

This first Newsletter of the last quarter of the 20th Century comes to you with the hope that you will all have a happy and healthy New Year, and that the next twenty-five years will be a little less traumatic than the past 75 and that certainly the economy will settle down to a more creditable level. So be it!

Frustration reins supreme around here lately. It was decided it would be a good thing to list all the items in the house to update the insurance. And supposedly it is a good idea, but it is also one horrendous job! You find things you didn't know you had and don't know where you got - putting prices or values on things is an impossible job. Some things are worthless to anyone else and priceless to you. ITEM: One file cabinet full of genealogical records. It took years to collect them and no small amount of money, but in event of loss, how could such a thing be valued, except as a total loss. And our children keep bringing things home they don't have room for, all nicely sealed and boxed and put in the attic. It has been decided that the best thing to do with that attic is to list it as "one disaster area full of probably very valuable junk" and let it go at that.

There was a genealogical seminar in McMinnville last week. The speaker said people should copy their records and put them in the local library. They would not only be available to others working on the same lines, but would be available to you in case of loss of yours by fire or something. Sounds reasonable.

AND SPEAKING OF LOST: The book of the descendants of Solomon Slusher is missing. Someone had permission to take it home from the reunion in June and Mr. & Mrs. King have forgotten who has it. So,

if you have the Solomon book, will you please return it to the Kings pretty quick now, since it has to go to Salt Lake City for microfilming very soon. At least, please let them know you have it if you haven't finished copying what you want. It would be very bad if it were lost, or if it was the only line of the family which did not get microfilmed.

It may be that you've forgotten you have it, so all you descendants of Solomon and Permelia Reed Slusher, please look to see. Mail it to Mr/Mrs. Hatcher King, Spout Spring, Va. 24593. Thank you very much!

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In the early 1700's, when Germans were emigrating in great numbers from the religious and economic oppression in their home states, it was first necessary for them to obtain relief from their oaths of allegiance to the head of their local feudal states, before they could leave. Such a petition follows:

"Most Serene Prince! Merciful Prince and Lord!

It must be known to your most serene Highness that many people from the surrounding countries, towns and villages are leaving for the Island of Carolina, therefore I, your obedient subject, God have mercy, have likewise decided to go there for the reason that in these difficult and sorrowful times I am unable to provide for myself and mine by means of my trade. I understand that in the above named Island there is a scarcity of artisans, and it is therefore possible that I might be better able to gain a livelihood, and I pray your serene Highness that you will absolve me, your poor subject, of my oath and provide me with a written testimonial in order that I may be accepted by her Royal Majesty

[Queen Anne, who was instrumental in sending large numbers of immigrants to America.]

In the hope of a merciful answer, a release and a hearing

Your Serene Highness'

Most obedient

s/ Johann Aszbach

Cloth maker in Herborn

Many of the people were so desperate to leave that they sailed down the Rhine to Rotterdam with their families and all their belongings without enough money to keep them, pay their passage to America and to live on until they could get established in their trades in the new world. Their numbers and plight became a great drain on the economy of Rotterdam and London. The emigrants often were obliged to apprentice themselves for 7 years to someone who paid their fare to this country. Many died of hunger and privation and illness before they could even get passage on a ship. Many, as the following indicates, had even worse luck.

In an effort to stem the tide of emigrants, or at least let them know what problems they faced, directives were sent to various locations in Germany where great numbers of families were leaving. The following is a notice sent from a resident of Rotterdam to one of these locations:

1. I cannot be certain of the Queen's intentions with regard to these people, but those that have money can, with favorable wind, reach the islands of Pennsylvania and Carolina in two months; every-

one, grown persons as well as children, have to pay a fare of 100 fl(orins) each, which includes food.

2. They have to pay for the land and the livestock in the islands (meaning America); 30, 40, 50 up to 100 fl will suffice.

3. They have no special privileges or freedom, but they have to pay and contribute the same as others and those that are able to pay transportation for 10 to 20 persons, be they formerly free or unfree, can become rich; there are no feudal duties in the islands.

4. The taxes are somewhat less than in the Kingdom of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

5. Travelers without money cannot proceed to the islands. The young men are placed with the navy of England, Scotland and Ireland, the artisans are distributed over the three Kingdoms and the farmers are put to work along the coast.

