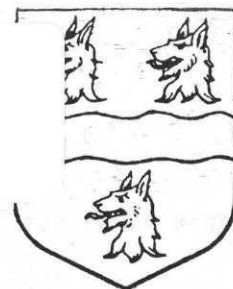


WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED

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Descendants of ANDREW WOOLVERTON

With allied families of HANKS, DODSON, NEVILLE, LITTLEFIELD, and HARRIS

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY UTAH 84150  
July/August 1993

Vol. 1, Number 1

This is the premier issue of WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED, a bi-monthly family newsletter, which is being started as a successor to the COUSINS UNLIMITED newsletter which was published by Royal Allen Wolverton for a number of years.

Royal passed away unexpectedly at Sun Lakes, Arizona, on December 29, 1992 after a short and bitter fight with bone cancer. Tributes to Royal, a copy of his service record, and the eulogy presented at his funeral were included with the final issue of COUSINS UNLIMITED (Nov./Dec. 1992) which was mailed out to the subscribers in April of this year.

He was 85 years old at his death. He had partially written his final newsletter, and the rest was completed by family members. Royal published the COUSINS UNLIMITED newsletter continuously from the fall of 1980 to December 1992. And before that he published a newsletter called CORN PONE. This editor has copies of all the issues of COUSINS UNLIMITED, but I would like to obtain copies of CORN PONE.

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Now to introduce myself. I am 35 years old and have been interested in family history since 1973 (when I was 15 years old). Genealogy has been an avid hobby of mine for all these years, and through it I have learned some great truths from history and have met many wonderful people. I was reared in Wichita Falls, Texas, where I graduated with a B.A. in English from Midwestern State University in 1979. Then I moved to Springfield, Missouri to attend the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, receiving a master of divinity degree in June 1984.

I am an ordained Assemblies of God minister, working in the international headquarters of the church, located here in Springfield, Missouri. My position is Archives Assistant and copy editor of HERITAGE magazine, a historical publication distributed by the Assemblies of God Archives. I have also taught English at two local Bible colleges and have preached in various churches.

After coming to Springfield, I met my wife, Marion (Brown), and we were married on June 9, 1984. We have one adopted son, Jared James Gohr, age 17 months.

My genealogical interests include being a life member of the local Ozarks Genealogical Society, a life member of the Sons of the American Revolution and an officer in the local chapter, being the author of three family genealogy books, and contributing to a number of other family newsletters and books. I am also involved in various church activities and have served as an officer in the local Springfield Christian Writers Club.

My link to the Wolverton family is somewhat remote, but I have found the Wolverton history to be quite fascinating, and I do not wish for the COUSINS newsletter to end. Communication with other subscribers will be beneficial to us all.

My lineage to Andrew Woolverton is through his son James Matthew Woolverton who married Agatha Williams (a descendant of the Hanks, Dodson, and Neville families). Next the lineage comes down through James Matthew's daughter Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield. Nancy married Luther Rice Littlefield. Their daughter was Sarah Agatha Littlefield who married William Ashley Harris. This last-named couple are my great-great grandparents.

My own parents are Lawrence and Hazel (Harris) Gohr who are retired and live at Monte Vista, Colorado. I have two sisters, Margery (Gohr) Bartell who lives at Arnold, Missouri, and Alice (Gohr) Kettner who lives at New Holland, Illinois. A brother, Fred, passed away in 1974, due to a mountain climbing accident.

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In this newsletter, I wish to include genealogical records and updates to the information in DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW WOOLVERTON, the book published by Royal Wolverton in 1985. If you have vital records concerning family members that would tie into the Woolverton book, please send them so that they can be included in future newsletters.

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#### RESEARCH AT THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY

This past May I was in Chicago at an archives conference with my job. For the last 6 years it has been an annual event for me to stay at the Bismarck Hotel in downtown Chicago and attend the Midwest Archives Conference. Other years my wife has gone with me and relaxed in the hotel room while I went to the sessions. This year, because our Jared was only 15 months old, it seemed best for the family to stay at home. I flew on TWA from Springfield to St. Louis and from there to Chicago. I was gone from May 12-16th, and returned home again on TWA.

Flying is O.K., but the high altitude always hurts my ears. I would rather drive and see the scenery at ground level. There are so many interesting sights to see no matter where in the U.S. you may venture.

While in Chicago I toured the archives facilities of the Newberry Library and the University of Chicago Historical Society. The Newberry Library is an excellent research facility for genealogist and others interested in the humanities. Not only did I learn about their conservation laboratory and techniques for preserving historical materials, but I also managed to get in several hours of family research. The names I found information on included Gohr, Littlefield, Hanks, Neville, and Wolverton.

