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THE HANK FAMILY

(By Myra Hank Rudolph)
FOREWORD

It is my purpose, in the following articles, to set forth such facts as are known to pertain to the Hank family—mine own well-beloved people. There have been lately published a great many guesses and erroneous conclusions as to one member of this really good old family and it seems hardly right, when so much is known of both the ancestors and descendants of William Hank of Greenbrier and Monroe counties, Virginia, now West Virginia, to allow these conclusions to go uncorrected.

It will be found that each statement of a fact is properly backed by a record for which reference, as to where the record may be found, is given. These references—which, to the casual reader, seem unnecessary nuisances, but to the careful reader, or genealogist, open up a most interesting field of research—are to be found in a group at the close of each article. Each group is made up of the number of references which are required to give back-bone to the particular article which they follow. It will be found that a single document often offers proof for many statements.

It is the writer's plan, with the consent of the editor, to devote one article to each of the early generations of the family. The articles are numbered and titled as follows:

I. John Hank of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England.

II. John Hank of Whitemarsh, Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania.

III. John Hank and his Wife, Margaret Hank of Rockingham county, Virginia.

IV. William Hank of Monroe county, Virginia—now West Virginia.

In the old records the name

Hank is spelled in various ways—Hanke, Hanck, Hancke and Hanks. The land conveyances, wills, etc., are to be found on file in the court-houses of the different counties involved; the greater part of the other records quoted or referred to, are to be found among Friends' records in the files of the Pennsylvania Historical and Genealogical Society, 13th and Locust Sts., Philadelphia. The minutes of the different Friends' Meetings constitute the most interesting of records. These minutes are soul-searching and soul-revealing to a degree; every lapse and the rebuke therefor being candidly set down—for all of which the genealogist is truly thankful.

The Friends' method of recording dates has been rigidly adhered to when quoting Friends' records. This method is peculiar to the Friends, and it must be borne in mind by him who feels that he must call "3mo." by another name

(against which practice, when quoting dates recorded by Friends, the writer strongly advises) that, until about the middle of the eighteenth century, March was the first month of the year, and so "3mo." was May; "10 mo." December—as it should be, etc.

(The numbers in parentheses indicate the references at the end of the article.)

To Mr. A. E. Ewing, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, I am especially indebted for his help in the preparation of these articles, as well as the use of many records from his collection of Hank data.

To Miss Ida M. Tarbell of New York City, Mrs. Charles F. White of Brookline, Mass., Miss Harriet P. Marine of Baltimore, Mr. Alfred Rudolph Justice and Mr. Wm. T. Elkinton of Philadelphia, Dr. John W. Wayland of Harrisonburg, Va., and Dr. Louis A. Warren of Fort Wayne, Indiana, I am deeply grateful for records from their

collections.

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I.

John Hank of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England.

The Hank family record begins with John Hank of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England, the great-grandfather of William Hank of Monroe. John and his kinsman, Luke Hank of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, and their kinswoman, Ann (Hank) Woolley, wife of William Woolley, were members of the Society of Friends (commonly called Quakers) and attended Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, as well as Breach Meeting, in Derbyshire. It is in the minutes of these two meetings that the English records quoted are to be found.

Luke Hank of Eastwood married Jane Wheatecroft, daughter of Francis, at Fritchley, 3 mo. 5, 1680. They had a son named Luke, born 2 mo. 1, 1681, of whom nothing more is known to the writer. Six days after the birth of this son Jane Hank, wife of Luke, died. (1) Luke Hank and William Woolley signed David Brentnall's Certificate of Removal from Breach Meeting to Friends at London, 8 mo. 10, 1681. (2)

In 1682 Luke Hank purchased of William Penn five hundred acres of land in what was then Chester county, Pennsylvania. Two hundred acres of this land lay in Newton Township (now in Delaware county), and the grant shows that the land was surveyed 10 mo. 7, 1683; the other tract of land, containing 303 acres, lay in Darby Township (now Upper Darby, in Delaware county), and it was surveyed Nov. 8, 1682, and patented 11 mo. 17, 1684. Luke sold the last mentioned tract, through his attorney, John Blunstone, to Thomas Bradshaw and William Garratt, 1 mo. 5, 1688. (3) In a list of in-

habitants and landowners in Pennsylvania, in 1684, is found: "Luke Hank, 50 yrs. old." (4) In a 1689-90 list of landowners, he is set down as the owner of two hundred acres. (5)

When Luke married Jane Wheatecroft he was forty-six years of age—probably a widower with at least one daughter, Elizabeth; for we find Elizabeth Hank of Darby marrying William Evines (also spelled Evens) of Evesham, West Jersey, at Darby Meeting, in Chester Co., Pa., in 1693. (6) William and Elizabeth had a daughter, "Elizabeth Evens, Jr."—so she signed her name in the relatives' column, as a witness to the marriage of her cousin, John Hank, and Rebecca Brian in 1737. (7) After Elizabeth's marriage Luke Hank returned to England and died at Eastwood, his old home, 6 mo. 10, 1701; he was buried at Breach. (8) Luke was the first member of the Hank family in America; he seems to have broken a trail for the descendants of John Hank of Ilkeston—presumably his brother.

