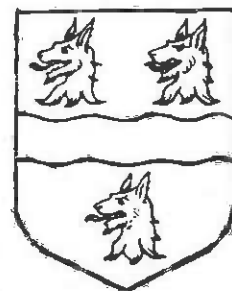


**WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED**

Glenn Gohr, editor  
1023 E. McCanse St.  
Springfield, MO 65803  
Phone: 417-833-2814  
(evenings & weekends)

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

Vol. 2, Number 1

January/February 1994

**COAT OF ARMS OF CHARLES WOLVERTON  
OF NEW JERSEY, 1780**

Chances are that many of the cousins have been waiting with bated breath to find the source of the coat of arms being used in the masthead for Wolvertons Unlimited. I located this source more than 10 years ago and notified Royal Wolverton. (He used the coat of arms illustration in Cousins Unlimited, June 1983, p. 5, but made no comment as to its source or significance.)

It is taken from Matthews' American Armoury and Blue Book, by John Matthews. New York: Crest Publishing Company, Inc., 1907, c1962, addenda, p. 85.

The source given, says: "WOLVERTON--Charles Wolverton, of New Jersey, 1780. Arms--Sable, a fesse wavy or between three wolves heads erased argent."

The translation of this is: "On a black background, a gold bar between two wavy horizontal lines, with three silver wolves heads."

Since the College of Arms in London has records on coats of arms for English nobility and baronial families, along with corresponding lineage files, it seems logical that they might have some clues as to the origin of Charles Woolverton, the progenitor of the family in America.

Please note that the Charles Wolverton cited as using this coat of arms in 1780 could not have been Charles the progenitor of the family. Charles, the immigrant, was born ca. 1660 and died ca. 1746.

Charles the immigrant had a son, Charles, b. 17 Jan. 1698, d. 1765 in New Jersey. He also was deceased before 1780.

The Charles recorded as using the coat of arms in 1780 likely was a grandson of Charles the immigrant. Roger had a son Charles b. ca. 1740 who married Mary Drake on Aug. 8, 1763. Dennis had a son Charles who died Oct. 7, 1763 (so he could not have been this Charles.) Joel also had a son Charles b. 1743 who married Effie Nailer in New Jersey.

In addition there was a great-grandson named Charles who was living in 1780. He was a son of John Woolverton, grandson of Charles, great-grandson of Charles the immigrant.

Does anyone have a clue as to which of these 3 Charles Woolvertons living in 1780 might have used the Coat of Arms?

# Memphis pastor celebrates 30 years at one church

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

**MEMPHIS** — In 1963 Joe Littlefield became the pastor of White Station Church — and he's been there ever since.

In a day when the average tenure of a Southern Baptist pastor is about three years, Littlefield's stay at White Station is even more remarkable.

Littlefield credits the achievement to "good people" who made it easy for him to minister at White Station.

"I love the people. They have been very gracious. We're a small family-oriented church," he said.

The Adamsville native was called into the ministry while in high school. Littlefield went to Union University in Jackson.

After graduating from Union he served as pastor of Hopewell Church, Savannah, and Beech Bluff Church, Beech Bluff, before going to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

After his Southwestern graduation Littlefield became pastor of First Church, Middleton, where he served for six years before accepting the pastorate of White Station Church in 1963.

Littlefield said he "had no

idea" he would serve there for 30 years.

The Lord led him there and he never has felt led elsewhere, Littlefield said.

While the membership has remained about the same over the years the Lord has blessed the church greatly, the Memphis pastor affirmed.

"The Lord has blessed us with good finances and no debt," he said, noting the church's facilities are paid for and that the church has met its budget for more than a decade.

For about 20 years the church has provided a scholarship to a student entering the Gospel ministry and who will be attending a Baptist college or seminary.

Though he had no help attending Union, Littlefield wanted to help prospective students. The scholarship is named in honor of W. H. Berry, a retired former missionary to Brazil, and in memory of his wife.

In addition, the church is missions-minded and is a firm supporter of the Cooperative Program, the Tennessee Baptist

Convention, and Shelby County Association, where the church is located.

