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THE HANK FAMILY

By Myra Hank Rudolph

IV.

WILLIAM HANK OF MONROE

William Hank of Monroe county, Virginia, was born in Pennsylvania, the third son of John and Margaret (Williams) Hank. His given name was his mother's maiden name—Williams—but he was always known as William Hank.(1) He and his sister, Margaret (Hank) Cherrington, were near the same age. She was born April 10,1755, (some records give 1758) in Berks county, Pennsylvania.(2)

It should be borne in mind that that portion of Philadelphia county which became a part of Berks county in 1752, in turn became a part of Montgomery county in 1784.(3) John and Margaret Hank at no time between the years 1737 and 1774—except for the time from 1750 until 1752, when they attended Richland Meeting,(4)—lived very far from Gwynedd, for they were in constant attendance at Gwynedd Meeting;(5) yet the records show them to have lived in two counties, Philadelphia and Berks, at different times, and today the district in which they lived is in Montgomery county.

When Margaret Hank went from Pennsylvania, in 1774, to live in Augusta county, Virginia, she had with her six children: John Susannah, Eleanor, Margaret, William and Hannah.(6) Of these John, born in 1738, was the oldest; and Hannah, born in 1760, was the youngest.(7) In October, 1777, the district in which this family lived became part of the newly formed Rockingham county.(8) When the first Rockingham County Census was taken in 1784, Margaret's family, however, including herself, numbered but four.(9) The children at home were John, William, and Hannah. Of these, Hannah, the only Friend left, out of the original family of eleven, was to marry Asa Lupton, a Friend of Frederick county, Virginia, in 1787; William was to marry Susannah Berry of Rockingham county, in 1786 or 1787; and John was to remain a bachelor.

The marriage record of Hannah Hank and Asa Lupton is to be found in Hopewell Minutes:(10) but the marriage record of William Hank and Susannah Berry has not been found. One branch of the descendants of William and Susannah insists that this marriage took place in Rockingham county; another, that it took place in Kentucky, shortly after the migration of the contracting parties from Virginia to Kentucky. It would seem that the former is correct, for it is known that the first two children of William and Susannah Hank were born in Rockingham county, Virginia—David, March 5, 1788,(11) and Caleb, September 1, 1789.(12) It is known, too, that when David was twelve and the family was then living in the newly formed Monroe county, Virginia, he went on horseback with his mother and two-year-old sister, Mary, to visit his mother's people in Rockingham county. That Susannah was the wife of William Hank is proved by deeds on file in Union, W. Va.: these deeds were signed by William Hank and Susannah Hank.(13) also by the Knapp Bible which records the marriage of Eliza Hank and Moses Knapp and states that Eliza was the daughter of Caleb Hank, who was born September 1, 1789, in Rockingham county, Virginia, the son of William and Susannah (Berry) Hank.(14)

The story of Susannah's trip on horseback from Monroe county to her old home in Rockingham county and back is an interesting one and was preserved for us by her grand-daughter, Margaret Williams (Hank) Cherrington, the third daughter of Caleb Hank.(15)

The next four children of William and Susannah Hank were born in Greenbrier county, Virginia, after the removal of the Hanks and Cherringtons from Rockingham county. They were Margaret, born in 1792, John, born in 1794, William, born August 31, 1796,(16) and Mary born in 1798. In 1799, that portion of Greenbrier in which the family lived became part of the newly formed county of Monroe and it was in this new county that Jehu, the seventh and last child was born March 24, 1801.(17)

"William Hank of Rockingham" bought his first tract of land in Greenbrier County in "seventeen hundred eighty——" (probably in 1789) and the deed was recorded in Lewisburg, September 29, 1789. This tract contained 267 acres and was purchased from William Cooper and Martha Cooper.(18) The tract was located a few miles south of Willow Bend. William and Susannah's neighbors were James Trotter, William Lawrence, Thomas, John and William Thompson, Samuel Lewis, James Henderson, John White, John Dougherty, Nimrod and Anne Tackett, Charles and Agnes Friend, John and Jean Campbell, and Israel and Barbara Meadows.(19)