One of my great-great uncles, Herman Gohr, was married in Chicago in January 1880, so I was glad to find reference to him in an early city directory. Other Gohrs were also listed as living

in Chicago in the 1880s and earlier. Whether these are close relatives of mine, I do not know. Gohr is a German name which incidently means "dweller near a swamp." I have a Gohr coat of arms hanging on my study wall, but whether my direct ancestors were entitled to this coat of arms is unknown.

#### LITTLEFIELD RESEARCH

The Littlefields I found living in Chicago in the 1880s and 1890s are undoubtedly descendants of Edmund Littlefield who settled in Maine in about 1638. The Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Texas Littlefields have been unable to establish a link with the Littlefields of Maine. Our immigrant ancestor is William Littlefield, who came to the U.S. in about 1723.

The records I located on Chicago Littlefields are being forwarded to the LITTLEFIELD FAMILY NEWSLETTER which publishes information on all Littlefields in the U.S. and abroad. The cost for subscription is \$10.00 for the current year. You may contact the editor: Charles Littlefield Seaman, Littlefield Family Newsletter, P.O. Box 817, Ogunquit, Maine 03907-0817. Phone: (207) 646-3753.

#### HANKS RESEARCH

Concerning the Hanks family, I located several items. The University of Chicago Historical Society has a large reading room which houses "The William E. Barton Collection of Lincolniana." I did not have time to browse or study this collection, but I have asked the librarian to send me a listing of the materials housed in that collection. If you do not know, William E. Barton was one of the early authorities on the Lincoln and Hanks family lineage of President Abraham Lincoln. He wrote a book called THE LINEAGE OF LINCOLN.

Through the Hanks family we are all related to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's mother was Nancy Hanks. She is reported by some to be the daughter of Joseph Hanks (brother of Moses Hanks, our ancestor). Others say Nancy's father was Abraham Hanks, and that President Lincoln was named Abraham after both grandfathers, i.e. Abraham Lincoln and Abraham Hanks. Another view holds that Nancy was the illegitimate daughter of one Lucy Hanks, daughter of Joseph. Adin Baber was another Hanks authority and wrote several books on the Hanks-Lincoln connection. He held that Lincoln was named after both grandfathers. For some time now, I myself have subscribed to the Lucy Hanks story. Lucy is mentioned by Barton; William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner; and others. But for some reason, Baber does not mention any Lucy Hanks connected to Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Incidentally, the Univ. of Chicago Historical Society has an actual pie chest which was made by Thomas Lincoln for his stepmother. This was an interesting piece of Lincolniana which I was privileged to see. A couple years ago my wife and I visited Lincoln's home and museum at Springfield, Illinois. We also visited his grave there.

A Hanks book which I located both at the Univ. of Chicago Historical Society and at the Newberry Library was: IN RE LUCY HANKS, by James A. Peterson. Yorkville, IL: the author, 1973. 42 pages. This gives documentary evidence for Lucy Hanks existing and being a near relative to President Lincoln. Peterson's theory is that Lucy Hanks was married twice--first to Hanks and then to Sparrow. Her maiden name was probably Shipley. Her first husband was likely a brother to Joseph, Abraham, and Moses Hanks before mentioned. He died young, so we do not have his name given anywhere. This would explain how Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln was known both by Hanks and by Sparrow. This would also remove any possibility of Nancy being illegitimate.

#### NEVILLE RESEARCH

The Neville family is an allied line to the Wolvertons through the Hanks and Dodson families. Moses Hanks was married to Agatha Dodson. Agatha's mother was Mary (Neville) Dodson. The Nevilles descend from one John Neville who was transported by Sir Leonard Calvert from England to Maryland on "The Ark and Dove" in 1634. At one time there was a Society of John Neville Descendants who had a family newsletter. It ran from 1976-1980. It is believed that John Neville was a direct descendant of the famous Neville family well known in English history. There is still a Baron Neville in Great Britain today. However, the parentage and exact place of origin of John Neville, the immigrant ancestor, has always been a mystery.

A few years back, a researcher in Arkansas informed me that John's father was a Thomas Neville of Bolton, Lancashire, England as found on a record of the LDS church in Salt Lake City. After reviewing the record she supplied and viewing the IGI index from Salt Lake City, it became obvious that there are a number of John Nevilles of about the same age who were contemporaries in England. There is no proof that our John Neville was the son of a Thomas.

