

WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED  
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Descendants of ANDREW WOOLVERTON  
With allied families of HANKS, DODSON, NEVILLE, LITTLEFIELD, and HARRIS

Vol. 1, Number 2

September/October 1993

## FOCUS OF NEWSLETTER

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84115

A few of the subscribers may be wondering about the focus of this newsletter because of all the names listed on the masthead. My thinking is that Wolverton/Woolverton will be the primary family covered, with special interest in descendants of Andrew Woolverton. Also, because a number of Andrew's descendants intermarried with descendants of Moses Hanks, I plan to cover information on the Moses Hanks family. The other allied family names will only be covered as they tie into the Wolverton and Hanks families.

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## NEWS FROM FRANCES WOLVERTON

Since the July newsletter was mailed out, I have talked with Frances Wolverton twice. She was pleased with the first issue and and gave her full support for the WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED newsletter. I had asked her for Royal's mailing list, but she said that he had about 4 different lists, and she was about the only one who could make sense of it, the way he had it set up. Also, the end of June, Frances fell and hurt her leg terribly. She is not able to get around very well at this time. It will take several months to mend. You may wish to send her a card.

She suggested I just try to contact those I knew who might be interested since many of the old subscribers are now deceased. As of mid-August there are 28 subscribers. If you know of others who might be interested, please send me their address, and I will contact them.

Frances also says there are additional copies of Royal's book for sale. It is called DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW WOOLVERTON, published in 1985. It is 165 pages and has lots of interesting family stories and anecdotes and gives sketches on various descendants of Andrew Woolverton. The appendix includes letters and accounts of Royal's research concerning the origins of the Woolverton family in England; also records of marriages, deeds, and tombstone records. In addition, the book has information on the Hanks family as several of Andrew's children and grandchildren intermarried with descendants of Moses Hanks, who was an uncle of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The books sell for \$30.00 apiece (this includes postage). Write to:

Mrs. R. A. Wolverton  
 26449 Nicklaus Drive  
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85224 Ph. 1-602-895-0175

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## REPORT OF HARRIS REUNION

My wife Marion, son Jared, and myself attended the 33rd annual James David Harris Family Reunion, held July 2-4th at Lake Bistineau State Park, Louisiana. (Note: James David Harris's grandmother was Nancy Artemisia Woolverton Littlefield.)

The reunion was well attended with 118 people who came from Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee, and North Carolina. My parents, Lawrence and Hazel (Harris) Gohr, and my older sister Margie Bartell and family were there. Also my Aunt Ruby Jean Barber and 3 of her children and families attended. Some distant Harris cousins from Tennessee, Lewis and Byrd Harris, Demova Brewer, and Inez Treece also attended. Cousin Jean (Garvin) Flinn came from Phoenix, Arizona. Her husband, John Flinn, is a Hanks descendant.

My Great-Uncle Leland Harris couldn't come because he recently had surgery. Aunt Theola (Harris) Williams and Aunt Leta (Harris) Pinson are the only great-aunts still living and they were both there.

John Troy Cash (son of Retie Harris Cash) and his family hosted the reunion. The ladies did a quilt like always. The Cash family also had a second quilt with painted pictures of crawfish, magnolia flower, a pelican, and other things of interest in Louisiana. Both quilts were given away in a drawing.

On Saturday the small kids made Mardi Gras masks and then formed a parade and marched past everyone wearing their masks and throwing out candy. Marion made a mask for Jared. In the evening some of the family played bingo inside and others had gospel singing outdoors. That day we also got to try crawfish and chicken gumbo. Other activities included volleyball and swimming. I wrote a skit called "Cities in the Swamp" which told about interesting towns in Louisiana. I got the idea from another skit called "Towns of Texas," which was done at an earlier reunion.

After the reunion we went to Sarepta, Louisiana where I preached on Sunday night and also helped the congregation plan for their 75th anniversary. The pastor's name is Andy Harris. His family originally came from Virginia, but we cannot find a connection.