Littlefield, who has gone on numerous mission trips, including Michigan through the Tennessee Baptist partnership there, said White Station supports the three major mission offerings in the state — Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Golden State Missions Offering.

A member of the TBC Executive Board and its Executive Committee, Littlefield is very supportive of the state convention and its ministries.

He has served on several committees through the years and has "never missed a scheduled meeting," he said.

Littlefield has strongly supported the annual Pastors' Retreat sponsored by the TBC Evangelism Department.

"That's my personal, get off and goof off time," he said.

White Station Church

Our thanks to Miss Kittye Littlefield of Adamsville, Tennessee who told me about this article when I visited her last August. She had not actually seen the write-up, so after I located a copy of the paper at First Baptist Church here in Springfield, I made a copy and sent it to her.

Kittye will be 90 years old in October.

Joe's address:

Rev. Joe D. Littlefield  
White Station Baptist Church  
621 S. White Station Road  
Memphis, TN 38117

Ph. (901) 683-4161



LITTLEFIELD

recently paid tribute to Littlefield and his wife, Doris, giving the couple a book of letters and a love offering.

The Littlefields have three children and five grandchildren.

His son-in-law, Thomas Gaines, serves as the church's minister of music.

Littlefield's son, Joe Jr., is currently serving as chairman of the deacons at White Station. Pastor Littlefield is proud of that unique situation. Deacons are elected by secret ballot, he said.

And, while he gets along well with the current chairman, that is not unusual.

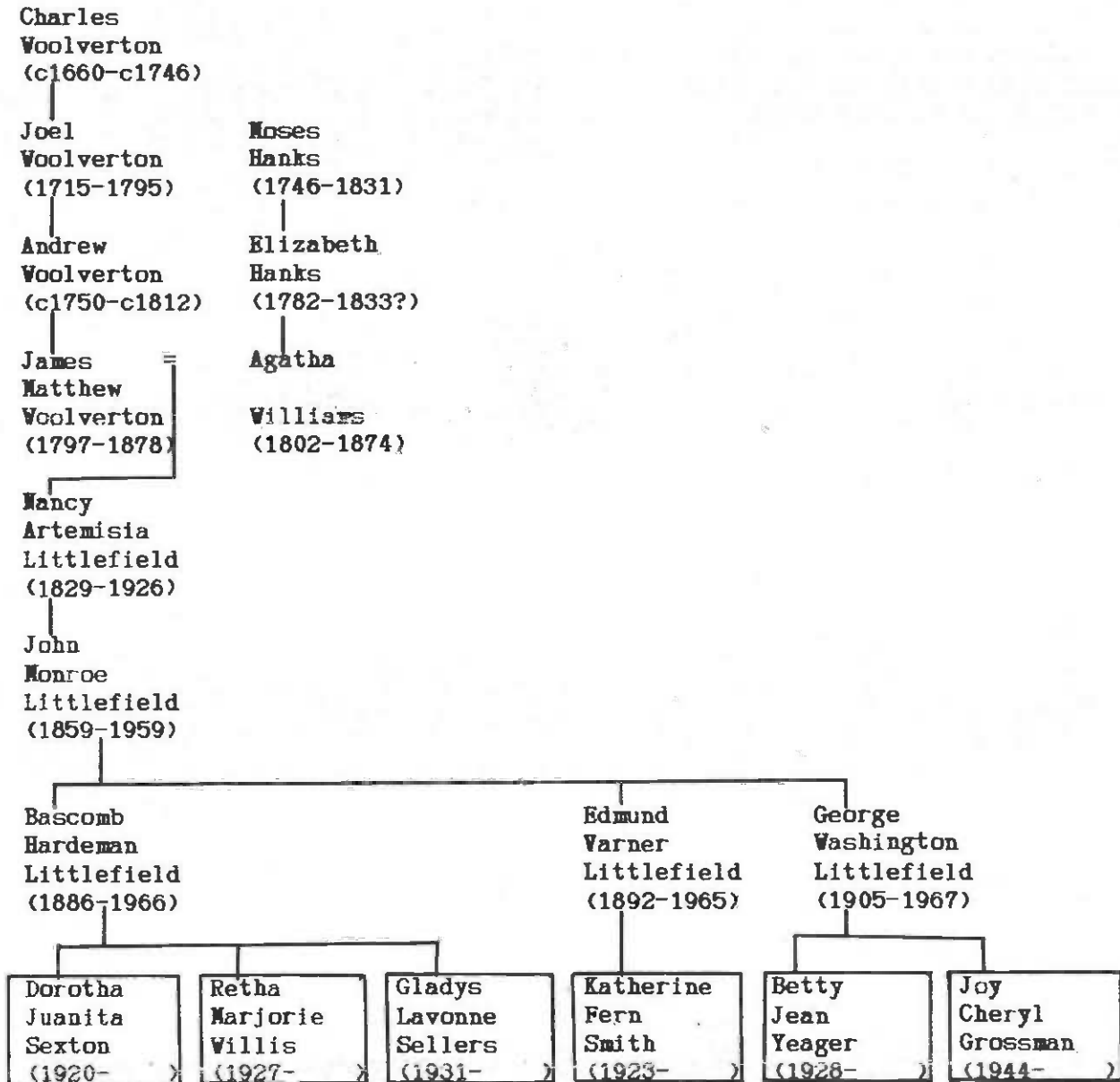
"The deacons and I have worked together through the years and have never had a cross word," he said.

