

Happy New Year to you all! A little late perhaps, but we've been out of the constant downpour in Tennessee into the beautiful sunshine of Hawaii, hence the letter and the greetings are a bit late, but no less sincere. What with Watergate, politics, impeachment, the cost of living gas rationing, 55-mile speed limits, shortages, the weather, etc. ad infinitum seems we may have reason to wish for a happier New Year but then think how bored we'd be - nothing catastrophic to look forward to. What we need now is lots of faith in God and our Country - they've both gone on for a long time and crises have come and gone and been conquered and new ones have arisen. They will again. (See one man's opinion of the state of the Union in 1857, later in this letter.)

Actually, you will be glad to hear for once, we have heard from a genealogist! We believe he knows what he is doing and will proceed to find what there is to find for us. Hopefully.

The newest thing he has found for us is the gravestone of Peter Schlosser, whom we believe to be Christopher's father. It is located in the Old Reformed Church Graveyard, Sharpsburg, Washington Co., Maryland, on Chapline Street, between Hagerstown Pike (Route 65) and North Mechanic Street. The stone is located near the Southeast corner of the cemetery, standing upright, and is very legible.

Most of the letters are capitals (typical German), but the e's and r's are lower case, but of the same height as the capitals.

Unfortunately, the church registers seem to be unavailable - the genealogist said one person said the earliest records are in private hands; another said that only the records from 1870 are available and still another says they never survived. He's still working on it.

The stone reads as follows:

Hier
RUHeT IN GOTT
PeTer SCHLOSSer
IST GeBOHren A 1710₉
D 20 JANer
UND GeSTorBeN IM
JAhr CHrISTI A 1790
D 8 JANer
SeIN ALTER WAhr
80 JAhr 11 MONAT
U 3 DAG
WAN DU Die TODeM We
IST AN IeNeM TAG er
WeCKeN SO THU AUCh
DeINE HAND ZU MeI
NeM GRAB AUSTre
CKeN

The translation of the words on the stone is:

"Here rests in God Peter Schlosser,, He was born 20 January 1710 (9) and died 8 January 1790. His age was 80 (1) years 11 months and 3 days. When you awaken the dead on that day, so also reach out your hand to my grave."

The (9) was added after the 1710 date and a "1" was cut through the center of the (0) in the 80, thus changing it to 81.

The days don't exactly work out to "3" but we refuse to be bothered about that, considering the changes in the years which were carved into the stone. At least we can't make it work.

Also, the genealogist has found another DAR paper which says that Peter Schlosser was born in St. Arnaud-Nassau-Saarbruck, Germany and died in WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND. So that would seem to be one step further to finding proof and maybe taking the genealogy back to Germany.

"Search out the virtues of thy family,
And, to be worthy of thy fathers' name,
Learn of the good they did, and do the same,
For if you bear their arms, and not their fame,
Those ensigns of their worth will be your shame."

-- Tennyson

And he has established the fact that there were a Peter Schlosser and a Henry Schlosser in the 1790 Census of Maryland in Washington Co. and a Peter Schlosser and a Henry Schlosser in Pennsylvania in Whitehall Township, Northampton Co.

These two Peter Slushers are the ones that are mixed up on the DAR lineages we have seen, thus causing us all the trouble we've had in the past 6 or 7 years trying to separate them. There is apparently no proof on either paper, this being a generation beyond the one needed for DAR membership.

However, it would seem to be positive that the Peter Schlosser who was born in Germany in 1710 (9), d: in 1790 in Washington Co. Md. is the one who lived a long period of his life in Lancaster Co. Pa. and moved with his family to Washington Co. in his later years. Since Christopher lived there and since there were other Slushers there, this would seem to be a fairly accurate deduction. The Peter Schlosser who lived in Whitehall Twp. Pa. did not die until after 1790, when he was listed in the census, and tax records.

It begins to unravel, but slowly.

The Chancery Papers Index for Slusher, (etc) in Washington County, Md. show that in 1792 and 1793, a Peter Slusher had several pieces of land among which were "Slusher's Chance", "Discontent", "Joe's Folly", "part of Content" and "Smith's Choice"; a Henry Slusser had "Dear Bought".

* * * * *

Now we will consider the matter of whether our Christopher and/or his son, Christopher, Jr., had the middle name of "Huffstuffle". On the face of it, one would think his parents ought to be ashamed of pinning such a name on a helpless baby. For the following two reasons we have always doubted that this was a description of his name:

1. "Stuffle" was a nickname for Christopher in the old German families.
2. We have never seen the name in any document we have come across where Christopher signed his name, nor have we ever seen the name in any of the research we've done or books we have read on early German families.