On Monday we went to the Baton Rouge area to see some friends, and they took us to New Orleans to see the sights. We also visited a plantation home called "The Myrtles" which is said to be haunted by the original owners of the home. It has lots of crepe myrtle bushes around it. These are common to that area of Louisiana. Louisiana also has lots of pine trees. I never knew this before. In fact, this was my first time to be in Louisiana. We drove back to Springfield on July 10th.

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## QUESTION ABOUT LUKE HANKS

In recent weeks, letters from the cousins have shown more interest in the Hanks connection than in the Wolvertons. Cousin Bob Foster (grandson of John Monroe Littlefield, and great-grandson of Nancy Artemisia Woolverton Littlefield) asks about the parentage of Moses Hanks. Moses was born 15 July 1746 in North Farnham Parish, Richmond Co., VA. His parents were Luke Hanks (b. ca. 1685 Richmond Co., VA) and Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. ca. 1695). They were married ca. 1710 in Richmond Co., VA.

Bob says, "I don't know what credence you place in the LDS International Genealogical Index, but it lists some fifteen names of children born to Luke Hanks and Elizabeth between 1706 and 1749. I realize that families of that magnitude did occur, but being spread over some 40 years seems a bit long. I would appreciate any thoughts you might have about the possibility of another generation being in the Hanks lineage."

**ANSWER:** In Genealogy of the Hanks and Allied Families by Gladys Hanks Johnson, 1965, p. 6, fifteen children of Luke Hanks are listed. As Luke's will did not name all the children, using parish records, Bible records, and other sources, it appears that son William was the oldest and was born ca. 1712, and the youngest was Martha, b. 26 May 1752. Luke's first wife was Elizabeth, and she is reported to be the mother of Moses Hanks and probably of all the other children except Martha, the youngest. Luke's second wife Sarah, was the mother of Martha, and died in childbirth at the time of her birth.

In The Hanks Family of Virginia and Westward by Adin Baber, 1965, pp. 75-77a is further treatment of the children of Luke Hanks. He lists only 14 children of Luke (son William is not listed), and 2 of these 14 (Ann and Sarah) are not proven. The first 13 are by Elizabeth, and Martha is listed as the only known child of Luke and Sarah.

There is also a partial listing of children of Luke Hanks as found in an old family Bible owned by a Mrs. C. Wesley Waldrop of Murray, Kentucky and sent to Adin Baber. Gladys Johnson also cites this source. The document lists these sons of Luke Hanks: Alexander, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, James, Luke, and Thomas.

Since Luke Hanks was married twice, this makes it more likely that he could have fathered 15 children and could allow for the 40-year span between ca. 1712 and 1752. Because of this time span, I am guessing that Elizabeth may have been younger than Luke, so she may have been around 15 at the time of their marriage. This would make her be about 50 or 51 when Moses Hanks was born. As to the LDS records, I do not accept their findings as fact, but only as clues until original documents can be found to prove their claims. (Note: Previously I had estimated Elizabeth's birth as 1785, but because of Bob's question it is more likely that she was born about 1795.)

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# Woolverton Mountain's Clifton Clowers Turns 100

By Mary Jo Hall

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW anything about Woolverton Mountain, just ask Clifton Clowers. He has lived there for 90 years. (Woolverton Mountain, located near the Conway-Van Buren county line in Arkansas, was named for William L. Woolverton, a pioneer settler, who settled there in 1871.)

Clifton Taylor Clowers was born near Center Ridge, Conway County, Ark., Oct. 30, 1891, the son of the late Thomas Jefferson and Mary Prince Clowers. He moved to Woolverton Mountain with his family when he was about 11 years old. He was the youngest of six children. Clifton and his brothers, Tom, Frank, Bob, and Dan, attended school at Pleasant Hill (west of Center Ridge) and at Woolverton Mountain.