That in itself may explain the Memphis pastor's successful ministry at White Station Church. □

Joe Littlefield is a great-grandson of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield through her son William Penn Littlefield who married Lucy Jane Harris. (Lucy was a niece of William Ashley Harris who married Sarah Agatha Littlefield. This makes Joe double kin to many of the relatives.)

William and Lucy Jane were parents of Willie Parrish Littlefield who was Joe's father. Willie P. Littlefield was a highly respected Baptist minister at Adamsville, Tennessee.

Joe has considerable materials on Rebecca "Aunt Sis" (Littlefield) Shaw who married Capt. J. W. Shaw of Civil War fame. She was a daughter of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield. He has her Bible, civil war letters, and other items. I visited Joe in Memphis in October 1992.



(With this issue I am including phone numbers of subscribers in addition to the address. See last issue for addresses of subscribers 1-7.)

1. Mrs. Frances Wolverton, ph. 1-602-895-0175
2. Wayne A. Wolverton, ph. 1-201-226-5015 (home) or 1-516-593-4008 (work)
4. Bill Harris III, ph. 1-707-255-4953
5. Mrs. Evelyn Buell, ph. 1-503-642-7215
6. Mrs. Hazel Gohr, ph. 1-719-852-2648
7. Mr. Glenn Gohr, ph. 1-417-833-2814
8. Mrs. Dorotha Sexton, 807 N.W. 11th, Bentonville, AR 72712
9. Mrs. Retha Willis, Box 426, Chouteau, OK 74337-0426, ph. 1-918-476-5326

10. Mrs. Gladys L. Sellers, Route 2, Box 227, Meeker, OK 74855,  
ph. 1-405-279-3390
11. Mrs. Katherine L. Smith, 4619 S. Lakewood, Tulsa, OK 74135-6861,  
ph. 1-918-622-3387
12. Mrs. Betty Yeager, 3608 N.W. 68th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73116,  
ph. 1-405-843-4479
13. Mrs. Cheryl Grossman, 7 Debbie Court, Dix Hills, NY 11746

\* \* \* \* \*

Originally there were 8 daughters of Hardeman Littlefield. Five of these are living and all are members of the Daughters of the American Revolution through the Littlefield family. Three of them, Dorothea, Retha, and Gladys are subscribers. Retha Willis and her two daughters, Karen Crockett and Rosalyn Yarbrough, helped to organize the Union Mission Chapter DAR in Mayes County, Oklahoma in February 1990. Retha has been a chapter officer.

One of the foremost family researchers about 30 years ago was George W. Littlefield of El Dorado, Oklahoma. He corresponded with a number of family members among the Wolvertons, Hankses, and Littlefields. He joined the Sons of the American Revolution and helped his father, John Monroe Littlefield (while in his 90s!), to join. We are proud to have George's two daughters as subscribers of this newsletter.

