

# THE HUNGATE FAMILY

a

Genealogical and Historical Record

of

The Descendants of

William Hungate of Saxton, Yorkshire, England

and

Charles Hungate of Virginia

also of the

Family of William Anning Hungate of England

and Kindred Families and Individuals

with

Historical Data of the Times in which they lived.

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

by

Carroll Paul Hungate, M.D.

Kansas City, Missouri

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In reality, the Charles who came to Virginia as an "Emigrant in Bondage" seems more likely to be the Charles who obtained the land grant in 1747. We have the court records of this Charles and the factual information he came to Virginia in 1727.

Research will continue so that at some future date, we can hope, we will forge a chain of factual genealogical data regarding the original Charles Hungate in America.

## THE HUNGATE FAMILY

Reprinted from the Journal

Of American History

By

John H. Hungate

Frank Allaben Genealogical Company

Forty-Second Street Building

New York

ARMS: Gules, a chevron engrailed, between three hounds sejant, argent.

CREST: A hound sejant, argent.

"The Hungate family originated in the City of York (Drake's Erboracum). It is one of the ancient families of the West Riding, Yorkshire, and the name frequently occurs in early church and land records of the city of York, Leeds, Saxton, and Sherburn.

There is in the City of York a short and narrow street, extending from St. Saviour's Gate down to the River Foss, called "Hungate", anciently, "Hundgate," doubtless so-called by the Danes who, in Alfred's time, conquered Northumberland, and made York the captial. It

1. Published about 1918.

is probable that the family name arose from this street. Drake, in Antiquities of York, states that William Hungate, Esq., of Bornby, the first of the line, as given in the Herald's Visitation of Yorkshire, was the father of William Hungate, Esq., who married Margery, daughter of Sir Anthony Oughtread, Knight. His Coat-of-Arms, with thirty others, is cut on the stone archway leading to Steeton Hall, now in ruins. The chapel is dilapidated, but a part of it is occupied as a residence. The archway, however, is intact, and its Coats-of-Arms have for ages preserved the record of ancient family tenure and alliances. The descendants of those families whose shields are carved in the rock, now look upon this structure of a by-gone age with feelings of reverence and family pride. The hall, chapel, and archway are deserving of a visit of the archaeologist and others who are interested in ancient ruins.

William Hungate, Esq., grandson of William Hungate of Bornby, became Lord of the Manor of Saxton, and to him every Hungate now living can trace descent, and, as we shall see, without a break in the chain.

Leland states that the Battle of Towton was fought near his estate, "When Old England's noblest blood was poured out in a flood To quench the fiery feud of Lancaster and York," and that after the bloody fray William Hungate (a Lancastrian), gathered together a great many of the bodies of the slain, and had them buried in the grave-yard of Saxton Church.

It was this William Hungate who repaired the church edifice, which was originally built in 1292 by Roger de Saxton, and so improved St. Mary's Chantry that it is to this day called "The Hungate Quire," and here he lies buried close to the altar. By his will, dated April 16, 1578, Thomas Hungate orders his body to be buried in the Hungate Quire of Saxton Church, and nearby are also to be seen the

tombs of Sir Philip Hungate, Baronet, and Sir Charles Hungate, Baronet, with the well-defined Coat-of-Arms engraved thereon. This church and grave-yard continued to be the family burying-place up to the time of the Reformation, and later, until, under James I, the Hungate estates were confiscated as those of "Papish Recusants," and Dalton became their place of burial, and so remained until the estates were restored under Charles I.

William Hungate lived to see Henry VII victorious over Richard III, and died about the time of the accession of Henry VIII. He was succeeded by his son, William Hungate, Esq., who, in turn, was succeeded by his son, William.

The last named William Hungate resided at the Court of Henry VIII, from whom he obtained the manor of Sherburn. He was a staunch Catholic, and when Henry VIII died he retired to his estates. When Queen Mary came to the throne, she recalled him to Court, and made him one of the Privy Council. He was in office when Cranmer was burned at the stake. Upon the death of Queen Mary and the accession of Elizabeth to the throne, he again retired to his estates, which at that time were extensive. Being a Catholic, he was a great sufferer under Elizabeth and also under James I. He regarded Elizabeth as a heretic, usurper, and tyrant, and when Mary Queen of Scots landed in England he and his friend, Sir William Vavasour, were the first to call upon her, though it is probable that he took no active part in the Northern uprising. He was succeeded by his son, William Hungate.

Like his father, this William Hungate was an uncompromising Catholic. The feeble and cupidious James I and the vengeful Protestant faction, affecting to believe that all Catholics were traitors, sought to despoil and thus deprive them of the power to do evil, as a result of which the Hungate estates--at that time considerable--were confiscated as those of a

Recusant. The life of William Hungate was rendered miserable, and his assassination by Philip Constable was regarded as a political murder. He has become more famous as being the father of Robert Hungate, his second son, than as being Lord of the Manors of Sherburn and Saxton.

Unlike his father, Robert Hungate was a Protestant. He was a counsellor-at-law of "Lincoln's Inn," and, by his will, dated May 11, 1619, founded and endowed the hospital and grammarschool at Sherburn, the school to be for the education of twenty-four legitimate infants and orphans. The orphans of the towns of Sherburn and Saxton were to be preferred, and after them, the orphans of Sand Hutton, and then of York. His elder brother, William Hungate, Esq., was made executor of the will and Patron of the charity, of which the Archbishop of York is now the patron.

A few years ago, one of our family traveled through England, and stopped for a day at Saxton and Sherburn, visiting the school and receiving from the master a detailed statement of its operation and achievements. Old Saxton Church was also visited, and a great many of the tombs of the ancient family. A visit was paid also to St. Cuthbert's Church in the City of York, where Robert Hungate is buried, and where is embedded in the floor a brass tablet three feet square, upon which are engraved his name, Coat-of-Arms, and a detailed statement as to his charities. His younger brother, Edmund Hungate, counsellor-at-law, is also buried here. He married Jane, daughter of Richard Bell, counsellor-at-law.

William Hungate, the father of Robert Hungate, the philanthropist, was succeeded by William Hungate, his eldest son, who married Margaret, daughter of Roger Sothaby, Esq., of Pockington. In turn, he was succeeded by his son, William Hungate, who married Eliza, daughter of William Middleton, Esq., of Stockeld, and



who died without issue in December, 1634.

Sir Philip Hungate, Baronet, succeeded his brother William.

Wheater, in his History of Sherburn and Cawood, states that the Hungates were restored to their estates, probably under Charles I. Certain it is that Sir Philip Hungate was created a Baronet by Charles I.

Sir Philip was a Catholic and a Royalist, and supported the King in his contest with Parliament, but, being feeble, his active duties in the Civil War devolved upon his son, Francis Hungate, Colonel of Horse, who fought under Prince Rupert, and who lost his life at the Battle of Chester in 1645. He left surviving him his sons, Francis and William, and a daughter, Mary.

Francis, upon the death of Sir Philip Hungate, his grandfather, succeeded to the Baronetcy of Sherburn. He married Margaret, daughter of Charles, Lord Carrington, of Wooton, County Warwick, and had issue, Sir Philip, Francis, M.D., Roger, William, Charles, Margaret, and Eliza.

After Charles II came to the throne, Sir Francis was taken into the royal favor, and was called to Court. In 1663, Leeds was the rendezvous of conspirators whose object was to dethrone the "Merry Monarch," and the King ordered Sir Francis Hungate to be furnished with three horses (horsemen) as an escort, probably to visit the disaffected district and report as to the threatened uprising. It is likely that he died about the time of the death of the King, and he was succeeded in the Baronetcy by his son, Sir Philip Hungate, who married Eliza, daughter of William, Lord Mounson, and had issue, Sir Francis, Sir Philip, and Sir Charles Carrington Hungate, who, each in turn, succeeded to the Baronetcy, none leaving surviving male issue.

Sir Charles Carrington Hungate was a Captain, and served under the great

Marlborough in the war on the Continent, which humbled the proud Louis XIV. He died at Huddleston Hall, November 6, 1749, and was interred in Saxton Church. He was the last of the name to occupy the ancestral estates.

Mary, daughter of Sir Francis, eldest brother of Sir Charles Carrington Hungate, and the latter's niece, took possession of the estates and carried them to her husband, Sir Edward Gascoigne, whose descendants by adoption now occupy them. Their right to the Baronetcy of Sherburn and the lands was called in question in 1831 by William Anning Hungate, Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, who, at the first trial before the jury obtained a verdict. The case was reversed, however, on appeal by the Court, on the ground that he did not satisfactorily prove his descent. We have his pedigree which was in evidence at the trial, and now, also having a complete pedigree of the family as given in Wheater's history, and, in addition, a complete pedigree of the American branch of the family, we are prepared to prove that the American Hungates have lineally descended from William Hungate, Esq., of Saxton. So also, was William Anning Hungate, but the American Branch of the family takes precedence.

The undoubted facts are as follows:

Charles Hungate, fifth and youngest son of Sir Francis Hungate, and his wife, Margaret, daughter of Charles, Lord Carrington, was born July 10, 1669, at Huddleston Hall (History of Sherburn and Cawood, page 147). He came to America when a young man, and after the vicissitudes of pioneer life, obtained, in 1747, a patent to a small tract of land on the headwaters of the Roanoke River, about ten miles from where Blacksburg now stands. (See Land Records, Richmond, Virginia).

When he left England he was in the line of succession, but his older brothers and



their issue stood between him and the inheritance. He therefore put aside all thoughts of preferment, and resolved to try his fortune in the New World.

He was among the first settlers in that part of Southwest Virginia. His neighbors were nearly all Scotch-Irish who had come down through Pennsylvania, among them, the Madisons, Pattons, Christians, Drapers, Harmons, and members of the celebrated Lewis families. At that time there were no roads over the Blue Mountains, and the settlers became isolated, in a measure, from the outside world, and were constantly exposed to raids of savage Indians.

He died intestate, leaving his widow, Anne, and two sons, Charles and William. Letters of administration were granted to his widow, May 17, 1749 (see Minutes of the Court of Augusta County, Virginia, Book I, page 149, Staunton, Virginia), only a few months prior to the death of his nephew, Sir Charles Carrington Hungate, Baronet. Had he survived Sir Charles, he would have inherited the Baronetcy by the laws of primogeniture.

His son, Charles, was next in the line of succession. He also acquired a patent to lands in the same locality in Virginia, on December 15, 1749, some months after his father's death. (See Land Office, Richmond, Virginia.) He never married, and died leaving his brother, William Hungate, as his sole heir.

William Hungate occupied the lands of his father and brother up to the time of his death, which occurred about 1755. He left a widow and three sons, William, Charles, and John, then of tender age.

When Charles Hungate, the Colonist of Virginia, died, he was not aware of the fact that he had survived all of his near relatives except his nephew, Sir Charles Carrington Hungate, who, as has been shown, died a few months afterwards, and who left no issue. Neither did the Colonist's sons, Charles and William, know that fact, and yet, in turn, they were

the true successors to Sir Charles Carrington Hungate and the Baronetcy of Sherburn. The three orphans, William, Charles, and John, son of William of the Second Generation in America, were, at the time of their father's death, too young to know or assert their rights, and continued to reside at the ancestral home in Virginia with their mother.

They grew to manhood amid extraordinary environments and dangers, surrounded by Indians who were often hostile. William was captured and carried away across the Ohio River, whence he made his escape, swam the river, and returned to his home.

William was the oldest of the three brothers. He became an experienced scout, hunter, and Indian fighter. He was at the Battle of Point Pleasant, where General Lewis, after one of the hardest fought battles in Indian warfare, gained a decisive victory which disconcerted the plans of Governor Dunmore, and forced the Indians to sue for peace. These transactions were upon the heels of the Revolutionary War, and, in less than a year thereafter, Dunmore was forced to leave Virginia. General Lewis was avenged, and Ensign William Hungate rejoiced with him in the glorious result.