Clifton joined the army and served in France during WW I. Upon his return home from the service, he married the girl he left behind, Esther Bell. They were married by Brother Jesse Ford July 23, 1920 at Cedar Creek, east of Center Ridge. Esther Bell was born Aug. 4, 1898, the daughter of the late George and Norasis Owens Bell.

Clifton and Esther bought a house and acreage on Woolverton Mountain in 1920. Here they farmed and



raised their family. Their children are: Carl (deceased), Virginia, Guy, Ted, and twins, Burl and Burlene.

In 1959 Merele Kilgore wrote a song about Clifton Clowers as a birthday gift for his Uncle Clifton.

*"They say don't go on Wolverton Mountain*

*If you are looking for a wife*

*Cause Clifton Clowers has a pretty young daughter*

*He's mighty hand with a gun and a knife*

*Her tender lips are sweeter than honey*

*And Wolverton Mountain protects her there*

*The bears and birds tell Clifton Clowers*

*If a stranger should wander there."*

Then in 1962, Claud King recorded the song (he changed the name to Wolverton Mountain) and it became a hit. It wasn't long until everyone knew about Woolverton Mountain and Clifton Clowers. People would go up on Woolverton Mountain and ask Clifton for his autograph. He kept a book with the names of the people who visited him.

Esther Bell Clowers died March 3, 1986. She is buried at the Woolverton Mountain Cemetery. After his wife's death, Clifton continued to live on Woolverton Mountain. He still

*Clifton Clowers at 27, above, and a hearty 100 at home this year.*

lives in the same house that he and his wife bought in 1920. His daughter and husband, Carl and Burlene Moore live next door.

Clifton attends the Mountain View Baptist Church on Woolverton Mountain. This is the same church that he and Esther Bell started attending in 1910. He is an active church member and served as deacon for many years.

Clifton likes to go fishing. When he was younger he liked to hunt and fish.

The Mountain View Baptist Church held a "Clifton Clowers Day" Sunday Oct. 27, 1991, in honor of Clifton's 100th birthday. Three hundred people attended the church services, pot luck dinner, and singing that day.

One hundred people gathered at Clifton's home on Woolverton Mountain Oct. 30, 1991, to celebrate Clifton's 100th birthday. Among the family and friends who helped him celebrate his birthday were his children: Virginia Green of Hurricane, W. Va.; Guy Clowers of Howell, Mich.; Ted Clowers of Joplin; Burl Clowers of Modesto, Calif.; and Burlene Moore of Clinton (Woolverton Mountain). His nephew, Merele Kilgore, singer Claud King, and a camera crew from the Nashville Network, also attended. □

Reprinted from The Ozarks Mountaineer, Vol. 40, No. 4 & 5, May/June 1992, p. 56.

Woolverton Mountain (note the song uses Wolverton as the spelling) was named after William Louis Woolverton, son of James Matthew Woolverton and grandson of Andrew Woolverton. One of William's brothers, Rev. Robert Houston Woolverton, also settled there and was pastor of the Baptist church which was established there.

Maybe one of the Arkansas cousins can tell us if Clifton Clowers is still living and which daughter is referred to in the song.

I am attempting to obtain the complete words to the song and a recording on tape or record.