6. The Queen cannot help the travelers if their real and personal estate has been attached by their overlords, they have to help themselves.

7. The poor people who cannot pay for their passage from Rotterdam to London are obliged to return. The trip costs 30 stivers Dutch money without sustenance.

8. The travelers do not receive any advances from the Queen; those who have money can buy cows and horses in the islands.

9. The Queen does not know anything about the books written in Germany, which from Pennsylvania have been published in Germany, but there are false books inspired by the devil in order to bring the German people there at the mercy of the Indians and wild beasts.

10. In order that the poor, exiled people do not starve at London the Queen has ordered that daily 3, 4, up to 5 stivers are to be taken from the contributions and alms, according to the amount collected to be distributed in the kingdoms. A large number have died on account of the heat.

11. The Queen has decided not to admit any more refugees and has written to the Elector of Nybourg to this effect and asked him to let this be known to perspective emigrants.

12. The magistrate and Burgomasters of Rotterdam have ordered not to let any more people land because the citizens are annoyed by many beggars. The poor are given bread from the alms but those who can pay are given nothing.

13. The travelers are given no convey by the Queen against the pirates but they are required to pay their share in the maintenance of the army.

Rotterdam the 12th of August 1709
 Alberty Dooren
 Merchant on the Winjnhaven. "

Notice in both the petition and the directive, Pennsylvania and Carolina are called "islands". No mention of any other states is made. It must have been pretty discouraging for them to read about starving and Indians and wild beasts and dying from the heat and being turned back. Those who probably needed to leave the most were the poorest and they were the ones urged not to leave. Many of them must have taken the chance anyway.

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Here are some lines not yet published, descendants of Solomon and Elizabeth Slusher Harmon:

JACOB S. HARMON, son of Elizabeth Slusher and Solomon Harmon, was b: 1 October 1811, Floyd Co., d: 4 Dec 1882, m: 26 Jan. 1836 to Sophia Weddle, dau of Margaret (Peggy) Weddle. Sophia Weddle Harmon was b: 7 July 1811, Floyd Co., d: 15 Mar. 1880.

Children:

Ala Ann Harmon, b: 23 Oct. 1836, d: 21 June 1900, m: John Bryant Hylton in 1885 son of Archelous & Catherine Hylton, Floyd Co. No Children.

Mahala Harmon, b: 7 July 1838, d: 21 Dec. 1861.

Nancy Harmon, b: 16 Jan. 1841, d: 29 Mar. 1884, m: Daniel B. Bowman son of John & Sarah Bowman, Floyd

Co. 28 Dec. 1882 (brother-in-law).
 Eli Harmon, b: 8 July 1843, d: 25 Nov. 1863, single. Possibly died in Civil War.

Elder Ananias W. Harmon, b: 20 Oct. 1845, d: 1 Sep. 1919. m: Mary Ann Hylton, dau. Richard & Nancy Balingier Hylton 22 Aug. 1867, Floyd.

Emmezetta Harmon, b: 17 Mar. 1848, d: 30 Oct. 1880, m: Daniel B. Bowman, son of John & Sarah Bowman, 8 Sept. 1870. (Ch. see below)*

Asa W. Harmon, b: 22 Mar. 1853, d: 8 Mar. 1933, m: Julia Ann Slusher, dau. Lewis H. & Sarah Slusher 6 Feb. 1879. No Children.

*This line runs two ways from Christopher, Senior:

Christopher, Sr. - Mary Ann Slusher - Ira S. Hylton - Gilbert W. Hylton and

Chris. Sr. Elizabeth Slusher - Jacob S. Harmon - Emmazetta Harmon - Selena Bowman:

Gilbert Walker Hylton, son of Ira Slusher Hylton and his second wife Angelina Simmons Hylton; b: 23 Sep. 1870, d: 3 Aug. 1957, m: 16 Feb. 1892 to Selena Bowman, dau. Daniel and Emmazetta Harmon Bowman. Selena was b: 3 Feb. 1873, d: 31 July 1957. Both buried Laurel Branch Ceme, Floyd Co.

Children: (All b: & M: Floyd Co.)

Emberzetta Gay Hylton, b: 24 Apr. 1893, m: 1912 Leonard Smith, son of Noah & Lena Smith.