William Hungate, all his life, had been inured to hardships and trouble. Before his captivity by the Indians, as above related, in 1757 a band of Shawnee Indians raided the Hungate home, and captured his mother, who had married a man named Eson, and his two sisters, Nancy and Elizabeth, who were about nine and twelve years of age. That morning William had gone from home with his stepfather. Charles, John, and their little sister, Mary, were playing in the orchard, and saved their lives by hiding in the weeds and brush, but the mother and two girls were seized by the Indians, and dragged out of the house. As they passed across the yard, the Indians tore an infant from its mother's arms, and dashed its

brains out against a log. William's mother and the two daughters were paralyzed by the shock, and, yielding to despair, followed the savages into the wilderness. After three days, the mother made her escape, and returned to the home, but the girls were carried across the Ohio, never to return. It is almost certain that they died in captivity, for, had they been living when Colonel Boquett concluded peace after his victory over the Shawnees and Delawares at Bushy Run in 1764, they would have been given up along with the two hundred and six captives whom, by the treaty, the Indians were compelled to liberate. Ninety of these captives were Virginians.

After that event, the only consolation left the mother was that her children were in Heaven. She lived to the close of the Revolutionary War, and emigrated to Kentucky with her two sons, Charles and John, in 1786.

While the citizens of Virginia were engaged in a struggle for existence against savage foes, the British Ministry was scheming to rob them of their chartered rights, making Governor Dunmore its instrument. This impelled the citizens of Augusta County to hold a public meeting at Staunton, on the twenty-second day of February, 1775, for the purpose of passing resolutions tantamount to a declaration of independence. They named delegates to the Colonial Convention, to be held at Richmond, on March 20.

When the Convention assembled, it took precautionary steps for self-defence. An ordinance was passed July 17, 1775, for raising two regiments of Regulars and for organizing the Militia. The officers and soldiers were to equip themselves. In the following December the Convention passed another ordinance to raise additional troops, and it fully assumed the reins of government. A Committee of Safety was appointed to carry into effect the ordinance. This was over a year

before the Declaration of Independence. The Committee issued the first commissions to officers of the army.

At that time General Lewis, Colonel Preston, Colonel Fleming, and the Hungates, William, Charles, and John, were residents of Botetourt County and comparatively near neighbors. They had stood together in the desperate struggle against the Indians and against the treachery of Governor Dunmore, which further exposed them to the cruelties of savages. It was natural, therefore, that the Committee of Safety should select these men as officers, and commission them to raise men and organize the revolt against England. The Army Roll of those first regiments has disappeared, and cannot now be found either at Richmond or at Washington. The commissions, however, of most of the officers have been preserved by their descendants. We have the original commission of William Hungate, duly signed by every member of the Committee of Safety. It is now in the possession of his great-grandson, George Hungate, of Floyd County, Virginia. The following is a verbatim copy of the original, made by the writer, about ten years ago, and has never before been published:

"The Committee of Safety for the Colony of Virginia.

"To William Hungate, Gent.

"By virtue of the Power and Authority in General Convention Assembled, we, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your patriotism, fidelity, courage and good conduct, do, by these Presents, Constitute and appoint you to be Ensign of a Company of Militia of the County of Botetourt, and you are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the trust reposed in you, by disciplining all officers and soldiers under your command. And we do hereby require them to obey you as their Ensign. And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from the Con-



Early Adventurers on the Roanoke,  
1740-1760

And the Land They Occupied

As in the Great Valley on the upper branches of the James River early adventurers on the Roanoke were home seekers rather than explorers or land grabbers. The earliest records of active residence, as it happens, comes from records other than those of land books. Among such records are rolls of the militia companies of Augusta County for the year 1742, notes given to Colonel Patton for land purchased, sale bills for purchases made at some public sale, and orders made for the building or upkeep of neighborhood roads.

Only a few names appear in the land records for this region as early as 1742, but in determining the location of the residence of the men enrolled in Captain George Robinson's Company of Militia of that date we find that all of them lived south of the James River, a part on the branches of the James and the rest on the "Roan Oak". We have here, then, the vanguard of the western migration at that period.

1742 - Among the first men we find George Robinson, the captain of the company, James Rentfroe, a sergeant, Daniel Maughnahan, Mark Coal, Peter Renfroe, Henry Stiles, John Askins, James Coal, Bryan Cuff, Simon Acres, John Meason, William Acres, Tasker Tosh, Henry Brown, Samuel Brown, James Buck, Mark Evins, William Bean, Samuel Martin, Peter Kinder, Stephen Evins, Stephen Ranfro (Rentfroe), William Bradshaw, John Coal, William Craven and Nicholas Horseford.<sup>1</sup>

1746 - Through the year 1746 grants were issued to James Wood, of Frederick County, January 12, 245 acres on Goose Creek, a corner of Francis Beatty;<sup>2</sup> January 12, Ephriam Vanse, 200 acres on the north side of Goose Creek, beginning at the creek above the mouth of a large

run, corner to Finla McClure;<sup>3</sup> July 25, William Caroin, 150 acres on a branch of Smith's Creek;<sup>4</sup> George Robinson, Gent. 400 acres on Buffalo Creek of Roanoke, below his other land;<sup>5</sup> John Robinson, Sr. two four hundred acre tracts on South Fork of Roanoke;<sup>6</sup> James Neely, 280 acres on the north side of Goose Creek;<sup>7</sup> and Charles Hungate,<sup>8</sup> 150 acres on the south side of Goose Creek opposite to Charles Campbell's<sup>9</sup> land. x

From these early grants we learn that the main river of Roanoke was called Goose Creek, that its north branch was called Buffalo Creek with its lower part designated Smith's Creek, and the south branch of Roanoke as later called the South Fork of Roanoke. From later land records we learn that Captain George Robinson started the community by settling on a small tract of land, 191 acres on a branch of Buffalo Creek where William Preston afterward established his home called Greenfield, adjoining the tract at the lead of this branch which John Buchanan sold to David Cloyd.

After 1746 we follow the Augusta land records and find entries, surveys and grants more regular than they appeared in the period in Orange.

In the Augusta Will Book, No.1, we find that on March 7, 1749 Ann Hungate was the administrator of the estate of Charles Hungate, deceased. Also in the Augusta County Surveyor's Book, No. 1, we learn in November 1750 Malcolm Campbell attended Charles Hungate's sale.

The early mill sites on the Roanoke can be definitely fixed from the land records. An entry on September 20, 1749 shows a grant to Mark Evans of 87 acres on the south side of the Roanoke between Charles Hungate and a tract belonging to said Evans. Evans' Mill on the main waters of the Roanoke was one of the first in use. It was certainly the most important mill on the frontier for it was used as the granary and storehouse for the ranging companies and other troops in their expeditions



against the Indians.

The foundation families on the Roanoke were Presbyterian in faith and Christian in practice. There are several references to an organized congregation on the Roanoke and the tract of land finally entered for its use proves to be the site of the first church known to be built.

People on the frontier were unsettled. From the clerk's fee books we get an insight into the position and movement of many citizens known in historical records. In 1748, for example, William Alexander was reported "not found"; Joseph Walker, gone to Carolina; William Sayers "runaway"; and James Gordon, "no effects".

Family life and feeling was shown in wills and settlements. These people were not wealthy, but they had a great deal of self respect and interest in their families and friends and concern about their personal property. Practically all the men made wills in which they were very specific as to the disposition of their minutest belongings. Their nearest neighbors usually witnessed their wills and appraised their property. Some knoll on the home place near the house was selected as the family burial ground and those first graves, though unmarked, are shrines for succeeding generations. Funerals and sales were well attended and provisions were made for hospitable entertainment on such occasions.

Peter Kinder Methuselah Griffith, Simon Akers, Charles Hungate and William Alexander were all dead in 1749. Charles Hungate's appraisement was made on December 21 by John Mason, Tasker Tosh and William Armstrong. His widow, Ann, held a sale the following November and the land was later sold by Charles Hungate, Jr.

In 1749 Ephraim Vanse sold his scattered tracts of land and began to develop his estate on South Branch called "Vanse's". In 1753 he was made Captain of the Horse and was considered an in-

fluential man in the community. For the protection of his family and his neighbor's he built on his place a fort which was attacked by French and Indians in the summer of 1756 and the people in it either killed or taken prisoner. The fort was burned. Captain Vanse escaped because it so happened that he was not in the fort at the time of attack. Two years later he moved out of the Colony.

<sup>1</sup>Chalkleys Abstracts, Volume 2, page 509, from Draper's Mss.

<sup>2</sup>Augusta Deed Book 1, 456.

<sup>3</sup>Augusta Deed Book 2, 408.

<sup>4</sup>Patent Book 23, 329.

<sup>5</sup>Augusta Deed Book 2, 310.

<sup>6</sup>Augusta Deed Book 5, 429.

<sup>7</sup>Patent Book 30, 247.

<sup>8</sup>Patent Book 31, 629.

<sup>9</sup>Patent Book 31, 236.

## HOME LIFE AND AMUSEMENTS

The manners and customs of our forefathers are always fraught with peculiar interest, and read of with pleasure and profit by all. If we compare the places of abode of our fathers with those of today, and the customs of those days with our own, we are apt to regard those of the past in an unfavorable light. But by outward appearance alone, things cannot safely be judged. Many things appear outwardly beautiful which inwardly are the reverse—"without are fair, within full of dead men's bones."

We have not yet given a description of the dwellings of our fathers. Imagine a house about sixteen feet square, seven and a half feet high, built up with large round or square logs, and covered with clapboards, held on by huge weight poles, the cracks in the walls filled with mud, which would occasionally fall out, when the wind would whistle merrily through the door (for there was but one) made of rough boards, with a wooden latch, the string of which always hung out, a sign of welcome to the weary traveler and the kind neighbor, and you have the exterior, except that upon one side there was a small window, large enough for a sash containing six eight by ten lights, sometimes with glass

1. "When Sir Charles Carrington Hungate, Baronet died in 1749 the immediate line of his father, save a granddaughter, Lady Gascoigne, became extinct, but in fact there was then living male members of an older branch of the family. By the law of primogeniture - in 1831 William Anning Hungate, claiming descent from William, second son of Colonel Francis, brought suit to recover the lands in Sherburn but failed to satisfy the court as to descent.

He traced his descent from Sir Francis Hungate, Baronet the oldest son of Colonel Francis Hungate, who was slain at the siege of Chester in 1645 while fighting for Charles I against the Commonwealth. The American Hungates trace descent from Colonel Francis through his son, Sir Francis, and more recently from Sir Francis, Baronet and Margery, daughter of Charles, Lord Carrington, and hence stand nearer than William Anning in the line of succession to the Baronetcy of Sherburn. On the death of Sir Charles in 1749 they should have succeeded. The estate of Colonel Francis was sequestered from his three children Sir Francis, William and Mary. Sir Francis, however, in 1655 inherited the Baronetcy and family estates from his grandfather Sir Philip. The second son William resided on the estate with his brother during his early married life until he became a Colonel in the army. His issue are noted in the pedigree of William Anning Hungate adduced at the trial in 1831. On page 147 under the heading, "Notes From the Saxton Register", we find the following entry - "1668, William, born at Huddleston Hall, April 10th, 1669, Charles, born at Huddleston Hall, July 10th." These children could have been none other than sons of said Francis Hungate, Baronet. (We infer that after the birth of these children the family removed from the ancestral home since

1. From the notebook of John H. Hungate written about 1898. No effort has been made to correct these notes. Even though verbose and somewhat repetitive no editing has been done.

none of them are buried in Saxton Church. This church was used as a burying place by the Hungates for centuries, in fact, ever since the battle of Towton, the beginning of the War of Roses.)

(There is some obscurity as to the movements of this family after they left Yorkshire until 1747 when they appear as pioneers in the wilds of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.)

John H. Hungate notes state that the original Charles with his family apparently dwelled in Pennsylvania or West Virginia. He indicates he may have lived in the region near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Without some previous experience in border life it is hardly probable that William Hungate, with a wife and small children, would have plunged into a trackless wilderness with only a few white inhabitants and surrounded by savages.