While at the Newberry Library I found a very old volume which was about 16x24 inches in size and about 100 pages thick which contained lineage charts on the Neville family in England. The book is HISTORIES OF NOBLE BRITISH FAMILIES by Drummond. London: William Pickering, 1846. 2 vols. The Neville lineage was included in volume 2. Listed on the charts, I only found one John Neville who seemed the right age to be our John, and who might have immigrated to the U.S. I hope to contact the current Baron Neville to see if he has further records on the John Neville I found, to see if he has record of a marriage, children, or any other information which might verify or disprove if he should be the John Neville who settled in Maryland.

#### WOLVERTON RESEARCH

The Wolverton information included locating a copy of THE WOOLVERTONS by Emma Ten Broeck Runk which is a 91-page book which gives excellent treatment of the early history of the Woolvertons in America. I already had a copy of this in my files. The Newberry Library also has a microform copy of the booklet, CHRIST

THE ETERNAL WORD by Charles Woolverton, our immigrant ancestor. It is a 40-page religious booklet published in 1738 which has been microfilmed by the American Antiquarian Society, Charles Evans number 4327.

A copy of Royal Wolverton's book, DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW WOOLVERTON, was donated by cousin John Earl Wolverton to the Newberry Library several years ago, but for some reason it is no longer listed in the card catalog. John Earl Wolverton lives in Chicago, and I spoke with him by telephone while on this trip. He encouraged me to take up the torch of continuing with a family newsletter. He also said that if the Woolverton book has been lost from the Newberry Library that he might try to donate another copy to their facility.

The other information on Wolvertons which I found at the Newberry Library concerned Wolverton coat of arms. The library has a large collection of descriptions and plates of coat of arms. I found several for the name Wolverton, but all had the same general description, which would indicate that the title holders were all related in some way. Information on the Wolverton coat of arms will be included later.

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#### LINCOLN KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

--Abraham Lincoln

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REV. JOSEPH BOYD WOLVERTON, b. Nov. 19, 1910 Easton, ME; d. Nov. 2, 1984 Scotts Valley, CA. He attended Zion Bible Institute in East Providence Rhode Island and Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri. Then he was ordained as an Assemblies of God minister on May 13, 1943. He ministered as an evangelist and pastor in New York, New Jersey, Kansas, Illinois, and California. During 1981 and 1982 he was president and taught at St. James College in San Bruno, California. His widow, Margaret Wolverton, was still living at Scotts Valley, California in January 1991. They had no children.

(From records in the Assemblies of God Archives)

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#### WATCH THAT "THEOMETER!"

The mind and the tongue, the two great allies of eloquence in a preacher's pulpit ministry, can also betray him if he is not careful. Memory can either work its magic or cause its mistakes.

In the early months of my ministry, we had a neighbor who was quite illiterate and seemed to have no great desire to change. One of his most repeated mistakes in the King's English was the

pronunciation of the word, "thermometer." His consistent interpretation was "theometer." Frequently, in a laughing way, we would use his pronunciation in private conversation.

One Sunday morning while earnestly preaching and endeavoring to use this word as a portion of an illustration, I found that my tongue could remember only one way to pronounce the word, "theometer." Repeated efforts to correct myself only added to my confusion. It came out "theometer" every time. I can assure you that never again did I mimic my neighbor. That one lesson was enough.

--J. Boyd Wolverton

(CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERALD magazine, Nov. 1955, p. 18)

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#### WORKS BY CHARLES WOOLVERTON

Charles Woolverton, our immigrant ancestor, was a Quaker. He was a close friend of William Penn, the well-known leader of the Society of Friends. Some sources even claim that Charles Wolverton came over on the ship "Welcome" in 1682 with William Penn and the first group of Quakers to arrive in the U.S. There are no documents to substantiate that Charles Woolverton arrived at the same time as Penn.

The names of the "Welcome Claimants" are fairly well documented. In fact, there is a Welcome Society (for descendants of the passengers on this ship) which is similar to the Mayflower Society. It appears to me that Charles Woolverton came to the colonies several years after Penn's arrival. First mention of Charles that I have found is August 20, 1693 when he purchased 100 acres of land in Burlington County, New Jersey from William Biddle.

Charles Evans, an early American bibliographer, has published a chronological dictionary of early books, pamphlets and periodicals published in the United States. It is called AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY. In Volume 1, 1639-1729, p. 412 is listed Charles Evans number 3244:

Woolverton, Charles.

The Spirit's Teaching Man's Sure Guide: Briefly Asserted and Recommended to the Sober Perusal of all Christian Believers . . . The Second Edition, corrected and amended by the author, with large additions. Philadelphia: Printed for the Author by Franklin and Meredith, 1729.

In Volume 2, 1730-1750, p. 136 is listed Charles Evans number 4327:

Woolverton, Charles.

Christ the Eternal Word. The Only Means of Man's Salvation. A Sermon. Philadelphia: Printed by B. Franklin, for the author, 1738. 40 p.

