



## **If This Genealogy Stuff Is So Easy, Then YOU Figure It Out!**

### **THE STATUS OF THE FAMILY SEARCH**

by Robert T. Hockersmith

We all know that each January the President of the United States appears before a joint session of the Congress to present his State of the Union address. I feel it appropriate that this first anniversary issue should present to you a "Status of the Family Search". You know, we all get a little "tunnel vision" at times, especially when it comes to family research. We get focused in on a particular branch of the family (usually our own direct line) and the other branches just have to wait. This is completely natural and I would never fault anyone for it. As a matter of fact, I praise anyone who is doing any research at all. There does come a time, however, when we all need to step back and take a look at the "big picture". Where does my branch of the family fit in? Just exactly "how" are we all related? What do we know about our family and more importantly what is missing and in need of further research? These are some of the matters that I would like to discuss in this issue.

### **EARLIEST KNOWN ANCESTOR**

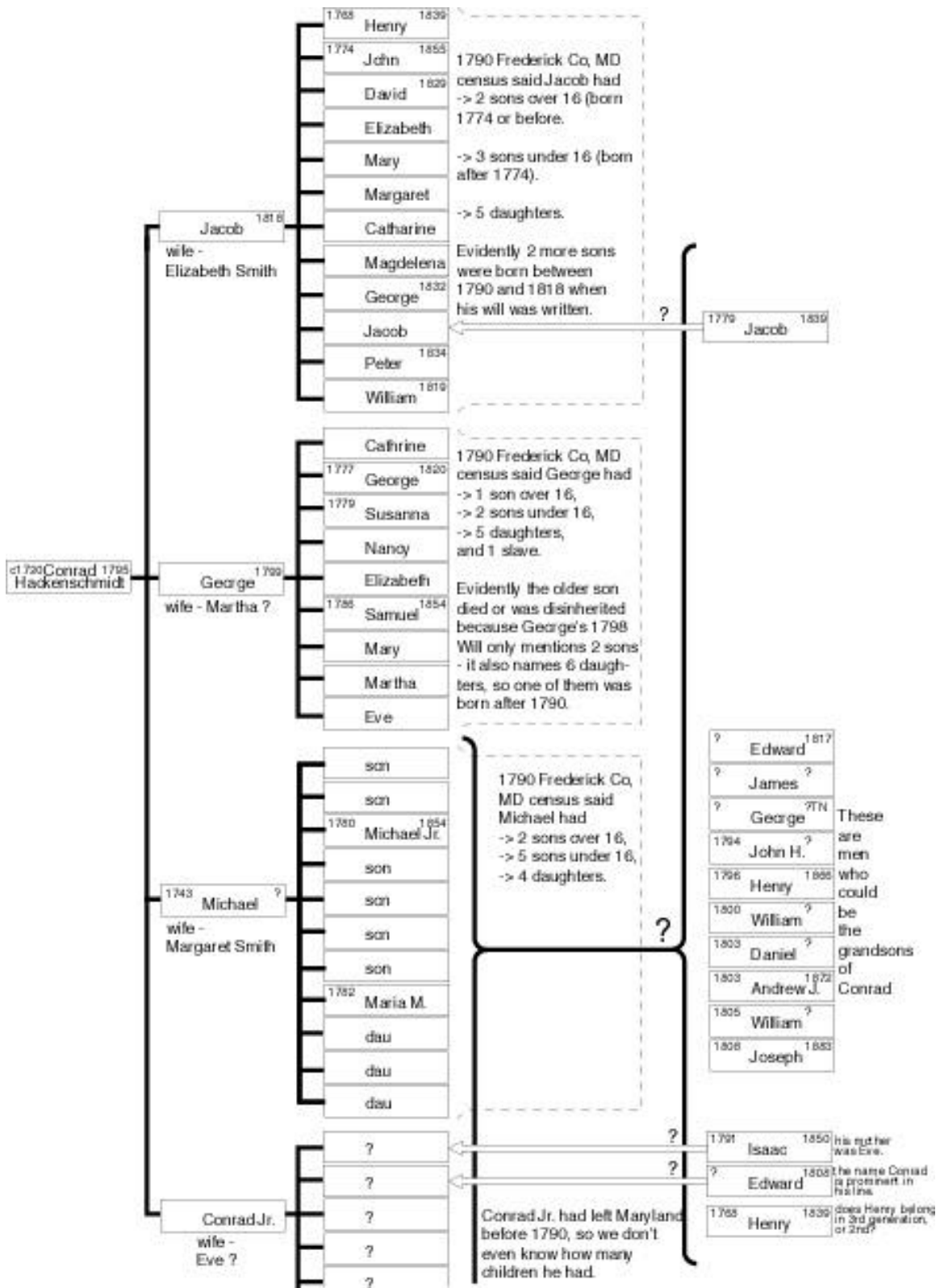
We are fortunate indeed to be able to state with some degree of confidence that we know who was the first member of our family to come to America. He was Konrad (Conrad) Hackerschmidt (Hockersmith) and Volume 1, number 1 of our family newsletter tells his story (as much of it as we know). We do not know who his parents were or from where he came. Many people today say he came from Germany, but you have to remember that at that time (1739) there was no Germany. There were many Germanic states such as Prussia, Baden, Wurttemberg, etc. Also the Palatinate (in German, Pfalz), was two historically related