At this time England and France were contending for the mastery of the vast region extending from the Allegheny Mountains to the Mississippi River, then occupied only by roving Indians. Charles Hungate, fifth son of Sir Francis, settled in Augusta; afterwards Botetourt and in 1747 obtained lands and resided near where Blacksburg now stands. He died in 1749 leaving an only son William who died five years later leaving three sons, William, Charles and John, orphans of tender age, who growing up in the wilds of America became peculiarly fitted for mountain life and border warfare.

William was married about 1741 and had issue: William, Charles, John, Nancy, Elizabeth and Mary.

Charles had two sons Charles and William. Charles seems to have never married and made his home with William, until the latter died. To appreciate his condition and environment it will be necessary to give a cursory history of that part of the mountain wilderness where he settled. It is of most absorbing interest to his descendants since every Hungate in America now trace their descent to him. He is the ancestor of all the Hungates in America.



In the Annals of Augusta County, Virginia on page 13, the auction says "It is believed that all the earliest settlers came from Pennsylvania and up the valley of the Shenandoah. It was several years before any settlers entered the valley from the east and through the gaps in the Blue Ridge. It was impossible to bring wagons and all their effects were transplanted on horseback." They brought with them some clothing, bedding, guns, cooking utensils, seed corn, axes, saws and augers. All these and the Bible were indispensable. They camped under the broad expanse of heaven and slumbered while bears, wolves and panthers prowled around. They helped themselves to a home before the King or proprietors parceled out the domain. Though the Hungate patents are dated in 1747 and 1749 they may have occupied the land some years earlier. William Hungate's neighbors were nearly all Scotch Irish. He, however, was of English blood and since he himself descended from Sir William Hungate of Saxton the family will ever occupy an enviable position. While the family is not greatly distinguished it is known in the College of Heraldry as one of the ancient families of Northumberland.

It is also known in America as one of the Colonial families of Virginia, contemporary with the Washingtons and the Jeffersons. It suffered from Indian raids in the French and Indian Wars and contended for liberty and independence in the Revolution. One infant was murdered by the savages and two girls, Nancy and Elizabeth Hungate, were carried away into captivity never to return. William also, as a boy, was captured and carried across the Ohio, but made his escape by swimming the Ohio. They were in constant danger and suffered anxieties beyond imagination. They made great sacrifices during the Indian Wars and in the struggle for liberty and independence.

The first recorded evidence we have of

the Hungate family in America is in the Land Office in Richmond, Virginia. Charles Hungate patented two tracts of land. One patent dated June 5, 1747 conveyed land now situated in Montgomery County, Virginia, some twelve miles or so from where Blacksburg now stands. The other patent conveyed lands not far distant from the first on the south side of the Roanoke River and is dated the 5th day of December 1749 in the twenty-third year of the reign of George II. These patents are quaint old English documents. They begin as follows "George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Kind Defender of the Faith" and it concludes as follows, "In Witness Whereof, we have caused our Letters patent to be made. Witness our Trusty and Well beloved Charles Lee, Esq. President of our Council and Commander-in-Chief of our said Colony and Dominion, at Williamsburg under the seal of our said Colony the 15th day of December 1749 in the twenty-third year of our reign. Charles Lee P." We cannot find that William Hungate, ever patented any land, but we know that he resided with his brother Charles. He died about 1754 leaving, as above stated, three sons and three daughters. John H. Hungate inferred that two, at least, of his children were born before the settlement in Virginia. This, however, is only speculation.

The locality was then wilderness where only a few families had preceded them by a year or two and most of these were Scotch Irish who had come down through Pennsylvania. The County at that time was called Augusta. It was of indifferent boundary extending even to the Mississippi River. The vast tract west of the Allegheny Mountains was claimed by the Indians, but was in dispute between the French and English; each seeking alliance and trade with the red men.

The Hungate patents covered lands adjacent to lands of John Madison and were not far distant from James Patton's grant



of 12,000 acres. Certain members of the celebrated family of Lewis and Christian also settled there and some distance beyond lived the Ingles, the Drapers and Harmons.

In 1749 the house of Adam Harmon was raided by Indians. In 1755 Colonel Patton and William Preston were on a visit to the Ingles and Drapers when an assault was made on the house by Indians. William Ingles and John Draper were absent and Preston also was temporarily away. Colonel Patton was in the house. Mrs. Draper was surprised and taken prisoner in the yard. They crushed her child against a log. Colonel Patton singlehanded alone met the savages at the door and cut two of them down with his sword, but was shot and killed by others whom he could not reach. He was a vigorous man and then in his prime. He had been a very efficient agent in introducing settlers from Europe. He was a native of Ireland, a ship owner and had crossed the ocean many times bringing immigrants. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of Augusta County when killed.

This was about the time that William Hungate died. A year previous the French had commenced to build a fort where Pittsburg now stands called Fort Duquesne and Governor Dinwiddie sent Major Washington to remonstrate with the French officer commanding on the Ohio and to warn him that war was inevitable unless he withdrew. War was declared the next year and lasted up to 1763 resulting in the capture of Fort Dequesne and the conquest of Canada. This ended forever the hope of France to found an empire in America. During the war the Indians west of the Allegheny Mountains along and beyond the Ohio River were allies of the French and made frequent and savage raids on the border settlements of Virginia. We have seen how Colonel Patton was killed and we shall hereafter relate how the Hungate's home was raided by Indians who slew an infant and cap-

tured and carried away the mother and two girls. Dreadful was the cruelty and numerous were the victims. The Indians prowled with savage ferocity along the ranges of the Alleghenies and penetrated the Valley of Virginia. Many settlers fled across the Blue Ridge; others entered forts, some of which were captured by the savages. In 1756 after Braddock's defeat Major Andrew Lewis, with 340 men, was ordered to attack the Indian towns west of the Ohio. The officers were William Preston, Peter Hogg, John Smith and R. Breckenridge. The expedition failed. The Indians were elated and the next year raided the border settlements and murdered hundreds of men, women and children whose names have never been recorded. The governor could get no definite or reliable news of these outrages. There were no roads nor means of communication across the Blue Ridge.

On August 3rd the governor wrote to Colonel Reece, "It surprises me that I have no account from Augusta of the terrible murders committed on the frontier." He also wrote to Colonel Buchanan of the Augusta Militia about the same time, "I am sincerely sorry for the many murders and captures the enemy have made: Where was Captain Preston and the people at Hoggs (Vause' Fort)? Surely they ought to have been sent for and repelled the force of the enemy."

Vause' Fort was on the Roanoke River about ten miles west from where Christiansburg in Montgomery County now stands. It was only a few miles from the Hungate home. In 1758 a party of Shawnees captured Fort Seybert, about fifty miles from Staunton in Pendleton County. All but eleven of the thirty six prisoners were tomahawked. These were carried away to towns on the Scioto. Only one, a boy named Byer, returned. The Western tribes in 1764 and '65 united to wage a war of extermination against the white settlers. They were egged on and assisted by the French. Money was of-

ferred for scalps, and the English retaliated in the same way. No war in any country or era was ever waged in a more barbarious manner. The contestants sought to exterminate each other. The border settlements enjoyed some respite from the scalping knife after the capture of Fort Duquesne in 1758. Yet, nevertheless, the war went on and many families were massacred. Raids continued by the Indians even after the treaty of peace in 1763 when the French retired from the country.

The Indians from beyond the Ohio continued their bloody work almost up to the Revolutionary War. Many tribes became allies of the English in the war for independence. When Colonel Patton, as we have seen, was killed at the Draper home, the Indians plundered the house and carried off Mrs. Draper, Mrs. Ingles and her two children. They were taken to Ohio where Mrs. Ingles was detained for five months, then making her escape she returned home almost naked and starved. She traveled over rugged mountains and dense forests for forty two days and finally reached Vause' Fort. Mrs. Draper returned several years later. During all these years from 1754 to 1758 there was no peace on the frontier and there was little security for white settlers west of the Blue Ridge. The neighborhoods near Vause' Fort were raided in 1757 and terrible cruelties committed. It was about this time that the widow of William Hungate and her two girls were captured, and carried away.

Bancroft in his history of the United States records that, "In 1755 and '56 the tomahawk was uplifted along the range of the Alleghenies." From the western valley every settler had already been driven. From the valley of the Shenandoah they retreated in droves till the Blue Ridge became the frontier of Virginia - the Shawnees had scaled the mountains and prowled with savage ferocity along the branches of the Susquehane and Delaware. At this time the population of

all the Colonies did not exceed 1,500,000. In Virginia the whites numbered only about 168,000. In 1740 there were but eleven newspapers in all the Colonies and only one in Virginia.

It was during the French and Indian Wars that isolated settlements in western Virginia suffered most. Young braves dashed down upon them for scalps and obliterated whole families. They left the humble log cabin in flames. Many captives were taken and never returned. Such instances were common, but as there was no record made of these occurrences many of them have escaped the notice of general history. It is stated that in early part of 1758 sixty persons were murdered in Augusta County. The principal fort built to protect the settlements where the Hungates lived was Vause' Fort on the Roanoke. Ingles Ferry Fort was twenty miles farther west at Dunkards Bottom on New River. It frequently happened that the approach of the savages was so stealthy that the white settlers were surprised and captured or cut down before they could reach the forts or any place of safety. They lived in constant dread, where every tree and every stone might conceal a foe. The last Indian raid in this section seems to have been in 1764 when the house of John Cloyd who lived in the upper part of Botetourt or Montgomery County was attacked. The house was rifled and £22 of gold and silver was carried away. The band was overtaken at a point about 30 miles distant from Cloyd's house. One of the Indians was killed and had on his person a larger part of the money.

Botetourt County was cut off from Augusta County in the year 1769. The first county court was held in 1770; the commissioners being Andrew Lewis, Robert Breckenridge, William Preston, Israel Christian, James Trimble, John Bowyer, Benjamin Hawkins, William Fleming, John Maxwell, and George Skillern. William, Charles and John



Hungate, sons of the founder who died about the time of Braddock's defeat, were residents of the county at the time of its organization. They resided on the land covered by the Charles Hungate patent. The county was named in honor of Lord Botetourt who was governor of Virginia in 1768. Montgomery County was formed out of a part of it, known as Fincastle District, in 1776. It embraced the land patented by Charles Hungate, who thence continued to reside in Montgomery County up to about 1790 when he died. He was one of the "Long swords" of Virginia and he died intestate leaving no issue. His lands, under the law of primogeniture, descended to his nephew William Hungate who on the 6th day of September 1793 conveyed the same to Joseph Pryor. Witnesses were George Spotts, Jesse Nelson and Joseph Pryor, Jr. We find from the records of Montgomery County that in 1803 said William Hungate purchased a tract of land containing something over 500 acres lying on Kelly's Creek branch of Little River in Montgomery County, now Floyd County. He resided on the land up to the time of his death in 1822 leaving issue, the genealogy of whom we will give later.

This William Hungate was an Ensign during the Revolution. His two brothers, Charles and John, removed to Mercer County, Kentucky after the war. Each of them raised large families whose genealogy also will be given further on. The lands above described as on Kelly's Branch of Little River are now in Floyd County and situated about four miles west of Floyd Court House on a continental divide. The waters of Little River flowing through the Kanawa and the Ohio finally reach the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

Floyd County was formed from a part of Montgomery in 1831. Members of the Hungate family still live on a part of the old homestead.

The first patent of Charles Hungate dated in 1747 was among the very first

grants on the head waters of the Roanoke. Staunton is situated about 90 miles north and was laid out on the Beverly grant in 1748. At that time there was no road between the two points on which wheeled vehicles could go, nor were there any roads leading over the Blue Ridge to tidewater Virginia. As late as 1754 when Colonel Patton was killed by the Indians his body was buried where he fell because it could not be transported back to Staunton, a distance of about ninety miles. The Drapers and also the Hungates settled on the public domain some distance south of the large grants of land made to Beverly and Borden. The Beverly land grant contained 118,491 acres and is dated the 12th day of August 1736. It extended across the Shenandoah Valley and the southern portion and included the present site of Staunton and the lands on which John Lewis resided. The Borden grant was for 500,000 acres of land on the Shenandoah and James Rivers and embraced the whole upper part of Augusta County and Rockbridge. These grants were denounced in severe terms as unjust and the Hungates seeking a home passed south of them and beyond the valley and secured patents direct from the King. Some settlers acquired only "Tomahawk rights" and "cabin rights" or "corn rights".

