

Believing you will be interested in the present status of our reorganized Slusher Family Organization, the following is a report as of around the middle of October.

As you know, we decided at the Reunion in July that the Newsletter could only be sent to those who paid their dues, and a Sustaining Membership category was added to consist of those who are interested enough in furthering our genealogy to add a little extra for that purpose.

So: 113 people have paid dues for 1972 or for 1972 and '73. The dues continue to dribble in and we think we will have more when people get around to it.

And we have 31 Sustaining Members who have given amounts up to \$25.00 and down to \$1.00 for the purpose of hiring a genealogist to see if we can find our Chris Sr.'s background.

We have contacted the Pa. State Library and they have sent us names of qualified genealogists, two of whom we have contacted to see if they are available, what their fees are and primarily what hiring a genealogist entails, since all we know about them is that they cannot guarantee they can find what you want them to find: i.e. Christopher's parents, firstly!

When we get all this information, we will send it to the Executive committee for approval and then you all can start keeping your fingers crossed.

The Library in Harrisburg, Pa. wrote that they have in their card files 12 references to Schlosser; 2 to Slusher; and 5 to surname Slusser, and that the above information could not be photocopied or given out. They also sent us the names of some genealogical sources in Germany. Now that we know someone who can interpret for us, maybe we can start at both ends and meet in the middle. 'Twould be nice if we could!

We have somewhat over \$500 in the bank at present - we don't have the exact amount of the money given for research at hand, but we'll let you know how much we feel we should spend on research and how much must be saved for future newsletters later when the Committee has decided. OK?

In studying genealogy one comes across information which is very interesting about the habits, customs and laws observed by the people of different generations. For instance, concerning the early Germans in Pennsylvania,

(1) They were (and still are) called Pa. Dutch. Actually they were not from Holland at all, but German peasants who came from the Palatinate, Switzerland, Wurttemberg, and other areas along the Rhine River. These lands today are in France, Germany and Switzerland, but these people spoke German dialects, and called themselves Deutsch or Deitsch, which the English heard as Dutch, and the name has remained with them through the centuries.

(2) The English clerks in the ports of entry were prone to call all German emigrants "Palatines", which should have meant they were from the Palatinate, but which did not necessarily do so. The clerks spelled the names of the early settlers as they sounded, hence Slusher from Schlosser.

(3) A large percentage of German immigrants of the early 1700's were Lutheran, some Reformed, Moravian, Mennonite or Amish - and the United Brethren Church claimed a number of them after they arrived in this country. The Mennonites did not baptize infants and kept no church records. The Amish preserved their genealogical records by word of mouth through the generations. The Lutherans kept records of baptisms (with only the date of baptism in the earlier records) and lists of communicants. Communion services and baptisms were held at the churches - marriages at homes or parsonages, burials in the family cemeteries on the farms. The books were kept at the church.

(4) Frequently, the female form of a German name is noted by adding the letters "in" or "erin" on the end of the name. Sometimes a wife continued to be known by her maiden name decades after marriage (Shades of Women's Lib!)

(6) Baptismal sponsors of a child were usually persons very close to the family, uncles, aunts of the child and sometimes the child's own grandparents.

(7) The Germans, especially before they came to America had a habit of giving all boys the first name of John, followed by a second name and all girls were given the first name of Anna or Mary. Then they called the children by their second names or by nicknames, as 'Stoffel' for Christopher. Our Chris Jr's. marriage records in Frederick Co. Va. reads "Stuffle Slusher and Anna Myers".

(8) Generally, the Germans who migrated from Pa. went in the direction of Ohio and on west, or else meandered down the valley of Virginia and settled in the hilly sections of the states of Va. & N. C.

(9) They generally traveled in groups, both from Germany and from Pa. A family tradition is that Chris Sr. & his family were on their way to a Moravian Colony in N. C. when their group gave out of rations and settled in Floyd Co. instead. However they were Charter members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Floyd, so this is probably just rumor - perhaps they were traveling with a group of Moravians who were moving south. Sometimes they followed relatives who had previously moved into a section.