## RELATIONSHIP TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

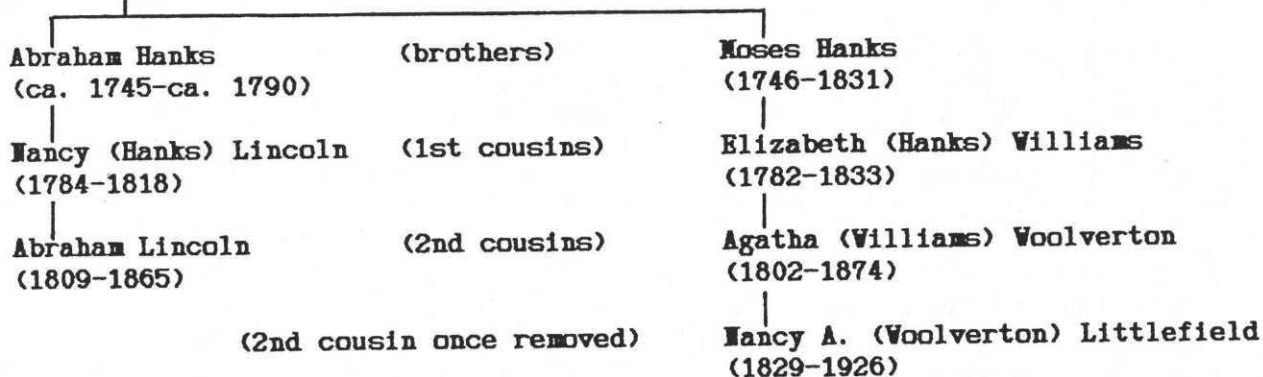
Concerning our relationship to President Lincoln, Katherine Littlefield Smith of Tulsa (a granddaughter of John Monroe Littlefield) calls our attention to a quote in Baber's book (see above), p. 195. It is a direct quote from her grandfather, John Monroe Littlefield, who was a son of Luther Rice Littlefield and Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield:

"Pa did not believe in slavery, did not think the Union should be dissolved, and that he had supported Lincoln and it was generally known that his wife, Nancy A., was a distant relative of Abraham Lincoln's."

Baber further adds this notation: "(She was a 2nd cousin once removed. AB)." Katherine says, "There is no doubt in my mind that Nancy Hanks was Nancy A. Wolverton's cousin once removed, or Baber would not have stated it in his book."

**\*\*NOTE:** The Hanks ancestry of President Lincoln was studied very thoroughly by Adin Baber, who has written a number of books on Lincoln and the Hanks family. His conclusions as to Nancy Hanks's parentage seem very likely, but other researchers have disputed his findings and have offered other solutions. Lincoln himself spoke very little about his mother's family, and many of the original documents of that period have been destroyed. Some of the other views will be discussed in future newsletters. Here is a chart of the kinship portrayed by Baber:

Luke Hanks  
(ca. 1685-ca. 1757)



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## ARTICLE ABOUT REV. ELIJAH HANKS

Robert Holloway (grandson of George Wester Woolverton, and a descendant of William Louis Woolverton) sent an article he wrote called "Elijah Hanks" which was published in the Lincoln Herald, Fall 1990, pp. 81-87. It is very well written and describes many similarities between Rev. Elijah Hanks and President Lincoln.

Elijah Hanks was the son of Moses Hanks and was therefore a first cousin of Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln. His wife, Mary Woolverton, was a daughter of Andrew Woolverton.

Rev. Elijah Hanks had great leadership qualities and was very influential in the Knob Creek area of Maury County, Tennessee. He established a number of Baptist churches in the area and helped in the formation of the Missionary Baptist Church which was a forerunner of the Southern Baptist Convention. Much of the information on Rev. Elijah Hanks comes from a 30-page booklet of his memoirs.

Robert also describes the intertwinings of the Hanks and Woolverton families in Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas. Like Abraham Lincoln, many of the Hanks relatives were surveyors. Two of Robert's ancestors, Elijah Woolverton (likely a namesake of Rev. Elijah Hanks) and William Louis Woolverton (brother of Nancy A. Littlefield shown above) were surveyors. Another point he makes is that several of the Hanks relatives had facial and physical similarities to President Lincoln.

A free xerox copy of this article is available from:

Dr. Robert Holloway, 311 East Desert Rose, Henderson, NV  
89015

(Send \$6.00 if an original issue of the quarterly is desired.)

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#### MORE ON HAMON DE WOLVERTON

While doing research at the Newberry Library in May I found additional information concerning the early Wolvertons in Great Britain. The following is an excerpt from page 334 of The Victoria History of the Counties of England. Volume 2-- Buckinghamshire. Published for the University of London Institute of Historical Research by Dawsons of Pall Mall, London, 1969. Reprinted from the original edition of 1908.