The early inhabitants at once became backwoodsmen. Cut off from markets they were forced to hunting, fishing, and agriculture for a living. As we now contemplate their environment we wonder how they managed to exist in the depths of a wilderness and surrounded by savage foes. There were no newspapers and hence we have meager records of current events. But their environment records the customs and mode of life. Only thirty years had elapsed from the discovery of the great valley lying between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghenies. For over one hundred years from the founding of Jamestown the Blue Ridge remained an impassible barrier. It was doubted that it



could be crossed by mortal man and it was thought that the native savage could only move along the base of its towering ridges.

So dangerous seemed the enterprise that no one made the effort to discover the land beyond. It remained an unknown world until 1716. In that year Governor Spotswood at the head of about fifty cavalymen honored by him as "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" made the initial effort. He succeeded in entering the Valley of Virginia. He camped on the banks of the Shenandoah and formally took possession of the country on behalf of England and claimed dominion from the Blue Ridge to the Mississippi. This vast region up to this time constituted a part of the County of Orange. In 1738 the General Assembly of the Colony of Virginia passed an act establishing the counties of Frederick and Augusta which embraced all the country west of the Blue Ridge. Augusta was not fully organized for lack of requisite population until 1745.

About this time the Hungates and a few other families settled in the southwest part of Virginia beyond the valley and south of the vast tracts, not inhabited but covered by the Beverly and Borden grants. Thus, they became the vanguard of the border wilderness. At that time Augusta embraced the present county of Rockingham and a part of Page and included nearly all of West Virginia and the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

It is said that John Lewis in 1732 was the first settler in the county. He was of French and Scotch extraction and became the progenitor of General Andrew Lewis and Colonel Charles Lewis and others of that name who became famous in colonial history.

The first settlers came from Pennsylvania and up the valley of the Shenandoah.<sup>1</sup> Since there were no roads over the Blue Ridge we naturally infer that the

1. Conjecture. Charles Hungate no doubt did come from the tidewaters of Virginia.

Hungates also came from Pennsylvania and not from the tidewaters of Virginia. Doubtless William and Charles Hungate were inured to hardships and border life before entering the Valley of Virginia. However, we have not been able to find any direct proof that their father ever crossed the ocean or emigrated to America. The early history of his two sons is obscure, but the family has always understood that they were left orphans at a tender age. It is, therefore, probable that the father emigrated to America and died when they were children. Job Hungate of Kentucky, born about 1785, states that his wife was a descendent of Lord Lonsdale. Botetourt County was organized 1769. The first county court of Botetourt was held February 13, 1770 - the justices - commissioned were Israel Christian, Andrew Lewis, Robert Breckenridge, William Preston, James Trimble, John Bowyer, John Maxwell, Benjamin Hawkins, George Keeling and William Fleming. Nearly all of these men became famous in colonial history. Many of their names are also familiar to the history of Kentucky. It is worthy of note that the Hungates became pioneers in the settlement of Virginia and also in the settlement of Kentucky. Charles and John Hungate, sons of the founder, settled in Kentucky in 1785, three years before the United States adopted the Constitution, but as they, together with their brother William, lived in Virginia during the entire Revolutionary War we shall revert to the conditions of their environment during that struggle.

The inhabitants of Augusta and Botetourt were loyal almost to a man and they rendered signal service to the cause of liberty. It is said that only two citizens of Augusta County were arrested for treason during the war. Nearly every male inhabitant capable of bearing arms was either in the regular army or member of the militia. Much of their time was spent in repelling Indian raids. The Hungates cooperated with General An-

drew Lewis and Colonel William Fleming both before and during the revolution. These two distinguished men resided in Botetourt County. The Hungates served under them at various times in repelling Indians.

William Hungate was noted as an efficient scout and Indian fighter. Commissioned as ensign by the committee of safety he raised and commanded a company of men to guard the border settlements. His younger brothers served under him. They had all grown up from infancy in the backwoods settlements acquired that experience which afterwards became so advantageous in contending against the Indians and against the British. It is interesting to note that these pioneers did not neglect the education of their children. Among the early settlers and especially the Scotch Irish, facilities for education were among the first things provided. Schools were established and home education religiously attended to. The Bible was their solace and constant companion. Charles Hungate was born, or at least reared, in the wilderness. He wrote a flowing hand and composed well. John and William also were educated beyond what we should expect considering their environment. They emulated the heroic virtues of their heroic neighbors and they assisted to lay broad and deep the foundations of civil and religious liberty. We who have seen the United States become the foremost nation on earth owe to them a debt of everlasting gratitude. We have a right to be proud of our country and also of our lineage. It is something to trace descent from the aristocracy of England, it is more to descend from heroes who fought that all men may become free and equal.

We will now revert to pre-revolutionary conditions and to the founder, William Hungate, and his family. William died when comparatively a young man at the age of about forty-six years. Yet as we have seen, he left surviving him his widow and three sons and three daughters. It

was only about nine years prior to his selecting a home on the Roanoke that the locality was first visited by white men. In 1838 it is said that John Salling and John Martin crossed the James River on an exploring expedition and arrived at the head waters of the Roanoke. Salling was captured by the Indians (Cherokee). In 1744 Salling, in company with John Lewis and John Mackey and others, visited the same locality and settle there. The Hungates may have constituted a part of that colony. If so, they temporarily took only "cabin claims" and four years later procured patents. Certain it is that in 1747 they occupied lands granted by letters patent from George II to Charles Hungate. The intimate association of the Hungates and the Lewis families confirms the theory that they probably came into the settlement together. They must have made their way to the upper country on horseback and over Indian trails. The said patent is among the first issued in that locality.

The first Indian raid on the white settlers of this locality was in 1749 when the house of Adam Hartman was attacked, but no murder was committed. At this time the Shawnee, Delawares and Mingoes had moved west of the Alleghenies. It was also in 1749 that the Green Brier Country was explored and it was discovered that the streams flowed westward. The Indians were jealous of the encroachments and went on the war path, but on June 13, 1752 under a commission from Governor Dinwiddie dated in 1751 James Patton, Joshua Fry and Lundsford Lomax concluded a treaty with the Indians at Logstown. This treaty was observed for only a short time and from 1753 for more than ten years war waged all along the frontier. The Shawnees were the terror of the settlers. At that time they dwelt on the Sciota and Muskengurn Rivers in Ohio. Their depredations extended to the Blue Ridge. The Indians soon found an ally in the French and were encouraged to



use the tomahawk and scalping knife on the settlers.

In 1754 Captain Lewis was put in charge of forty or fifty men to protect the frontiers of Augusta County. The Indians and French were now active in robbing and plundering the settlers. The French strengthened their position on the Ohio. The war in 1756 commenced between England and France for the mastery of a continent. It involved all Canada and that vast region extending from the Alleghenies to the Mississippi. For a time everything seemed to go in favor of France. Braddock was defeated and the Indians encouraged by that event scaled the Alleghenies and leaped down on the settlers of the valley with savage barbarity. Colonel Dunbar who succeeded Braddock in command of the English, instead of protecting the frontier settlements, fled. Like a coward he retreated into Philadelphia. The whole frontier was laid open to the enemy. As we have seen, Colonel Patton was killed and William Hungate, the founder of the family in America, died. Not to the tomahawk, but from hardships and exposure endured in repelling the savages. Every white man was called into active service. Governor Dinwiddie not hearing of the murder of Colonel Patton wrote to him July 16, "I am sorry to hear a further dismal account of murders in your county". Many settlers fled across the Blue Ridge. General Lewis built a fort called Fort Lewis near the present site of Salem in Roanoke County. Early in 1756 this fort was destroyed by the Indians. On July 24, 1756 Governor Dinwiddie writing to Henry Fox said, "About a month ago one hundred French and Indians came into Augusta County murdered and scalped some of the unwary." The details and locality of this raid, like many others, is not given. On August 12th the governor says, "About a month ago one hundred of the Shawnees with some French came into the County of Augusta in this Dominion

killed and carried away prisoners twenty-four of our people."

In July 1756 a council of war was convened in Augusta County by the governor composed of the following named persons, Colonel John Buchanan, Colonel David Stewart, Major John Brown, Captain Joseph Coulton, Captain Robert Scott, Captain Patrick Martin, Captain William Christian, Captain Robert Breckenridge, Captain James Lockhart, Captain Samuel Stalnicker, Captain Israel Christian and Captain Thomas Armstrong. William Preston met with them and recorded the proceedings. The Hungate family were not unknown to each and all of these officers and they were on intimate terms of friendship with William and Israel Christian and William Preston. Since the death of William Hungate two years previous Charles probably looked after the widow and minor children until the widow remarried. She married probably about a year after the death of her husband a man by the name of Eson. There was born to this union one child destined afterwards at the age of six months to suffer death at the hands of savages as will be hereafter related. Now the council above named agreed that certain forts should be constructed, among which was Vause Fort situated as we have seen about ten miles west from where Christiansburg now stands. This fort was in the neighborhood of the Hungate settlement and designed as a place of refuge and protection, but the frontier at this time to be policed was about 250 miles. At no time during the long and bloody French and Indian War were the Hungates relieved of anxiety and danger. Each settler was subject to call for militia duty. The captains of militia in 1756 were as follows: Israel Christian, Patrick Martin, John Dickinson, Samuel Norwood, James Allen, George Wilson, John Mathews, Joseph Lapsley, James Mitchel, Daniel Harrison, Abram Smith, Ephriam Love and Robert Bratton. It was at this time that Fort London was built by



Andrew Lewis about thirty miles south of where Knoxville now stands on the south bank of the Tennessee River.

The Hungate family, although as much exposed during the war as hundreds of others who suffered death or captivity, escaped until June or July 1757. We shall now relate the circumstances and results of an Indian raid upon the Eson and Hungate home resulting in murder and captivity. Governor Dinwiddie alludes to this raid in a letter to Colonel Buchanan dated on the 8th day of August 1757, but does not mention names nor does he give exact locality. He says "Your letter of the 25th of last month, I did not receive till the 6th of this, so it was fifteen days coming to my hand. I am sincerely sorry for the many murders and captures the enemy have made. I fear the people in pay do not execute their duty. Where was Captain Preston and the people at Hogg's (Vause Fort)? Surely they ought to have been sent for and repelled the force of the enemy as the bearer assures me there were not above six attacked their house. Let me know where Captain Preston is and whether the men at Hogg's (Vause Fort) were apprised of the enemy's cruelties and the reason why they did not march against them." Captain Woodward with 70 men commanded Vause Fort. The Governor had also just written to Reed, "It surprises me that I have no account of the terrible murder committed on the frontier."

It was a small band of Indians who surprised and attacked the Hungate home. They belonged to the Shawnee tribe now located across the Ohio River and had become decimated by the terrible losses sustained during the war. They could muster little over three hundred warriors. Their losses seemed to make them more desperate and more savage. Their forays were usually made by small bands when they did not intend to attack a fort. Their plan was to surprise the settler before he had time to flee to the fort and then to

escape before assistance could arrive. This band probably consisted of six or eight Indians who stole unobserved into the neighborhood and remained concealed until the morning of the tragedy. On that fateful day the widow of William Hungate, now Mrs. Eson, was quietly attending to household duties while her baby, only six months old, lay asleep on the bed. It was the only pledge of her second husband's love. Her two older daughters, Nancy and Elizabeth, were also with her in the house. The husband had, early in the morning, gone away from the home on business taking with him the oldest boy William Hungate. The other Hungate children, Charles, John and Mary, the latter about six years old, were in the orchard some distance from the house when the Indians surrounded the house and captured the inmates. The children in the orchard heard cries of distress and knew at once that their mother and sisters were being cruelly treated by savages. Charles and John, taking little Mary by the hands, fled with her as fast as possible two miles distance to the nearest neighbor's house and were thus saved from captivity or murder.

