

Roots in Virginia

An Account of

CAPTAIN THOMAS HALE, VIRGINIA FRONTIERSMAN

HIS DESCENDANTS

and

RELATED FAMILIES

DATE MICROFILMED	
7. Dec. 1988	
PROJECT NAME	U.S.
FOUNDER	CALL #
211B7-105	6048295
45295	

WITH GENEALOGIES AND SKETCHES OF THE FAMILIES OF
HALE, SAUNDERS, LUCKE, CLAIBORNE, LACY, TOBIN

AND

CONTRIBUTING ANCESTRAL LINES

By

NATHANIEL CLAIBORNE HALE

Member of Virginia Historical Society, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Order of First Families of Virginia, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and The Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

3a

92-11-223
H130
S/CAN

Chapter I

Captain Thomas Hale, Virginia Frontiersman

Thomas Hale settled in the Piedmont of Southwest Virginia, in what later became Franklin County, shortly before Dunmore's War ushered in the American Revolution. Some years earlier his father, John, and other members of the family had moved from Tidewater to the western border of Virginia. His Kentish ancestors had settled on the lower James River in Virginia when the colony was young, spread north on the shores of Chesapeake Bay into Maryland, and now their descendants were pioneers on another of America's most exciting frontiers. Like many others who came from eastern Virginia and Maryland to this wilderness of the 18th century they were planters in search of cheap lands to develop, the surest way to quick wealth in those days. The country about the headwaters of the Staunton River offered the opportunity and the Hales' English ancestry had endowed them with the stubborn courage needed to endure the hardships they would encounter.

The Tidewater men who pioneered the westernmost counties of Virginia had much the same hazards as their storied predecessors at Jamestown and Plymouth, but with several generations of American heritage they had acquired some new characteristics. They were a matured type of frontiersmen, hardened and confidently individualistic, with unabiding scorn for collectivism in any form. They had little time for their more comfortable cousins in the East and there was never a thought of turning back. Their democratic ideals and thrifty hopes were immeasurably strengthened by the blood tide of Scotch-Irish and German immigration flooding south from Pennsylvania in the Valley of Virginia. The merger of these elements on the Virginia frontier brought into existence an independence of thought and action which often exasperated the Tidewater authorities. But it produced men with a tremendous amount of self-respect, pronouncedly evident even today among their descendants, and it made their strength at America's gateway to western expansion.

Dunmore's War

Dunmore's War provided the test, if any was needed, to prove the mettle of this virile frontier community. The officers and troops for the war were composed almost entirely of these men. It is especially noteworthy that so many of the names on the muster rolls during this Indian war in 1774 became famous a few years later. In fact, it can be said justifiably that in this part of Virginia was bred and nurtured much of that martial spirit and rugged self-confidence which provided the backbone of the cause during the struggle for American independence.

Throughout the winter of 1773-74 the Virginia border was aflame with rumors of imminent mass attacks by the savages and suspected treachery on the part of the Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore. Muskets were cleaned and long hunting knives sharpened as the terror spread and settlers on both sides of the Blue Ridge prepared for total war. The Colonial authorities, under constant rebuke from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London for permitting promiscuous settlements across the Alleghenies, had issued numerous proclamations offensive to the Virginia frontiersmen and the governor had already become a special object of hostility. Isolated Indian outrages supposedly inspired by Dunmore fanned the fire of suspicion in the hearts of the men in the West. The British and the Indians did have the same object, whether in league or not, and that was to prevent the settlement of the region west of the mountains and south of the Ohio River. However, the natives intended to make this a permanent arrangement, whereas the British were only temporizing. It seems the Secretary in London was anxious to prevent injury to the prospects of a new company being formed but not yet ready to exploit the Ohio Valley.

Be that as it may, war was inevitable as the culmination of a series of border incidents. Indian forays, such as the attack upon the first of Daniel Boone's migrations from the Yadkin Valley in Carolina toward Kentucky in 1773, had become alarmingly common after the lull following the French and Indian campaigns and Pontiac's conspiracy. This murderous episode, in which young James Boone, Daniel's son, was killed, temporarily halted the advance through the southern mountains. Carolina Huguenots and Virginia "Long Knives" were making enforced camp along the Wilderness Road before the Cumberland Gap, while the Scotch-Irish, Dutch and Germans were spilling through the more northerly gaps in total disregard of British