regions in modern-day Germany; Lower (or Rhine) Palatinate in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and Upper Palatinate in Bavaria. At the Congress of Vienna (1814-15) the several hundred German states were reduced to 39 and grouped into a loose German Confederation. To my knowledge, no one has done any serious research to determine our ancient family roots on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

We also do not know who Conrad first married after he arrived in America (this would be the mother of his children). We know that Conrad arrived in America on 27 August 1739 at the port city of Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania Colony. He probably married sometime between that date and circa Oct 1742 (this date determined by subtracting nine months from the date of birth of Johann Michael, the only child for whom we have a recorded birth date [14 Jul 1743]). He probably married before Oct 1742, as it is accepted family tradition that George was the eldest son of Conrad, probably because he was the first to die (1799) and was listed first in Conrad's will. This tradition does not allow for the theory that a Henry may also have been a son of Conrad (see Volume 1, number 3, pages 1 & 3).

### **GENERATION TWO AND GENERATION THREE LINKS**

Concerning the sons of Conrad - for the two sons (George and Jacob) who remained in the general vicinity of the original homestead in Emmitsburg, Maryland, we have kept track of their descendants with some degree of accuracy. The major problem we have in tying all family branches back to Conrad comes from his two sons, Johann Michael and Conrad, Jr.



### **Johann Michael Hockersmith**

In the 1790 census of Frederick County, Maryland, we find out that Michael had a wife (Margaret, the daughter of George and Christina Smith and the sister of Elizabeth, who married Michael's brother Jacob) and eleven children (2 sons over the age of 16; 5 sons under the age of 16; and 4 daughters). Of these 11 children, we only know the name of one daughter, Maria Margaretha who was born 23 Aug 1782 and who was baptized as an infant on 3 Nov 1782. As far as tracing the family name, we don't know for sure the name of even one of his seven sons. Several researchers have deduced that the Michael Jr. listed along with Michael in the First Kentucky census (1800) is the son of Michael. Still others believe that the James Hockersmith also listed in that census is the son of Michael as well. I don't know if these deductions are correct or not (even if they do seem plausible) but I do know for a fact that they are only theories and are not supported by any concrete evidence. The same holds true with those who profess that Jacob Hockersmith, Jr. (24 Jun 1779 - 28 Nov 1839) who married Anna Keziah Skinner on 12 Sep 1803 in Madison Co., KY, was the son of Jacob, son of Conrad. This too is only a theory and is undocumented (even though I subscribe to it also). I would advise all researchers to note that these are undocumented family links when they correspond with others. When a theory is presented over and over, sometimes people accept it as gospel without questioning the factual basis of the assumption.

Are you starting to see the difficulties that we family researchers are trying to overcome? Even if the theories presented above are true, that leaves at best five sons of Michael as unknown; along with three of his daughters.

### **Conrad Hockersmith, Jr.**

Things get even worse when we look at Conrad, Jr. At least Michael remained in Frederick County, Maryland until the 1790 census was taken and we have a record of how many children he had. We are not so fortunate with Conrad, Jr. Evidently he had already left Maryland by 1790 and we have no record as to how many children he had, much less their names. Some researchers have professed the theory that Conrad, Jr. is the same man as Edward Hockersmith, who died in 1808 in Jessamine County, Kentucky. The theory goes that his full name was Conrad Edward Hockersmith. This is my direct line - this Edward is my 4g grandfather. This theory would tie things up for me in a neat little bundle and finish my research with a direct line to Conrad, the original immigrant. The only problem with this theory is that it is not supported by fact.

The chart on page 2 will demonstrate graphically the problem we have in linking family branches between generation 2 and generation 3. This is a perfect example of what current family researchers are now trying their best to avoid. No one wrote down any family information back then, the relied on an oral family history to pass family information from one generation to the next. Over time that oral history has failed us and now those family links are broken, perhaps for all time.

### **HOW MANY OF US ARE THERE, ANYWAY?**

When I started my family research about ten years ago, I felt confident that I would be able to finish this little project in a matter of months. I had determined to compile the names, dates, places, etc. and to write a small book on our family. After all, where I grew up in central Arkansas there weren't very many Hockersmith's around and we were all related to each other. With a name as unusual as ours, I felt that the entire

family was rather small and it would be no trouble locating them all.