The Indians seized the mother and the two girls and dragged them out of the house as they passed across the yard they tore the infant from its mother's arms and dashed its brains out against a log. The mother and two daughters, shocked by the revolting deed, cried to God for help until they were choked into silence. Now they stand transfixed by the horror of despair and as they gaze on the painted faces of grim savages they neither ask for nor expect pity and yielding to despair follow on into the wilderness.

All this was done in broad daylight and almost in sound of cannon shot at the fort. Well might Governor Dinwiddie exclaim, "Where were the people at Hogg's! Where was Colonel Preston!"

The mother and daughters now expected the fate of the baby whose skull they had seen crushed and its mangled body thrown

at their feet. And now as the gloomy outlines of the Alleghenies rose up before them their hearts sank within them and their last hope vanished in the gloom of despair. They expected to be tomahawked and scalped, but they were destined to a more terrible fate. The girls were carried across the Ohio never to return and never more to meet their mother or friends. Their fate can only be conjectured. The Indian mode of life may have caused the death of the girls before they attained womanhood. We infer from the letters of Governor Dinwiddie that no strenuous effort was made by the military authority to avenge the wrong or recover the captives. The family, however, made all the effort in their power to secure their release and return. They employed Dr. William Huff, who had once been captured by the same tribe and had lived among them for seven years, to attempt their recovery. He was on intimate terms with an old squaw whom he called mother because she had adopted him at the time of his capture. He made his way to the Indian village, saw the girls but was not permitted to speak to them, and after remaining but a short time his squaw mother came privately to him and told him that he should get away as soon as possible as the Indians regarded him as a possible spy and as they were counseling together they might seize him and put him to death. He also, observing their changed demeanor, took the advice of his mother and quietly withdrew. He afterwards married Mary Hungate the sister of the unfortunate captives.

In 1788 he, together with Charles and John Hungate, emigrated to Kentucky where they raised a large family. She, surviving her husband, administered his estate and lived to a ripe old age. He used herbs and Indian remedies in his practice of medicine in which he was quite successful. The names of his children will be given in the genealogical part of this history.

And now to preserve the continuity of events we will revert to the mother in whose heroism her descendants take pride yet; over her sad experience and suffering we drop the tear of filial compassion. She had unfalteringly followed her captors a long way into the wilderness, just how many miles as the crow flies we shall never know. After being out probably three days she laid down at night guarded by two savages who unconsciously fell asleep. She quietly slipped away from the camp taking a little sugar and rice and a few potatoes. During the remainder of the night she concealed herself in a swamp covered with water and rushes. She was soon missed. The alarm was given and search was commenced. She could see their torches and hear their voices and at one time they came close to where she lay in the water, concealed by the rushes. She realized that recapture meant death, probably by torture and fire. To escape such a fate she preferred to be devoured by bears and wolves. Her mental agony was intense but dire necessity nerved her to heroic efforts. Next morning when the Indians had abandoned their search and had started on their journey, she came out of her hiding place and started back home. Her scanty food was soon gone and for four days and nights she endured cold and hunger. Finally, with her clothes in tatters and limbs lacerated by rocks and thorns, with hair matted and dishevelled she reached the settlement and her home in a dazed or half demented condition. She passed through a long illness and never regained cheerfulness. The loss of her children and the uncertainty of their fate preyed upon her mind as long as she lived. She was a second time left a widow, in the meantime her sons grew to manhood and became heads of families. She lived on through the Revolutionary War and in 1785 removed with her sons John and Charles and their families to Kentucky, her home being with her son John who ever treated her with great con-



sideration and kindness.

This noble woman is the ancestor of all Hungates now in America. Her daughters were respectively about 8 and 10 years old when carried away into captivity. It is most probable that they both died a few years after their captivity. The proof of this as we shall proceed to show amounts to almost a certainty. Had they been living when Colonel Boquett concluded peace with the Indians on November 9, 1764 they would have been delivered up with the other prisoners.

The history of that event discloses the fact that Colonel Boquett commanding at Fort Pitt having signally defeated the Indians at Bushy Run in western Pennsylvania August 2, 1764 marched to the Musingum in Ohio. He thus intimidated the united tribes and on November 9th concluded a treaty of peace with the Shawnees and Delawares. He received from them 206 white captives. Ninety of these were Virginians, 32 men and 58 women and children. Anxious mothers and fathers, wives and husbands were on hand to receive back their dear ones. Nancy and Elizabeth Hungate were not among the captives. Then the last ray of hope vanished and their mother despaired of ever seeing them again. Her only consolation was that they were in heaven with her little baby, beyond the reach of savage foes. The chief negotiator on behalf of the Indians of this celebrated treaty was a chief of the Shawnees, Captain John, a blood-thirsty savage over six feet high and celebrated for strength. It was he who fought a tomahawk duel with another great Indian chief named Cushon and of almost equal strength and courage. Cushon's skull was cloven in twain. At one time Captain John quarreled with his squaw and in savage rage seized their child and cut its body in twain with knife and tomahawk. Then throwing one half of his child to his squaw he told her to be off.

The next treaty made with the Indians was the famous treaty of Stanoix in Oc-

tober 1768 with the Six Nations whereby they conveyed the whole country south of the Ohio and Alleghenies to which they had any claim. But as the country was uninhabitable no adequate title passed and the principal claimants, the Shawnees and Delawares, refused to sign. Hence, Western Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kentucky were now claimed by the whites by right of purchase. But disputed by the Shawnees and Delawares and also by the Cherokees who claimed all the country west from a line drawn from a point six miles each of Big Island in Holston River to the mouth of the Great Kanawha. The Shawnees held the treaty in contempt and became more and more hostile as settlers were crossing the mountains in considerable numbers. To protect these settlers Governor Dunmore sent a small force under General McIntosh in 1773. The campaign was unsuccessful and McIntosh suffered severe loss in killed and wounded at the hands of the Shawnees. The Delawares and Mingoos still remained at peace although Locan and his party to avenge the murder of his family had taken thirteen scalps and had said, "I am now satisfied." Yet it was evident that a general war was inevitable. All the tribes of the northwest were congregating, including the Shawnees, Mingoos and Delawares. The white settlers were retiring into forts and stockades. The governor sent for General Lewis and decided to raise an army and appoint him to its command. At that time General Lewis was a member of the House of Burgesses for the County of Botetourt. He accepted the command and appointed his own officers. He proceeded to raise three regiments, one from Botetourt, one from Augusta and one from Culpepper. The Botetourt regiment was under Colonel Fleming. The Captains were Robert McClenachan, James Robinson, James Ward, John Stewart, Mathew Arbuckle, John Murry and John Lewis, son of the General. Colonel William Christian com-

manded three independent companies from Washington County, the Captains being Evan Shelby, William Russell and Hurbert. The Augusta regiment was under Colonel Dickenson, John Lewis, Benjamin Harrison, William Paul, Joseph Haynes and Samuel Wilson. The regiment from Culpepper was commanded by Colonel John Field. General Lewis arrived at Camp Union in September. There was no road or even pathway to the Ohio, a distance of 160 miles. Yet after a march of nineteen days the army arrived on the 1st of October, 1774. At the mouth of the Kanawha and when it reached Point Pleasant the soldiers were almost naked. Only the most robust and vigorous men could have accomplished the feat. Governor Dunmore was to have left Fort Pitt at the head of an army and come down the Ohio to cooperate with General Lewis who, not hearing from him, formed his camp at this point. In the meantime, Governor Dunmore informed General Lewis by courier that he, Dunmore, had changed the plan of campaign and would not attempt to join Lewis at Point Pleasant and ordered him to march directly to the Indian towns on the Scioto, stating that he would join him there. Lewis was now convinced that the governor deliberately intended that the whole confederated Indian force should fall upon him and annihilate his army. The Virginians had repeatedly resisted and denounced the governor's tyrannical measures designed to rob them of their constitutional rights. Dunmore knew the condition of Lewis; that the Indians were concentrating their forces with great alacrity; and that they greatly outnumbered the whites and felt sure of victory. The celebrated Shawnee chief Cornstalk was king of this, the most formidable Indian confederacy which had ever taken place on the continent. Animated by a spirit of revenge and feeling sure of victory he aimed to strike a decisive blow and to rid his country forever of the hated palefaces.

Suddenly the whole woods swarmed with painted warriors. General Lewis quickly formed his troops in battle array to meet one of the most daring charges ever made by red men. In the terrific clash of the opposing forces every form of weapon, gun, pistol, knife, tomahawk and battle ax were brought into play in a deadly hand to hand contest. Colonel Charles Lewis and Colonel William Fleming, both from Botetourt County, fell. The clash of arms now became terrific. The grim savages, frantic with rage, faced the roar of muskets as the red men had never done before. Their headlong rush was stopped by a gallery fire and then a hand to hand struggle.

At this critical period Lewis brought into action the entire reserve. Colonel Field with his long-knives advanced into the midst of the carnage which astounded and cooled the ardor of the savages. General Stewart now detached the companies of Captains Shelby, Mathews and Stuart to turn their flank. This maneuver was effectually executed and at 4 o'clock the Indians retreated across the Ohio.

General Washington expressed great admiration for the military genius of General Lewis and, at the out break of the Revolutionary War, considered him the foremost military man in America.

General Lewis, after arranging for the building of a stockade fort for the protection of his sick and wounded, next morning crossed the Ohio and pushed on for the Pickway Plains in pursuit of the enemy who fled before him. At the plains Lewis was met by a courier from Dunmore ordering him to halt. Lewis indignantly disregarded the order and pushed on. A second order was also disregarded and he arrived within three miles of Dunmore's detachment. Here the governor met him and peremptorily ordered him to halt. Dunmore returned to his camp and concluded a peace with the Indians called the treaty of Camp Charlotte. The Mingo Chief Logan refused to participate in the



treaty and made the celebrated speech recorded by Colonel Gibson.

We have now reached a time bordering on the Revolutionary War. The sons of William Hungate, the founder, are now grown men and take an active part in the stirring events of the time. William Hungate, son and heir of the founder, now about 30 years of age, accompanied General Lewis and Colonel Fleming in their expedition to the Ohio and hence was in the Battle of Point Pleasant. He and Colonel Fleming were life long friends. Fleming relied much on his ability as a scout, guide, and Indian fighter. The circumstance which peculiarly fitted him for an Indian scout and guide is worthy of special notice. When he was a boy of 14 or 15 years of age he was captured by the Indians and carried across the Ohio. He remained in captivity only a few months when he escaped. He swam the Ohio River and made his way back through the wilderness to his home. His experience among the Indians, his knowledge of the mountain trails and passes, and his skill as a backwoodsman made him valuable as a scout and guide in the famous expedition of General Lewis to the Ohio.

The circumstance of his captivity in his youth and his escape are given in an article written for the Southern Era entitled, "Reminiscence of the Early Settlement of Floyd County, Virginia", written doubtless by an old settler who got his information from sources other than William Hungate or his family. The author (C.W.W.) is laudatory of his young hero, but he spells his name "Horngate" and locates his residence at the time of the capture in Floyd County instead of Botetourt (now Montgomery) and he lacks historical accuracy as to detail. William Hungate left no written account of his captivity. He doubtless never dreamed that the country he loved and served so well would, within a hundred years, expand until it extended from ocean to

ocean and that the wild and savage Indians would become objects of pity and like sheep become corraled on small reservations; that the descendants of himself and his two brothers would become numerous and widely dispersed as "The Empire Westward Takes Her Course"; that his every act of heroism in the contest for liberty and humanity would be treasured in the memory of his descendants to the latest generation. About the time that General Lewis and the patriots of Virginia were engaged in a struggle for existence against savage foes, the British ministry was scheming to rob them of their chartered rights and constitutional liberty. This, in connection with the supposed treachery of Governor Dunmore against Lewis and his army in the Indian War, impelled the citizens of Augusta County to hold a public meeting at Staunton on the 22nd of February 1775 and to pass resolutions tantamount to a declaration of independence and to send delegates to represent them in a Colony Convention to be held at Richmond on the 20th of March 1775. Governor Dunmore realized that he was hated as the representative of tyranny and oppression and about a month before the assembly of the convention he secretly removed the gunpowder from the magazine at Williamsburg to a British man of war anchored off Yorktown. This act exasperated all Virginians and hastened preparations for self defense. These precautionary arrangements were made at the Colonial Convention in 1775. The convention passed an ordinance on July 17, 1775 for raising two regiments of regulars and for organizing the militia. The first regiment was to consist of 544 rank and file with a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, eight captains, sixteen lieutenants and eight ensigns. The second regiment was to consist of 476 rank and file in seven companies. Patrick Henry to command the first regiment and Colonel Woodford the second. The company officers were ap-

pointed by the members of the convention from the district. Every soldier was to furnish himself with a good rifle, if to be had, if not, with a tomahawk. The officers ere to equip themselves.