However, we find two or three things which may very well add weight to the proposition that Huffstuffle, or a version thereof, was indeed Chris' middle name - one or both of them, probably both. We have never found either of their birth or baptism records.

One thing is simply the fact that we keep hearing it from various sources.

One is that the name Huffstuffle was so mentioned in a book which was written in the 1840's in Lexington, Mo., where Chris Jr. lived, which said this was his middle name.

The other is that Barbara Slusher Turman's son, Christopher, b: 10 December 1814 Grayson County, Va. d: 6 April 1885 is listed in the Christopher Turman Family Bible as Christopher Huffle Turman.

Chris, Jr.'s marriage bond lists his name as "Stuffle" Slusher in the records of Frederick County, Va. He married Anna Myers on Dec. 25, 1801.

It's rather confusing and not very conclusive, is it?

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Speaking of names, the records of Washington County, Md. list several people by the name of "Mumma". You will remember that George Slusher's daughter Artimissie married George Mumma - that is the way the marriage record was written. In the powers-of-attorney given when Chris, Sr. died, the name was spelled Newman - one can see how such a transcription could be made - all those "m's", "w's" and "n's". We think it should be Mumma.

Also listed in the Frederick County, Maryland Wills and Administrations in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. in the account of the Executor of Andrew Slusser, in 1817, among the heirs of Andrew were Eve, wife of George Hockensmith and Barbara, wife of John Hockensmith. One of Chris Jr.'s daughters married a man named William Henry Hockensmith. It is possible that the Hockensmiths came south and west with the Slushers, Phlegars, Goodykoontzs and others.

Genealogy is a funny thing. When we first started on our family we knew about Christopher and several of his children - very few dates of birth or death. We generally knew we should examine Pennsylvania records, but now where. We found Frederick County, Va. and now we have found Washington Co., Md. and a whole new group of Slushers we're going to have to fit in and figure out. The Washington Co. records seem to be more available and illuminating than some we have come across, or perhaps it's just that we have someone who knows where and how to find them.

The land records of the county for the time period in which we are interested list Daniel Slusser, George Slosser, Henry Slosser, John Slosser, Mary Slosser and Peter, and we know there were two Peters. One with a wife named Mary, whom we presume to be Chris' father, and one with a wife named Susannah, who possibly was a brother to Chris.

The various cemetery records mention Peter, of the gravestone, and Martha Schlosser, wife of Simon, age 71 yr. 7 mo. 16 da. d: Aug. 1, 1882. Mary, dau of Simon & Martha d: 9 June 1866 age 23 yr, 8 mo, 29 days. (These last two are buried in the Mumma Graveyard, Sharpsburg.) Simon Schlosser 1806 - 1843 - he's in the Salem Reformed Church Graveyard near Bearfoss. Elizabeth Schlosser, dau. of P. Schlosser & wife of Leonard M. Middlekuff b: 1770 d: 1833. John Schlosser, Pvt. K. Reg. 11, Inf. D. Sept. 11, 1862, removed from S. Mountain.

And the records of Frederick Co., Md. list Peter Slusser and Henry Slusser as executors of Henry Slusser (1806). In the last accounting of the executors Henry's widow (unnamed) was left 200/0/0 and the residue of his estate was to be equally divided between "deceased eight children to wit: (all receiving 255/10/1 $\frac{1}{4}$) Magdalene, Peter, Henry, Andrew, Elizabeth, Mary, Roseannah, George.

And then a Henry Schlosser died around 1820 and "Peter Schlosser" was Adm of his estate - no heirs mentioned.

Andrew, mentioned before, died about 1817 with heirs: John Sluss; Catherine, wife of Mathias Nebrite; Andrew Sluss; Eve, Adam Sluss; Barbara, and Michael Sluss (this is the way it was written.)

The Frederick Co., Md. Will Index lists Elizabeth Slosser, 1860. George Slosser, Peter G. Schlosser, Adm. 1860. Michael (Capt.) Sluss, John Sluss(er) Peter Slosser, 1850. John Sluss, 1890.

And, there are others - just when you think you're getting them all nicely rounded up and placed, others turn up!

* * * * *

The following is a letter written by Samuel Slusher, son of Stephen and Charlotte Slusher during the Civil War.

(Christopher-Stephen-Samuel, b: 1 Dec. 1836 in Indiana, d: 19 March 1898 in Stillwell, Kan. m: Susan Levina Van Hess Aug. 19, 1873.)

November 24, 1861

Cedar Bluff, Taswell County, Va.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I am bless with the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along.

