the Revolution, in which he states he was born in King and Queen Co. in 1744, moved with his family to Prince George Co., New Kent Co., Hanover, Amherst, Bedford and Patrick Co.

John James and Elijah all named their first sons George.

We do not know what year Elijah Hylton and his wife Susannah moved to Floyd Co. He received a grant of 195 acres on Burks Fork in 1775, but does not appear on the muster roll until 1783 in Capt. Jonathan Esam's company, along with Matthew Cox, Joseph Huff, Joshua, Daniel and Benjamin Howell, Benjamin Turman and others of the Little River Company. Elijah Hylton d: in Floyd Co. in 1798, leaving his wife Susannah, who died in 1815 and 7 children. The family were strongly allied with the Brethren Church.

A deed of partition, according to a verbal will shows Elijah had the following children:

Susannah married David Howell in 1785;
Charlotte-Luey m: Charles Turman in 1786
Elizabeth m: Henry Hilton in 1792 (cousin)
George m: Tabitha Green in 1793;
John m: Nancy Howell in 1798;
Archelous m: Catherine Weddle in 1803;
Martha (Patsy) m: Martin Weddle in 1779.

Of the children of Christopher Slusher, Sr. the following married into the first or second generations of the Hylton family:

Stephen, son of Chris, Sr. m: Charlotte Hylton, dau. of Archelous and Catherine Weddle Hylton.
Jacob, son of Chris, Sr. m: Telithe Hylton, dau. of John and Nancy Howell Hylton.
Barbara, dau of Chris, Sr., m: Elijah Turman, grandson of Elijah Hylton thru his daughter Lucy.
Mary Ann, dau. of Chris, Sr. m: Burwell Hylton, son of John D. & Nancy Howell Hylton.

Other Slusher descendants m: other Hylton descendants in succeeding generations.

Another interesting article we ran across the other day was a list of the MAYFLOWER passengers. Lots of people want to be descended from the MAYFLOWER passengers! Seems, however, that there were 104 passengers on that ship including men, women, and children. Of these 50 died the first year from when they sailed from England, the most of them within a few months after their arrival at Plymouth.

Forty-nine of the passengers left descendants and fifty-five left no descendants or none that can be traced. Of the forty-nine who left descendants, ten were wives; nine were sons, and six were daughters of other passengers. Eliminating these twenty-five as duplicate ancestors, there remain twenty-four heads of families. Of the twenty-four, however, there should be eliminated those of William Mullins and John Tilley, for the reason that each left only a daughter and each of these daughters married one of the other twenty-four. From the twenty-two, then left, are descended all persons who are now members of the various State Societies of Mayflower Descendants. Three of the names of those listed from whom descendants are possible are John Alden, Myles Standish and Priscilla Mullins, who, of course, married John Alden.

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The comparatively simple process of marriage, as we think of it today, was not so simple in Colonial days of our country. Specifically in Virginia, and in some of the other colonies, the Church of England was not only a religious institution, but also a great deal of the "law" of the early colonies. The Church wardens and vestry set the land boundaries by a process known as processioning, decided the taxes and collected them, and the population supported the Church and the minister from the public revenue. The repression of all immorality, vice and evil, the care of the poor and orphans, and the only keeping of the records of birth, marriage and deaths and other official records were the functions of the church wardens and vestry.

Marriage ceremonies could be lawfully performed only by duly accredited ministers of the established church. A marriage

might be performed only by publication of banns "three several Sundays or holy days in the time of devyne service in the parish churches where sayd persons dwell accordinge to the booke of common prayer...", or by obtaining a marriage bond.

In 1698 collection of fees was authorized by ministers or clerks for entering births marriages and deaths in parish registers. This act provided that no minister should celebrate the rights (sic) of matrimony "...without lawful license, or thrice publication of the banns in the county where the feme shall have her usual residence...". Fees to be paid for marriages were set at twenty shillings or two hundred pounds of tobacco to the governor for each license or marriage; five shillings or fifty pounds of tobacco to the clerk for issuing a license; and to the minister for publishing the banns one shilling and six-pence or fifteen pounds of tobacco; and if by banns five shillings or fifty pounds of tobacco.

Therefore it was cheaper to be married by the publishing of banns than by obtaining a marriage bond.

It was 1712 before the minister of every parish within the colony was instructed by the government to keep a register of all births, deaths and marriages. And a provision of this law instructed him to deliver a copy to the "office of the secretary of this dominion" annually.

Marriages could not be performed by any other than the ministers of the Church of England and around the middle of the 1700's the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, and the Quakers and Memonite officials began to object strenuously at not being to able to perform marriages and the other sacraments of their churches. Their strength and numbers increased so that their complaints were heard and it resulted in the dis-establishment of the Episcopal Church as an institution supported by public taxes and having not only religious functions, but secular and semi-governmental duties of a civil nature as well.

Many of the converts to the other churches were willing and anxious to receive the ordinances of the church from their own ministers, and so these ministers began, without any special law or order to do so, to perform marriages, which

resulted in some confusion and many indictments of persons for illegal co-habitation, although they had been married by ministers of their own churches.

In 1780 an Act declaring that "for encouraging marriages and for removing doubts concerning the validity of marriages celebrated by ministers other than those of the Church of England... it shall be lawful for any minister of any society of Christians and for the society of Christians called Quakers and Menonists to celebrate the rights (sic) of matrimony for those who may apply to them agreeable to the rules and usage of the respective societies to which the parties belong", and that such marriages should be declared good and valid by law, along with others which had already been performed.

Fees were prescribed as "twenty-five pounds of tobacco and no more to be paid in current money" and that a register of all marriages was to be preserved and a certificate, signed by the minister should be transmitted to the clerk of the county wherein the marriage was solemnized within three months thereafter. The clerk was to be entitled to receive ten pounds of tobacco for recording the certificate.

This law irritated the ministers of the parish churches, and they did not return such certificates to the clerks, it being the prerogative of the Church only to record such things. The dissenting ministers also failed to comply with the law and if they made returns at all, it was not within three months.

These parish records and others were in some instances regarded as personal or Church property of the ministers and when they moved to another church they simply took the records with them. In some instances - very few - the parish registers are to be found today in clerks offices or in the state libraries or church archives.

We don't know what the predominant church was in Pennsylvania during the Colonial times but do know that some of the few records of marriages, baptisms and deaths that are to be found today are in the published records of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches of Pennsylvania. If we

are not mistaken, it was well into the 19th century before the State of Pennsylvania required such records, by law, to be recorded with the State.

This is a small part of the reason why it is so difficult to find the vital records we need for genealogy. In many cases, also, records were burned up in fires in the churches or the court houses, or the records were thought of such small value that mice and bugs were allowed to eat the books, or they were allowed to mildew and rot from dampness in the place in which they were stored. There are instances where someone came to the court house and "borrowed" record books for their own use and failed to return them.

Genealogy has become such a popular hobby or pursuit during the past few decades that many of the church records and marriage records of the various counties have been published and are thus more available to the general public. Genealogical societies have been established in most of the Eastern states (and many others) because it is from these early colonies that early settlers came and records are available through these societies' publications. Most State Libraries and Archives have genealogical departments or sections in which research may be made. But the fact still remains that records that were never recorded, or which burned will never be available and this makes family research in some counties impossible.

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We apologize for the lateness of this letter. We still haven't heard from the genealogist, but hopefully, he's working for us! If we hear anything before we get this stuffed into an envelope and stamped and sealed and sorted, we'll add an extra page. If not, we promise an early edition of the April Newsletter.

Meanwhile, let's be thankful that the Vietnam War seems to be over!