In December 1775 the convention passed another ordinance to augment the two regiments by the addition of two companies to the first and three to the second. Also to raise six additional regiments of ten companies, each of sixty eight men to a company. The pay of a private was to be ls.4d. and of a captain or ensign 6s. per day. It thus appears that these military preparation were made over a year before the Declaration of Independence. The convention assumed the reign of government and appointed a committee of safety to carry into effect its ordinances. The committee of safety consisted of the following named persons: Edmond Pendleton, John Page, Thomas Leed Lee, P. Carrington, Dudley Diggs and Mercer.

This committee issued the first commissions to officers of the army and now the threatening aspect of affairs caused the governor to take measures for his personal safety. He fled to Gwynn's Island from which he was driven by General Andrew Lewis within less than a year. "If we do but watch the hour there never yet was human power that could evade, if unfor-given, the patient search and vigil long of him who treasures up a wrong."

General Lewis, Colonel Preston, Colonel Fleming and Ensign William Hungate were all, at that time, residents of Botetourt County, and comparatively near neighbors.

We shall presently see how intimately they were associated in the first military movement of the colony against the encroachments on their rights and liberty. They had stood together in the desperate struggle at the Point, when Dunmore's treachery left them seemingly at the mercy of an overwhelming force of savages.

It was natural, therefore, that the convention and the committee of safety should select them as the most capable to lift up the standard of revolt against the rapacity and tyranny of England and to preserve the chartered liberties of Englishmen. The army rolls of these first regiments have disappeared and cannot be found, neither at Richmond or Washington. The commissions, however, of most of the officers have been preserved by their descendants. Among them the commission of William Hungate which is now (1905) in the possession of George Hungate of Camp Creek, Floyd County, Virginia. William Hungate was his great grandfather. His commission is a document worthy of being preserved in the archives of the nation.

The following is an exact copy taken from the original by the writer. (John H. Hungate)

**"THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY  
FOR THE  
COLONY OF VIRGINIA**

**To William Hungate, Gent."**

"By virtue of the power and authority in General Convention Assembled, we, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your patriotism, fidelity, courage, and good conduct, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be Ensign of a Company of Militia of the County of **Botetourt**, and you are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the trust reposed in you, by disciplining all officers and soldiers under your command. And we do hereby require them to obey you as their Ensign.

"And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions as you shall



# CHAPTER FOUR

THE KENTUCKY BRANCH OF THE FAMILY  
from the  
Second Notebook of John H. Hungate  
Written about 1905

*A merry heart goes all the way, a sad one  
tires in a mile.*

— William Shakespeare

"We now come to the Kentucky branch of the family. We have seen that Charles and John Hungate, sons of the founder in Virginia, together with their mother and their sister Mary who had married Dr. William Huff, left their home in Botetourt County, Virginia, now Montgomery County, and after a tedious journey over the Wilderness route through Cumberland Gap in 1786, landed at Harrodsburg in Mercer County, Kentucky. At that time the population was much scattered and the people were huddled together in stockade forts called stations. There were probably three hundred such stations in the state. Two years later they purchased land and settled on the Chaplin River in Mercer County. Harrodsburg was the first settlement in the state and named after the founder, James Harrod, who together with about fifty persons settled there in 1774. The next year Boone built another fort in Lincoln County.

On account of trouble with the Indians Harrodsburg was abandoned, but reestablished the next year. Prior to these settlements Kentucky had been visited by traders and explorers who found only a few Indians located there. It was called "the dark and bloody ground" because the tribes beyond its borders north and south made it their hunting ground and frequently met to do war against each other.

The first white woman in Kentucky was Mrs. Mary Ingles who, in 1755, with her two little boys, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Draper, and others, were taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians from her home then called Draper's Meadows, but since known as Smithsfield near the present town of Blacksburg in what is now Montgomery County, Virginia. This county was cut off from Botetourt. She was taken down the Kanawha River to the salt region and from thence to an Indian village at the mouth of the Scioto River where Portsmouth, Ohio now stands. The story of her captivity and suffering may be found in the "Annals of Augusta

County, Virginia" on page 71. Suffice it is to say that she finally made her escape and after forty-two days of incessant travel across rivers and mountains and incredible suffering, got back to her home almost starved and naked. The old-time voyagers, even LaSalle himself never accomplished a more difficult and daring feat. We mention this event because at the time of her capture she was a neighbor of the Hungate family, both living under the shadow of Vass' Fort. Two years later, 1757, we have heretofore stated the two Hungate girls, Nancy and Elizabeth, together with their mother were also captured and carried off by the same tribe of Indians who before leaving the premises murdered the infant babe. After a few days and while on the retreat, the mother made her escape and returned home exhausted and almost demented, but the girls were never recovered. They evidently perished in captivity. It was in this locality and amid like scenes and tragedies that Charles and John Hungate were reared and grew to manhood. In their boyhood they took a prominent part in repelling the savages and when they became men they served in the local and colonial militia and throughout the entire Revolutionary War they took an active part. They served under their older brother William who was made an Ensign by the Committee of Safety as early as 1775. (See his commission.)

By far the most important element of Kentucky colonists came from the revolutionary soldiers who were disbanded at the close of the war. They were numbered by the thousand. Sixty years after that great struggle there were 900 of them still drawing pensions for services.

These ex-soldiers, and among them Charles and John Hungate, became typical Kentucky pioneers. They developed into a distinctive type of man, differing from any other class in the world, and in many characteristics differing from the pioneers of other states -



the period from the settlement of Harrodsburg to the admission of Kentucky into the Union, was an incessant battle with the Wilderness and savage Indians, in which thousands of brave men fell.

The conditions in Virginia and Kentucky were similar, hence these pioneers participated in the heroic achievements of both states. Their daring efforts terminated with old age and the heroic period only terminated with the admission of Kentucky into the Union. Charles and John Hungate seems to have inherited the characteristics of their Saxon forefathers. They preferred to risk the dangers of a wilderness full of savages and wild beasts in order to acquire a home and land which they could call their own. For this they came to do battle in the west. They regarded their own strong right arm as their best protection and they were alert to detect insidious foes. The pioneers were characterized by self reliance and a dauntlessness which is the mark and badge of heroes.

They could ill endure restraint and they submitted to no control except that of the written law. Their speech seemed rude and their demeanor was that of the born mountaineer.

The Kentucky pioneer was brave to recklessness and ready at the drop of the hat to resent any impeachment of his honor or manhood. He put a high estimate on personal honor and, to maintain it, would fight to the death. There was a great deal of homicide resulting from brutal force. This has been characteristic of the Saxon race ever since the days of Hingist and Horsa who were denominated "blond butchers" by the more gentile Briton, but it has given the English race control of the world. Among the lower classes, a personal encounter was as unlimited in its conditions as between savage dogs. Shooting at sight without previous notice was not infrequent.

Woe be it to the man who dared give the lie for the blow followed, quick as a flash

of lightning. These personal contests were always attended with danger to life and limb. Among the better classes personal contests took the form of the duel. Young bloods animated by a spirit of chivalry were quick to resent an insult or even adverse criticism. In the challenge and preliminaries they observed all the requirements of the "Code". If one fell after such due notice no jury could be found which would convict for murder. The men of all classes were naturally kind, courteous, generous and the most hospitable people in the world. They yielded to no bully yet they humbled themselves before the majesty of the law and at the call of the peace officer, would rush to his aid and put down mob violence.

The wife and children worshipped the husband and father as superior being and looked up to him as a sure protector. Under the aegis of his arms they felt safe. Perhaps nine-tenths of the early settlers were from Virginia and of English descent. Sir William Hungate, founder of the family of Saxton in the 15th Century, was not richer in pure Anglo-Saxon blood than were Charles and John Hungate, emigrants to Kentucky in the latter part of the 18th Century. Anglo-Saxon blood has flowed in the Hungate veins for over a thousand years. The Scotch-Irish element also played an important part in the development of both Virginia and Kentucky. They were not exceeded in patriotism and love of liberty by any class of men on the American continent.

Among the early settlers there were a few Germans and also a few from the eastern states. The Bardstown settlement was made by families from Maryland. Some came from New Jersey and a few from Pennsylvania, but the great majority were of pure English blood. They had differentiated from their yeoman forefathers only in manners and customs, modes of living and methods of thinking. Up to the time of the revolution they were loyal to the king and only asked the liberty and

privileges of Englishmen. They became democratic by force of circumstances and the inherent love of liberty.

The pioneers of Kentucky were too much occupied in subduing the wilderness and repelling the frequent raids of savages to give much attention to education. Their environment to some extent dulled the good old Saxon sense of its value, but household teaching was common. They revered the Bible and as a class were moral and honest. The Baptists were the religious pioneers of Kentucky. The Reverend John Hickman of that denomination began the work as early as 1776. Three years later the first Presbyterian began his work and a few years later a few Methodist classes were organized. In 1787 the Catholics founded a church at Bardstown, Nelson County.

When the people threw off the monarchy they seem also to have abandoned the Episcopal or English Church. At least nine-tenths of the people became dissenters or independents and all rejoiced in the severance of church and state and in the enjoyment of complete religious and

civil liberty. In the settlement of Kentucky the Ohio River was the favorite route from Virginia, but if the voyagers were few in number, they were almost sure to be attacked by the Indians who waylaid them from the shore and also in their canoes. Many horrible butcheries occurred. At length in 1791, General St. Clair with a force of about 1,000 regulars and some volunteers was sent against the Indians on the Miami. On November 4th, he met the foe in superior numbers who were thoroughly armed and after a desperate fight he was defeated. His retreat became a rout. No order was maintained and each soldier sought to save himself by flight. From all sides came withering fire from the savages. The whites lost 890 men. Sixteen officers were killed or wounded. The brave General Butler was slain. This defeat was avenged by General Wayne who, with some companies of regulars and 1,600 volunteers on August 20, 1784, won a great victory over the Indians at Falling Timbers on the Miami. This battle practically made an end of Indian troubles in Ken-

## Kentucky's First Settlement.





tucky. Occasionally, however, small bands would stealthily enter the state to steal and plunder.

When Charles and John Hungate settled in Kentucky there was no commerce and the Spaniards held the country of the Mississippi from the parallel of thirty-one degrees to the Gulf of Mexico. They completely controlled the navigation. They claimed the right to deny access to New Orleans and the Gulf or compel tribute, but in the year 1795 the federal government effected a treaty with Spain by which the right of navigation was accorded to American settlements on the waters of the Mississippi. Up to the very time of this treaty the Spanish governor at New Orleans sought, by offering concessions, to induce Kentucky to secede from the Union and establish an independent government. Some of the most prominent citizens were compromised in this scheme with General Wilkinson at their head. Sebastian, then one of the judges of the Court of Appeals of Ken-

tucky, drew a pension of \$2,000 per annum from Spain for his influence in forwarding that scheme. A committee of the Legislature found him guilty and he resigned in disgrace. Wilkinson was tried by court martial, but acquitted. For some years many citizens were inimical to the federal government, and we now revert to that time as one of the darkest periods in the annals of the commonwealth, but we cannot doubt that the heart of the masses was loyal to the core. Subsequent events prove it.

