

April 25, 1931.

Joseph Hanks of Amelia Co., Va.
His Possible Sons.

The following pages are filled with records pertaining to Joseph Hanks, Abraham Hanks, another Joseph Hanks, Thomas Hanks, William Hanks, and James Hanks. These men lived in Amelia Co., Va., from 1735 until after the Revolution. They were closely associated one with another as well as with the Joshua "Hanks" family, and they spelled their surname "Hankes", "Hanches", and "Hanks". It is regretted that some of the notes are very sketchy, and the references as to where the originals may be found are incomplete.

Credit for the splendid records (re the above men) which are in my possession should go to that tireless genealogist, Mrs. Chas. T. White (the R. D. White of the notes), of Brookline, Mass.; the speculations (many of which will no doubt be proved false within the next decade) the conclusions, and the questions as well as the suggestion of related records are my own and are offered only with the thought of furthering the search.

Myra Hanks Rudolph
871 Woodbine Rd. S.E.
Warren, Ohio

Joseph Hanks

(Mrs. Nell Nugent's copy - made for E.D. White)

Joseph "Hankes" granted 290 A., Amelia

Co., Va., - lower side of Kitts Hockepen
Branch of Seller Fork of Deep Creek.

"Beginning at Christofine Hinton's
lower corner Beach and Ash," etc.

Dated: 19 Aug. 1735.

(Mrs. Nugent first gave name as "Hawkes",
later admitted it was indexed as "Hankes" -
after having insisted that no Joseph
Hankes appeared in index - and in
a later copy of "General Index to Patents
from 1623 to 1779" spelled the name "Hankes")

Proofs (1.) When Abraham Hanks was granted
that Joseph's
surname
was
Hankes

(1.) When Abraham Hanks was granted
284 A., Jan. 1747, on the lower side of the
lower Fork of the Seller Creek, one of the
boundaries was Joseph Hankes line -
(See Abraham Hanks Grant, Bk 28:323)

(2.) In a deed by Wm Tucker to Wm Gillmore,
dated Mar. 4, 1748, the corners of Abraham
Hankes land and Joseph Hankes land
are, among others, designated as boundaries.
(See Tucker-Gillmore 1748 Deed -
S.R. Warren's notes)

Were Joshua and Joseph brothers?
Who were Joseph's children? Were
they: Abraham, Joseph, Thomas, James,
and William?

Joseph Hanks (cont.)

Some comments by M.H.R. -

We know the names of the children of Joshua "Hawks" and we know that only three of these eight children - Richard (of age by 1760), John (head of a family by 1782), and Joshua (m. 1781) - had male children bearing the senior Joshua's surname. It is interesting to know that John signed his name "Hanks", while descendants of both Richard and Joshua, Jr., spelled their surname "Hankes".

Would that we knew as much concerning Joseph Hanks of the 1735 Grant! We know only that in his district and closely associated with him and his neighbors, as well as with the Joshua "Hawks" family, were five men who were undoubtedly closely related to Joseph and Joshua. Since we know that they were not the sons of Joshua may we not assume that some of them, at least, were sons of Joseph? These men were: Abraham Hanks, of age by 1747 and who died in 1767; Joseph Hanks, of age by 1750; Thomas Hanks, of age by 1756 and who died without wife or children in 1777, leaving his entire estate to his nephew, Thomas Drake; William Hanks, of age by 1760; and James Hanks, of age by 1763. None of these men's names appears in the Amelia County census lists of 1782. Abraham and Thomas, of course, were dead; James had moved to Bedford by 1780 - in that part of Bedford which became Campbell in 1782. There are no census lists for either Bedford or Campbell in 1782. Where were Joseph and William?

Abraham Hanks - "Hawkes"
? Son of Joseph of 1735 grant?

Abraham Hanks was granted 284 A.
of land in Amelia Co., Va., on the lower
Fork of Seller Creek - having boundary
on land owned by Joseph Hanks.
Abraham was of Raleigh Parish,
Amelia Co., Va. - same as Joshua Hawkes
(Was Abraham the son of Joseph - he who
had been granted 290 A. in 1735?)