Katherine Smith is also an excellent researcher and a DAR member. She has much information on the Wolvertons, Littlefields, and allied lines.

\* \* \* \* \*

### COTTON MATHER'S OPINION OF THE QUAKERS

"September Ye 15, 1682

To Ye aged and beloved Mr. John Higginson:

There is now at sea a ship called the "Welcome," which has on board an hundred or more of the heretics and malignants called Quakers, with W. Penn, who is the chief scamp, at the head of them.

The general court has accordingly given secret orders to Master Malachi Huscott of the brig "Porpoise" to waylay the said 'Welcome' slyly, as near the Cape of Cod as may be, and make captive the said Penn and his ungodly crew, so that the Lord may be glorified and not mocked on the soil of this new country with the heathen worship of these people. Much spoil can be made by selling the whole lot to Barbadoes, where slaves fetch good prices in rum and sugar, and we shall not only do the Lord great service by punishing the wicked, but we shall make great good for his minister and people.

Master Huscott feels hopeful, and I will set down the news when the ship comes back.

Yours in Ye bowels of Christ,  
Cotton Mather"

(About 250 years after this letter was written, it was again read by Judge Lindley at a banquet given in honor of President Herbert Hoover, who was a Quaker.)

(Taken from: The Adult Teacher [a Sunday school quarterly], April-June 1948, pp. 95-96.)

Posterity now honors William Penn and the Society of Friends and looks down on the eminent clergyman, Cotton Mather, because of the above statements. It seems that in every era of history, there have been new movements to advance the kingdom of God. Oftentimes these new movements and their leaders have been ostracized and maligned by the established church in much the same way that Christians were persecuted in the First Century by Jews, Romans, and others.

Family tradition says that Charles Woolverton was one of the passengers who came on the "Welcome" with William Penn. This is not proven, but we do know that he was an active member of the Society of Friends. Had Mather's scheme been carried out, undoubtedly the history of the Wolvertons and other Quaker families would have been greatly changed.

\* \* \* \* \*

J. S. WOLVERTON  
settled 1857, Randolph County, Missouri

(From: Virginia Settlers in Missouri, by A. Maxim Coppage III and Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, n.d., p. 60.)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WOLVERTONS FROM MISSOURI IN THE CIVIL WAR

From the Office of the Adjutant General, Jefferson City, Missouri, the following information was provided:

Isaac Wolverton, enrolled July 25, 1862 at Shelbyville, Missouri. Private under Capt. Edmonds, Company I, 70th Regt., Missouri Militia (Union).

Joseph S. Wolverton, Private under Capt. Austin, Company D, 46th Regt., Missouri Militia (Union). This regiment was enrolled and organized on Sept. 2, 1864 at Huntsville, Missouri. It was ordered into active service, by Gen. Douglass, on Sept. 2, 1864 at Huntsville. Joseph Wolverton was last mustered on Dec. 31, 1864. He was relieved from duty on Jan. 6, 1865, after 126 days of actual service.

\*Note: Huntsville is the county seat of Randolph County. This is the same man as J. S. Wolverton mentioned above.

\*George W. Wolverton--unable to locate any records in their files, but information may be available from other sources if he did serve in the Civil War in Missouri.

\*The name Wolverton/Woolverton was searched for the entire state. These are the only two names located by the Adjutant General.

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE WOLVERTONS IN THE CIVIL WAR

From: War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 50, p. 380.

EXPEDITION TO HUMBOLDT RIVER, NEVADA TERRITORY, JUNE 8-AUGUST 9, 1864

Report of Capt. Almond B. Wells, Captain Company D, 1st Cavalry, Nevada Territory Volunteers:

"Detachment under Lieutenant Littlefield returned to Camp Johns August 9, after which the whole command remained at the camp until August 17, when a detachment of forty men, commanded by Captain Wells, left for the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains with four days rations, the remaining portion of the command, under Lieutenant [Joel] Wolverton, removed camp about two miles for the purpose of getting better feed for the animals."