I am well at present and as pert as ever I was. I hope when these few lines reach you they will find you all enjoying the same like blessing. All our company that are here are in tolerable good health. Austin is complaining some. Luis complaining with a sore throat and bad cold. I hope he will be well in a few days. We have been here since last Monday but I don't know how long we will stay here. I don't care how quick we have to leave here if they will take us some place and put up winter quarter. For I tell you all if don't put up winter quarters pretty quick we will be bound to suffer with cold. It is very cold now. We go a oven full of coal in our tent now to keep warm. I can see the snow is the north side of the Mountain now. Bennette Willis received a letter from Floyd last night. It stated that Henry was

going to start to us the 25th of this month. I would be glad to see him but I am afearred he is starting back to soon for his own good though I can't tell.

We can get plenty to eat here. I can buy chickens at 10 cts per chicken. I bought two this morning cooked for twenty-five cts. I can by dried peaches for one dollar and 5 cts a bushel. We had pretty hard move when we left Wytheville. The men stood up to hit better than I expected. They all got here but Christopher Harmon his leg give out in Burks Gardan. I do not know where he is now but I recon he is there yet we was going to send back after him and Austin talk to the Colonel about it and he wouldn't let him send back. I can't give you all much more about the war only the Militia was sent out of this county since we have been here but they sent them back. We here a good deal of news about the war but we hear so much that is false that it is no use to write anything that we hear.

William Quesenberry is pretty well fixed today. He got the chickens in the pot and I give him a permit to go and get him some bread. Some of the boys went to meeting today. I enjoy camp life better than I expected in good weather but I had rather be at home - would like to see you all but I don't expect to see you all till my time is out if ever. If it is the will of the almighty that we should meet on earth, we will meet if we never meet on earth again. I hope it will be his will to carry us on high where there's no parting no more our trouble and sorrows will be over where there is no parting no more. Austin sends his best respects to you all. Jonus sends his to you too. So nothing more at present only your friend until death. Write to me soon.

Samuel Slusher to James Quesenberry and family and Sister Eva Jane.

Direct your letters to Saltville, Va. in care of Capt. H. Slusher 54th regiment, Va. Volunteers. So fare well fare well all around.

* Since the Hylton family is so closely allied with the Slusher family, we thought you would be interested in this information which was sent to us by a descendant, Mrs. Dorothy Burnett Peterson of Memphis.

Jacob Slusher married Telithe Hylton, dau. of John Bryant and Nancy Howell Hylton and Mary Ann Slusher married Burwell Hylton son of John Bryant and Nancy Howell Hylton. Nancy Howell was a daughter of Joshua Howell. In the State Archives in Richmond, Va. is the letter handwritten by Joshua Howell to the Clerk of the Montgomery Co. Court, giving his daughter Nancy permission to marry John (Bryant) Hylton. In copying the marriage record in Christiansburg, Montgomery Co., Va. an error was made and the father of Nancy Howell was listed as David Howell, who was her brother, and a witness to the handwritten note and to the Marriage Bond. When Mrs. Peterson called this to the attention of the personel in the Archives, it was corrected in the written record, but could not be corrected in the microfilm. She is trying to see if she can get the record corrected in Christiansburg. The handwritten document reads as follows:

To Mr. Charles Tabor Clark of Montgomery.

Sir please To let the barer John Helten have licens of marring between him and my daughter Nancy Sir & you Will oblige your friend Joshua Howel

Test David Howel

Test Joshua Howel

David _____

For those interested in DAR lineage, Mrs. Willis K. Baker, Artois, Calif. joined DAR on the record of Public Service of Joshua Howell during the Revolutionary war. Her National No. is 459539, and proof of service is as follows:

Public Service Claims, Certificates Botetourt Co. 64-975 Botetourt, Nov. 10th 1781

I do hereby certify that Joshua Howel is entitled to receive two pounds one shilling and eight pence in specie for two hundred and fifty pounds of beef received of him for public use.

250 lbs. at (illegible) £3.26

W. Ward, D.C.P. Lan(?)

* Nancy Howell's parents with seven of their children left Virginia in 1808 and went to Campaign Co. Ohio, where Joshua founded the town of Christiansburg, named for the town in Montgomery Co. where he lived. Most of the children who accompanied their father: Joshua, Jr., John, Thomas, James, Daniel, Jeremiah and Abigail, left the township after they reached maturity and the old pioneer himself spent the last days of his life in Delaware Co., Ind. at the home of one of his sons. He died in Muncie, Indiana 2 July 1836, aged 91 years and his wife Mary died there 11 Sept. 1835, aged 87. Two of the children of Joshua and Mary Howell remained in Va. - David Howell, who married Susannah Hylton, dau of Elijah Hylton, and Nancy Howell who married (1) John Bryant Hylton and (2) William Hancock.

The following is a letter written by David Howell to his brother Daniel Jan. 27, 1857. Its a fine commentary on life at that time in Virginia.