(10) One reason the records on the early Germans are so hard to find is that they had an abiding distrust of Government in any shape or form, and they did not record their wills and their deeds and Pa. did not require it until much later than our ancestors left there.

(11) Sometimes if a child died, another later child was given the same name as one who had died.

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Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. has honored a member of our family by naming the first all girls dormitory on campus SLUSHER HALL, for Clarice Slusher, (Mrs. H. L. Prichard). This is a 12-story high-rise dorm and a beautiful addition to the campus. Mrs. Prichard graduated from VPI when few girls attended there, and served her Alma Mater first as assistant registrar and then for nearly 29 years as registrar. Mrs. Prichard retired in 1966, and she and Mr. Prichard live in Blacksburg and are Sustaining members of our Family Organization.

Here is the continuation of the list of the descendants of Christopher Slusher, Jr. who are buried in the Slusher Cemetery in Lexington, Mo, as begun in the last Newsletter:

Slusher, Lee Jackson (*Son of Susan and Andrew J.*) b: June 4, 1863 d: Nov. 22, 1941  
 Slusher, Mary A. E. (*wife of George Garr*) b: 18 Sep. 1844 d: 10 Mar. 1927  
 Slusher, Thomas Holt (*Son of Chris, Jr.*) b: May 8, 1822 d: 15 Aug. 1874  
 Slusher, Minerva C. Beck (*wife of Thomas H.*) b: Sept. 21, 1818 d: Mar. 10, 1893  
 Slusher, Sarah Ellen (*Dau. of Thos. & M.*) Feb. 21, 1858 d: Mar. 3, 1858  
 Slusher, Susan Hulda (*dau. of T. H. & M.*) b: Sept. 20, 1852 d: July 24, 1855  
 Slusher, Clarence Payne (*son of J.M. & B.V.*) b: Dec. 23, 1880 d: June 6, 1881  
 Slusher, James Monroe (*son of T.H. & M.B.*) b: Nov. 29, 1849 d: July 7, 1894  
 Slusher, Victoria Alberta Payne, wife of James Monroe Slusher b: July 5, 1859 d: June 5, 1957  
 SLUSHER, CHRISTOPHER, b: June 14, 1781 d: Dec. 24, 1853  
 Slusher, Ann (*wife of Christopher*) b: Oct. 28, 1785 d: Sept. 8, 1837  
 Slusher, Susannah (*wife of Christopher*) b: 1800 d: Oct. 17, 1844  
 Slusher, Henry (*son of Christopher*) b: March 1816 d: Aug. 10, 1893  
 Slusher, Cassie (*wife of Henry*) b: Apr. 3, 1842 (or 1845) d: Aug. 3, 1903  
 Slusher, Wilburn (*son of Henry*) b: Mar. 5, 1832 d: Dec. 30, 1858  
 Slusher, William Brown (*son of Henry*) b: Apr. 23, 1847 d: Dec. 24, 1867  
 Slusher, Madison Tecumseh (*son of Henry*) b: Oct. 22, 1854 d: July 13, 1933  
 Slusher, Mary E. Chandler (*wife of Madison*) b: Feb. 25, 1859 d: 1937  
 Slusher, Ora (*dau. of M. T. & M. E.*) b: July 19, 1878 d: Aug. 26, 1878  
 Slusher, John Davis (*son of Andrew Jackson*) b: June 26, 1866 d: Aug. 24, 1932  
 Slusher, Louis Beverly b: Sept. 9, 1909 d: Nov. 10, 1910  
 Slusher, Albert (*son of Creed & Rachel*) b: Oct. 15, 1872 d: Nov. 5, 1872  
 Slusher, James Alvin b: Nov. 24, 1885 d: Oct. 16, 1933  
 Slusher, David Asa b: Feb. 14, 1847 d: 1920  
 Slusher, Caltha V. b: 1849 d: 1927

(Cont'd)



Slusher, Rebecca Robinson & son

Perry b: 1844 - No Marker  
(First wife of Henry)

Thornton, Frankie (son of F. & M.M. Thornton) b: Mar. 23, 1879 d: Aug. 13, 1881

Thornton Infant (son of F. & M.M.) born & died May 12, 1876

Williamson, Thomas J.

b: Aug. 12, 1839 d: Oct. 16, 1861

Woods, Willie

b: July 16, 1868 d: May 15, 1876

Starr, Catherine (Dau. of Christopher, wife of Lewis Starr) b: Dec. 2, 1803

d: Sept. 9, 1837.