\*\*NOTE: This Lieutenant Littlefield is likely a descendant of Edmund Littlefield of Maine rather than of the Southern Branch of Littlefields who are the progenitors of Luther Rice Littlefield who married Nancy Artemisia Woolverton (my ancestor).

\* \* \* \* \*

Series I, Vol. 28, pp. 50-51.

GENERAL REPORT OF REDUCTION OF FORTS SUMTER, WAGNER, AND GRAGG

"Sergt. J. C. [John C.] Wolverton,...etc....have all displayed bravery in the discharge of their duty under fire..."

Sergt. Wolverton and Private Emerson have elicited the praise of the general officers of the trenches on many occasions by their fearlessness...

Submitted by Franklin E. Town, 1st Lieut., 42d New York Vols., and Chief Sig. Off., D.S. Sept. 11, 1863"

\* \* \* \* \*

Series I, Vol. 28, p. 341 (continued on next page)

## REPORT ON OPERATIONS ON MORRIS ISLAND, S.C.

"I would also mention Sergeant [John C.] Wolverton, Privates Miller, Ford, and George, who did their duty faithfully as telegraph men. I make especial mention of Sergeant Wolverton, who under a very heavy fire of canister, repaired the line, setting up nine poles and repairing about 500 yards of wire, which was broken in three different places..."

Submitted by Townsend L. Hatfield, 1st Lieut., 48th Regt., N.Y. Vols., and Actg. Sig. Officer. Sept. 11, 1863"

\* \* \* \* \*

## GILBERT WOLVERTON IN THE NEWS

Martha Parrish sent in an item from her local paper, *Florida Today*, November 7, 1993 (see at right):

It is interesting that Martha is married to Col. D. P. Parrish, a retired USAF colonel. She lives at Melbourne, Florida, just 10 miles away from Satellite Beach, and she even used to live at Satellite Beach at one time. She provided me with Commander Wolverton's address and telephone number, and I contacted him to find out his lineage.

He wrote back:

"Dear Mr. Gohr, Thank you for your recent letter. I believe that I am already in your data base. Several years ago I believe that you had a large reunion in Wichita, Kansas. Many of my relatives attended. Just as a check, here are some names of relatives who attended: Grace Wolverton (mother), Gary Wolverton (brother), Lowell Wolverton.

"For your information, we lived in Branson, Missouri for many years. Since I will be moving to Anaheim, California soon, I am not interested in the newsletter now.

## Land of opportunity runs dry for area's newly retired military

By Catherine Liden  
FLORIDA TODAY

Brevard County's unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in September, but the rate doesn't illustrate how this area has dried up for many people as a land of opportunity.

Take the case of military men and women. Brevard has been a choice final post for personnel planning to retire.

That's what Gilbert Wolverton thought when he transferred here three years ago.

Coming up on 20 years in the Navy, the retired commander thought the area would be perfect to establish some roots. With the aerospace and defense companies in the area, he figured he would have no problem finding employment.

He retired in July, hasn't found a job and is considering moving to California if a potential job comes through.

"It did seem like people were able to get jobs very fast a few years ago," Wolverton said.

People like him — holding a military pension and a high-paying job — fueled the area's growth of comfortable middle-class families.

But that is changing. Wolver-

ton has gotten no positive responses to resumes he has sent out seeking managerial positions.

Because he spent much of his naval career working on nuclear projects, Wolverton went back to college to work on a master's degree in computer science, hoping to sharpen his resume. He is one class away from finishing that degree.

The Satellite Beach resident is willing to start at the bottom. "For lower positions there is some interest," he said.

Arlin Massey, another newly retired military officer, remembers how officers who left before him would tell him, "You've got to be willing to start at \$35,000, but in a few years you'll be up to \$50,000."

Massey officially retired as a major Sept. 30, but he started his job search in July. He has found no interest. The telecommunications expert even was passed over for a job as a gas meter reader.

When he tries to find job openings for himself and others — he volunteers with the Professional Employment Network — Massey hears very little encouraging news: "They say they don't have openings or are laying off people themselves."

