

MORE On Our Family Progenitor

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CONROD HOCKERSMITH WRITTEN 31 MAY, 1793 FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

In the name of God Amen the thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three I Conrod HOCKERSMITH of Toms Creek hundred and County of Frederick State of Maryland being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory Blessed be God and calling to mind the mortality of my body that it is appointed for all men once to die and after that the judgement revoking all former Will or Wills do ordain constitute and make this my last Will and Testament and no other I allow -. In the first place I recommend my soul to God who gave it and my body after my decease to be buried in a Christian and desent manner at the discretion of my Executors not doubting to have the same restored again at the resurrection and as to what worldly substance it has pleased God to bless me with I do in the following manner dispose of. First to my son Jacob HOCKERSMITH I do devise all that parcel or Tract of Land where he now lives on only the use of a meadow which I have formerly reserved for myself Whilst my well beloved wife Mary does live and that meadow I do allow my son Jacob aforesaid to mow yearly on the Halves and the said Hay equally to divide with my well beloved wife Mary and also to put her half of the said Hey up in good order and time for her use and also I do allow my wife aforesaid to have my Dwelling House where I now live during her life with the free and full use of all the plenishing and furniture therein and also I do allow my son Jacob or his heirs or assigns to furnish her with a sufficient quantity of good fire wood cut fit for use in whatsoever place she does want to burn the same either on the Hearth or in the stove and also I do allow that my wife shall have the third parts of the garden and also pasture with Jacobs own Cattle for one cow after my decease either of the two cows she pleases to keep for her self the other cow I allow my Executors to sell and moreover I do allow that after my decease that the one half of the grain which my sons was to give during my life be paid to her my wife during her life yearly and also all the benefit of the orchard lying on the East side of middle creek during her life and I allow and order that my goods and plenishings

or household furniture which were mine before my marriage with my well beloved wife may at her desire to be equally divided amongst my four sons George, Michael, Jacob and Conrod and all that my wife brought with or made for self since she was married to me or shall make after my decease I do allow that she may dispose of as she pleases her self and she is to have from my son Jacob a compotent allowance of bread or flour yearly during her life and as to a tract or parcel of land which I am possessed of lying in Bedford County in Pennsylvania I do will and bequeath the same to my son Jacob to set him on an equal footing with the rest of my sons as also my clock I allow after my decease to my son Jacob and the residue and remainder I allow to be equally divided as aforesaid and lastly I constitute and appoint my well beloved sons George and Jacob HOCKERSMITH to be my lawful Executors of this my last Will and Testament & moreover I allow and order my well beloved wife two sheep to be kept every year during her life on the place where Jacob lives as also one bee hive and also that she shall receive every year during her life from George HOCKERSMITH my son & from Jacob HOCKERSMITH my son each three pounds of good Hackled flax and as for what outstanding debts I have due to me I allow that it be kept out at interest until my wifes decease and then equally divided as the rest of my property among my four sons aforesaid and as for my wearing apparol I allow that it should be appraised after my decease and divided as soon as the same appraisement is made one Psalm Book also I allow to my son Jacob after my decease and this my last Will I do allow of and sign & seal as such the day and year aforesaid - N.B. I allow to my son Jacob's son George my largest pewter dish at my decease.

his
Conrod KH HOCKERSMITH *seal*
mark

In presence of us - Wm MURDOCK,
Alescinder CALDWELL, Jas STEVENSON

Frederick County May 15th 1795
Then came Jacob HOCKERSMITH and made oath that the aforesaid instrument of writing is the True and whole last Will and Testament of Conrod HOCKERSMITH late of Frederick County deceased that hath

come to his hands and possession and that he doth not know of any other

Geo MURDOCK Regr

Frederick County May 15th 1795

Then came William MURDOCK and James STEVENSON two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing last Will and Testament of Conrod HOCKERSMITH late of Frederick County decd and made oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God that they did see the Testator therein named sign and seal the Will that they heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehensions of a sound and disposing mind memory and understanding that they respectively subscribed their names as witnesses to this Will in the presence & at the request of the Testator and that they did also see Alescinder CALDWELL the other subscribing witness sign his name as a witness thereto in the presence and at the request of the Testator and all in the presence of each other.

Geo MURDOCK Regr

The following is an excerpt from an old Franklin County, Kentucky newspaper article.

Ed.