(Mrs. Ben Slusher, 217 Washington St. Lexington, Mo. 64067, has the most complete records on the descendants of Chris, Jr. that we know of.)  
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We promised we would begin on the genealogy of some of the "off-Slusher" branches of the family. We have not gone into these quite as far as we have the Slushers, and some of the earlier information which will be given here is probably what the Genealogical Societies call "irresponsible genealogy", which they leave no doubt is completely reprehensible (and of course they are right!) however, here are various facts concerning the Cox family from which you may draw your own conclusions and pursue your own research to further document and prove or disprove the lines. There have been several Cox marriages into the Slusher family, one of which was the marriage of Christopher Slusher's son David to Nancy Cox, who was daughter of Carter Cox, who was son of Matthew Cox. This much we know to be fact - all documented and wrapped up beautifully.

There were Coxes in this country almost from the first settlers. One of the early settlers in Virginia was one William Cox, who was listed in the early records in a muster taken in Jan-Feb. 1624/5. He appeared as William Coxe, age 26, came in the Godspeede 1610. He received title to a patent for 100 acres of land "within the precincts of Elizabeth City County in Sept. of 1628, and later received another patent for 150 acres in Henrico Co. Va. in 1636 for 150 acres "lying west by north on the James River. This William Cox had a son, John, who had a son William to whom John made a

"deed of gift for Natural Love and Affection" in 1685/6. HOWEVER: it seems that there were apparently two William Coxes, each a son of a John Cox, both of whom married Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, and both of whom lived in the part of Henrico Co. which became Goochland Co. in 1728. One was apparently a nephew of the other. One of the Sarah's will was probated in 1728 in Goochland Co.

And then, a Matthew Cox of Goochland Co. purchased 100 acres on the southside of the James River in 1729, and this Matthew Cox dated his Will 15 Jan. 1733, and mentions sons John and William (WB 2, p. 71, Goochland Co.)

And W. & D. Book 2, p. 207 in Goochland Co. mentions William Cox of Goochland Co. selling "to Isham Randolph, Gent. a parcel of land whereon the said William Cox now liveth which was granted unto Matthew Cox now deceased by patent 26 June 1731 and which at the time of the decease of said Matthew Cox did descend unto said William Cox as eldest son and heir at law of said patentee."

(This suggests that William and family were moving from Goochland, perhaps, and all these early generations of Coxes may or may not belong to ours - it simply is added here to show that Coxes did live in the same vicinity. No proof of lineage is intended because at this point we don't have the slightest idea whether there is any or not. We're working on it.)

Now, in Essex County, Va., W.B. 9, p.291 records the will of William Cox, dated 21 Apr. 1753, and recorded on 19 Mar. 1754, in which he mentions:

son, William and Margaret his wife,  
grandson Ambrose Cox, son of Wm. Cox.  
grandson Ayress Cox.  
son, Henry and his wife Ann.  
grandson John Cox, son of Henry Cox.  
grandson, William, son of Henry Cox.  
son, Matthew Cox, deceased,  
Mary, the wife of said Matthew  
daughter, Frances Gatewood  
daughter, Mary Pryor  
grandson, Matthew Cox, son of Matthew Cox,  
dec'd.

Now, this "grandson Matthew Cox, son of

Matthew deceased" could conceivably be the Matthew who fought in Washington's Army in 1754-55, and made his will in Wilkes Co. N. C. 8 March 1804, and who was the father of Carter Cox who was the father of Nancy who married David Slusher. With the names listed in the will, and with the penchant of the Coxes for naming their sons Matthew, William, Ambrose, John and Ayress (Aras, etc.) in almost every branch of the succeeding generations, we would be most surprised to find this William of the will of 1754 were not some relation of the Matthew of the 1804 Will!