*I will keep your address and write  
when I am settled.*

*"Sincerely, Gilbert Wolverton"*

Branson, Missouri is just 30 miles south of Springfield where I live. Gilbert's mother, Grace Wolverton, also used to live there. She now lives at Savoy, Illinois. Gary Wolverton also lives at Savoy, Illinois. Lowell is Gilbert's uncle, and he lives at Overland Park, Kansas. I did not have Gilbert's name in my files, but with some help from others, I now know where he fits in.

Beulah Imhoff says the reunions in Kansas were an ongoing thing. She organized a reunion at Barnes, Kansas where descendants of her grandfather (Jesse Wood Woolverton) and his brother Elnathan had settled. After 3 or 4 years it was discovered that descendants of another brother (Hiram) were having a reunion each year at Wichita. The two groups combined for reunions in Wichita for about 4 years, and then the reunions folded up. She adds that Royal's sister, Dorothy Gillespey, came one year to the reunion.

Cousin Beulah Imhoff provided me with Gilbert's lineage:

Charles Woolverton (c1660-c1746)

Joel Woolverton (31 May 1715-1795)

Job Woolverton (1737-18??)

Thomas Jefferson Wolverton (1793-10 Mar. 1874)

Jesse Wood Wolverton (5 Sep. 1832-19 Aug. 1925)

(Jesse had 16 children including Charles E. Wolverton listed below.)

1) Charles Edwin Wolverton, b. 8 Oct. 1868, d. 3 Dec. 1954, md. 16 Nov. 1894 at Greenleaf, KS to Meldora Patsy Norris, b. 31 Oct. 1876 at Galt, MO

CHILDREN:

A) Glenn Edward Wolverton, b. 30 Apr 1896 at Greenleaf, KS

B) Ercole Wayne Wolverton, b. 10 Feb. 1898 in KS

C) Audrey Gertrude Wolverton, b. 13 Oct. 1899 at Greenleaf, KS

D) Dale Howard Wolverton, b. 17 Sep. 1900 at Helper, KS

E) Doris Edwinna Wolverton, b. 25 Nov. 1902 at Helper, KS

F) Wilma Bernice Wolverton, b. 15 Aug. 1904 at Greenleaf, KS

G) Jesse Mae Wolverton, b. 8 May 1906 at Greenleaf, KS; d. 7 Apr. 1960

H) Lowell John Wolverton, b. 6 Feb. 1912 at Moline, KS

A) Glenn Edward Wolverton, b. 30 Apr 1896 Greenleaf, KS, d. 8 Feb. 1979 Branson, MO md. 19 Feb. 1938 at Kansas City, MO to Grace Charlotte Oberst, b. 10 Sep. 1912

CHILDREN:

1) Gary Stanley, b. 13 July 1941

2) Gilbert Leroy, b. 28 May 1945



1) Gary Stanley, b. 13 July 1941, md. 1 Sep. 1960 at Rich Hill, MO to Qailora G. King, b. 7 Jan. 1945

CHILDREN: a) Lorie Renee, b. 27 Nov. 1961  
b) Randal Robert, b. 23 Sep. 1970

2) Gilbert Leroy Wolverton, b. 28 May 1945, md. 7 Sep. 1969 at St. Louis, MO to Brigette K. Kuhns.

CHILDREN: a) Jeffery William, b. 18 Aug. 1970  
b) Brian Allen, b. 15 July 1975.

(Many thanks to Martha Parrish, Gilbert Wolverton, and Beulah Imhoff for their input into this article.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEANING OF THE WOLVERTON/WOOLVERTON NAME

WOLVERTON (English): One who came from Wolverton (village of Wulfhere's people), the name of four places in England.

WOOLVERTON (English): One who came from Woolverton (village of Wulfhere's people; Wulfrun's homestead), in Somerset.

(Source: NEW DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN FAMILY NAMES, by Elsdon C. Smith. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1956, 1976, pp. 558 & 560.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### A SKETCH OF HANKS NEVILLE HILL

prepared by Mrs. O. Josephine (Hill) Adams,  
granddaughter of Hanks N. Hill  
(October 1983)

Hanks Neville Hill was born on 10 March 1813 in Cumberland Co. (now Russell), Kentucky, near Creelsboro.