Clarissa Angeline Hylton, b: 27 Oct. 1894, m: 22 Feb. 1914 Cecil Reed.

Effie Alan Hylton, b: 26 Nov. 1896, d: 15 June 1963, m: Apr. 1919 Foster Harmon.

John Burwell Hylton, b: 4 June 1899 d: 2 Feb. 1972, m: 5 June 1919 Malissa Weeks.

Jake Harmon Hylton, b: 22 Oct. 1901 d: 22 Oct. 1959, m: 4 Oct. 1925, Carsie Ella Weeks.

Bessie Lee Hylton, b: 2 July 1904,
m: 12 Sep. 1930, William Francis
Pullen.

Ira Martin Hylton, b: 1 Jan. 1906,
m: (1) Reba Atkinson 17 Apr. 1930,
(2) Bertha Reed.

Ila Merle Hylton, b: 1 Jan. 1906,
m: 14 June 1931 Charles Keller.

Julian Plurious Hylton, b: 17 Nov.
1909, m: 18 June 1938 June Eliza-
beth Harmon.

Maynard Gilbert Hylton, b: 25 Mar.
1914, m: 17 Nov. 1935, Edith Eliza-
beth Reed.

Another line of the children of
Solomon and Elizabeth Slusher Har-
mon:

JOHN HARMON, son of Solomon & Eliza-
beth Slusher Harmon, b: 30 Mar. 1814
d: 27 Dec. 1893; m: Mary (Polly)
Bishop, dau. John & Dicie Bishop in
Floyd Co. 9 Feb. 1843. She was b:
1 Mar. 1820, Floyd Co. d: 3 Feb.
1897.
Children:

Dr. James M. Harmon, b: 1844, Floyd
Co. m: Fannie Scott. Had ch. Floyd,
Mary & Joel, lived in Texas.

Malinda Harmon, b: 1846, Floyd Co.
d: 1943, m: 10 Feb. 1867, John T.
Conduff.

Margaret Harmon, b: 10 July 1848,
m: 21 Aug. 1868, Jacob Hylton.

Nancy (Nannie) Harmon, B: 24 Jan.
1851, m: 1871 Floyd Co. Silas G.
Conduff, son I. G. & Lydia E.
Conduff.

Mary Ann Harmon

Sarah Harmon

(Who can add to this record?)

BENJAMIN HARMON, son of Solomon &
Elizabeth Slusher Harmon, b: 13 June
1816? (53 in 1870 census), Floyd Co.
d: 1904 Floyd Co. m: Susannah Huff,
dau. Samuel & Margaret Weddle Huff
on 10 July 1838, Floyd Co. (She age
54 in 1870 Census.

Children: (All b: & m: Floyd Co.)

Almira Harmon, b: 1839, m: 1860

John Thomas, son of Aron & Sarah
Thomas.

Harriet Harmon, b: 1841, m: 1863

Charles Thomas, son of Aron & Sarah
Thomas.

Violet Harmon, b: 1843, m: 1877

Isaac Weddle, son of Andrew &
Elizabeth Weddle.

Susannah Harmon, b: 1849, m: 1875,

John W. Boyd, son of Jacob M. &
M--- Boyd.

Johnson Harmon, b: 1850, m: 1873,

Mary Ellen Moran, dau. Elijah &
Caroline Moran.

Elizabeth Harmon, b: 1852, m: 3 Dec.
1868, Lorenzo Smith.

Nicholas Harmon, b: 20 Feb. 1854,
m: Ellen Hopkins.

Roland Harmon, b: 13 Sep. 1856, m:
1895 Addie Smith, dau. Geo &
Catherine Smith.

Joshua Harmon, b: 1858, m: 1883,

Mahala E. Boyd, dau. Joshua & Mary
W. Boyd.

Hannah Harmon, b: 30 Sep. 1860, m:
6 Dec. 1883 James D. DeHart.

Levi Harmon, b: 9 Oct. 1863, m:
1890 Julia Lee, dau. John W. &
Sarah E. Lee.