"The third part of the township was given after the Conquest to Maigno the Breton, and was held by his descendants as half a knight's fee belonging to their barony of Wolverton. It passed to his descendant Hamo son of Meinfelin who, in 1166, owed the service of fifteen knights to the king.

"Hamo was succeeded by his son, known as Hamo son of Hamo, and the latter confirmed a grant of land in Ellesborough made to Missenden Abbey. On his death his son William obtained his possessions, but taking part with the barons against King John he forfeited them for a time. He made his peace in 1216, paying a fine to the king, and held the barony of Wolverton until his death c. 1248. In that year his brother and heir Alan son of Hamo did homage to the king for his lands, but in the same year the new lord of Wolverton died and was succeeded by his son John son of Alan.

"John was the overlord of this part of Ellesborough in 1254, and presumably held it till his death in 1271-2. It was amongst the knights' fees assigned on dower to his widow Isabella, who married as her second husband Ralph de Ardena.

"John son of Alan's heir at the time of his death was his son Richard a boy five years old, but he seems to have died before he came of age and the barony of Wolverton passed to his brother John. The family at this time appear to have taken the surname of Wolverton.

"This John was a knight in 1318 and died before 1342. He was succeeded by his son John de Wolverton and grandson Ralph de Wolverton. The latter, however, died while still a minor, and the barony was divided between his two sisters Margaret and Elizabeth.

"The former was betrothed at the time of her brother's death to John le Hunte, and the overlordship of Ellesborough was assigned to her. Her daughter and heiress Joan succeeded her and married John Longville. He held her inheritance by courtesy after her death for his life, and then it passed to her son and heir George Longville. His descendants held her moiety of the honour of Wolverton until the 17th century, and in 1636 Sir Henry Longville held the overlordship of half a knight's fee in Ellesborough among his other possessions belonging to the manor of Wolverton.

"In 1254 John son of Alan paid 3 s. a year to be quit of suit to the shire and hundred courts and 2 s. for the right to hold the view of frankpledge for his tenants at Ellesborough. No further mention of this view is made, but probably the lords of the barony of Wolverton held a view for all the tenants of their barony.

"The land held under the honour of Wolverton was probably subinfeudated before 1166 and one moiety of it was afterwards known as SEYTON'S MANOR or the MANOR OF GROVE."

The Hamo de Wolverton mentioned here is the same as Hamon de Wolverton mentioned in Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 8. The coat of arms shown with this article is the same. It is listed as: "Azure an eagle or with a bend gules over all."

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## THE BARONS DE WOLVERTON

Katherine Littlefield Smith sent me a copy of History of Milton Keynes and District, by Sir Frank Markham. Vol. 1--to 1830. Luton, Bedfordshire: White Crescent Press Limited, 1973. The book is 340 pages and gives a historical background of an area of Buckinghamshire which played an important role in William the Conqueror's rule in England and also during the War of the Roses. The barony and current village of Wolverton in Stony Stratford is included prominently in this history. It gives additional information on the barons de Wolverton mentioned above.

Royal Wolverton had ruled out this family as possible forebears of Charles Woolverton because the male line of the baronetcy died out in the 1300s. But because of the laws of primogeniture whereby succession was granted solely to the firstborn, it appears evident that there must have been other

Wolvertons (descendants of a younger son) of this baronial family who carried the name Wolverton but not the title to the barony.

Using the two sources listed above, I have devised a chart of succession in this family, however because large families were the norm in Medieval England, it is very likely that other children should be included in each generation.

Original documents of the period would help to fill in these gaps; however, documents from the Middle Ages are usually handwritten and are given in Norman French, Latin, or in Old English. It would take an expert in the field to transcribe the needed documents.

Those marked with an asterisk held title to the barony of Wolverton. When siblings are shown, they are given in birth order starting from the left.

\*Maigno le Breton  
 (Held barony of Wolverton, Ellesborough & Buckinghamshire; granted by William the Conqueror in 1066)  
 b. ca. 1042 d. ca. 1114

\*Meinfelin, Baron de Wolverton  
 (Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, 1125-1129)  
 b. ca. 1090 d. ca. 1155  
 md. Beatrix (?)