pe or Indian rights. Encouraged in their feverish quest for cheap farm land and fresh hunting grounds, by certain Americans playing a devious game of land-grabbing, these people were irrevocably committed to war with the Shawnee and their allies, the Delaware, Wyandot, Mingo and Ottawa. The Delaware, formerly inhabiting the settled portions of Pennsylvania, had been forced westward and had partly accepted the situation, but their neighbors in the South, the fierce Shawnee stubbornly resisted white encroachments in Kentucky. This tribe, gaining in strength and influence in the Ohio Valley, under the leadership of the capable Chief Cornstalk, was becoming increasingly menacing as roving bands of warriors struck with ferocity at isolated settlements. In retaliation, undisciplined parties of whites were taking redmen's scalps and otherwise acting with barbarity equalled only by the savages themselves.

Finally, in June of 1774, the British Governor Dunmore decided upon aggressive action and sent out a call to mobilize the militia of the western counties. They were ready for the call. Colonel William Preston, County Lieutenant of Fincastle, had been actively making preparations in his quarter. Among the Muster Rolls of Companies Defending the Frontier we find one contained in a letter from Thomas Burk to Colonel Preston written on May 30, 1774 in which are listed William, Edward and Thomas Hale. Burk, who subsequently received a commission as captain, was actively recruiting officers and men in preparation for the impending conflict. He wrote that he had proceeded according to directions, had appointed 11 out of 34 able-bodied men, and that he expected to arrive at Fincastle very soon with these men. Listed together as 2 of the 11 men appointed, grades not indicated, were Thomas Hale and his brother, Edward.

Two columns, totalling over 2000 men, set out simultaneously arranging to join forces in the heart of the Indian country on the Ohio River. The northern column, accompanied by Lord Dunmore himself, mobilized at Fort Pitt and started down the Ohio. The southern column, under the command of Colonel Andrew Lewis of Botetourt, moved down the Great Kanawha River. In the triangle formed by the junction of the Kanawha and Ohio, Colonel Lewis' division, 900 strong, was attacked on October 10th by about 800 savages led by Cornstalk, the Shawnee Chief, and a murderous encounter took place in the thick woods along the river bank. Although the killed and wounded were about 200 on each side, Cornstalk counseled warriors to sue for peace. The Indians withdrew and sent a deputa-

tion to Lord Dunmore who had set up camp among their open villages north of the river. This ended Dunmore's War, but the bloody day-long battle which had been fought at Point Pleasant on the south side of the Ohio had been a savagely hardening experience for the men of Virginia. The survivors of this battle, as well as the men forming the companies not immediately participating, now had any proof they may have needed that they could wage a cooperative war to shake off the shackles of the British. They began to seriously consider how they could effectively join in the plans then being broached in New England and elsewhere for independent states in America.

Tidewater Ancestors

In 1752, the County of Halifax was formed from Lunenburg for the convenience of the inhabitants in the fork between the Staunton and Dan Rivers. The western limits of the new county were the Blue Ridge Mountains dividing it from Augusta. There on Bent Mountain John Hale, father of Thomas, was relatively an old resident. He had been listed several years earlier, with his neighbors of Augusta County about the headwaters of Little River and Back Creek, in Captain Martin's Company for purposes of mutual defense against the Indians. The List of Souls, Tithes and Taxable Property in this company shows him as a slave owner and possessed of a quantity of livestock. John Hale, who was born about 1706, had probably left Tidewater from Baltimore County, Maryland, about 1727 and spent some years on the northwest frontier before joining the migration from Pennsylvania up the Shenandoah River. He may have made the trek up the Valley of Virginia in company with an older brother, Nicholas Hale, Jr., also Joseph and others in the family, after meeting them in Fairfax County. When they reached the gap at Big Lick, later Roanoke, where the Staunton flows east out of the mountains, John homesteaded on Bent Mountain and the others nearby on the Piedmont plateau.

Family tradition has it that John Hale, after leaving home early, went to Philadelphia with one of his brothers, that he bought slaves and joined the westward migration out through Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to the Valley of Virginia. His father, Nicholas Hale, Sr., who married Frances Broad, died March 29, 1730 and did not mention him in his will probated in Baltimore County, Maryland, April 18, 1730. The only older son mentioned is Nicholas, Jr., the

st, born about 1702 and still in Baltimore County at the time of his father's death. Two much younger sons, George and Neale, the latter born in 1718, are named, although Henry, shown in parish records to have been born in 1721, is not mentioned.