### **Wrong!**

As my research led me from central Arkansas to southwest and then central Kentucky and on into Maryland, I began to see that this project was growing in scope with every discovery that I made. Then in late 1985 I was introduced to Peg Kwadrat and through my excitement, I realized that my research was not going to end in a few months, or even a few years. The way I understand it, Peg inherited the job of Family Historian for the Hockensmith family from her aunt and uncle. She certainly has the most extensive collection of family data in the country. Peg and I have been sharing information ever since.

### **The Numbers**

Today I have a computer database with 3,286 names and 2,207 families. I also have approximately 200 more names that are not entered. Another important point to bring out is that most of my data is pre-1900. I am working furiously to bring my files up to date but it is slow work and I need your help. I would estimate that I have only about 10 to 20% of our family members who are alive today in my computer files. If we don't do a better job today, we can only expect that our descendants will have the same problems as we do in keeping these family links together.

## **UNATTACHED BRANCHES OF OUR FAMILY TREE**

Now let's start looking at some of the specific problems that we have. We cannot link the following family members with their parents:

### **Andrew HOCKENSMITH**

Andrew was born in Feb 1836 in Ohio. He married Elizabeth KUNCE on 9 Aug 1862. Elizabeth was born 20 Aug 1836 in Perry, Ohio. They had the following children while living in Indiana:

- i. William Elmer, born 15 Nov 1863,
- ii. Emma A., born 1865,
- iii. Henry W., born 1869,
- iv. Thomas D., born Apr 1870.

Andrew died 13 Nov 1908 and Elizabeth died 17 Nov 1926 in Huntington Co., IN.

### **Andrew J. HOCKENSMITH**

Andrew was born in Kentucky in 1803. He married Mary PARKS in 1826 in Madison Co., KY. They had the following children:

- i. Henry Clay, born 11 Apr 1830 in Madison Co., KY,
- ii. Sylvester, born 30 Nov 1832 in KY,
- iii. Visna, born 1835 in KY,
- iv. Elizabeth, born 1836 in Illinois,
- v. Mary J., born 1840 in IL,
- vi. Minerva, born 1845 in IL,
- vii. Albert R., born Apr 1849 in IL,
- viii. Ely, born 21 Oct 1851 and died as infant in Macoupin Co., IL.

Andrew J. HOCKENSMITH died in Macoupin Co., IL on 20 Aug 1872.

### **Daniel HOCKERSMITH**

Daniel was born in 1803. On 4 Feb 1830 he married Eliza CUMMINS in Franklin Co., KY. Eliza, the daughter of John CUMMINS, was born in 1804 in Anderson Co., KY. They had the following children:

- i. Joseph,
- ii. David, born circa 1825 in KY,
- iii. Olivia, born 1 Jan 1830 in KY,
- iv. Julia, born 1834 in KY,
- v. Sarah, born 1836 in Anderson Co., KY,
- vi. William Henry Harrison, born circa 1841 in KY,
- vii. Mary Eliza, born 9 Jun 1843,

viii. Georgeanna.

**Daniel C. HOCKERSMITH**

Born in 1830 in Kentucky, Daniel married Virginia L. DARDEN on 14 Dec 1854 in Robertson Co., TN. Virginia was born in TN in 1834. They had the following children:

- i. Thomas Milton, born 9 Oct 1855 in Springfield, TN,
- ii. C. F., born in TN in 1859.

**David J. HOCKENSMITH**

David was born in June of 1830 in Kentucky. He married Sallie Ann DAILEY in Franklin Co., KY on 23 Dec 1856. Sallie was born in KY in Feb 1827. They had the following children:

- i. Ann Mollie, born circa 1856 in KY,
- ii. Pollie, born circa 1857 in KY,
- iii. Belle, born 1858 in Franklin Co., KY,
- iv. Sarah, born Aug 1859 in KY,
- v. Morris, born 10 Oct 1861 in Franklin Co., KY.

**Edward HOCKERSMITH**

Edward married Patsie (Martha), daughter of Henry HARBAUGH, on 5 Sep 1828 in Jessamine Co., KY. They had at least three children; Edward, Henry, and Sally Ann. Edward died in 1835.

**Edward HOCKERSMITH**

We do not know when Edward was born or who his parents were. On 16 Jun 1795, Edward purchased a lot in the town of Port William in Franklin Co., KY (this later became Carrollton of Gallatin and then Carroll Co.) The 1796 Fayette Co. Tax List shows Edward had 100 acres on Jessamine Creek. Jessamine County was formed in 1798, which included the land on Jessamine Creek. A 1799 Fayette Co. lawsuit (Edward Hockersmith vs. Philip Yeiser [Keiser]) referred to in 1803 court records states "Edward Hockersmith, now of Jessamine

County." Edward's wife was Eva RICE (RIESZ), the daughter of Casper and Mary RICE. They had the following children:

- i. Elizabeth, born 1774,
- ii. John,
- iii. Conrad Rice,
- iv. Eve,
- v. David, born circa 1785 in MD.,
- vi. Lucy,
- vii. Nancy,
- viii. Lysena, born 10 Feb 1809 in KY.