\*Hamon de Wolverton I                      Alan de Wolverton  
 b. ca. 1120  
 d. ca. 1184  
 md. Amabel [Maudit (?)]

\*Hamon de Wolverton II  
 b. 1164  
 d. 1198

\*William Fitz Hamon                      \*Alan Fitz Hamon  
 Baron de Wolverton                      Baron de Wolverton  
 b. ca. 1190                                  d. 1248  
 d. 1248 (no issue)

\*John de Wolverton I  
 d. ca. 1274  
 md. Isabella  
 (She md. 2nd Ralph de Ardena)

\*Richard de Wolverton                      \*John de Wolverton II, Knt.  
 b. ca. 1267                                  (Was a knight by 1318)  
 (no issue)                                      d. ca. 1342



de WOLVERTON

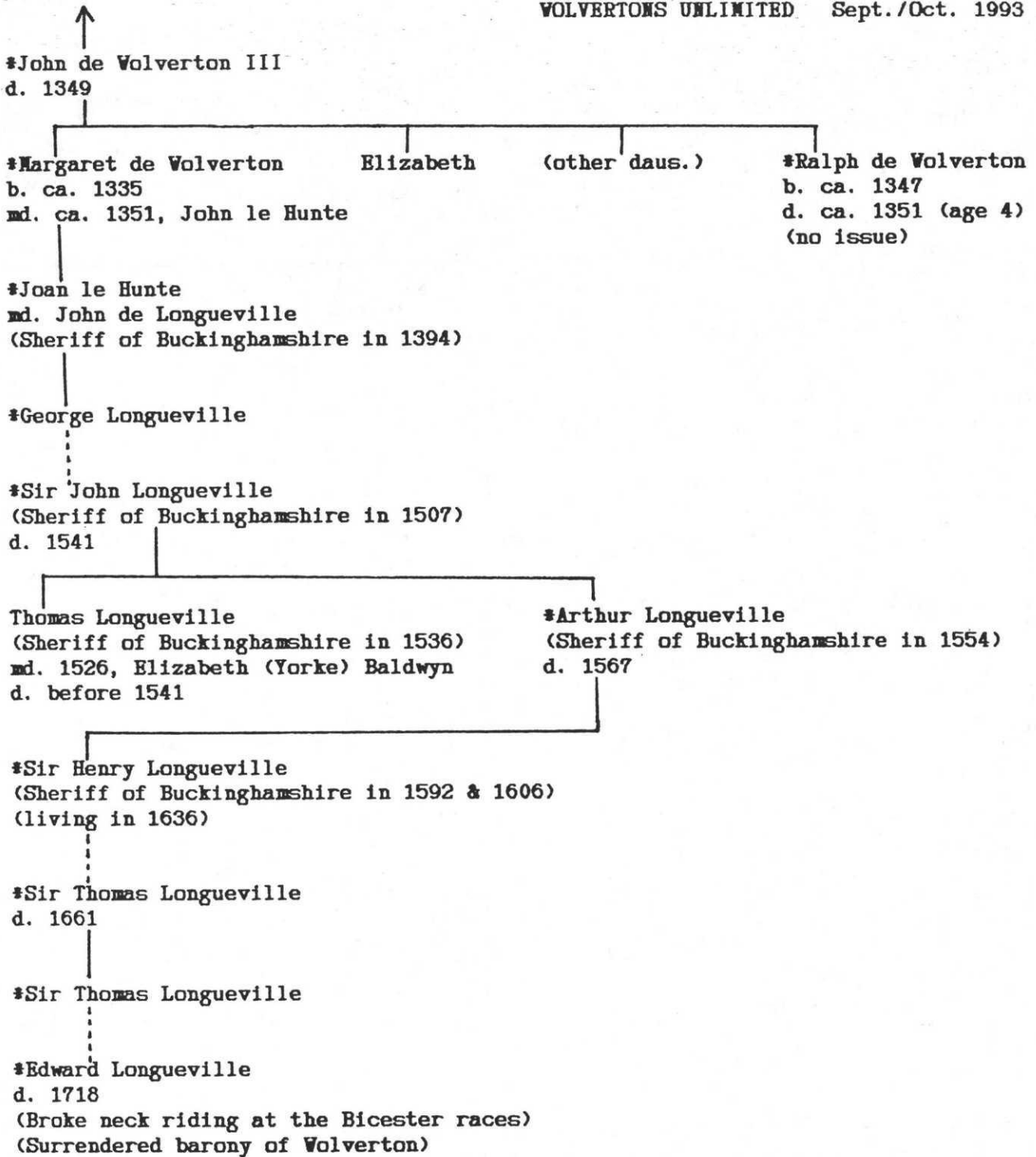
Coat of Arms from:  
History of Milton Keynes and District, p. 62.