Nicholas Hale, Sr. no doubt had several older sons in addition to Nicholas, Jr. Births of none of the older children are listed in the local parish records and marriage dates are of course unavailable on those who had already moved west. Fragmentary information available on the immediate family of Nicholas and Frances Hale covers: Nicholas, Jr., who married Ann Long, December 25, 1723, had children and then moved to the frontier; George, who married Elizabeth Chawfinch, January 17, 1735; Neale, born December 21, 1718, died in 1796, married and had issue by Sarah; Henry, born March 25, 1721, married Mary Bradford and had issue including a son Thomas Hale, born October 19, 1742; Mary, who married Thomas Boreing, January 31, 1730; Hannah, who married William Green, August 21, 1729; Ann, who married William Carter, September 18, 1735; Millisant, who married Charles Merryman, February 2, 1730; and Subbiner, who married Richard Coale, May 15, 1735. The gap between the first son, Nicholas, Jr., who was born about 1702 and Neale born in 1718 is over fifteen years, and during these years no doubt were born John and Joseph who with Nicholas, Jr. pioneered in southwest Virginia.

Nicholas Hale, Sr. of Baltimore County, Maryland, evidently crossed the Potomac from Lancaster County, Virginia, as did other members of the family at the time. George Hale, father of Nicholas, Sr. of Baltimore County, was a Justice in Lancaster County, Virginia, in 1684, a Burgess 1695-1697, and his will, leaving a large estate in lands, was probated January 12, 1698. He named "my loving friend Mr. Robert Carter and my son-in-law Mr. William Ball ye overseers of this my last will and testament." George Hale and his wife, Ellen, who died in 1710, left in addition to their son Nicholas, Sr., who settled in Maryland, the following children: Hannah, who married Col. William Ball, the third generation of a distinguished name in Virginia; Capt. George Hale, Justice and Sheriff of Lancaster, who married Catherine Chinn, daughter of John Chinn, and among whose children were Ellen who married David Ball and Catherine who married John Cannaday of Maryland; John, a Justice of Lancaster County; Joseph, a Justice, whose daughter Anne married Moore Fauntleroy, son of William of Richmond County; Ellen; Elizabeth; Sarah, who married

Newman Brockenborough of Richmond County; William, who married Priscilla Downman, daughter of William and Million (Travers) Downman, and granddaughter of Col. Rawleigh Travers. Descendants of William and Priscilla (Downman) Hale, through their son George who married Sarah Smith, spread to Goochland County and into West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri. George Hale was a Burgess from Lancaster County in 1759 but later moved to Fauquier. His wife, Sarah (Smith) Hale, was the daughter of Philip Smith, son of Capt. John Smith of Purton, Gloucester County, and Mary (Mathews) Smith, a great granddaughter of Governor Samuel Mathews.

The father of George Hale, Sr. of Lancaster was Nicholas Hale, the immigrant, who came to Elizabeth City County, Virginia, in 1645. He had a plantation in York County in 1648 and acquired large holdings in Lancaster County following its formation in 1651. In 1654, when he gave a power of attorney to Dr. Thomas Roots of Lancaster County, Nicholas Hale was living on his plantation in York County, but he moved to Lancaster County in 1655 and was living there as late as 1663. His sons, in addition to George, appear to have been: John, who with George was paid for laying out the town of Lancaster in 1682; Francis; Joseph; Richard; Nicholas; and possibly others, who spread among the Tidewater counties of the Chesapeake Bay, their descendants being legion.

Frontier Relatives

Nicholas Hale, Jr., who emigrated from Baltimore, was in Augusta County, Virginia, as early as 1748, and in 1749 he was appointed a Justice of Lunenburg County. He took an active part in the organization of Halifax, having been appointed a Justice of the new county in 1752. Nicholas, Jr. and his eldest son, Nicholas 3rd, were prominent in Bedford County after its formation. They cut a wide swath in the growing community of settlers along the Staunton River; developing lands, building, milling, buying and selling. Hale's Old Mill Creek, which empties into the Staunton nearby the original site of Hale's Ford, took its name from them as did the ford itself. They owned much land on both sides of the river in the vicinity of Indian Run, Falling and Linville Creeks. Children born to Nicholas and Ann (Long) Hale in Maryland before they moved to the frontier were: Nicholas 3rd, November 2, 1724; Susanna, December 7, 1727; Mary, July 7, 1730; Ann, December 20, 1732; Shadrack, September 7, 1735; Meshach, August 19, 1738; Abednego, August 12, 1741; and