Abraham Hawkes and Suey, his wife, of
Raleigh Parish, Amelia Co., Va., grant to
David Greenhill the identical 284 A.
above - with all its boundaries the
same - one being "along Joseph Hawkes
lines."

(This is one of the proofs of the inter
changeable use of the two forms of the
surnames Hanks - Hawkes. Neither
Abraham nor Suey was able to sign
his or her name. The scribe once spelled
the name "Hawkes" but at other times
"Hawkes", in the signatures - according to
Mrs. Hyatt's copy.)
The above was quit claimed and signed
Jan. 19, 1767. Witnesses: William Dawson,
Nelson Jones, Thomas Wilkerson.

By July 23, 1767, Abraham had died and
his widow Suey makes final report. No
children or heirs mentioned. Witnesses:
Thomas Wilkerson, Solomon Wiles, Peter Young.

Since this Abraham Hanks was dead by
1767 he was not the Abraham who appeared

Pat. Bk.
28, p. 322
Va. Land
Office
Richmond
Va.
1747

Amelia
Co., Va.
Deed Bk.
9:174
1767

Proof
The copy
of the 1767
Hawkes-
Greenhill
grant was
made by
Mrs. Nell
Hyatt.

Abraham Hankes (cont.)

Montgomery Co., Ky.
in Kentucky, by 1806. Dr. Barton indulges in much sarcasm as to Mrs. Caroline Hankes Hiltesche's "ridiculous mistakes" in supposing that the names Hankells and Hankays were used interchangeably. He refers to the above Abraham Hankes (in his book, "The Lineage of Lincoln") as "Abraham the Imaginary" and on pp. 175-176 he speaks of Abraham Hankes's grant of land as "land having no place on the Earth's surface."

Abraham Bk. p. acres Date County
Hankes 28 322 284 1746-1749 Amelia (formed 1779)

— "Lower side lower fork of Sellar Creek"

(Mrs. Nell Nugent's notes for E. D. White)

Who were Abraham and Lucy's children? Were they Abraham and Isaac? Did Abraham go to Kentucky via Patrick and Hampshire counties?

Abraham Hankes - Revolutionary soldier - born April 2, 1759, Amelia Co., Va., married April 15, 1788, in Campbell Co., Va., Lucy Jennings - born 1770. (He died he was in Ky. by 1806, with son Fielding, Montgomery Co. - 8)

Hank Abraham Bk. p. acres Date County
" " 47 550 344 1800-1 Patrick
" " 50 136 43 1802-3 " Stuart
Hank Isaac 34 414 50 1796 Bath
" " 47 606 20 1800-1 " side Fork Creek

E. D. Warren's "I found an Isaac and an Abraham and a John Hankes and Hank in Hampshire Co., Va." (formed 1847)

Joseph Hanks of Amelia Co., Va.
Son of Joseph of 1735 Grant?

Rt. Br.

29:248

1750

Joseph Hanks granted 246 A. of
Land in Amelia County, Va. - upper
side of Sweathouse Creek -

"Beginning at William Tuckers corner
in Abraham Hankes land thence along
Tuckers... Abraham Jones... Mumford...
Tuckers... Hintons... Hankes line," etc.

Dated: 12 July 1750.

(Mrs. White secured the above grant in the
name of Joseph Hanks, after being assured
that no grants, deeds, etc. were listed in the
name of Joseph Hanks. Then Mrs. Nugent wrote
that the above grant was indeed "Hankes" but that
the name "Hankes" was used throughout the
paper; later she wrote (with typewriter) that
the name was "Joseph Hanks". One can
plainly see the hand of unscrupulous searcher
here.