Vol. 2, p. 174 also lists Charles Evans number 4660:

Woolverton, Charles.

The Upright Lives of the Heathen Briefly Noted; or Epistles and Discourses Betwixt Alexander the Conquerer and Dindimus King of the Brachmans, Giving an Account of What Sort of People They Are, Their Divinity, and Philosophy, With Their Manner of Living, & c. Together also with the Dying Words of Ockamickon, an Indian King. Spoken to Jahkurseoe, his Brothers Son, Whom He Appointed King After Him. Collected Together, and Published For General Service . . . Philadelphia: Printed and sold by A. W. Bradford, 1740. 16 p.

After inquiring with the American Antiquarian Society, which has copied most of the pamphlets in Charles Evans' bibliography onto microform cards or microfiche, it was discovered that only one of these 3 pamphlets is still known to exist. It is CHRIST THE ETERNAL WORD. The booklet is available on the Readex Microprint edition of EARLY AMERICAN IMPRINTS, 1639-1800. The original booklet may be found at the University of Pennsylvania and at Swarthmore College, Friends Historical Library.

There are no extant copies of the other two works attributed to Charles Woolverton. The first was advertised for sale in the Pennsylvania Gazette (probably before it was published) and, due to lack of buyer response, it may never have been printed. THE UPRIGHT LIVES OF THE HEATHEN was included in Charles R. Hildeburn's book, A CENTURY OF PRINTING: THE ISSUES OF THE PRESS IN PENNSYLVANIA. Charles Evans and succeeding bibliographers have been unable to locate a copy of the title.

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#### CHARLES WOOLVERTON MENTIONED IN QUAKER HISTORY

In glancing through QUAKER HISTORY, a magazine published by the Friends Historical Association, I found an article in the Spring 1991 issue, "Quaker Books in Colonial Pennsylvania," by J. William Frost. In the article he mentions a number of well-known Quaker authors. Then in a footnote on page 18, he says:

"Other colonial American authors were Jacob Taylor, James Claypoole, William Rakestraw, William Southeby, John Dickinson, Isaac Norris I, David Lloyd (all of whom probably came to Philadelphia as adults), John Smith, Samuel Smith, John Hepburn (who may have been a Keithian when he wrote), Evan Ellis, CHARLES WOOLVERTON, Benjamin Gilbert, John Bartram, and John Woolman."

In looking through my correspondence files, I think that a letter I wrote in 1982 may have alerted Mr. Frost, the writer of that article, to the importance of Charles Woolverton's writings. I wrote to the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College concerning the possibility of obtaining a photocopy of CHRIST THE ETERNAL WORD (I have since made a copy from the Readex Microprint edition). A portion of the letter from Swarthmore reads:

"Unfortunately, CHRIST THE ETERNAL WORD, THE ONLY MEANS OF MAN'S SALVATION is in such fragile condition that it cannot be photocopied...

"Best wishes in your research. Your letter has made both myself and J. William Frost, Director of this library, curious to learn more about Wolverton. If you should publish your research on him, we would be delighted to obtain a copy.

"Sincerely yours, Albert W. Fowler, Associate Director"

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WOOLVERTON, LINUS (1846-1914),

horticulturist, was born at Grimsby, Canada West, in 1846. He was educated at the University of Toronto (B.A., 1869; M.A., 1870), and became a fruit-grower. From 1886 to 1901 he was secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association; and from 1886 to 1903, editor of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. He died at Grimsby, Ontario, on May 7, 1914. He was the author of THE CANADIAN APPLGROWER'S GUIDE (Toronto, 1910).

(Source: CANADIAN MEN (1912), by Morgan. Found in: THE MACMILLAN DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY, by W. Stewart Wallace. 3rd ed. London: Macmillan, 1963, p. 813.)

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#### COAT OF ARMS FOR HAMON DE WOLVERTON

At right is the coat of arms belonging to Hamon de Wolverton who was living about the time of King John who signed the Magna Charta in 1215. This is the earliest mention of a Wolverton coat of arms that I have been able to find. The description is: "Az. an eagle displayed debruised by a bend, gu." This translates to: "On a blue background, an eagle with wings outspread and tips pointing upward, overlaid by a bend of red." This was found in the book, AN HISTORICAL ESSAY ON THE MAGNA CHARTA OF KING JOHN, By Richard Thomson. London: Printed for John Major, Fleet Street, 1829, pp. xxiv, 297.



All of the early Wolverton coat of arms which I have seen also include the eagle insignia as stated here. Later coat of arms have included wolves as the main emblem, which is more in keeping with the family name.

*Glenn*