"Mills Near The Forks of Elkhorn
HOCKENSMITHS WERE EARLY SETTLERS HERE
By Mrs. M. C. DARNELL
(Last Of The Series)

Author's note: As I write this, the concluding article in the mills series, I wish to express my thanks to the many, many friends - both the new ones and also those whom I have been privileged to enjoy for a long time - for their encouragement and their readiness to share with me their priceless information. Together we pay tribute to the fine old citizens of Franklin County who planned and wrought for us our gracious heritage.

In early records the name "HOCKENSMITH" was written "HOCKERSMITH" or "HAWKERSMITH." The family tradition is that there were two sets who were not related to each other - "The Big Set," large, tall people who came from Pennsylvania, and "The Little Set," who came from Maryland. Apparently

the first to locate in Franklin County were Henry and Jacob HOCKENSMITH, who together bought from Lewis CRAIG in 1796 a farm of 132¼ acres on North Elkhorn. The tax list of 1803 shows Henry with 450 acres on Cedar Creek and Jacob with 116 acres on Elkhorn. In 1866 the estate of one Henry was divided among his wife and ten children, and in 1867 the settlement of one Jacob's estate mentions, but does not name, his four heirs.

Michael HOCKENSMITH was also listed in Franklin County for many years, but he lived on Salt River, in the section that in 1827 was taken from Franklin to become a part of Anderson.

It is said that John S. HOCKENSMITH, the grandfather of Pryor and Larue HOCKENSMITH and of Mrs. Leslie MORRIS, used to ride to southern Maryland every five years to visit his relatives. One of his sons, James HOCKENSMITH, has a gold mine in Idaho, and Mrs. MORRIS says he used to send to his Kentucky kin the most fascinating jewelry set with gold nuggets. . . ."

ARTICLES WANTED

If you would be interested in writing an article for this newsletter and sharing information about your family (past and/or present) with the rest of us, please contact me. If you don't feel comfortable with that, simply pass on any and all family information (births, deaths, marriages, graduations, etc.) to me and I'll write it.

Tim Hockersmith

Who Was Who In America

Who Was Who In America, Vol. III 1951-1960, The A. N. Marquis Co., copyright 1963; page 406 has the following article:

"HOCKENSMITH, Wilbur Darwin, bus. exec.; b. Irwin, Pa., Aug 17, 1878; s. Franklin Cramer and Caroline (Davis) h.; student Alleghany Coll., Meadville, Pa. 1895-96; M.C., U. of Pittsburg 1901; m. Mabel Cornelia Elderkin, Sept. 14, 1904; children - Wilbur Darwin, Mary Louise (Mrs. Charles W. Murdock), Franklin C., Cornelia

Jane (Mrs. John P. McCune), Stanton Elderkin. Chief engr. Hockensmith Corp., Penn, Pa. 1905-12, vice pres. 1913-27, pres. And general manager since 1928, president of the board since 1949. Served as private, Spanish American War 1898. Trustee, University of Pittsburg. Member Western Pa. Engrs. Soc. Republican. Methodist. Mason (life mem.) Club: Kiwanis (past pres.) Holder 3 patents on mine car wheels and mine cars. Home: Lincoln Highway, Irwin, Pa. Office: Hockensmith Corp., Penn, Pa. Died Aug 19, 1951; buried Union Cemetery, Irwin, Pa."



Wilbur Darwin was the son of Franklin Cramer HOCKENSMITH (1853-1935), who was the s/o Isaac (1813-1902), s/o George (? - 1832), s/o Jacob (? - 1818), s/o Conrad (c.1720-1795).

Wilbur's five children were:

- i. Wilbur Darwin Jr., born 16 Jun 1905, married Mary Theodora LOCKE on 20 Jul 1931, died 26 May 1978,
- ii. Mary Louise, born 26 Mar 1908, married Charles W. MURDOCK,
- iii. Franklin Cramer II, born 24 Apr 1913, died 14 Oct 1920,
- iv. Cornelia Jane, born 16 Nov 1917, married John P. McCune, died 7 Sep 1959,
- v. Stanton Elderkin, born 28 Nov 1921, died 25 Feb 1979.

TIDBITS

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Henry WILLIAMS was elected second lieutenant of Capt. William BLAIR's company belonging to Col. J. E. HOWARD's regiment. In the battle on Brooklyn Heights, Capt. BLAIR was mortally wounded and WILLIAMS took command of the company, the first lieutenant (George, s/o Conrad) HOCKERSMITH giving way to him.