We have aimed to give as much of the history of Kentucky as will enable one to apprehend the environment of Charles and John Hungate in their Kentucky home. They evidently supported themselves and families by agriculture, there was scarcely any commerce and no manufacturing. The locality where they settled was rocky hilly land but a great portion of the land was tillable and very fertile. The climate was mild and similar to that of Virginia whence they came, but



FIRST SCHOOL IN KENTUCKY



FIRST CEMETERY AT HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY

there were no deep snows like those of the Alleghenies, yet the streams ran continuously with crystal waters fed by numerous springs. Their children and grandchildren bathed in Chaplin River and gathered pebbles along its shore. They first located not far from the river where Tatam Springs now stands which has become a pleasure resort on account of the medicinal quality of the waters. (1895) Though embellished by man, its pioneer beauty remains. The mockingbird and the thrush still send forth varied notes of melody in springtime blending with voices they imitate and with the murmuring stream as it ripples over its rocky bed in choral harmony. It is a beautiful river and the adjacent hills are studded with giant trees, the sycamore, the elm, the chestnut, the poplar, the walnut, the hickory and the oak. One feels for the moment that he is in the "Happy Hunting Grounds" where the translated soul of the Indian flits through the glades, leaping across streams and scaling the distant hills in pursuit of immortal game. In former times the hunter could take a stroll before breakfast and with his long rifle bring down a deer and thus secure enough meat to last a fortnight. The rifle not only repelled the savage and kept him at bay before the log cabin or stockade, but was also a sure means of support for the family. The Hungates and, in fact, nine-tenths of the settlers were born mountaineers to whom dangers and adventures added spice to life. Their sports were of an athletic character. They indulged in games as running, jumping, wrestling, pitching quoits, horse racing, and shooting at mark or for the turkey. They met at stated times for the muster and as the company frequently changed its officers nearly all of them at one time or another became general, colonel or captain. Those who loved military title were lavish in bestowing it on their friends and neighbors and the custom continues to the present time. It is, therefore, hardly a

subject for admission by those who have been less distinguished. In fact, it is a badge of chivalry that recalls the days of danger and adventures of pioneer life. All Honor to the Kentucky Colonels!

Hogs fattened in the masts of the forest and a few sheep grazed over the hills affording wool sufficient for domestic purposes and for clothing. Our dear old grandmothers wove it into jeans and linsy woolsey. Flax was raised and the fiber was spun and woven into cloth used for tableclothes, towels, napkins and clothing. Many children wore toro shirts up to the age of eight and ten years, but their parents were as proud of them as though they were princes clothed in purple, knowing that they were destined to become America's true sovereigns. We, their descendants, now point with pride to their achievements. They and their descendants have conquered and redeemed a continent from savage foes and have built up a power that over-shadows the monarchies of Europe. Lords and princes of the Old World seek alliances with our cultured and beautiful American girls whose grandmothers lived in a log cabin. Love ever leaps oceans and continents, and princes and like other mortals, some good and some bad. Character is the test of true worth and honor. We are glad to absorb into our social system and body politic and make into thorough going Americans the scions of Royal Houses such as Bonaparte, who filled the office of Attorney General in the cabinet of President Roosevelt. Our Washingtons, Adams, Jeffersons and Jacksons have boosted American civilization and character above priest-craft and king-craft which formerly fettered and enslaved, to a certain extent, Continental Europe. The great Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin situated not many miles from where the Hungates first settled.

We find from the records at Harrodsburg copies of two deeds conveying lands respectively to Charles and John Hungate.



One was a deed from John Curry of the County of Lincoln and Parish of Kentucky to Charles Hungate of the same Parish and County of Mercer. Conveying for the consideration of sixty pounds the following described lands situated in the Parish of Kentucky and County of Mercer on the waters of Chaplin Fork at the mouth of Thompson Run, containing by estimation two hundred acres more or less. It being the one half of a survey of four hundred acres, granted to the said Curry by patent bearing date December 1, 1782, said deed dated the 19th of June 1788. It was approved at a court held for Mercer County at Harrodsburg, September 23, 1788 and attested by Thomas Allen, Clerk.

The other is a deed bearing date September 5, 1788 from James Renfro of the County of Fayette, Parish of Kentucky to John Hungate of Mercer County and Parish aforesaid, for the consideration of Forty Pounds, conveying a tract of land by metes and bounds lying on Chaplin Fork of Salt River adjoining the lands of Christopher Lillard. This deed is duly witnessed by Edward Willis, Joseph Hale, John Hale and Robert Caldwell.

Approved at a court held for Mercer County, September 23, 1788. Attested by Thomas Allen, Clerk. Thomas Allen was clerk of the first court held in Mercer County. He was a very influential man and the office seems to have descended from father to son to grandson. The writer, John H. Hungate, visited Harrodsburg in 1895 and there met Colonel Ben Allen who was then clerk of the county court and had held office since 1866. He was then eighty-seven years old. Up to that time the office had been in the family ever since the organization of the court in 1786, except from 1862 to 1866, during which time a Republican served.

We are indebted to the Colonel for much valuable information and for the courtesy he extended to us while examining the records of his office. At that time (1895) Mr. Bushrod W. Allen was Circuit Clerk

and had been employed or served as county or circuit clerk since the year 1866. Phil T. Allen was another prominent member of this family who removed to Texas and became chief of the Department of Agriculture.

#### Notes from the Marriage Register of Mercer County, Kentucky

The first couple married was  
John Berry to Ann Mitchell  
By D. Rice-August 1, 1786  
Major Farris to Nancy Hungate  
By John Rice-September 10, 1793  
John Hungate to Polly Coffman  
By John Rice-November 12, 1794  
William Hungate to Sally Coffman  
By Rev. William Hays-July 8, 1800  
Samuel Kelsoe to Sally Hungate  
By Thomas Freeman-October 4, 1801  
John Haines to Rhoda Huff  
By -December 28, 1801  
John Hale to Elizabeth Hungate  
By Rev. Bennett Noel-August 30, 1801  
Vincent Morgan to Harriet Hungate  
By Rev. James Long-April 5, 1804  
Samuel Huff to Polly Hungate  
By Rev. William Bottom-June 29, 1806  
Joseph Hungate to Sally Hale  
By Rev. William Bottom-March 26, 1807  
Charles Hungate to Peggy Bottom  
By Rev. William Bottom-June 17, 1807  
John Carey to Polly Hungate  
By Rev. James Long-April 5, 1804  
Levi Lockhardt to Elizabeth Hungate  
By Rev. Jesse Head-August 10, 1815  
Jehu Hungate to Annie DePaw  
By Rev. William Bottom-February 1, 1816  
Charles Hungate to Catherine Odel  
By Rev. John Rice-August 6, 1816  
William Hungate to Nancy White  
By -March 26, 1819  
John Hale to Catherine Dorothy  
By Rev. James Durham-May 18, 1826  
Henry Banta to Eliza Hungate  
By Labin Jones-July 31, 1828  
Elias Hungate to Isabel Taylor  
By Rev. B. F. Keeling-May 20, 1853

The abovenamed Charles Hungate who married Catherine Odel was the emigrant from Virginia whose first wife was Mollie E. William Hungate who married Nancy White was his grandson, being the son of Colonel John Hungate who served in the War of 1812.

Charles Hungate )  
William McDaniels ) Appraisers  
James Haines )

April 23, 1803

The records of Administration of Mercer County, Kentucky show that in November 1811 John Hungate, the emigrant from Virginia, died and that his wife Elizabeth administered on the estate. As administratrix, she gave a bond in the penal sum of \$3,000 dated November A.D. 1811, with the following named sureties to wit: John Hungate, Vincent Morgan, Jesse Dunn, Lewis Powell, James Cooney and Charles Hungate, a brother of the deceased. All the signatures to this bond show good penmanship. The administratrix, however, signs by mark.

An inventory in the ordinary form is filed with the papers of the estate. The deceased at the time of his death lived at Ferrisburg and was engaged in the manufacture of hats. The names of his children will be given later on.

The aforesaid records also show that William Huff, who intermarried with Mary Hungate in Virginia, a sister to Charles and John Hungate, died in March 1803 and his son William administered the estate. He executed a bond in the penal sum of 500 pounds and his mother, together with John Kirkland and Noah Hayden became his sureties.

An accompanying inventory is recorded in the Record of Wills Volume 2 with an appraisment Bill as follows to wit:

33 head of hogs	f 5-0-0
17 head of sheep	f 4-11-6
14 head of neat cattle	f 17-2-0
Farming utensils	f 2-16-0
1 Loom	f 4-6-0
1 Man's saddle	f 1-0-0
Household furniture	f 1-4-13



# CHAPTER FIVE

## THE HUNGATE FAMILY IN AMERICA

*The heritage of the past is the seed that  
brings forth the harvest of the future.*

—Anonymous

## THE HUNGATE FAMILY IN AMERICA

We propose now to give a connected and complete genealogy of the American branch of the Hungate family beginning with Charles Hungate. We shall pursue the same method adopted by Howe Peyton Cochran, Esq. of Charlottesville in his genealogy of the Lewis family which may be found on page 286 of "The History of Augusta County" by Peyton.

### Explanation

Charles Hungate of Virginia the founder of the family in America is marked A, his children AA, AB, AC, etc. Two letters show that the person before whose name they are placed, is a child of said Charles Hungate. Three letters so placed indicate a grandchild; four letters a great-grandchild; five letters a great-great-grandchild, etc. The letters therefore, placed before his or her name shows his or her descent. For example ABCEF will be the sixth child of the fifth child of the third child of the second child of said Charles Hungate propositus. For example:

A	Charles Hungate
AB	William Hungate
ABC	John Hungate
ABCE	John Hungate
ABCEF	James DePaw Hungate

Take another example.

A	Charles Hungate
AB	William Hungate
ABB	Charles Hungate
ABBC	John Hungate
ABBCE	Adonijah Hungate

To find a relationship between two persons, e.g., ABCEF and ABBCE, we see that ABC and ABB have the same father and are, therefore, brothers; ABCE and ABBC have the same grandfather and are, therefore, cousins; ABCEF and ABBCE have the same great grandfather and are, therefore, second cousins, etc.

We believe that this is the most succinct and simple form in which a family genealogy can be written and may be made to comprehend all that is necessary to be made known. The name of each person will occur twice, first as son and second as parent and under the latter designation a full biography can be written provided it is important.

Inasmuch as we have already given the details of all we know of the founder and his children we shall omit further reference to them except to say in brackets (see former reference). We think that when this genealogy is finished it will be one of the most complete histories of any family in this country and yet will lack many details and dates which it has been impossible to obtain. When the issue of any member of the family is unknown, a blank is left for its insertion; also as to dates of births, marriages and deaths. The residence and post office of living members of the family is given when known. We find it impractical to give the descent of the female line beyond the second generation. However, certain descendants of that line of the third and fourth generations may be mentioned.

(A)

**CHARLES HUNGATE**  
(propositus) born in England, married Ann. First appears in Virginia history in 1747 when he received patents on land in what is now Montgomery County. He died in 1749. He left at his death in Virginia the following issue - namely:

AA

1. Charles, b. in Virginia, date unknown.

(AB)

2. William, b. in Virginia, date unknown.

AA

Charles Hungate never married and made his home with his brother William until the latter died.



AB

William Hungate married Nancy and left at his death in Virginia the following issue:

ABA

William Hungate, b. about 1744 in Virginia.

ABB

Charles, b. about 1745 in Virginia.

ABC

John, b. about 1747 in Virginia.

ABD

Mary, B. about 1750 in Virginia.

ABE

Nancy, b. about 1751 in Virginia.

ABF

Elizabeth, b. about 1752 in Virginia.

ABA

William Hungate, born about 1744 in Augusta County, Virginia. When a boy of fourteen or fifteen years old he was captured by the Indians and taken to Ohio. He escaped, swam the Ohio River and returned to his home in what is now Montgomery County, Virginia. In 1775, he was commissioned as Ensign by the Commission of Safety (see his Commission in former references). He raised a company to serve on the frontier and served during the Revolutionary War. The following letter was written by William Hungate, Ensign, while encamped on Sinking Creek, Virginia and came into the hands of Vincent Morgan as administrator of the estate of Charles Hungate and has been preserved by his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Kirkland of Washington County, Kentucky.