WOLVERTON. *Azure an eagle or with a bend gules over all.*

Coat of Arms from:  
The Victorian History ..., p. 334.





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TRIP TO MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

August 6-8th I went by myself to Tennessee to the 57th Annual Harris Reunion, held at the Community Center at Adamsville, Tennessee. On the way, I stopped at Martin, Tennessee to visit Mrs. Scleeta Hudson (a first cousin of my grandfather Harris). I

brought my tape recorder along and interviewed her concerning the Harris and Littlefields and other relatives from McNairy County.

In the course of the interview, I discovered that Scleeta's mother (my great-great aunt) and father were distant relatives to each other (through the Williams/Hanks family). She also said that her Uncle Thurman Harris (my great-great uncle) was also distant kin to his wife (through the Williams/Hanks family).

Several of the Hanks relatives left Maury County in Central Tennessee and moved to McNairy County. Then many of these later moved on to Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas. Of those who stayed in McNairy County, Moses Hanks' daughter, Elizabeth (Hanks) Williams had several children who left descendants there. They were Agatha (Williams) Woolverton, Robert J. Williams, Sarah (Williams) Scott, Nancy (Williams) Mills, and Houston D. Williams. I plan to tell more about these Williams/Hanks descendants in a future newsletter.

Another thing I discovered while in Adamsville was that the Woolverton Cemetery (where James and Agatha (Williams) Woolverton and descendants are buried) was at one time on property which belonged to Luther Littlefield (who married their daughter Nancy Artemisia Woolverton). Undoubtedly the property was deeded to her by the parents. Now the land is owned by the Westlaco Company, a logging corporation.

Other people I interviewed on tape were Miss Kittye Littlefield and Mrs. Cava Peerey. Kittye will be 89 this year and is descended from Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield. Cava is a local historian (and a relative of mine through the Sewell family) who knows more about the early people of Adamsville than anyone now living.

Around 60 people attended the Harris Reunion. One of the highlights was the raffling of a Harris family quilt with hand embroidered blocks signed by various members of the Harris family.

On my return to Springfield, I came through the bootheel of Missouri. I stopped at Gideon, Missouri and asked about Woodrow Woolverton (now deceased). Two people I spoke with had very high regard for Woodrow and also for others of the Woolvertons in Southeast Missouri. I looked in a local cemetery for his marker, but I went to the wrong cemetery. I now have a copy of his obituary as sent by his widow, Verda Mae Woolverton.

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Last year on May 16, 1992 (Armed Forces Day), a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial was on display here in Springfield. I went to view it. The wall was full of names of those who had served bravely and died for our country. I have one first cousin that I know of, William Earl Harris III, who served in Vietnam. Undoubtedly others of the relatives also served. At the information booth, the staff would look in a record book for the names of any soldiers listed and the location on the wall. Since I didn't know of anyone who had died in that effort, I asked if there was anyone named Wolverton or Woolverton. The lady informed me that no one of that name had died in Vietnam. That was nice to hear.