NOW: lets go back and follow the
line: Chris, Sr., Elizabeth Slusher,
Jacob S. Harmon, Emmazetta Harmon,
to Selena Bowman (& Gilbert Walker
Hylton) to one of their children:

JOHN BURWELL HYLTON, son of Gilbert
Walker and Selena Bowman Hylton, b:
1900 Floyd Co. d: 2 Feb. 1972, Mont-
gomery Co. Va., m: (1) 1919, Floyd
Co. Melissa Weeks, b: 1901, Floyd
Co. d: 1940, Floyd Co. dau. James
and Jathina Keith Weeks. John Hyl-
ton m: (2) Inez Victoria Mize Pratt
in 1955.

Children:

Frederick Roscoe Hylton, b: 29 Mar.

1920, m: Thelma L. Trail, dau. L. C. Following WWII, the exodus was even more pronounced.
and Ann Thomas Trail in Floyd Co.,
Nov. 1941. Had dau. Ellen Ann, b:
3 Oct. 1944.

Freeman Curtis Hylton, b: 23 July
1923, m: (1) Reba Alice Slusher,
dau. Wyatt & Grace Slusher 27 Feb.
1942, (2) Lillian Helms Shelor, dau.
Emory & Flora Shelor, in 1948.

Ralph Merrill Hylton, b: 27 Nov.
1925, m: Louise M. Alderman, dau.
P. A. & Bessie Alderman, 29 Sep.
1945, Floyd Co. Ch: Gary Edward,
b: 18 July 1947 & Carolyn.

Norman Hylton, b: 15 Apr. 1928.
Ch: Steve & Jerry.

Elizabeth Ellen Hylton, b: 19 Mar.
1935, m: Harold Eugene Bolt, son
Floyd & Ala Bolt in 1955, Floyd,
2 children.

Shirley Ann Hylton, b: 9 Apr. 1940,
m: 1958 Robert Lane Richards, son
Walter & Anne Richards, Floyd. Ch:
Karen & Allen.

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Now please listen to something serious: As can be seen from the above our records are much more complete for the years in the 1800's and very early 1900's than they are from, say, 1920 - 1975, and especially from 1945 to 1975.

Now the reason for this is clear. Many of the family - actually, except for the descendants of Chris, Jr., the greater number of families - stayed in Floyd County. The Court House and Census records are there and available for research with records of births, marriages, etc., and have been pretty well incorporated in the Organization's files.

However, the exodus from Floyd Co. started probably after WWI and during the Depression, and people moved away and settled in other places they called home and brought up their families there and their families moved on to other places.

Therefore, there are descendants of Christopher Slusher all over this country and probably several foreign countries AND the records are no longer easy to come by - in fact, unless you send them in there is no way these generations can be included in any compilation of the descendants of Christopher Slusher that the Organization hopes to publish.

This involves at least the last three generations, too. From around 1900 to the present. It is amazing to those of us who are interested in genealogy how many people of this day and age don't even know what their grandmother's maiden name was. (Including our own son, until recently!)

This letter is sent to 17 States and D.C.: (Mo., Ohio, Calif., N.C., Texas, Md., Wash., Utah., Mich., Ill., Fla., N. Y., Kan., Colo., Louisiana, Okla., W.Va.) to some 150-200 families. How many of you have updated your family data sheets in the past five years since you were first sent the genealogical sheets? Your daughters and sons have married, had children or grandchildren! Aunts, uncles, parents, and grandparents have married or remarried, given birth or have died. You know all this but it isn't in the record.

Now there is another certainty: Our Organization does not have the money to spend for postage, etc. to run down all the lines, even if we could get complete cooperation from everyone we sent requests to - nor do we have addresses and married names to pursue such a course, even to those we know whose records are not up to date.

We have begun to study formats and numbering systems and possibilities of publishing our family history as we talked about at the

last reunion. It's going to be an expensive procedure at the least, and it's going to take about two years or better of absolutely agonizing hard work on somebody's part. If we don't have complete cooperation of everyone, it simply won't be worth it, because no one is getting paid for the job. At least, not yet they aren't. It may be that a professional will have to be hired for the job, but that, of course, would run up the cost of the book considerably.

These thoughts are for your consideration. Much the same thing has been mentioned in the last two or three Newsletters with considerably less than howling success. This is the last time we'll mention it because so much is enough and it gets boring after awhile. OK?

Send any information you have to Mr. & Mrs. Hatcher King, Spout Spring, Va. 24593.

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We regret there is no word from the Genealogist this month. Back to the old drawing board and the process of finding another one? Process is already started.