Just when the Hanks went to Greenbrier from Rockingham county is not known, but it is known that the move was made between the birth date of Caleb, Sept. 1, 1789, and that of Margaret, sometime in 1792. Tradition says it was in 1791, and with William's family went William Cherrington and his family, also William's brother, John Hank, and Susannah's brother, Benjamin Berry.(20) It is known that William Cherrington with a family of seven was listed as a resident of Rockingham in 1790(21) and that his wife, Margaret Hank Cherrington, died in Greenbrier County, Sept. 22, 1797.(22)

In 1797, William Hank was granted, as an assignee of Knotliff Taylor, an additional eighty acres of land adjoining his own land and that of John Dougherty "in the County of Greenbrier on the foot of the Little Mountain."(23) This mountain is often referred to as Hank Mountain.

In 1795, Thomas Thompson, a neighbor of William Hank, died; his estate was appraised at $249.-92, and a sale was held. Among those at the sale were William Hank, Zachariah Calloway, Anthony Clark, Richard Full, Christopher Hand, John Peters, William Rice, and John and William Thompson.(24) There are many stories told of William Hank and his good friend, Billy Rice; the former was very tall and dark and the stories of his strength are many, while Billy Rice was short, quite stout, and very fair. A grandson of William Hank—John William Hank of Jackson, Ohio, married a grand-daughter of Billy Rice, Mildred Rice.(25)

In 1799, William Hank was listed as a resident of the newly formed county of Monroe.(26)

In 1813, William Hank and wife, Susannah, sold eighty acres of their land—both signing the deed—to their oldest son, David,(27) then a young man of twenty-five, who in two years was to marry Sarah, the youngest child of Nimrod and Anne Tackett. No children were born to this union and in 1824 Sarah died.(28) David married as his second wife, Elizabeth Parsons, daughter of James and Nancy (Rust) Parsons, of Hardy county, Virginia. The Parsons were wealthy planters and "Miss Betty" had attended school in Morgantown, Va., before her marriage to David. She brought with her from her father's house several slaves and these went with her when she and David went from Virginia to Gallia county, Ohio, in 1838. Elizabeth was the mother of eight children: George Berry Hank, born July 20,1827; Nancy, born Dec. 14, 1828; James William, born July 16,1830; Jehu B., born Jan. 22, 1832; John Parsons, born July 21, 1833; Caleb Robert, born March 13, 1836; Susannah, born Mar. 4, 1838; and Sarah Elizabeth, born Nov. 14, 1842. Elizabeth (Parsons) Hank died April 18, 1847, in Gallia County, Ohio.(29) In 1850, David Hank married Mrs. Sarah (Stanley) Dalzell, and to her two children, Mary Catherine (Molly), born Oct. 28, 1850, and David, born October 14, 1954, were born. David Hank died May 4, 1854, six months before the birth of his son, David. Of the ten children of David, only Molly—Mrs. Wm. H. Liddle, of Holden, Mo.—is living.(30)

Caleb Hank, the second son of William and Susannah, has been thought by many to have been older than David, due, no doubt, to his very early marriage. He was only nineteen when he married Nancy Smith. To this union six children were born; these were: Mary (Polly), born Aug. 6, 1809; Susan, born May 7, 1811; Margaret Williams, born July 8, 1815; Sarah, born Mar. 18, 1819; Eliza, born Mar. 20, 1821; and David, born June 1, 1823. Nancy (Smith) Hank died, and Caleb married Elizabeth (Betsy) Rayhill by whom he had two sons who both died in infancy.