On, September 13, 1743. In 1750 Ann Hale married William Mead, born 1727, the son of John and Mary Mead of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Col. William Mead had moved to Fairfax County, Virginia, in 1746 and later to the Staunton River, after which he served in the French & Indian War campaigns and was later a Justice and Sheriff of Bedford County. Meshach Hale, who was a sergeant in the Bedford County Militia in 1758, married Catherine Gibson, daughter of James Gibson of Bedford. Abednego Hale married Johanna Smith, daughter of Guy Smith of Bedford County.

John Jr., the eldest of seven sons of John Hale, the pioneer who homesteaded on Bent Mountain in the Blue Ridge, remained in that vicinity and raised a large family. Two other sons, Jobe and Edward, were also to make their permanent homes west of the Blue Ridge. Joseph, Thomas, Benjamin and William, as well as the elder John Hale himself, all eventually moved down to the fertile Piedmont plateau at the eastern base of the mountains. In 1758 John Hale was paid for military services during the French and Indian Wars, and in 1766 "Amos Richeson, John Hale, Hugh Innes and Archibald Gordon, Gent., their tithables, William Hale" and others were building a road in the Snow Creek vicinity. William had an even more migratory nature than the rest of the family, if that is possible, and it is difficult to follow his wanderings but eventually he seems to have moved through Kentucky to Mississippi. Joseph and Benjamin settled down with their families, in what is now Franklin County, passing their names on to their sons and descendants who spread to other parts of the country. Jobe appears to have sided with some misguided loyalists during the American Revolution. He became a Tory captain but was captured by the Militia after a stiff fight on Little River and "converted," after which he held office in Botetourt County and otherwise seems to have redeemed himself.

Thomas and Edward first planted west of the Blue Ridge in the vicinity of Sinking Creek on the New River where the Lybrooks and Snidows of Pennsylvania and others were establishing farms. William, who early moved to the Piedmont with his father, returned and joined them for a while. The Hales fortunately were not there, however, when these settlements were fiendishly attacked by the Shawnee on a Sunday in August of 1774. During this holiday Snidow, McGriff and Lybrook children at play alone near the river were among the scalped and mangled victims. Thomas had already decided upon lands and permanent home site on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge, to which

he and his young brother Edward had moved the family. Except for his current service on the frontier during Dunmore's War, he was to see little more of Indian skirmishes. Now about thirty-two, he and his wife Jane were acquiring a large family after ten years of married life.

Edward Hale, after helping his brother to get settled, recrossed the mountains in 1779. He served with the Militia during the Revolution, taking part in the engagements at Wetzell's Mills and Guilford Court House in 1781, and later participated in numerous Indian fights. He became a Militia lieutenant in 1790 and a captain in 1794. In 1785, Edward Hale married Patsy Perdue whose family had recently moved from the lower Piedmont to the New River Valley. They settled on Wolf Creek and had the following children: Thomas, Isaiah, Charles, Jesse, Isaac, Daniel, Elias, William, Mary and Phoebe. Through these children Edward became the ancestor of numerous and distinguished descendants, especially in West Virginia.

Among the children of John Hale, Jr., the eldest son who remained in the Bent Mountain vicinity, were John, 3rd, Joseph and William. It appears that in 1793 John Hale, 3rd, married Mary, the daughter of Lewis Hale of Grayson County.

Lewis was the son of Francis Hale of Bedford County. Like John, Francis had left the Tidewater with Richard and others, to acquire lands on the Staunton River. He was a cousin who had come to the Piedmont from Essex County on the Rappahannock in eastern Virginia, and it is possible, though not likely, that he may have preceded John Hale and his brothers Nicholas and Joseph to the frontier. Francis, who seems to have attended strictly to his farming, entering little into public affairs, settled down in Bedford County and died there in 1780. He left many descendants through the following children: Richard, Lewis, Stephen, Mary, Ruth, Ushely, Mourning and Elizabeth.

In 1768, Lewis Hale, born in 1746, married Mary Burwell, descendant of an old and distinguished Virginia family. He and Mary sold their lands south of the Staunton at the mouth of the Blackwater River during 1778 and 1779. They then moved to the New River Valley and settled on Elk Creek. Lewis Hale was a Revolutionary soldier in 1781, was appointed a Justice of Montgomery County in 1786 and was one of the first Justices of Grayson County in 1792. He died in Grayson County in 1802. His children were: Richard;

William; Dudley; Francis; Lewis; Stephen; Elizabeth; and Mary, who married John Hale.

