

Preface

This book is about some of the descendants of David Hannah, Sr., ca 1740-1826, of Pocahontas County, West Virginia and the man whom we believe to be his father, Joseph. It was written for the edification and amusement of our descendants and may lack some of the formatting and other technical aspects of a good genealogical work. We have included the direct line of descent to my father, Robert Hannah (1894-1973) as well as some information on those ancestors whose families were joined by marriage to our Hannah family.

We have spent many enjoyable years researching our families. We traveled to many of the areas where the families lived over the years and have spent countless happy hours in court houses, libraries and graveyards getting to know our ancestors.

Obituary

Robert A. Hannah, an old and highly respected citizen of Harrison County died Jan. 16, 1906, age 74 years 11 months and 14 days. Mr. Hannah was a kind neighbor and an affectionate husband and father. He leaves a wife and two sons to mourn his loss, besides an aged brother, and a host of friends. Mr. Hannah was born in Pocahontas County, West Va.

After the war he came West and settled in Taylor County, Iowa, in 1871. He was married to Virginia C. Burks Dec. 28, 1874. To this union three sons were born, the oldest dying in infancy. Mr. Hannah lived near Bedford, Iowa for four years, and in June 1885, he bought a farm west of Pawnee and lived there the remainder of his life. His two sons living, John and David were both born in Harrison County. Mr. Hannah had four brothers and two sisters to precede him to the great Beyond. He was buried in the Brown Cemetery, three miles north of Pawnee.

The obituary pictured at the left is what started our Hannah family research. It is from a Harrison County, Missouri newspaper and was found in an old bible that had been on the shelf of my mother's closet for many years. I'm reasonably sure it belonged to my father's mother. After my parents' divorce my mother probably forgot it was there - especially since she was only 5' 2" and the shelf was 6' high!

The man named in the obituary was unknown to me at the time it was found, but research showed him to be my great-grandfather David Hannah's brother. This was the beginning clue which led to the discovery of the family in West Virginia.

The first two chapters of our book deal with the origin and ancient history of the Hannah family and with the Scotch-Irish people of which the Hannahs are a part. It is a very brief history and the reader should consult other books to learn more about these fascinating Scot people from Ireland.

Chapter 3 is a 12 generation pedigree chart of Robert Hannah, the most recent generation included in the book. Chapters 4 through 9 deal with successive generations of our Hannah family in America. The remaining chapters deal with some of the associated families.

The appendices include descendancy charts to show our Hannah family from Joseph, the earliest Hannah member we know about, down six generations to my father, Robert Hannah. The charts do not include all descendants, since not all have been researched by us and included in our records. The appendices also include family "group sheets" of each family in my direct line. These group sheets include the father, mother, and children of each family with all known vital data. The "notes" included on

the group sheets are important to researchers since they include sources of the vital information gathered over the years.

Our information comes from many places. Some of what we know of our Hannah family of Virginia and West Virginia comes from the book *Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia* by William T. Price, written in 1901. Price was born in 1830 and so had first hand knowledge of these families. During his youth and at the time he wrote the book, about 1900, many of the old people were still alive to remember the stories and relationships of individuals to the various families. We are indeed fortunate to have this book as a basis of our knowledge of the Hannahs and related families, since other records of the early families in the 1700s and early 1800s are scarce. As far as we know there are no personal records such as journals, bibles or letters that survive from the early generations of our Hannahs or related families.

Another most useful source is *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia* by Lyman Chalkley. This fully indexed abstract of court records of Augusta County, Virginia 1745-1800, is a treasure trove of information. Searching original court records which are not indexed is a daunting task, one which is seldom done by the family researcher in spite of the wealth of information contained in them. In these records are such things as who maintained the roads, who sued whom and for what, who got a license to run a tavern, what was the bounty for wolf ears, who were the witnesses and bondsmen for marriages. The court records are full of the ordinary day - to -day problems and happenings that give us a little insight into our ancestor's daily lives.

The descendancy charts in the appendix include many descendants provided to us by Gary Hannah of Beverly, West Virginia. However, their history is not included in the text since they are not in the "direct line" of my father, Robert C. Hannah.

Other sources we have used are state and county land records, church records, tax records, wills, probate court records, military service records, and census records. We have made extensive use of the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library and have personally searched the records in pertinent county record offices in Virginia and West Virginia and in the state library in Richmond, Virginia. Even so, there are undoubtedly sources we have overlooked and we would be happy to hear from any one who can shed more light on the history of our Hannah family.

Why write a family history? Perhaps the following verse gives reason enough. We all seek immortality!

All things to nothingness descend,
Grow old and die and meet their end;
Man dies, iron rusts, wood goes decayed,
Towers fall, walls crumble, roses fade,
Nor long will any name resound
Beyond the grave, unless't it be found
In some Clerk's book; it is the pen
Gives immortality to men.

From Master Wace's "Rhymed Chronicle of Norman Dukes."

Wayne and Maureen Hannah

To forget one's ancestors is to
be a brook without a source, a
tree without roots.

- Old Chinese Proverb

Hannah Coat of Arms