FAREWELL

HAWKERSMITH, Odie Clayburn

Odie Clayburn HAWKERSMITH, age 88, of 148 12th Ave. N., Winchester, TN., died Saturday, 26 Nov 1994 at Southern Tennessee Medical Center. He was a City of Decherd retiree and a farmer. He was the son of Charlie HAWKERSMITH and Myrtle MAJORS and was a native Franklin Countian. Mr. HAWKERSMITH was preceded in death by two sons, Leon and Parker HAWKERSMITH. He is survived by his wife Louella Sanders HAWKERSMITH; two daughters, Nedra MORA of Winchester and Cleo WALLS of Decherd; a brother Marion HAWKERSMITH of Winchester; a sister Mary MULLINS, also of Winchester; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted Monday, 28 Nov. at 3 p.m. from Moore-Cortner Chapel with Bro. Sonny Bogus and Rev. Ron McCormick officiating. Interment was in Mt. Garner Cemetery.

HOCKERSMITH, James Harvey Sr.

James Harvey "Boo" HOCKERSMITH, Sr., of 210 Circle Drive, Benton, AR, died Wednesday, 5 Oct 1994. He was 79 years of age. He was a retired auto dealer and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Benton. Survivors are two sons; Glen HOCKERSMITH of Dallas, Texas and James Harvey HOCKERSMITH, Jr. of Benton. A private graveside service was held at 1 p.m. on Monday, 10 October at Rosemont Cemetery in Benton. Arrangements were made by Ashby Funeral Home.

GEORGE'S PLANE

A very interesting coincidence happened recently (15 June 1994). While on a business trip to Lexington Park, Maryland, I met an old friend named Kenny Newell. (I retired from the Navy while at the Naval Air Test Center, which is located at Lexington Park, Maryland and worked there as a government contractor until 1990.) Kenny was telling me of his hobby, which is collecting (and selling for profit) old hand tools.

Kenny told me that while he was at an estate auction in Thurmont, Maryland he had purchased a 4¼-inch cornice molder (hand plane) which was inscribed with the name "George Hockersmith." By the type and style of this plane, Kenny dated it to circa 1790-1810. He also told me that people who are experts in this type of thing regard all "Hockersmith" tools as high-quality items and that they always bring "top" dollar.

At that time Kenny still had the plane in his possession and I asked him if he would be interested in selling it. He said that he would take "15" for it. I said, "Sold" and started to reach for my wallet. Kenny said, "That's 1,500, not 15 dollars! I paid \$1,200 for it!" Needless to say, I didn't buy it.

Robert T. Hockersmith

(Author's Note: I consider Kenny Newell to be an expert in Early American Handtools and have confidence in his ability to accurately date this Molder. Because he has dated the tool to 1790-1810 and because it was found in Thurmont, Maryland, I can only conclude that the George HOCKERSMITH who made this tool was the son of Conrad HOCKERSMITH, who was the progenitor of the HOCKERSMITH family in America. George was born circa 1740 and died between 08 Dec 1798 when his will was written and 10 Sep 1799 when his will was proved in Frederick County, Maryland.)

WHERE WE ARE AND HOW WE GOT THERE

¾ MONTANA ¾

The first member of our family to enter the boundaries of the state of Montana (as far as we can now document) was Sidney Franklin HOCKERSMITH. Frank certainly came from pioneering stock, in that it was his grandfather, John HOCKERSMITH, born 14 Feb 1811 in Estill County, Kentucky, who moved into Davis County, Iowa immediately after it was annexed from the Black Hawk Indians in 1846. John and his wife, the former Lucinda HENDERSON (daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Collier) HENDERSON) were married in Kentucky and shortly thereafter had moved with several other families to Randolph County, Missouri, near Moberly.

These families were Primitive Baptist and chose to live in the same area for religious reasons. They had moved to Missouri in anticipation of the opening of the "strip" (a narrow piece of land bordering Missouri and Iowa but which was still an Indian reservation). This strip later became a part of Davis Co., Iowa.

Frank's father William Jackson HOCKERSMITH was just 4 years old when the family moved to Iowa. William was born 23 Apr 1842 in Randolph Co., Missouri. During the Civil War, being 22 years old, he enlisted on 15 Oct 1864 into Company G of the 15th Iowa Infantry. He was mustered out of the Army in New York City on 20 May 1865. He returned to Davis County and on 24 Sep 1865 he married Margaret SHEWEY. William and Margaret had two sons and a daughter; John Samuel (Sam), Sidney Franklin (Frank), and Lucy P. HOCKERSMITH. On 23 Dec 1877 Margaret, who was 34 years old, passed away and only 10 days later on 2 Jan 1878, little Lucy died. This must have been a devastating loss for William and his two small sons. On 15 May 1891 William married Maria Jane BRUNK (daughter of Lorenzo Dow and Margaret (Findley) BRUNK). They had one son (adopted), Parke Findley HOCKERSMITH. William died in Bloomfield, Iowa on the day before Christmas in 1925 having lived upon this world for 83 years and 245 days.