Richard Hale of Bedford who died in 1784, had the following children: Sarah, who married Elijah Hatcher; John, who married Nancy Overstreet; Elizabeth; James; Martha; Richard; Francis; and Powell. They left numerous descendants later locating in Franklin County on the Blackwater and Pigg Rivers, especially John who married Nancy Overstreet. She was a daughter of Thomas Overstreet, an early resident and Indian fighter during the depredations of the supposedly friendly Cherokees in 1757. Thomas Overstreet died February 26, 1792 and left the following children: John, Mary, William, Elizabeth and Nancy the wife of John Hale. John and Nancy (Overstreet) Hale, of this line, thus perpetuated among their Hale descendants in Franklin County the given names of Thomas, John, William and Overstreet, as well as Francis, Richard, James and Powell.

Another Hale line later represented in the Piedmont of southwest Virginia was that of William Hale of Massachusetts who came in 1790 to practice medicine in Bedford County. He was born in Newbury, Massachusetts August 19, 1764, the son of Oliver Hale. Dr. Hale was descended in the sixth generation from Thomas Hale of Newbury who immigrated to Massachusetts from England in 1637, the line being through Thomas 2nd, Thomas 3rd, Thomas 4th and his father Oliver Hale. On May 4, 1791 Dr. William Hale married Sarah Quarles of Bedford County. She was born August 15, 1774 and was the daughter of Captain John and Sarah (Winston) Quarles. The Hales moved and lived for a while in Henry County on Mulberry Creek and finally moved again in 1812 to Darlington District, South Carolina, where Dr. Hale died August 29, 1840. Sarah Hale died there on October 20, 1852. Their children were: William Emory, who married Eliza (McColough) Greer; Sarah Winston, who married Francis Armistead; Elizabeth Rowe; Mary Emory; Ann Quarles; James Overton; Samuel Quarles; Martha; Elvira Waite; and Evelina.

Piedmont Plantation

The Pigg River flows across Franklin County rising at the base of the Blue Ridge and draining much of the lower part of the county. It courses leisurely eastward just south of Rocky Mount, the county seat, to join the Roanoke inside the Pittsylvania County border. Shown on old maps as Pigg Creek, it was named for an early resident, John

Chapter II

Descendants of Thomas Hale

1. THOMAS HALE. Of the Fifth Generation from NICHOLAS HALE (I), the immigrant to Virginia, descending through GEORGE HALE (II) of Lancaster County, Virginia, NICHOLAS HALE (III) of Baltimore County, Maryland, and JOHN HALE (IV), frontiersman. Born 1742, died 1812. Pioneer planter on Virginia's western frontier. Served in Dunmore's War, 1774. Militia officer during American Revolution. Early Justice and Sheriff of Franklin County. Married Jane Armstrong in 1764. (See Captain Thomas Hale, Virginia Frontiersman, Chapter I). Issue: *John* (2); *Armstrong* (3); *Jane* (4); *Joseph* (5); *Mary* (6); *Sarah* (7); *Jehu* (8); *Thomas* (9); *Betsy* (10).

Sixth Generation

2. JOHN HALE. Son of T.H. (1)
Born July 29, 1765 in Augusta County, Virginia. Ensign at 17 during American Revolution. Owned large plantation in Franklin County at Halesford. Built "Liberty Hall" on Gill's Creek in 1800. Died there December 31, 1815. Married Theodosia Saunders, September 25, 1792. She was born October 2, 1769, died 1842, daughter of Col. Peter Hyde and Mary (Sparrel) Saunders. (See Saunders Line, Chapter III). Issue: *Samuel* (11); *Mary* (12); *Sparrel* (13); *Thomas* (14); *Peter S.* (15); *Giles W. B.* (16); *John S.* (17); *Judith* (18).
3. ARMSTRONG HALE. Son of T.H. (1)
Born 1767 in Augusta County, Virginia. Sold his property in Franklin County in 1796. Married Elizabeth Ruble of Franklin County, January 16, 1789, daughter of Owen and Margaret Ruble. Owen Ruble was a Henry County Militia Captain during the American Revolution and operated an early iron furnace on Nicholas Creek.