Our Matthew Cox, father of Carter Cox married Lucy Dickerson Spencer, who was the widow of one Abraham Spencer who made his will in Albemarle County, Va. in 1761 W.B. 2, p. 110). Abraham Spencer mentions Lucy, his wife, sons Griffith, Abraham and John. And in 1765, Matthew Cox of Halifax Co. sold to Griffith Dickerson, Sr. "all my crop of corn, man's saddle, flax wheel" for £12 (D.B. 5, p 591 Halifax Co.) and in 1778 Griffith Spencer, son of Abraham Spencer, dec'd sold "every part and parcel of his part of his dec'd father's estate that is now and ever hereafter shall be unto Matthew Cox for £100 (D.B. 10, p 399 Halifax Co.)

AND: Carter Cox, father of Nancy who married David Slusher was born in Halifax Co. in 1762 (1850 Census of Floyd Co. Says So.)

There has been published recently in The Floyd Press, the newspaper of Floyd Co. Va. a reprint of portions of a book written by Dr. Aras B. Cox, D.D. called "Footprints on the Sands of Time" which he wrote around 1900 sometime. It was first run in the Press in 1922. Dr. Cox was born in Floyd Co. in 1816. He states that Matthew Cox "was a native of the valley of Virginia. His wives maiden name was Dickerson, who first married a Spencer. She was a widow when Matthew Cox married her. Their union was blessed with six sons and one daughter, Viz. Carter, Mason, Aras, Matthew, Ambrose, Braxton and Delphine. The latter married William Roberts, Matthew Cox Sr. was a soldier in Col. George Washington's regiment with General Braddock at Pittsburg in 1755 when the English were defeated." Here are excerpts from the will of Matthew Cox, which was dated 8 March 1804 and may be found in the records of Wilkes Co. N.C.

We seem to be without the page and book number.

I Give and Bequathe to my Beloved Wife Lucy Cox all and Singuliare my possessions Intiarily During her life or widowhood, and also it is my Will that She Shall not trade nor make way with the Estate, and after her Deceas -

- to my Beloved Son Carter Cox Two Negros named Pomp and Easter his Wife
- to Beloved Son Masten Cox one Negroe Woman named amy
- to Beloved Son Ambrose N. Cox one Negrow girl named Darkes
- to my Beloved Son Matthew Cox one Negrow named Cuff
- to my Beloved Daughter Delphy Roberts one Negrow Woman named Winney
- to my Beloved Son Arys T. Cox one Negrow Child named Dick.
- to my Belovd Son Braxton Cox three Negrows named Sam Betsy and abram.

After my Wifs Deceas - my land and all remainder of my property Shall be Soald to the highest Bider at twelv months Credit, Except the ready Cash that I have In hand which is about Seventy Dollars and the Result be Divided amongst them all Equally and I hereby make and ordain my Belovd Sons Carter Cox and Matthew Cox Executors of this my last will and testament.....

His

s/ Matthew (X) Cox

Mark

Witnesses were Tes William Brown, Aaron Parks and either Hancy (His Mark) Davidson, or Nancy (Her Mark) Davidson. (We have two copies of this will and the names are different on each).

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CHRISTOPHER SR. - STEPHEN - HENRY SLUSHER

Proving our ancestors were civic and church minded people:

Deed Book Q, pg. 145: "This deed made the 22 day of February 1879 between Henry Slusher and wife of the first part and Board of School Trustees of Burks Fork School District of the second part all of the County of Floyd and the State of Virginia: The said Henry Slusher and wife of the first part in consideration of the benefits of Public School doth convey to the said Board of School Trustees of the second part a tract or parcel of land containing one acre lying on the waters of Burks Fork,



Floyd County, Va. and bounded as follows - beginning at a chestnut near a road thence S48° W15 poles to a rock at the road N42° W10 poles and 17 links crossing spring branch to a stake N48° E 15 poles to a stake 42° 10 poles and 17 links to the beginning. The said Henry Slusher and wife part of the first part doth convey the same for public School purposes given and as our hands and seals this the day and date mentioned above.

s/ Henry Slusher  
Nancy (X) Slusher

Floyd County Court Virginia

This day Henry Slusher and Nancy his wife whose names are assigned to the foregoing deed personally appeared before us Zebram Keith and J. B. Albright Justice of said County and acknowledged the same to be their act and deed, and the wife of the said Henry Slusher after having the deed explained to her, acknowledged that she had willingly signed the same and asked not to retract it. Given under our hands this the 2nd day of March 1881.