Edward died in Jessamine County, Kentucky in 1808.

**Edward HOCKERSMITH**

Edward married first Mary Wilson on 27 Aug 1793 in Madison county, Kentucky. They had the following children:

- i. John,
- ii. Judiah,
- iii. Squire.

Edward married second Patsey Bishop on 28 Jan 1807 in Russellville, Logan Co., KY. They had the following children:

- i. Rebecca,
- ii. Florinda,
- iii. Amanda,
- iv. Daniel.

Edward died in 1818 in Kaskaskia, Randolph Co., Illinois.

**George HOCKERSMITH**

The earliest record we have for George is his marriage to Sally MILLER, the daughter of C. Thomas MILLER in 1803 in Madison Co., KY. They had the following children:

- i. William M., born 1804 in KY,
- ii. George M., born 8 Nov 1808 in KY,
- iii. Thomas.

George moved his family into Tennessee where he later died.

### **Henry HOCKENSMITH**

Henry was married to Mary STALL, 'who was the daughter of Henry STALL and who died in 1785. They had at least one child, Henry Jr.

### **Henry HOCKENSMITH**

Henry was born 1796 in Kentucky. He married Mary (Polly) COX, the daughter of Benjamin and Betsy (Tate) COX, on 8 Jan 1825 in Franklin Co., KY. Polly was born 6 Aug 1806. They had the following children:

- i. William, born Dec 1825 in KY,
- ii. John Thomas, born 4 Apr 1832 in KY,
- iii. Benjamin F., born 27 May 1833 in KY,
- iv. Jackie (m), born 1837 in KY,
- v. Procilla (Celia), born 18 May 1838 in KY,
- vi. Eliza, born 1841 in KY,
- vii. Thorton, born 1844,
- viii. Theodore, born circa 1844 in Franklin Co., KY,
- ix. George, born 1845,
- x. Sophronia, born 1847,
- xi. Julia,
- xii. Mary.

Henry and Polly lived their adult lives in Franklin Co., KY. Henry died there in 1866 and Polly lived there until 5 Feb 1886.

### **Hiram HOCKENSMITH**

Hiram married Julia GRIMES on 17 Dec 1827 in Jessamine Co., Kentucky.

### **Isaac HOCKERSMITH**

Isaac was born 15 Aug 1791 and died 4 Jul 1850 in Switzerland Co., Indiana.

He married Patsey RUTHERFORD on 11 Oct 1811 in Jessamine Co., KY. Patsey was born in 1790 in Kentucky. They had the following children:

- i. Joseph C., born circa 1821 in KY,
- ii. Isaac D., born 1826 in Jessamine Co., KY,
- iii. Isaac M. J., born in 1839 in Indiana.

### **Jesse HOCKENSMITH**

Jesse was born circa 1811 in Kentucky. He was married on 27 Dec 1831 in Franklin Co., KY to Catherine C. COX, daughter of Thomas and Ann Janey (Smith) COX, who was born about the same time. As far as we know they had but one child, a son, Jesse, Jr., born 30 Nov 1834 in Anderson Co., KY. Jesse Jr. was a Civil War veteran described in Vol. I, No.4, page 8 of our newsletter.

*(The following is some wonderful research work by Faye Johnson of Frankfort, KY. RTH)*

⇒ Francis Cox, the brother of Catherine C. Cox, was bondsman for Catherine's marriage to Jesse, along with C. O'Hara, her brother-in-law. Francis Cox married Rebecca Hockensmith, daughter of Jacob Hockensmith, Jr.

There is no Jesse living in Anderson County in 1830 census prior to Jesse's marriage in 1831 or his son's birth in 1835. But Jacob Jr. was living in Anderson County (formerly Franklin County area) in 1830, as was William and Michael Hockensmith. 1830 Anderson County Tax List has Jesse, along with Michael, Jacob, William, Judiah, and Newton J.