His parents were Reuben and Joiasy/Joicie (Hanks) Hill. Hanks Neville was the youngest of fourteen children of this union. The family left Somerset, Pulaski Co., Kentucky and moved to near Creelsboro. Reuben Hill was a farmer, hatter, and Baptist minister. [They later moved to Maury Co., Tennessee along with a host of relatives and neighbors (Hanks, Dodson, Woolverton, Stone, Hill, etc.) including Joiasy's parents, Moses and Agatha (Dodson) Hanks--ed.]

Hanks' mother, Joiasy/Joicie (Hanks) Hill was the daughter of Moses and Agatha (Dodson) Hanks. Joiasy/Joicie was a first

cousin of Nancy Hanks, who was the mother of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. Nancy was the daughter of Abraham Hanks (brother to Moses) and both were sons of Luke Hanks, Sr. Nancy's mother was Sarah (Harper) Hanks.

Nancy Hanks was the sixth child of Abraham and Sarah (Harper) Hanks, and was born 5 Feb. 1784 at Hat Creek, Campbell Co., Virginia and died 5 Oct. 1818 in Spencer Co., Indiana.

About the year 1836 [Before this time they were living in Maury Co., TN--ed.], when Hanks Neville Hill was around twenty-three years of age, he and his brother, Dr. Reuben Coleman Hill, [left Maury Co., TN where they were living and] went to McNairy Co., Tennessee where an Aunt Elizabeth (sister to his mother Joiasy/Joicie) lived. Elizabeth had married Esq. Robert J. Williams, who was the Justice of the Peace in that precinct.

[Note 1: This is an error. According to Bill Randolph, Elizabeth (Hanks) Williams died around 1828-1830 at Maury Co., Tennessee. Husband Robert Williams died there in 1841. They never lived in McNairy Co. The Esquire Robert J. Williams who was Justice of the Peace in McNairy Co. was their son who had married Ann Curtis. Thus he was a first cousin to Hanks and Reuben Hill--ed.]

[Note 2: After calling this to Mrs. Adams' attention, she has now corrected her original manuscript to reflect the change to show that Hanks and Reuben Hill visited their first cousin and wife and not their aunt.]

The townspeople of Adamsville, McNairy Co., were in need of a school for their children. So Maury James Scott (called this because he had also come from Maury Co., and there was another "Jimmy Scott" living in the area) gave the land where the school was built, with the help of his neighbors and the two Hill boys. Maury County James Scott was a cousin to the Hill boys, he being the grandson of the Williamses.

[Maury James Scott was the son of James and Sarah (Williams) Scott. Sarah was a sister to Robert J. Williams and a first cousin to the Hill brothers--ed.]

A good log schoolhouse was finally finished and ready for occupancy of the children. "The brothers R. C. and Major (as Hanks was nicknamed) gave us a good school for the next three years. For a new and backward country we were fortunate to be able to get good and qualified teachers such as the Hill boys....As there was no school in the village all children that were large enough came from Adamsville, to the country school, what is now known as 'Pleasant Ridge.'" (The above quotation taken from "History of Adamsville," by T. Wash Scott [son of Maury James Scott].)

Hanks Neville Hill first married Alcy Jane Carr, about 1842 in McNairy Co., Tennessee. She died less than a year later in 1843.

No further information is known of her but there were no children born to this union.

Hanks then married Elizabeth Ann Merrell on the 18 Feb. 1844. Elizabeth Ann Merrell was born 4 Dec. 1819 in Randolph Co., North Carolina, and was the daughter of Jesse Merrell and Martha (Pugh) Merrell, who were living in McNairy Co., Tennessee at this time. Both are buried at the Adamsville Cemetery.

The Merrell family were descendants of the French Huguenot family, De Merle, who came from the province of Auvergne, in Central France, after the bloody events of St. Bartholomew's Day in Paris in 1572. This family of Merrill/Merrell fled to Warwickshire, England and settled on the bank of the Avon River. The name of De Merle was anglicized by dropping the prefix "De." Some spelled the name "Merle," some "Merrill," and others "Merrell." Most of the descendants of Daniel Merrell began to spell the name Merrell. More than a hundred years had passed from the time the Merrell family fled to England and then to America.