John Hank of Ilkeston (also spelled Elchestane, Ilkston, and Ilson) was of the family referred to by Besse in "Sufferings of the Quakers." (9) Our particular John had two sons: Luke, born 6 mo. 14, 1673, and later known as Luke Hank of Sawley, Derbyshire, England; and John, born 5 mo. 21, 1676 and later known as John Hank of Whitemarsh, Philadelphia Co., Pa. (10) John of Ilkeston died 10 mo. 8, 1679. (11)

Luke Hank of Sawley married Hannah Brown, daughter of Richard of Shuttingh, at Warwick Friends Monthly Meeting, 2 mo. 8, 1702. (12) They had a son, John; and Hannah, the wife and mother, died 11 mo. 25, 1708-9. (13) Their son, John, first appeared in American records in 1730, when his uncle John Hank of Whitemarsh, left him 8 pounds by the terms of his will, made Dec. 12, 1730, and called him "cousin"—that is, nephew. (14) In old records the common word used in referring to a nephew or niece was "cousin." This "Cousin" John Hank, son of Luke of Sawley, has been the subject of much guessing on the part of casual observers of Hank history, and he has frequently been confused with his first cousin, the oldest son of John of Whitemarsh; but his record is now clear,—probably clearer than that of any other member of this family,—for anyone with time and patience may follow him from 1730 until 1772, with never a question as to his whereabouts. The writer has in her possession copies of eight Certificates of Removal, all of which refer to this particular John Hank. Two of the certificates record his sojourn in England from 1744 to 1753, during which time he was a member of Leicester Meeting. (15) He married Rebecca Brian, daughter of Thomas Brian, late of Northampton Twp., Burlington Co., N. J., at Burlington Meeting, 7 mo. 22, 1737. His kinswomen, "Elizabeth Evens" and "Elizabeth Evens, Jr." witnessed

this wedding, signing their names directly under the name of Rebecca's widowed mother—Rebecca Brian. Elizabeth (Hank) Evens and her daughter were the only relatives of the groom who were present. (16)

John and Rebecca (Brian) Hank had two children: Hannah, born 1 mo. 14, 1738-9; (17) and John, who married Rachel Ewing (one record says Rachel Evans) 10 mo. 1, 1770. (18) This son was appointed administrator of his father's estate July 21, 1772. (19) The writer is quite certain that this son was the John Hank who appeared in Shenandoah County, Virginia, in 1783, and of whom she has records until his death in 1829; but the record which proves these two men to have been one and the same has not yet been found and further search must be made.

This brings us to John Hank of Whitemarsh, younger son of John of Ilkeston, and the subject of our next article.

References for Article I.

(1) Chesterfield Mo. Mg. Records—Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1680-1681. (2) Phila. Mo. Mtg. Certificates of Removal, Cope's, Gen. Soc. of Pa., p. 2. (3)

Court of Chester Co., Pa.—1681-97, p. 149. Lloyd's Manuscripts, p. 97. Smith's Atlas of Early Land Grants in Delaware Co., Pa.—1880. Ashmead's History of Delaware Co., Pa. (4) Pa. Magazine, Vol. 7, p. 107. (5) Pa. Archives, Landowners, 1689-90. (6) Darby Mtg. Min., p. 56. Darby Women's Min., p. 8. (7) Burlington Marriage Bk. A, p. 255. Burlington Min., p. 701 (Phila. Copy) (8) Chesterfield Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Deaths, 1701. (9) Besse's "Sufferings of Quakers"—Vol. 1, p. 143. (10) Chesterfield Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Births, 1673 and 1676. (11) Chesterfield Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Deaths, 1679. (12) Warwickshire Friends' Records—p. 96. (Phila. Copy) (13) Chesterfield Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Deaths, 1708-9. (14) John Hank's Will, Phila. Bk. E, p. 158, No. 190.—1731. (15) Certificate of Removal—Darby Philadelphia, Burlington, Evesham, Haddonfield, and Leicester Minutes. (16) Burlington Marriage Bk. A, p. 255. (17) Burlington Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Births, 1738-9. (18) Burlington Mo. Mtg. Rec.—Marriages, 1770. (19) New Jersey Rec., Off. of Sec. of State, Trenton,—Liber 14 Wills, p. 507.