Jesse Hockensmith, Jr. was living with Catherine and Samuel LUCKETT in 1860 Franklin County census. Catherine Hockensmith married Samuel Luckett in Franklin County in 1837. A Catherine (maiden name "Cox") and Samuel Luckett had a son, William B. Luckett on 10 Aug 1856 in Franklin County. Could this Catherine (who married Samuel Luckett) be Jesse Jr.'s mother remarried? No Jesse is listed in Anderson County in 1837 Tax List and none shows up again until Jesse Jr. shows up in 1860 Franklin County census after his marriage. She could be the right age. In 1874 Samuel and Catherine Luckett deeded land to Jesse Hockensmith, Jr. ←

Faye's research may lead some to conclude that Jesse and Rebecca were

siblings and thus may be the son of Jacob Hockensmith, Jr., son of Jacob, son of Conrad. This may in fact be the case, but let's not jump to conclusions. The marriage record of Rebecca does identify her father as Jacob. According to "Franklin County KY Death Records" by Francis T. Ingmice, page 7, Rebecca Cox, age 49, female, married, dau of Jacob and Mary Hockersmith, died 13 Aug 1853 of typhoid flux. Also there is a deed of trust in Franklin County made 4 Nov 1833 in which Jacob Hockensmith appoints his son Jacob Hockensmith, Jr. "to hold in trust for the sole purpose of my daughter Rebecca Cox, late Rebecca Hawkersmith, and the legal heirs of her natural body.."

One of the keys here is the reference to "Jacob and Mary Hockersmith" as the parents of Rebecca. In attempting to link Rebecca and Jesse to Jacob, Jr., s/o Jacob, s/o Conrad, one would have to ignore the fact that most family researchers accept the roll of this person to the Jacob who married Anna Keziah Skinner in Madison County on 12 Sep 1803. As a matter of fact, I do not have a listing for this time frame (within 40 years) of any Jacob who married a woman named Mary.

So what does all this mean? As far as I am concerned, it means another question mark in our family tree. For now, we just don't know.

In speaking of Junior and Senior, this is a good point to interject that prior to and in the early part of the nineteenth century it is not safe to assume that the use of the terms "Senior" and "Junior" refers to a father and son. The relationship could have been that of an uncle and nephew or of cousins. Before the use of middle names, it was not uncommon to have two or more men in a family with identical names. The older man was known as "Senior" and the younger as "Junior." A still younger person of the name might use "3rd" following his name. It is

important for the researcher to keep in mind that a man known in his younger years as Jacob Hockersmith, Jr. may have been known as Jacob Hockersmith, Sr. after the death of the older man. In our family, this really does complicate matters because there are many instances of several men using the same Christian name at the same time.

### **John H. HOCKENSMITH**

Born in 1794 in Kentucky, John married a woman named Rachel who was also born in KY in 1797. As far as we know, they had but one son, Edward who was born in 1833 in Kentucky.

### **John HOCKERSMITH**

John married Eliza TURNER on 26 Jul 1838 in Mercer County, Kentucky. (*Could this be John the son of Edward who died in 1808 in Jessamine Co., KY.? RTH*)

### **John D. HOCKERSMITH**

This John was born in Kentucky in 1869. He married Nancy E. (surname unknown) who was born in 1868 in Indiana. They had the following children:

- i. Francis E. (m), born 1893 in Kansas,
- ii. Lydia R., born 1895 in KS,
- iii. James P., born 1902 in KS.

### **Joseph HOCKENSMITH**

We know nothing of this Joseph except that he married a girl named Susan who was born in 1792. Susan died 15 Jan 1869 in Frederick County, MD. We don't know if they had children.

### **Joseph HOCKERSMITH**

Joseph was born in 1808 in Kentucky and died 25 Apr 1883 in Marion Co., Indiana. His wife was Nancy HUTCHINS (or HUDSON) who was born circa 1813 in Georgia. They had the following children:

- i. Michael, born 1834,
- ii. Nancy Jane, born circa 1834,

- iii. Judiah Dyer, born 6 Jan 1837 in Franklin Co., KY,
- iv. Tabitha, born 1839 in Indiana,
- v. Pauline, born 1840 in IN,
- vi. Frances M., born 1843 in IN,
- vii. Martha, born 1846 in IN,
- viii. Lorenzo, born 1849 in IN,
- ix. Henry, born circa 1851 in IN,
- x. Nora E., born circa 1859 in IN.

### **Levi HOCKERSMITH**

We do not know who the parents of Levi were, but we do know that he was born in 1835. On 21 Aug 1861 he married Mary V. Bechtol in Wabash Co., IN. They had the following children:

- i. Sarah Ette, 19 Aug 1862,
- ii. Charles Henry, 4 Aug 1867,
- iii. Frank, 31 Mar 1870.

Levi died 13 days before the birth of his son on 18 Mar 1870 and Mary lived on until 22 Jan 1919.

### **Nathan HOCKERSMITH**

Nathan was born 1848 in Missouri and married a woman named Anna, who was born in 1877 in MO. They had the following children:

- i. Lilman, born 1900 in MO,
- ii. Frank, born 1902 in MO.