This Joseph Hanks was closely associated
with Joseph Hanks of the 1735 Grant and Abraham
Hankes of the 1747 Grant. I am convinced that
Abraham and the younger Joseph were sons
of the older Joseph. The younger Joseph (he of
the 1750 Grant) was possibly, and very probably,
the Joseph Hanks who appeared with family
of eleven in Hampshire Co., Va., in 1782, who sold
his Hampshire County land in 1785, and appeared in
Ky. in 1787. The Ky. man made his will in 1793 and
named his children as Thomas, William, Joshua,
Charles, Joseph, Polly, Elizabeth, and Nancy. He
called his wife Nannie. There is surely a
similarity of given names between the Amelia Co. and
Kentucky Hankses.

Joseph Hanks - Hawks of Amelia Co., Va. (cont.)
Hanks

Amelia
Co., Va.
Order Bk.
1767-1768

Aug. 1769 - Pompey, a negro belonging to
Joseph Hanks is adjudged to be
7 years old.

Cato, a negro belonging to Joseph
Hanks is adjudged to be 6 years old.

1769 -

"To further confuse the records, I
found in 1769 Joshua Hanks listing
the same negroes - Sambo, Sue, and
Tom - as Joseph Hanks listed in
1767"

— S.A. Warren's notes to
S.D. White

(Had Joseph Hanks sold these
blacks to Joshua - preparatory to
his going away? Judging from S.A.W.'s
sketchy and unsatisfactory notes,
I should say that Joseph Hanks's
name does not seem to appear in
Amelia County records after 1768. The
records should, however, be systematically
searched before such an assertion
is definitely made. If Joseph did not
leave Amelia for Hampshire (if he did)
until 1768, then his grant in the new
country should appear in Romney Hamp-
shire Co. records, for Hampshire was formed
from Augusta Co. in 1754. (M.H. Rudolph)

1767 Joseph Hawks - Rottaway Parish
— S.A. Warren's notes.

Amelia
Co., Va.
Sister - 1767.

Thomas Hanks

Amelia
Co., Va.

1756

"James Roberts, Jr. vs. Thomas Hanks."
S. A. Warren's notes.

(What a pity that this record was not copied in full! We might have learned where in Amelia County these men lived, their ages, connections - such as witnesses, etc. Not even the volume where this lawsuit was recorded is given in the note. M.H.P.)

Amelia
Co., Va.
Will Bk.
2:226

1777

"Thomas Hanks of the county of Amelia being weak in body." Makes 50a. in Chesterfield County, also negro fellow Ned, and the remainder of his Estate to his nephews, Thomas Draper.
Dated: Feb. 26, 1777. Witnesses: Robert Tucker, Jeremiah Bailey, David Jones.
Signed "Thomas Hanks"

This Will was indexed "Thomas Hawks"
in Index of Will Bk 2.

Amelia
Co., Va.
2:231

"Thos. Hawks, Est. appraised W.B.2, p.231."

Appraisal

S. A. Warren's
notes

"Amelia County Will Books
Book 1774-1780, Thomas Hawks will #2, p.226.
(probably no children)"

(Note that Robert Tucker, Joshua's son-in-law and James and Joseph's and Abraham's neighbor, witnessed Thomas's Will M.H.P.)

Thomas Hanks

not the Thomas just preceding but possibly
a son of Joseph Hanks of the 1750 Grant

Bristol
Parish
Register

Thomas Hanks and Margaret Clements
of Dinwiddie Co., Va., Dec. 23, 1781.

Fee fifteen shillings

Marriage record - Mary Harris Pollard

notes to L.D. White

(This record among Nottoway County records where
Bristol Parish now is. Nottoway, however,
not formed until 1789.)

W.E.
Barton's
Genealogy
of
Lincoln
p. 317

Thomas Hanks, b. 1759, "in Virginia" - no
place specified - fought in Revolution
from Hampshire Co., Va., 1780-1. He applied
for a pension while living in Logan Co., Ohio,
in 1833. He removed from Hampshire Co., Va.
to Ross Co., Ohio, in 1800.