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Elizabeth died, and Caleb married, as his third wife, Mary Ann Mathews, daughter of William and Jane (Berry) Mathews, who was born in Rockingham County, Va., Feb. 8, 1807, and was thus Caleb's junior by over seventeen years, and only a little over two years older than her oldest step-daughter. To this union seven children were born: these were Jane, born July 4, 1833; Alvin Ewing, born Aug. 22, 1835; Isabel Virginia, born Jan. 2, 1838; Nancy Ann, born June 10, 1840; Rebecca Ellen, born Dec. 22, 1842; John William, born Nov. 1, 1844; and Caleb, born Jan. 30, 1847. All of these children were born in Monroe County, Va., except Caleb who was born in Gallia County, Ohio, after the removal of the family from Monroe in 1846. Mary Ann (Mathews) Hank died Feb. 20, 1847, just three weeks after the birth of her last child. Caleb then Married Mrs. Hermion (Weeks) Dixon of Jackson Co., O., who cared for the children of Mary Ann as if they were her own. Caleb Hank died Feb. 12, 1869, near Jackson, O.(31)

Margaret Hank, the first daughter of William and Susannah, was the first of their children born in Greenbrier (Monroe) county. She was a very pretty girl and a great favorite with all who knew her. Her ability as a spinner and weaver was remarkable. Just as she reached womanhood, at the age of 16 or 18, she had a tooth extracted from which she bled to death. Her father grieved so over her death—the last of his beloved Margarets, his mother, Margaret Williams Hank, his sister, Margaret Hank Cherrington, and his own daughter, Margaret— that he requested his son Caleb to name his next girl baby "Margaret Williams Hank." (32) Thus was Margaret Williams Hank, born July 8, 1815, named before she was born. She was to grow up and marry Clinton Cherrington, and as Margaret Williams Hank Cherrington, she was the namesake of her great-grandmother, Margaret (Williams) Hank, of her great-aunt, Margaret (Hank) Cherrington, and of her aunt, Margaret Hank. As if to still further gratify her grandfather's reverence for the name "Margaret," she bequeathed it to at least two of her own grand-daughters.

John, the third son of William and Susannah (Berry) Hank, married Rebecca Price, one of the eight children born to Thomas Price and his first wife, Elizabeth Taylor. Of the sons of Thomas Price, one was Samuel, the ancestor of Andrew Price, of Marlinton, W. Va., President of the West Virginia Historical Society. John and Rebecca (Price) Hank had three children, Eliza, Margaret, and Thomas, whose birth dates are unknown to the writer. John Hank died July 18,1831, and was buried at Dropping Lick Cemetery in Monroe County.(33)

William, the fourth son of William and Susannah (Berry) Hank, married Serena (Cyrena) Peale, the daughter of Bernard and Catherine Peale of Shenandoah and Rockingham Counties, at Harrisonburg, Va., March 24, 1825. To this union six children were born: John Wm. Fletcher Hank, born Mar. 11, 1826; Jehu Newman Hank born Oct. 18, 1827; James Bernard Hank, born Sept. 15, 1829; Armenius Summerfield Hank, born July 20, 1831; Susan Catherine, born Oct. 25, 1833; Emory Waugh Hank, born Nov. 20, 1836. William Hank died Mar. 31, 1869, at Middleway, Va. Serena died July 9, 1870.(34)

Mary Hank, the second daughter and sixth child of William and Susannah, married Christopher Smith of North Carolina in 1827, and had five children; William, Jehu, Caleb, Catherine and Sarah. The Smiths moved to Ohio and both Mary and Christopher died in Jackson county. Mary died May 29, 1857. Their descendants live in Warrensburg, Mo.(35)