### **Russell HOCKENSMTIH**

Russell was born in 1885 in Kentucky and married Rosa ?, who was born in 1897 in Kentucky. That's all we know.

### **T. HOCKERSMITH**

Born in 1833 in Indiana, he married Lucy (surname unknown) who was also born in Indiana in 1834. They had the following children:

- i. William H., born in 1846 in Indiana,
- ii. Laura, born in 1849 in Indiana.

*(Seems awfully young to be having babies, doesn't it? RTH)*

### **Thomas HOCKENSMTIH**

Thomas served as a private in Captain Lowe's Company of the Missouri Artillery during the Civil War.

### **Thomas HOCKERSMITH**

Thomas was born in Feb 1870 in Tennessee and married a woman named Alice (surname unknown). Alice was also born in TN in Aug 1881. No other information is known.

### **William HOCKENSMTIH**

William was born in 1800 in Kentucky. We don't know who his wife was, but they had one child, Willis William Hockensmith, born Apr 1855 in MO.

### **William HOCKENSMTIH**

This William was born in Kentucky in 1820. On 26 Jan 1843 in Anderson County, he married Mary Hockensmith 'who was also born in KY in 1820. They had the following children:

- i. Napoleon, born 1844 in Indiana,
- ii. Jasper, born 1849 in IN,
- iii. Almeda, born circa 1852 in IN,
- iv. Melissa, born circa 1854 in IN,
- v. Mary, born circa 1856 in IN,
- vi. Leonidas.

### **William HOCKENSMTIH**

This William was born in 1805 in Franklin Co., KY and married Mahala ARBUCKLE, who was born in 1809 in Kentucky. They had the following children:

- i. Mary, born 1829 in KY,
- ii. Martha J., born 1836 in Anderson Co., KY,
- iii. James H., born Apr 1836 in KY,
- iv. Alexander, born 1843 in KY.

### **Willis HOCKENSMTIH**

Willis was born in Kentucky in 1826 and was married to Mary E. SEBREE, the

daughter of Reuben and P. SEBREE. They had two children:

- i. Robert, born 6 Oct 1855 in Franklin Co., KY,
- ii. Marion, born 5 May 1859 in Franklin Co., KY.

Mary died 6 May 1859 after the birth of Marion. Willis later married Catherine (surname unknown).

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The unlinked families listed in this article make up a list which I do not present as all-inclusive. I have probably missed quite a few and if you are aware of any more, please don't hesitate to let me know.

We should not look at this list with doom and gloom. Somewhere out there is someone who has the key which will open one of these closed doors. Our job is simply to find that someone and to ask the right question.

That is why it is so important to spread the word of this newsletter to every family member you are aware of. We are finally starting to get some cooperation concerning family research. Researchers are starting to put their heads together, to share information with each other, and have stopped "re-inventing the wheel". I wonder how many times an individual researcher has spent months seeking information that has already been found and confirmed by another researcher.

We are discovering new family information all the time! We are "re-discovering" long-lost cousins who have lost touch with the family over the years, we are recruiting "new blood" as researchers every year! Let us rededicate ourselves to the search! It all begins with you! Spread the word and share what information you have!

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## **NEW LOOK FOR**

## **OUR NEWSLETTER**

This issue of our family newsletter has incorporated a new print font called Palatino for the body of the newsletter. Previous issues used a body font called Avant Garde. The new Palatino font is more compact and gives us more words per page. I would like to hear your opinion as to which font is easier on your eyes and which you prefer.

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## **RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR THIS NEWSLETTER**

As we enter this new year, it is time for me to remind you to renew your subscription to our family newsletter. Many have already done so.

Let me make this perfectly clear; the subscription price (in dollars) is nothing, nada, zero. The actual price you have to pay is the cost of a postcard or letter. I require each person who wishes to receive this newsletter to tell me personally that they want it, each and every year. I don't believe that this is asking too much of you.

If you want to be a part of this effort and support spreading the family history, you may donate whatever amount pleases you. This would certainly help defray my out-of-pocket expenses, but is not required.

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## **QUOTABLE QUOTE**

"When an old person dies, it's like a small library burning."

Alex Hailey

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## **A GENEALOGIST IS.....**

A genealogist must have the patience of Job; the curiosity of a cat; the stubbornness of a mule; the eyesight of an eagle; be

blessed with luck of the Irish and have the ability and stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or drink!

With thanks to T. L. & M Genealogy -  
From The Family Tree Dec 94/ Jan 95

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## **CORRECTION**

In the last issue of our newsletter (Vol. 1, No.4) it seems that I made an erroneous assumption. On page 5, I listed Francis Marion HOCKERSMITH as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. He was the son of Thomas Jefferson and Roxie Anna (Noble) HOCKERSMITH and was born in December of 1836 in Randolph Co., Missouri.