Frank was born 26 Dec 1868 and left home at an early age. He worked for a while in Missouri and wherever else he could to earn a little money or work for a living. He eventually ended up in South Dakota and it was there he met and married (circa 1898) Alice Cornelia CLARK who was born 18 Jun 1874 in Brule County, SD. It was also in South Dakota that four of their five children were born; Howard Jackson in 1899, Maurice Clark in 1901, Gertrude in 1903, and Helen in 1908. Frank and Alice moved to Montana in 1909 and bought a farm near Sun River. In 1913, Grace was born on the family farm. Times were very hard for a family trying to scratch out an existence from the land.

In a letter from Grace Hockersmith KNUTSON, she relates that, "she only has memories of a very hard life. Of course,

most of the work was done by horse-power and man-power. He (her father) finally did buy a tractor. During my lifetime (on the farm) there was nothing but hard times due to drought, hailstorms, grasshoppers and low prices. He (Frank) sold the last poor year - then WWII and better weather boosted prices so the next owners became very wealthy."

Sidney Franklin HOCKERSMITH died on Wed. 17 Mar 1954 in Great Falls, MT being 85 years and 81 days old and after 56 years and 75 days of marriage. Alice died on Tue. 28 Feb 1956 in Sun River, being 81 years and 255 days old.

Howard Jackson HOCKERSMITH was born 23 Jun 1899 and lived for 85 years and 237 days. He died on 15 Feb 1985. Maurice Clark was born 16 Apr 1901 and lived for 89 years and 41 days. He died on 27 May 1990. Gertrude was born 21 Mar 1903 and is almost 92 years old. Helen was born 17 Nov 1908 and is 86 years old. Grace was born 23 Feb 1913 and is 82 years old.

There must be something in the water that promotes this longevity. Let's all move to Montana!

FAMILY REUNION

Here is your initial notification of the upcoming 49th Annual Family Reunion for the **Descendants of Conrad HOCKENSMITH**. This is a yearly event usually held on the last Sunday of July at the home of Mary Frances HOCKMAN on Ridge Road near Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. For more information, call Mary Frances at (304) 876-6477. More specific information will be printed as it becomes available.

CURRENT FAMILY RESEARCHERS

Faye JOHNSON. Wanda Faye JOHNSON was born Tuesday, 26 Jul 1955 in Frankfort, Franklin County, KY. She married Frank ALBERS in 1980 and divorced with no children in 1986. She is the daughter of William Henry JOHNSON and Shirley Francis PARKER. Shirley is the d/o Robert PARKER and Vicie Willis HOCKENSMITH who was the d/o William Russell, s/o Alexander, s/o William S., s/o Henry, s/o Jacob, s/o Conrad. Faye is an Administrative Specialist for the KY Dept. of Education. She lives at 306 ½ Lyons Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601.

LaWanda Hockersmith DOUGLAS LaWanda HOCKERSMITH was born Monday, 13 Dec 1926. She married Vernon DOUGLAS in 1944 and divorced in 1967. They had two sons, Jimmy and Jerry. LaWanda is a past Council Member of East Prairie, MO., where she still resides at 309 Bill Pope Road, zip 63845. She is also the first woman ever elected as Mayor of East Prairie where she owns a very successful Insurance business. LaWanda is the d/o Jim Roy HOCKERSMITH, s/o James H., s/o John Wesley, s/o George M., s/o George, who died in TN.

SEEKING NEW SUBSCRIBERS

If you are aware of anyone who might be interested in subscribing to this newsletter, please contact them and tell them how they can get in touch with me. As far as I can determine, this is the only printed medium in existence which is dedicated to preserving the history of the Hockensmith/Hockersmith family.

Disclaimer: This newsletter is written, edited and published by Robert T. Hockersmith, 1213 Lions Den Drive, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-4617. I intend to publish additional volumes quarterly [or at least semi-annually] as interest, time, and resources will permit. The data contained herein is deemed accurate, but is not guaranteed.