Brother:

I take this Opportunity of addressing you a few lines to inform you that I am well and Hart and have enjoyed good health for many years thanks be to God for his mercies upon me and hope these few lines (defective lines) may find you all enjoying the same inestimable blessings.

I received your letter of the 26th of this instant which afforded me great satisfaction to hear from you all, though I mourn and sympathize your loss of your companion. I have experienced the same loss and by the same disease. I am sorry to hear you was crippled and suffering a great deal from it. I am free from any pains but rather hard of hearing.

Sister Nancy Hancock has been dead 4 or 5 years, just lingered away without much suffering.

My son Andrew and family lives in Rupert Co. Va., 150 miles from me though he came to see me last Sept. They were all very well then and he informed me he had quit drinking and become a sober man. His family is all married but Jackson and Jefferson

I must inform you times are very hard in

Virginia as respects money though produce is high, pork 6 dollars per hundred, beef \$5.00, wheat \$1.00 per bushel, corn 60¢ per bushel, oats 33¢ per bushel. Horses are very high. I want to tell you we have a railroad in 20 miles of us. We can go to Richmond in 30 hours now, a distance of 200 miles of us. Our country is improving very fast and land is very high. My son Beaufort sold a part of my old plantation for \$41.00 per acre and is going to move to Kansas after he can sell all his machines. He has ten wood-cording machines, 8 power looms, 1 spinning machine of 216 spindles yet to sell. I am still living with my son Beaufort and well satisfied with him and his family. They are very good to me and if I live, I expect to go with him. You will please write on the receipt of this letter and give me the county and postoffice where brother Joshua lives so I can write to him.

You will please inform me whether my father (Joshua Howell, Sr.) ever drew any pension or land claim or his representatives as we are entitled to his land claim if it has not been drawn.

You wanted to know my age. I think I am just turned in to my 90th year and can read my Bible or any fine print without specks or walk about quite brisk and well. Some warm days I go to the mill and grind for the neighbors when Beaufort is busy though I am under no necessity laboring at all and in truth, If I do any work at all they scold me for it.

I would be glad to see you all but if we cannot enjoy that privilege we can write to each other which is a great satisfaction.

My son Beaufort has 6 children, Isabella Jane, the oldest 16 years, Chaplain Combs, the oldest son, 12 yrs. Winfield Scott, near 10 years, Elmetta Narcissy, 7 yrs, David Burman, 4 yrs, Henry Langburn 2 months. So I have nothing more but remain your most affectionate brother until death. So farewell Dear Brother

From David Howell to Daniel Howell

Same letter - continued.

Dear Uncle - I will drop you a few lines concerning the condition of our state.

Virginia has been in the hands of the Democratic party for 50 years past and is now 34 millions in debt and she has taxed her citizens almost to death. We are taxed 40¢ on every hundred dollars worth of land and property and land is appraised so high that a great many is determined to leave Virginia as their taxes is so high that they can't pay. A great many men pay from 50 to 200 dollars taxes. It is in truth tyrannical and despotic State government. The tax bill discriminates in behalf of the slave holder, a negro that will sell for 1,000 dollars cash is taxed \$1.20, the poor man pays on 1,000 worth of poor land \$4.00 a nigger under 12 years is tax free when many pays for his colt, pig, calf and lamb as soon as they stand and such. So much for the Democrats of Va. God forbid that the Dem. of Ohio should be so aristocratic as ours if they are they will sap the substances of her citizens in a few years. I am done with this subject.

I have been engaged in a woolen factory for many years and having become tired of the business, I am selling out with a view to moving to Kansas and farming and grazing stock. I can go to Kansas and buy land for all my children and pay myself and still have something left to go on and I am not able to locate them in Va. with such homes as I would like.

Another view I have, I am a free-soiler opposed to the extension of Slavery. I want Kansas to be admitted as a free state and then the state legislature to pass a prohibition law against any black person coming in the state, free or bound. You may anticipate from the above I am an abolitionist but if you do, you are mistaken. I voted for Millard Fillmore, while your state voted for Fremont. So, no more, but remain your most truly and respectful relation until death.

To Uncle Daniel Howell and family from
Beaufort Howell, Floyd Co. Va.

(Note: Don't think its that way now, but they used to say as surely as daylight and dark, 99 counties in Virginia voted Democratic, but Floyd County always went Republican.)

Remember the Reunion - June 30, 1974.
We'll give you details in the April newsletter, soon as we think up some details to tell you. We could use an on-the-spot committee to plan that Reunion. Someone nearer Floyd County than 450 miles. How about some volunteers? Please?

* * * * *

'Nuff for now - got to go chase the pesky starlings out of the bird feeder.

Sure enough now - about that on-the-spot Committee mentioned above. All volunteers write Mrs. W. S. Slusher, 206 Rivermont Drive, McMinnville, TN. 37110.