

COPY

Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 23, 1925.

" Dear Mrs. Rudolph,

Yours valued letter of Sept. 18, is at hand. Several years ago I made a persistent effort to secure a roster of the "German Regiment" and was informed by our congressman in Washington that none was in existence, so far as known. The regiment included men from Augusta and West Augusta, as well as from several other counties; and there were Hanks in Augusta (now Rockingham) in and around the region of Broadway and Brock's Gap at an early date. I hope that we may be able to get more definite particulars. With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain, Yours very truly, John W. Wayland."

Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 16, 1925.

" Dear Mrs. Rudolph;

Thank you for your letter, enclosures, check, and order for Kercharel. The latter (book, 4th edition) will be mailed you from Strasburg just as soon as it is off the press, which will probably be in a month or two. Last Saturday, I happened to be in reach of Woodstock, the county seat of Shenandoah County, so I thought I'd see whether I could find anything there about the Hanks. My search was rewarded by the enclosed item which I am sure will interest you. You will observe that John Hank in 1792, sold out his real estate in Shen. Co. It is possible that he then came to Rockingham, or moved west. Yours very truly, John W. Wayland."

Enclosure: "May 19, 1792. John Hank and Catherine his wife of the County of Shenandoah & State of Va. for 200 pounds current money of Va. sold to Frederick Heiskill two tracts of land on Stony Creek in the county aforesaid, both of which tracts are part of a large tract of 450 acres which was formerly granted by deed from Lord Fairfax, date of July 10, 1773 to Henry Denny and by him conveyed to Michael Tanner and Peter Halvey May 17, 1783, and then conveyed to Mitchel Reed, Feb. 25, 1784, who conveyed one of the said tracts to the said ~~X~~ John Hank by deed of April 26, 1784. This tract adjoined Downey and John Valentine Bealer--60 acres. The other tract conveyed by Mitchel Reed to John Shenk, July 27, 1784, and by him to John Hank Sept. 30, 1784. The latter tract covered on the "bank of the said Creek at the great Road", containing 8 acres. Witnesses to the said deed: Septimus Taylor, John Anderson, (Charles Vivian) Charles Devion(?), John Geyer, Frederick ~~Kxxx~~ Fultz, William Bell, John Croundstooft (Grandstaff?). See Shen. Co. Deed Book H. page 402-404.

John Hank and Catherine Hank both signed their own names, according to the record.

The above land was probably near Edinburg, Shenandoah Co. Va."

Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 27, 1925.

Dear Mrs. Rudolph:

The signature of John Hank, in Shenandoah County deed book, does not show any indication that he was an old man, though it may not be his own signature; but probably is. I send you the following additional items: In the census of Shenandoah County for 1785, John Hank is listed as head of a family, with 6 in family besides himself; with one dwelling house and 4 other buildings. Evidently from the other names associated with his, he lived in the vicinity of Edinburg. In the census of 1784, Rockingham County, Margaret Hank is listed as head of a family with 4 in family besides herself, with one dwelling house. The list in which her name appears was taken by Anthony Rader, who probably lived near Timberville or Broadway; and the other names indicate that he took the census of his home neighborhood, as was the custom. Most of the names are located in and around Timberville, Broadway, Brock's Gap, etc. In the census of 1782, Hampshire Co. Va., now W. Va., Joseph Hanks is listed as head of family of 11, besides himself. Hampshire Co. was taken from Frederick in 1753, and it adjoins Frederick and Shenandoah on the N.W. Dunmore Co. was carved out of Frederick in 1772, and in 1777, the name was changed from Dunmore to Shenandoah. Hampshire was carved out of Frederick in 1753. Rockingham was carved out of Augusta in 1777, though courts were not opened until 1778. It is not likely that my history of Shenandoah will help you on the Hanks directly; for John Hank is the only one of the name I have so far found in the county. It might help you indirectly. For example, there have been and still are a number of Berrys in Shenandoah, especially that part that became Page in 1831. I have not read all of Barton's book on Lincoln--cannot speak of its reliability. I suppose he has done a good piece of work, but I would have more confidence in it if Barton were not quite so sure of himself. Yours, John W. Wayland"

Harrisonburg, Va., Dec. 7, 1925.

"Dear Mrs. Rudolph:

I thank you for your good letter of Dec. 1. I got it from the office as I was starting for Woodstock again: and while in the clerk's office I found two more deeds in which John Hank of Shenandoah Co. was a party. See abstracts enclosed. Am also adding a brief note of the sale which I reported to you to you not long ago. It seems very probable that this was John Hank, Jr., and that the head of family in Rockingham at the same time (Margaret) was his mother, widow of John Sr. Only names of heads of families are given in the census lists to which I referred. With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain, Yours very truly,
John W. Wayland."

1784, Sept. 30--

John Shenk and Elizabeth, his wife, for 45 pounds Va. money, sell 8 acres to John Hank of Shen. Co., on Stoney Creek and the "Great Wagon Road", part of a tract of 450 acres which was formerly granted by Fairfax, July 10, 1777, to Henry Denny, by him deeded to Michael Tanner & Peter Halvey (May 17, 1783); by them to Mitchel Reed (Feb. 25, 26, 1784). Mitchel Reed conveyed 8 acres thereof to John Shenk and he conveys to John Hank (Sept. 30, 1784). See Shen. Co. Deed Book D. pages 443-445.

1784, April 26--

Mitchel Reed & Frances his wife, for 25 pounds Va. money, sell to John Hank of Shen. Co. Va., 60 acres on Stoney Creek, part of 450 acres, &c (see above). See Shen. Co. Deed Book E. pages 39-41.

1792, May 19--

John Hank and Catherine his wife, of Shen Co. Va., for 200 pounds Va. money, sell to Frederick Heiskel (Heiskell) two certain tracts, one of 60 acres, one of 8 acres (see above). See Shen. Co. Deed Book H. pages 402-404. "