I have since received a wonderful letter from Bob and Jeannine Hockersmith of (currently) Mesa, Arizona. Their rebuttal states: "He was born 1836 in Randolph Co., MO but the family moved to IA, Davis Co. in 1847 and according to Davis Co. History 1882 he was a Captain in Company D Western Regiment State Militia in Davis Co., organized 10 Nov 1864 under Col. Jas. B. WEAVER."

Evidently, Francis Marion HOCKERSMITH fought with the Union Army.

Can you see me blushing from where you are? As I admonish each researcher to be careful in making unfounded assumptions, I suppose it would behoove me to do the same. I must have become over-zealous in my attempt to tie up all those loose ends.

Thanks to Bob and Jeannine for the above information. I invite all readers to take me to task for what is printed in this newsletter.

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## **ANOTHER CIVIL WAR VET**

Cousin Dorothy OLMSTED of Newport News, VA has informed me that I failed to mention that according to Samuel P. Bates' History of the PA Volunteers Civil War Series, Joseph L. HOCKERSMITH served in the Militia of 1862 under Capt. George W. Eyster organized at Greenvillage, PA, Sep 12 through Oct 01, 1862. This was the militia formed after the second battle of Bull Run and disbanded less than a month later.

This veteran is Joseph Landis HOCKERSMITH, born 9 Aug 1836 in St. Thomas, PA. On 16 Oct 1861 he married Susan ENSMINGER, the daughter of John and Lydia Ensminger, who was born 4 Oct 1838. They had the following children:

- i. George William, born 19 Aug 1862,
- ii. Samuel Brinton, born 22 Feb 1865,
- iii. John Perry, born 3 Sep 1867,
- iv. Jennie J., born May 1870,
- v. Lydia Jane, born 19 May 1870,
- vi. Charles Henry, born 3 Oct 1877.

In 1870 Joseph and Susan moved from Chambersburg, PA. to Shippensburg, P A. and founded a grocery business with his partner Mr. J. R. Pague.

Joseph later bought out his partner and the business was called J. L. Hockersmith and Son. In 1902 the business was moved to 14 West King Street, Shippensburg.

Joseph died 15 Nov 1916 in Shippensburg, P A. He was the son of Samuel and Nancy Jane (Forbes) HOCKERSMITH, s/o George, s/o Jacob, s/o Conrad.

Thank you, Dorothy, for bringing to our attention the honorable military service of another of our family fore-fathers.

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## **FAMILY PHOTOS & FAMILY HISTORIES**

If you look at the next page, you will notice a new feature of the newsletter called "Family In The Spotlight." I would like to make this a regular part of each issue. This

will certainly let us get better acquainted with other family members. I have taken my turn and now look to you to follow my lead. Send me a current family photo and a family history so that we all may get to know you and your family better. The photo may be color or B/W and I will return it if you request. Individual photos will work if you don't have a group photo.

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## **Current Family Researchers**

### Camille PRONGER

Margaret Camille Hockersmith, the daughter of Baber Douglas and Stella Fidus (Stalcup) Hockersmith, was born on Monday, 15 Feb 1926 in Wichita Falls, TX. She married Norman W. PRONGER on 15 Jun 1957 and they adopted one son, Norman Christopher Pronger. Norman and Camille were divorced in 1975. Her father was the s/o Henry Douglas, s/o John Mason, s/o John, s/o Edward who died in 1818 in Kaskaskia, IL. You can reach Camille at 1220-423 Tasman Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089.

### Charlotte MUCKEY

Charlotte Marie Gibler was born on Tuesday, 7 May 1935 in Lawrence, Douglas Co., KS. She is the daughter of Ivan William and Goldie Marie (Schrable) Gibler. She married Marion Gilbert MUCKEY on 1 Oct 1955. They have three children, Michael, Cynthia, and Kieth. Her father was the son of Thomas W. and Mary Etta (Hout) Gibler. Mary Etta was the d/o Henry C. and Caroline (Hockensmith) Haut. Caroline was d/o David s/o Peter, s/o Jacob, s/o Conrad. Charlotte lives at 1709 Tennessee St., Lawrence, KS 66044-4177.

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## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Can anyone tell me what happened to 1995? My calendar tells me that it is now 1996, but my internal clock tells me that it should be about April 1995 ! I'm not losing my mind, really! It just seems that 1995 has gone into the past way too fast. My parents and grandparents told me that as you get

older, time seems to go by faster. Now, as I approach the age of 50, I am experiencing this phenomenon in first person.

I want to take this opportunity to wish my entire family (and this means all of you) a happy and prosperous 1996. I also want to thank all of you who have helped me produce this newsletter. All of you who have sent me any family information and/or family photos have helped. This is not a project that one person can perform, so each of you need to realize that in each issue, you are reading the fruits of many laborers.