"Camp Withers  
September 5, 1778

"Murry got in last night with your letter to Charles and me. I know you and mother want Charles or John at home but you must get along the best you can for about a month yet. A furlow for either of them must not be thot of Col. Preston when he started on the Cherokee Campaign ordered me to keep the men together until snow falls—Imust not grant favors—I must adhere to my rule and give no furlows except by consent of all the men. My company was never full and we now have only 24 men. I know you will be kind and indulgent to mother. Poor mother she has never been right since little Bess and Nan were carried away by the Indians about twenty years ago. Indulge her moods and

make her feel that we will keep her safe. We shall all of us be at home probably within a month. Charles will enclose this with his and I will send Murry back in a few days—poor fellow, he has caught cold and I have given him an extra blanket.

"I beg to subscribe myself,  
Your devoted Bro.,  
Wm. Hungate, Ensign"

To Mrs. Mollie Hungate

William Hungate, Ensign, was the brother of Charles Hungate. He was appointed by the Committee of Safety for the Colony of Virginia to be Ensign of a Company of Militia of the County of Botetourt. Given at Williamsburg 22 October 1775.

William Hungate raised a company by virtue of his commission in which Charles Hungate served as a private. Said company was engaged in defending the border settlements from Indians and it continued in the service until Virginia was organized as a state and for over two years after the Declaration of Independence. On June 4, 1778 William Hungate received the following order:

"Sir: You are to march the men to one Withers on Sinking Creek and to continue on duty one month unless relieved sooner—you are to keep out two spies pretty constantly and if they discover any signs of Indians to acquaint Col. Preston or Col. Fleming of it as soon as possible by express. It will be necessary to rang the woods now and then with your party.

"I am Sir  
Your Humble Serv't.  
Hugh Crockett."

From the D.A.R. papers of L.G. Hungate of Walla Walla, Washington.

William Hungate died in 1822 in Floyd County, Virginia leaving issue only one son as heir, namely:

ABAA William Hungate.

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- ABB Charles Hungate born about 1745, probably before his father settled in Augusta County, Virginia, afterwards Botetourt County, and later still Montgomery County cut off from Botetourt in the year 1776 and constituting a part of it known as Fincastle. After serving in the Militia of Virginia during the Revolutionary War, part of the time in the Company commanded by his brother, William, her removed to Kentucky in 1786 to Harrodsburg about the time of the count was held in Mercer County at that place. Two years later he purchased land and settled near the Chaplin River in the present county of Washington about 15 miles from where Abraham Lincoln was born. He died in Washington County, Kentucky in 1828. His estate was administered by his son-in-law, Vincent Morgan. He was about 83 years old when he died and he is said to have retained a clear and vigorous mind to within a year of his death. Financially he was always in comfortable circumstances, but never wealthy. (see former reference.) He was married twice. First to Mollie Hale in Virginia in 1770; second, to Catherine Odel in Kentucky in 1816. Marriage record on file in the office of the clerk of the Mercer County Court in Marriage Bond Book 1, page 206, stating that on August 6, 1816, Charles Hungate and Catherine Odel were joined in Holy Matrimony by the Reverend John Rice. By his first wife he had nine children; by his second, three namely:
- ABBA Polly Hungate - born in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Samuel Huff, 29 June 1806.
- ABBB Rhoda Hungate - born in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. William Kirkland, 18 August 1809.
- ABBC John Hungate - Colonel in War of 1812, b. 1774 in Virginia, d. near Tatam Springs, Kentucky, m. Polly Coffman 12 November 1794.
- ABBD Charles Hungate - b. 1778 in Augusta County, Virginia, d. near Tatam Springs, Kentucky, m. Katie Korn in 1799.
- ABBE Nancy Hungate - b. in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Washington County, Kentucky, m. Major Farris.
- ABBF Elizabeth Hungate - born in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Missouri, m. first John Hale 30 August 1801, second Long.
- ABBG Hannah Hungate - b. in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Nodaway County, Missouri, m. Vincent Morgan 5 April 1804.
- ABBH Sally Hungate - b. in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Illinois, m. Samuel Kelso 4 October 1801.
- ABBI William Hungate - b. in Augusta County, Virginia, d. in Hamilton County, Illinois in 1782, m. Sally Coffman 8 July 1800.
- ABBJ Larkin Armstead Hungate - b. in Washington County, Kentucky, d. in Posey County, Indiana in 1868, m. Ann Axton.
- ABBK Charles O. Hungate - born 1820 in Washington County, Kentucky, d. in Posey County, Indiana, m. first Martha Cox, second Charlotte Axton.
- ABBL Lucy Hungate - born 1822 in Washington County, Kentucky,



d. in Posey County, Indiana, m.  
William Axton.

You will perceive that one  
child by each wife was named

after himself, Charles. We know  
not how this happened,  
probably one originally was the  
middle name.

●●●●●●

ESTATE OF CHARLES HUNGATE

		Credit by sundry vouchers	
		By cash paid	No.
1 Agreeable to an order of the		W. B. Booker as per receipt	1 10.00
Washington County Court to		John C. Anders per a/c	2 3.00
us directed we have made the		John S. Watts as per receipt	3 1.00
Settlement with the administrator		James Faris as per receipt	4 3.00
of Charles Hungate deceased we		Charles Stewart as per ditto	5 2.00
being first sworn as the law directs		Cornelius Shewmaker as per ditto	6 2.00
Vincent Morgan administrator )		Cornelius Shewmaker for making coffin	7 10.00
of Charles Hungate to said ) Dr		John Hughes per fee bill	8 1.70 1/2
Estate )		Ditto as per fee bill	9 3.43
To the amount of sales	410.51	John Reed as per fee bill	10 3.40
To Cash on hand	18.00	J. W. Bainbridge as per receipt	11 2.09
To the amount of notes	<u>45.90</u>	John Hughes per fee bill	12 .58
	474.41	John Hughes per fee bill	13 2.89
leaving in the hands of the said )		Edward L. Head as per receipt	14 8.00
administrator not accounted for )		John Hughes per fee bill	15 2.30
by vouchers )	396.51 1/2.	John Hughes as per fee bill	16 2.75
To an allowance made by the )		John Hughes as per fee bill	17 2.15
commissioner for his expenses )	20.00	For copy of will	18 5.00
and trouble in settling of said )		Major as per a/c	19 <u>17.50</u>
Estate leaving balance due )	<u>376.51</u> 1/2	leaving in the hands of the ad-	)
Widows dower	<u>125.50</u> 1/2	ministrator not accounted for	) \$77.90 1/2
leaving a balance of	271.01 1/2	by vouchers )	)
To cash paid commisioners for )		William Willis )	)
their services to make this )		)	)
Settlement )	<u>2.00</u>	Arthur E. Gibbins )	)
	269.01 1/2		) Commrs.
By cash paid Major Faris found )			
after this Settlement was made )			
No. 20. )	<u>8.20</u>		
	\$260.79 1/2		

Washington County sct

The within named Willis and Arthur E. Gibbins has this day been duly sworn on this order given under my hand this 28th of August 1826

Ign's S Johnston J P W C

At a county Court began and held for Washington County at the Courthouse in Springfield on Monday the 27th day of November 1826 this Settlement of the accounts of the administration of the Estate of Charles Hungate deceased was exhibited in court and ordered to be recorded which is done accordingly

Att John Hughes Jr. C. W. C. C.

State of Kentucky, ( )  
Washington County, ( )

I, John M. Smothers, County Court Clerk in and for the County and State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the settlement of the Estate of Charles Hungate, deceased, as it appears of record in my office in Will Book D, Page 209.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this the 11th day of February, 1952.

/s/ John M. Smothers, Clerk  
Washington County, Kentucky, Court.

ABC

John Hungate born in Augusta County, Virginia, in that part afterwards created into Botetourt County, in 1776 and still later cut off from Botetourt and created into the present County of Montgomery. He was a grandson of the founder and brother to the last named Charles; both raised from childhood in the border settlement of Southwest Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge, at a time when there were no organized schools. Yet they seemed to have been fairly well educated. John Hungate married Elizabeth Hale, a sister to Charles' wife in Virginia, who survived him and administered his estate. In 1798 he sold his lands on the Chaplin Fork of Salt River and removed to Harrodsburg where he engaged in the manufacturing of hats. He cared for his aged mother with great kindness and consideration. She is the ancestor of all Hungates now in America. In her old age she imagined that the spirits of her two girls who had been captured and carried off by the Indians came back to her every night. She insisted on leaving a bowl of bread and milk in the kitchen for their nourishment. This was a great solace and comfort to her. Her sad history compels tears of sympathy. No greater filial devotion was ever awarded to a mother than that shown by her noble-hearted son John. The Hungates of America will rise up to call him blessed until the last generation. His descendants, like those of his brothers and sisters, are numerous and now scattered over the United States. During the Revolutionary

War he served in the Virginia Militia under his brother William (see former reference). He died in Harrodsburg, Kentucky in 1811. Elizabeth was buried in Livonia, Indiana. On her tombstone reads "In Memory of Elizabeth, Consort of John Hungate, Died August 19th, 1839 in the 78th Year of Her Age."

His issue:

- ABCA Rhoda Hungate - b. 7 April 1775 in Augusta County, Virginia, m. Samuel Hayden 5 May 1804.
- ABCB Job Hungate - b. 1780 in Augusta County, Virginia, m. first Hulda Lears 5 June 1806, second Elizabeth Shephard.
- ABCC Charles Hungate - b. 1781 in Augusta County, Virginia, m. Margaret Bottom 17 June 1807.



TOMB OF MARGARET BOTTOM  
Wife of Charles Hungate  
Mercer County, Kentucky

- ABCD Polly Ann Hungate - b. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. John Carey 19 August 1809.
- ABCE Jehu Hungate - b. 31 March 1791 in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. first Anna DePaw 1 February 1816, second Fannie Coffin, d. 21 November 1855.



- ABCF Nancy Hungate - b. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Nimrod Cornwell 1811.
- ABCG Joseph Hungate - b. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Sally Hale 25 January 1807.
- ABCH Elizabeth Hungate - b. 1792 in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Levi Lockhart 10 August 1805.
- ABCI John Hungate - b. 27 September 1796 in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Edith Pruitt.
- ABCJ Cynthia Hungate - b. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Elias Hale in 1823.
- ABCK Jesse Hungate - b. in Mercer County, Kentucky, m. Mary Deborah Hale in 1825.

ABD

Mary Hungate, granddaughter of the founder, was born in what is now Madison County, Virginia about 1750. She was married to William Huff in Virginia and in 1786 removed to Mercer County, Kentucky. Her husband was many years her senior and died in Harrodsburg, Kentucky in 1804. In his youth, William Huff had been captured by the Indians and adopted by a squaw who was very kind to him and whom he called mother. Mary Hungate was about six years old when her two sisters were captured by the Indians and carried away. She only escaped the same fate by being out at play in the orchard with her small brothers, Charles and John (see former reference). While among the Indians William Huff had learned their language and also their mode of collecting herbs and raising them as medicine. He practiced as a physician after he settled in Kentucky. An inventory of his personal effects mentions a spinning wheel and a

loom. We have not been able to find the exact date when Mary Hungate Huff died, but in 1826 she joined Charles, her brother, in a deed to William Hungate to lands in Virginia. Her Issue is as follows:

- ABDA William Huff  
 ABDB Samuel Huff  
 ABDC Charles Huff  
 ABDD Richard Huff  
 ABDE Molly Huff  
ABDF Nancy Huff  
 ABDG Rhoda Huff  
 ABDH Sally Huff  
 ABDI Betsy Huff - died sine prole.

ABE Nancy Hungate, granddaughter of the founder, was carried off by the Indians as has been heretofore fully detailed. She probably died in captivity and left no issue (see former reference.).

ABF Elizabeth Hungate, granddaughter of the founder, was carried off by Indians at the same time with her sister. They were never recovered and doubtless died in consequence of exposure in captivity, leaving no issue (see former reference).

ABAA William Hungate - born December 5, 1777 in that part of Botetourt County, Virginia afterwards created into Montgomery County. He died in 1832 in Montgomery County. His father, William, after the death of Charles, his uncle, a bachelor who patented the land, inherited the same under the then law of progenituas, about 1793. Shortly after this he sold the old homestead and settled in that part of Montgomery afterwards created into Floyd County on the