It must be
borne in mind
that Dr. Barton
had no proof
of connection
between Joseph
and Ann (see)
Hanks, with
one child, Betty,
of Richmond Co., Va.,
and Joseph Hanks
with family of 11, in
Hampshire Co., before
Nov. 1782. The former
was in Richmond Co.,
Dec. 23, 1782.

(Dr. Barton calls this Thomas the son of
Joseph and Ann (see) Hanks of Richmond Co., Va.,
Hampshire Co., Va., and Nelson Co., Ky., without
any proof for his statement. Now, if
it could be proved that Thomas Hanks
of Ross and Logan counties, Ohio, was born
in Amelia Co., Va., - instead of just "in Virginia"
or that his wife's name was Margaret, then
the Amelia county Hanks would
be to stand on in their claim that Lincoln
was their descendant, and it would disprove
Barton's claim that the Josephs of Rich. & Hamp. were one.

Amherburg Co., Va.
Personal Property 1782-92

Thomas Hanks - 1 white male, 1 horse, 1791-2.
(whoever he?)

Thomas Hanches (cont.)

Comment -

Note the familiar Hanches - Tucker - Jones combination of names in the will. Robert Tucker was the husband of Joshua Hanches's daughter Mary. Robert and Mary were married sometime between 1770 (when Joshua made his Will) and 1785 (when Angelica signed her Release Deed), prob. ^{ably between 1775 and 1778.}

Robert Tucker's name appears in Amelia Co. Census of 1782, "4 whites... 2 blacks."

Evidently he who wrote Thomas's Will did not know that Thomas spelled his name "Hanches".

Since Thomas seems to have lived in the same neighborhood as Joseph, Abraham, James, and Joseph Hanches we may assume (as a "leader" to follow in research work) that he was of the same family - possibly a son of the older Joseph. He was either a bachelor or a widower without children and he evidently had a sister who had married a Draper. It would be well to look up the Drapers.

Note The fact that "Thomas Hanches" so spelled his name leads to the query: Were the Hanches of Amelia County, Va., connected in any way with Thomas Hanches of the Northern Neck of Virginia - the whom Dr. Barton "features" as A. Lincoln's first American Hanches ancestor?

William Hanks

Amelia
Co., Va.

Order 13k.

1757 to 1760

p. 286

William Hanks vs. John Hightower

The parties by their attorneys sub-
mit all matters and accounts between
them in this case to final determination
of Leonard Claiborne and William
Glascock.

Date: 28 March, 1760.

I bid

Bk. 1760-1763

p. 19

Above case dismissed

Date: 27 June, 1760.

(E. B. White's notes)

L. A. Warren's
Notes

William Hanks lived in Amelia Co., Va.,
1760 - 1763 - 1767."

(Where after that? M.H.R.)

Comment -

Note the familiar name of John Hightower. It will be remembered that Richard Hanks's land adjoined John Hightower's, and that Richard's brother, John Hanks, brought suit against Hightower in 1769 - see Joshua Hanks's family papers.

Note

The name Glascock

was common in Richmond Co., Va. records!

The descendants of the Abraham Hanks who was in Ky. by 1806 claim that he had a son William, but the above Wm. too old to be that son. M.H.R.

James Hanks

Amelia
Co. Va.
Deed Bk.
Vol. 8: 335
1763

W^m Griggs and James Griggs of Amelia Co., Va.,
deed to James Hanks of same county,
for £60, 100 a. in Amelia Co. on the E. side
of Tobys (Tobys?) Road - "Beginning at Hutchins
Corner Chestnut Oak... Ford's... Bland's...
Tucker's... Clark's... Tobys," etc.

Dated 26 Oct. 1763

[Francis Wright]

Witnesses: Mark Moore, Edward Wright,

(Note the Wrights, they intermarried with
the Sparrowes.)

Amelia
Co. Va.
Deed Bk.
10: 228
1769

James Hanks and Nancy, his wife, sell
the above land, for £68, to Thomas
Mitchell of Dinwiddie Co., Va., Mar. 19, 1769.