For you youngsters, please take my word that time slips away before you realize it. Take the time to talk with and learn about our older relatives. For you elders, take the time to scribe your family history for posterity.

May God bestow his richest blessings on each of you in 1996.

## **Family In The Spotlight**

### **Robert Timothy Hockersmith, Janice Marie (Greene) Hockersmith, Robert Timothy Hockersmith, Jr., Jill Marie Hockersmith**

Robert Timothy HOCKERSMITH was born 10 Jan 1948 at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, Pulaski Co., Arkansas. He is the son of Alfred Gann, Jr. and Martha Jean (Hathcote) Hockersmith. His paternal grandparents were Alfred Gann and Nellie Mae (Lawrence) Hockersmith. Family lineage is: Alfred Gann, s/o Alfred Conrad, s/o Tilford G., s/o Conrad Rice, s/o Edward Hockersmith who died in Jessamine Co., KY in 1808. His maternal grandparents were Joseph William and Wilma Lee (Caldwell) Hathcote.

Tim graduated from Benton High School in 1966 and after one year of college he joined the U. S. Navy in Nov 1967. After boot camp, he attended Electronics School at Memphis, TN and while there he would sell his blood so he would have bus-fare to go to Benton and see the girl of his dreams. He married his high-school sweetheart, Jan Greene on 21 Dec 1968 at the Church of Christ in Benton, Saline Co., AR.

He and Jan reported for duty at Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 at NAS Patuxent River, MD on 2 Jan 1969. After one year of shore duty, Tim was assigned to VP-49, also at Pax River. In Mar 1971, Tim, Jan, and Rob moved to Millington, TN while Tim attended Advanced Electronics training. Upon graduation in Mar 1972, the family set out to return to Maryland but were delayed by an accident. Tim was placed on limited duty for a year and the family remained in TN until Jun 1973. The family then moved to Jacksonville, FL for duty with VP-45. While attached to this squadron, Tim made many deployments to places like Iceland, Bermuda, Sicily, France, Crete, Italy, Germany, Spain, the Azores, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Scotland, England, and

almost every country in Central and South America. In 1977, he was allowed shore duty and reported for the second time to VP-30, now at NAS Jacksonville, FL. While attached to this training squadron, Tim was asked to assist with the upgrading of the technical manuals for the P3C Orion Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft. He spent many months for the next three years in Burbank, CA working with Lockheed who built the aircraft.

In Jan 1981 the family moved overseas to Lajes Field in the Azores, a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean owned by Portugal. In Dec 1983 the family returned to the United States and were assigned to the Naval Air Test Center, again at Patuxent River, MD. Tim retired from the Navy as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8) in Nov 1987 and began a new career as a defense contractor.

Tim works for ManTech Engineering Services Co. under contract to the US Navy, where he is a technical editor and technical writer. Tim writes and evaluates manuals and training courses to support electronic equipment operation and repair aboard naval aircraft.

In Jun 1990 the family was re-assigned once more to Jacksonville, FL. They reside in Green Cove Springs where they are very active members of the Church of Christ, where Jan has served as Sunday School teacher and Tim serves as Deacon.

Janice Marie Greene, the daughter of James William and Mary Lee (Redd) GREENE, was born 3 May 1949 at Chickamauga, Walker Co., GA. Her paternal grandparents were John McKinley and Dora Bonnie (Allen) Greene. Her maternal grandparents were Walter Alson and Ida

Missouri (Bruce) Redd. Jan also graduated from Benton High School in Saline Co., AR in 1966. When Jan and Tim decided to raise a family, they also decided that to the extent possible, Jan would not work outside the home as long as the children were at home. She is a loving and nurturing mother, who has always put the family unit at the top of her priorities.

There were times when it was absolutely necessary for Jan to take a job to supplement the meager wage of a Navy enlisted man. Jan never complained and when possible she returned to her exalted and taxing role as "homemaker." Recently Jan returned to school and passed the FL state boards as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She is now employed as the Triage Nurse for a group of seven Family Practice doctors in Orange Park, FL.

Robert Timothy Hockersmith Jr. was born 3 Jan 1970 at the U. S. Naval Hospital aboard the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, MD which is within the bounds of St. Mary's County. Rob graduated from Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County, MD in 1988. He earned an Associates Degree from Louisburg College in Louisburg, North Carolina. Rob plans a career as a sportscaster in either radio or television.

Jill Marie Hockersmith was born in Greenville, Washington Co., MS on 19 Jun 1972. Jill graduated from Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County, MD in 1990. She earned an Associates Degree from St. John's River Community College in Orange Park, FL. She has completed all course prerequisites for admission to the Registered Nurse Program at the University of North Florida. Jill plans a career as a Nurse Anesthetist.

**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.