Virginia In Floyd County Court Clerks  
Office August 1st 1881.

This deed from Henry Slusher and wife to Trustees of Burks Fork School District was this day received by me with the certificate thereto annexed. Admitted to record.

Teste B. P. Elliott Clk.

Box X pg. 31 23 January 1894

This deed made and entered into this January 23, 1894 by and between Henry Slusher and Nancy his wife and Zebram Keith and Rachel his wife all of Burks Fork Floyd County, Va. of the first part and Joseph Hylton, A. J. Weddle, J. M. Weddle, S. P. Weddle, Owen Barnhart, Solomon E. Hylton and J. C. Weddle Trustees for the German Baptist Brethren Church of Floyd County, Va. of the second part:

Witnesseth that for and in consideration of one dollar paid in hand the receipt thereof is hereby acknowledged with the first part do convey to the said Trustees and their successors to hold forever the following described lot of land on which is built the Brethren Church known as the Union Church, containing 136 poles and bounded as follows; beginning at a white oak in the school line thence N.50° W7 poles to a stake thence S75 W11 poles to a mahogany thence S.41½ E8 poles to a locust thence S58 E6 poles to a station on the

branch thence S87 E4 poles crossing branch to a white oak bush thence W11 E 8 poles to the beginning. We hereby make a general warranted deed to the above described lot. Witness hand and seal.

Henry Slusher Seal  
Nancy (X) Slusher  
Zebrum Keith  
Rachael (X) Keith

Recorded 14 August 1894.

(Henry Slusher and his family were members of this church, and Henry gave and sawed the lumber and helped build the church.)

And on another side of the family:

CHRISTOPHER, SR.-SOLOMON - ALLEN- WILLIAM

Book Q. pg. 146 William Slusher and wife sold to the Board of School Trustees of Burks Fork School District one acre of land for \$10 for Public School purposes, known as Sunny Side School on Greasey Creek.

Book N. pg. 316 10 Jan. 1873 - Allen Slusher and wife Margaret sold to Burks Fork Board of School Trustees one acre and four poles of land for the benefit of a Public School on waters of Greasey Creek.

CHRISTOPHER, SR - JACOB - JEREMIAH AND  
FRANCIS MARION

Book S. pg. 498, Jeremiah Slusher and Sara J. his wife and Francis Marion Slusher and Lucy his wife sold to the trustees of the Jacksonville School District (Jacksonville was the name of Floyd before it was changed sometime I do not know) "a certain lot or parcel of land with its appertances for public school purposes lying and being in the County of Floyd, on the waters of West Fork of Little River and known as the Slusher School House. Recorded 9 Nov. 1886.

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We just looked in the dictionary to see what the difference in spelling and meaning of the words e-m-i-g-r-a-n-t and i-m-m-i-g-r-a-n-t were and its ruined our whole day. One of them is a noun and another a verb and one is an adjective and it doesn't say a single thing about one being a second acceptable spelling of the other; in fact one dictionary says "as opposed to Immigrant" and as well as we can figure out one means coming and one means went and no three of the dictionaries we consulted say the same thing. It's disgusting!

Speaking of Henry Slusher, son of Stephen here is a letter which he wrote to his brother Samuel while he was still a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware:

Fort Delaware 4th Division  
April 24th, 1865

Sameul Slusher

Dear brother

After looking for sometime for a letter from you in answer of the 4th inst. also one to Alx Weddle written the same day I learn to day from a letter from Alx Weddle to J. A. Weeks that my letter had never reached you. You wished me to write my sentiments as to war question. My sentiments are the same as ever. I am for the Union from the crown of my head to the sole of my foot. I am very anxious to get out of this place. If you all can do anything for me I will be very thankful. I belong to Co. H. 51st Va. Regt. Infty. I have the mumps pretty badly at this time, hope this may find you well. Send me five dollars as I need some money, I remain as ever

your brother

s/ Henry Slusher.