(Note the name Mitchell)

Amelia
Co. Va.
Deed Bk.
9: 357
1768

John Appleby and Martha, his wife, of
Kottaway Parish, Amelia Co., Va., deed to James
Hanks of same parish and county, for £66.
12s. - 6d., 100 a. in Amelia Co. on S. side of
Barbone Creek - "Beginning at a corner
wayle... Marshall's... Stuart's... Wareham's...
Mitchell's." Dated 23 June, 1768.

Witnesses:

Admission
says Nancy
Hanks Lincoln
was born in
Barbone Cr.
district.

Amelia
Co. Va.
Deed Bk.
13: 80
1774

James Hanks of Amelia Co., Va.,
[without Nancy] sells to Samuel
Thompson same county, for £100, same land as
above. Dated 26 Oct. 1774. Witnesses: Samuel
Burke, William Goch, Charles Harrison.

James Hanks (cont.)

Amelia
Co., Va.
Order Bk.
1767-68
p. 265

James Hanks vs. James Gregg (Gigg?)

L.A.W. Warren's notes.

(It will be remembered that James Hanks purchased 1000. from Wm. & James Gregg in 1763.)

Ibid
1770
p. 29-32

January Court, 1770 -

James Hanks vs. John Hamlin

Judgment for Hanks" - L.A.W.

Amelia
Co., Va.
Tax Lists
1766

James Hanks, titheable of
Nottaway Parish.

- L.A.W.

Bedford
Co., Va.
Deed Bk.
7, p. 104
[406?]
1780

Josiah Campbell of Bedford Co., Va., deeds to James Hanks of same county, for £50, 376 A. on both sides of Hot Creek - "an oak North side of of South Fork of said Campbell's Spring branch... to Hot Creek Meeting... Dougherty... Watkins... Sturman's... Mitchell's."

Dated 27 March 1780

Witnesses: James Mitchell, John Clayton,
Ben Rice

Bedford Co.
formed 1754,
from Sumner-
Campbell Co.
formed 1782,
from Bedford -
his farm in Campbell

Comment -

A James Hanks, with wife Nancy, of the Barebone district in Amelia Co., and of Campbell Co., has been the subject of much speculation as the father of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. He seems to have been a widower by 1774. Did he and Nancy have any children? They could well have had a daughter Lucy born in Barebone district, motherless by 1774, and "gone wrong" by 1784. In such a case

James Hanks (cont.)

The fatherless Nancy would have been born in Campbell Co., Va., - "on Little Talling River" - where the strongest tradition of them all says she was born. In this district we find Mit Shells, Thompsons, Berrys, Shipleys, and Sparrow connections. (Possibly Henry Sparrow knew Lucy Hanks "back in Virginia.")

In the search we must not forget that there is also a tradition that Nancy Hanks was born in what is now Nottoway (formed 1789, from Amelia) Co., Va.

To Miss Tarbell:

There lives in Richmond, Va., a Mrs. A. B. Fothergill of 1011 W. Grace St., who is the author of *Westmoreland Wills* (in which, by the way, there are hundreds of mistakes and 86 omissions) and who claims to have a complete knowledge of Nancy Hanks's ancestry, but who declines, or perhaps cannot afford, to print her material. She claims to have all the proofs, including original records, given her by a relative of Nancy, and these are kept in a "safety-deposit vault" under oath to let no one see them. She says that the mother of Nancy was not Lucy Shipley, and that Nancy was born in a cabin south of Lynchburg, in what is now Campbell County, but was once Bedford County, on Little Talling River. This is where Robert Shipley lived.

Mrs. Fothergill is described by those who are closely associated with her in the different record departments in Richmond as a "dangerous woman around whom one must be very circumspect," also "capable but unscrupulous." One cannot but ask: What right has this woman to keep original records from the places in which they belong?

Myra Hanks Rudolf
831 Woodbine Ave., SE.
Warren, Ohio