Jehu Hank, the youngest child of William and Susannah, was born in Monroe county. He married Malvina D. Bratton in April, 1829; she died March 1, 1830, following the birth of a little daughter named Virginia, who lived only a short time. On Dec. 12, 1833, Jehu married Susan K. Bergar (Berger) of South Carolina, the daughter of a wealthy planter who brought with her many slaves to the Monroe county home—for the ownership of which, Jehu, a minister, was often severely criticised. He always replied by saying that the blacks belonged to Susan. Susan was born Mar. 26, 1818, and was not yet sixteen at the time of her marriage. She is described in all records of her as tall, with great brown eyes, and very handsome. Her coming to the Monroe county homestead was a great event. Jehu's mother, Susannah, still lived in the old home; David and Elizabeth lived on the eighty acres to the east, and Caleb on another part of the original Hank farm. John's widow, Rebecca, and her three children were also there. Susannah, the mother, died in 1837, and shortly afterwards the old house was torn down and Jehu built for his young wife the great brick house that stands today. Seven children were born to Susan and Jehu; Josiah D., born Oct. 13, 1835; Susan, born Feb. 26, 1838; Malvina D., born Jan. 10, 1840; Fanny, born Sept. 16, 1842; David W., born April 25, 1846; Wilbur F., born June 23, 1848; and Leonidas E., born June 23,1848.

Jehu Hank died July 2, 1881; Susan died only a few years ago, but the date is unknown to the writer. Both are buried in Dropping Lick Cemetery.(36)

William Hank of Monroe died Sept. 3, 1823, and Susannah died July 23, 1837. Both were buried in Dropping Lick Cemetery.(37) William had spent some twenty years of his life in Pennsylvania, seventeen years in what is now Rockingham county, Va., and thirty-two years in what is now Monroe county, W. Va. He was born a Friend and died a Methodist. Susannah Berry was a Presbyterian at the time of her marriage, and, although she became a member of the Methodist Church, she always held to the religious interpretations of John Knox, and would go many miles, whenever opportunity offered, to attend a Presbyterian service. All of her children, however, were Methodists and it is told that her greatest regret was that she had not raised one Presbyterian.

Susannah was a great reader and would read or tell stories for hours to any children around her. Her vocabulary abounded in Scottish words and these she used at every opportunity, thus pressing them into use in the vocabularies of her children and grand children, particularly those of the children of Caleb and Nancy who were so closely associated with her in her later years and their very early years. Her love of books and her strength of character are attested by the fact that she raised in a pioneer home without the aid of a regular school seven remarkably well educated men and women. David was a farmer and tailor, and if all the children who attended his Sunday School classes through all the years he held them could be gathered together, their number would be legion. Caleb was of an inventive nature and made, among other things, surveying instruments which indicated a high degree of ingeniousness; in later years he became a well known physician who enjoyed great success in his treatment of the sick. Margaret's ability as a spinner and weaver has already been spoken of. John was a farmer—his father's right hand man; he was a lover of good books and good music and possessed a singing voice of remarkable sweetness. He was only thirty-seven at the time of his death. William was a fine singer and a finer minister; the story of his life is one of a labor of love for those around him, and he was able to give each of his children the advantages of higher educational training. Mary, after the early death of her sister Margaret, enjoyed the privilege of being the only girl in a house full of boys; she was exceedingly bright and vivacious, and her theory of life was that a mother was not meant to keep a house, but to enjoy a home for what it sheltered; she was an excellent needle woman and she and David were particularly good friends. Jehu was a good minister but a much better singer; he was known all over Virginia and the Carolinas for his singing classes and was possessed of a most pleasing personality and winning manners. Much credit is due the parents of such children.

The last official document pertaining to William Hank of Monroe known to the writer is a deed executed by his children thirteen years after his death, but according to his "will and intention." By this deed, dated Jan. 8, 1835, for the consideration of one cent, David Hank and Elizabeth, his wife, Caleb Hank and Mary Ann, his

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wife, Christopher Smith and Mary Hank Smith, his wife—all of Monroe county, Virginia—and William Hank and Cyrena, his wife, of Anne Arundel county, Maryland, grant to Jehu Hank "fifty-three and one third acres being part of a tract of land granted to William Cooper, Feb. 28, 1781, and lying in the County of Monroe on Turkey Creek, adjoining the land of Caleb Hank, David Hank, and heirs of John Hank, deceased, and John Clark, it being that wherein William Hank, deceased, formerly lived." (38)

References for Article IV.

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