Henry was Captain of Co. D. 54th Va. and later transferred to Co. H. 51st Va. with Samuel who was 3rd Lt., according to the muster roll of Floyd County.

Henry Slusher ran a mill on Burksfork Creek and it is said he never turned away anyone who came to ask for help if they had no food. While in prison at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in Delaware Bay during the Civil War, Henry Slusher carved small testaments out of wood and gave one to each of his daughters.

Henry Slusher's oldest daughter was Mary Elizabeth Slusher, who married Jeremiah Harmon, son of George W. Harmon and his wife Mary Jane Radford. Mary Elizabeth Slusher Harmon was born 1 Aug. 1856, Floyd County, Va., died 19 Apr. 1938, and she & her husband are buried in Slusher Cemetery Burksfork. Jeremiah Harmon was born 1 Oct. 1856, in Floyd Co. died 3 Jan. 1896. They were married 23 Dec. 1879. Their children were:

1. Martin Lenord  
b: 10 Sept. 1880, Floyd Va.  
d: 27 Aug. 1962  
m: Cordella Weddle 8 March 1900, Floyd dau. of Sam & Catherine Harmon Weddle. (11 Children.)
2. Ellis T.  
b: 25 Sept. 1882, Floyd, Va.  
d: 19 Nov. 1963, Kansas City  
m: Retta Mae Hylton 11 Oct. 1908, Floyd, dau. Austin & Elizabeth Weddle Hylton. (4 children)
3. Posie Wade  
b: 5 Sept. 1884, Floyd d:  
m: Lala Weddle, dau. William L. & Isobel Harter Weddle 9 Jan. 1907 (4 children)
4. Ella Rosa  
b: 28 Oct. 1887 Floyd d:  
m: Walter J. Harris, son of Jackson and Sarah Ann Barringer Harris on 11 March 1908, Floyd. (11 children)
5. Dora May  
b: 29 Jan. 1891 Floyd. d:  
m: Solomon Joshua Vaughan, son of Thomas & Eliza Hylton Vaughan on 14 Apr. 1909, Floyd. (5 children)

We'll give you the other children of Henry and Nancy Harter Slusher next time.

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Since we began stenciling this letter we have heard from a genealogist and have ordered a "Preliminary Survey" which we should hear from in about a month.

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This newsletter begins the third year of publication with this issue, and is sent to all the members of the Slusher Family Organization who are dues paying or Sustaining members. Back copies of the paper may be had for the sum of \$2.00 by writing to Mrs. William S. Slusher, 206 Rivermont Drive, McMinnville, TN. 37110. Dues in the Organization are \$2.00 per year and we invite you to become a Sustaining member of our Family Organization by giving extra over and above the dues for the purpose of genealogical research.

1007 Orchard St., Apt. 8  
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Mr. Freeman M. Slusher  
Route 3, Box 18  
Floyd, Virginia 24091

Dear Mr. Slusher,

In a recent conversation with Mr. Clinton E. Slusher of Radford I learned that you are treasurer of the Slusher group and that the group is distributing letters concerning the genealogy of the Slusher family. He read excerpts from Volume 2, #1, from the will of Jacob Slusher indicating a bequest to Jeremiah Slusher, who was my great grandfather--unless there were two Jerry Slushers. I would especially like to have this letter, and if they are still available, all of the preceding letters. I am enclosing my check for \$10 for a retroactive membership to the beginning of Volume 1--if possible--and for whatever time will be covered by it.

I am the daughter (youngest) of Norman Eddy Slusher, son of Francis Leroy Slusher and Elizabeth Harter. According to my grandmother her father-in-law was Jerry Slusher and at sometime I was told that his father was Jacob Slusher. I have no evidence of this and have not so far had any opportunity to do any research on the subject. I do have the information gathered by Byron Harter on the genealogy of my grandmother and was instrumental in helping him tie Adam Harter into the Franz Harter story.

Thank you for your help.

Very truly yours,

(Miss) Mary Vernon Slusher