About 1846 Hanks Neville and his wife Elizabeth Ann and one child, William Harris, went to Barry Co., Missouri and settled on Washburn Prairie. His brother Reuben Coleman Hill and wife Margaret Graham (Lair) Hill and five children moved to Washburn Prairie, Missouri at this same time. Reuben Coleman Hill was a practicing physician and a minister in the Baptist Church. He was also one of the founders of the college, in McMinnville, Oregon, and was one of the families who were also on the Wagon Train of 1853, with his brother Hanks Neville and family.

While in Barry Co., Missouri, Hanks Neville was elected probate judge in which position he served until 15 April 1853, when he, his wife, and four children: William Harris, Alcy Jane, Jesse Reuben, and Margaret Elizabeth, left by oxen cart from Barry Co., Missouri and joined a wagon train from Independence, Missouri.

They followed the Santa Fe Trail some distance and then joined the Old Oregon Trail for a time, but after reaching Oregon Territory, about ten families took the recommended short cut and became lost. This is the story of the "Lost Wagon Train" which has been published several times, so see separate accounts of this story. During this period when these pioneers were lost, a son was born to Elizabeth Ann (Merrell) Hill in what is now Crook Co., Oregon. Richard Hardy Hill arrived in this world on 3 Oct. 1853 on the "New Territory Road."

After a search party was sent out from the Jasper area, Oregon Territory, the members of the "Lost Wagon Train" reached the Willamette Valley on 8 Nov. 1853.

Hanks Neville and family settled on a Preemption Land Claim about 14 miles northwest of Eugene. This was later known as the Fern Ridge area. This original land is still in the Hill family. It is part of the land now owned by Mary Elizabeth (Hill) Jacobs and her brother James Hill. It is located on Meadowview Road, between Junction City and Eugene, and is known as "Pioneer Ranch."

[James Hill is now deceased (1994), and his widow, Betty, now lives on his piece of the property. According to Mrs. Adams, the house that Hanks Hill lived in was located on what is now known as Alvadore Road. It was demolished in the early 1920s--Ed.]

"Hanks Hill was quite a prominent man in the politics of the State of Oregon. He was a leader in the councils of the Democratic Party, and once was elected on that ticket to the State Legislature." (Taken from History of Whitman County, Washington, by W. H. Lever, 1901.)

Hanks farmed, taught school in Lane County, and served for two terms as Lane County Commissioner from 1866-1868 and again from 1868-1870. He was the father of nine children, four who came to Oregon by the wagon train, and five who were born in Oregon Territory and the state of Oregon.

Hanks Neville Hill died 9 Sept. 1898 in Lane Co., Oregon and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery northwest of Eugene.

Elizabeth Ann Hill preceded him in death on 18 Feb. 1881 in Lane Co., Oregon and is also buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. The two eldest children are also buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, William Harris, and Alcy Jane (Hill) Darneille.

#### References:

Baber, Adin. The Hanks Family of Virginia and Westward. Kansas, IL: Privately published, 1965. (Library of Congress Card #65-27253)

Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon. Published by A. G. Walling, 1884. Pgs. 379, 500, 834.

Lever, W. H. History of Whitman County, Washington. Published 1901.

Scott, T. Wash. History of Adamsville. [Originally printed in the Adamsville newspaper]. n.d.

Copies of family Bible records owned by Mrs. O. Josephine (Hill) Adams (Mrs. Walter Wayne Adams).

Genealogical materials in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Genealogical Forum, Vol. 4. p. 118, #1642. (Location # 3 QR 929-1795 G. 286 G Vol. 4)

1850 Census, Barry County, Missouri.

1860 Census, Brice's Precinct, Post Office Freedom, Oregon.

1870 Census, Richardson Township, Lane County, Oregon.

1880 Census, Lane County, Oregon.

\*Note: In the preceding article, all notations in brackets have been supplied by the editor of this newsletter, Glenn Gohr. Remarks in parentheses are in Mrs. Adams' original manuscript.