

HOPEWELL FRIENDS HISTORY

1734 - 1934

Frederick County, Virginia

RECORDS OF HOPEWELL MONTHLY MEETINGS
AND
MEETINGS REPORTING TO HOPEWELL

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF
HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

Compiled from Official Records and Published by a
JOINT COMMITTEE OF HOPEWELL FRIENDS

Assisted by

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Solomon Matthews, very prominent in business affairs, appears to have been the founder of Mt. Ery Furnace, which was located on Linville Creek.

Friends early established grist mills on streams running through their plantations, for their individual use, and only a few years after their arrival were operating commercial flour mills. It is known that Isaac Parkins had a flour mill on his property as early as 1736—probably in connection with a sawmill—as an order is entered in the minutes of the Frederick County Court, December term 1743, being the second meeting of this court, directing that he be paid tobacco to the value of \$62.00 for "1000 feet of sawn plank" furnished by him and used in the erection of the first court house and county jail. The Parkins family owned and operated one or more flour mills on Abram's Creek from 1736 to 1874. In 1812 there were operating three mills one mile south of Winchester on Abram's Creek under the name of "The Union Mills, Nathaniel Parkins & Co. Owners." The shipping book of this firm for the period August 1812 to January 1819 is preserved. The receipts given by the wagoners during 1812 show that they hauled for the firm 169 barrels of flour to Ambrose Vass, merchant at Alexandria; 318 barrels to Hollingsworth & Sullivan, merchants at Baltimore; and 184 barrels to J. & H. Strider at Keptyrst Furnace near Harper's Ferry. The average price in 1812 was \$9.50 a barrel, delivered at the port. During 1815 the shipping book shows that 232 barrels of flour were hauled to Ambrose Vass and John Swayne, merchants at Alexandria; 445 barrels to Adams & Jonas and N. Parkins, merchants of Baltimore; 83 barrels to J. & H. Strider at Keptyrst Furnace; and 1412 barrels were sold to wagoners at the mill. In 1815 the average price was \$5.00 delivered at the port. Just prior to the Civil War, Alfred Parkins, great-grandson of Isaac Parkins Sr., operated eight flour mills in the counties of Frederick and Clarke.

John Litler owned and operated two grist mills, a fulling mill, and a sawmill before 1745, and was a founder of a tavern located at Brucetown, on the Braddock Road, which later became so widely known as "The Blue Ball."

* Of all the early Friends, perhaps the family most engaged in manufacturing was the Carter family, who removed from

Bucks County, Pa., to Frederick County, Va., before 1736 and settled on the Opequon at the point where it is now crossed by the Berryville-Winchester highway. They established their home on the east bank of the Opequon, and on the west side they erected a large "ordinary" or tavern. Nearby on Abram's Creek, near its mouth, they built a flour mill and distillery. This mill site is one of the oldest in the lower Valley, that has been in continuous operation. The present mill erected on the old foundation, and called the "Spout Spring Mill," was built in 1866 by the late Daniel T. Wood, a much esteemed elder of Center Meeting, Winchester. John, James, Joseph, Arthur W., and Watson Carter acquired other lands a few miles down the Opequon and on Red Bud Creek, and utilizing the remarkable fall of these streams, in the ensuing years, they built flour mills within a distance of two miles. These consisted of a paper mill, perhaps the first enterprise of its kind in the Valley; a "Flax Oyle mill," a sawmill, a flour mill, and a flax breaking mill. Another Friend, Lewis Neill, also had a mill on the Opequon near the same place. With him the Carters had a difference about the riparian rights. The following letter from Lord Fairfax to his nephew, Col. George William Fairfax, deals with this discussion:

"July 5, 1758."

"Dear George:

Mr. Neill has been with me and complains that Joseph Carter takes in all the water, which very much hurts his plantation. He desires if he [may] have thirty or forty acres which I really think is very reasonable. He likewise desires his brother's and his deed may be made separate.

"I should be likewise glad if some Golden Pipen, No. 100, Aromatick and Medlar Apple grafts by him, which will take care to convey to me. My service attends Mr. Fairfax and all friends. I remain

Yours,
Fairfax."

("Fairfax Letters," Pub. by Munsell, Albany, 1868.)

Joseph Wood, a native of Chester County, Pa., settled early in Berkeley County, Va. In 1783 he purchased land on Hogue Creek in Frederick County and there erected a flour mill. In 1787 he removed to one of the Parkins mills

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GUNS INSIDE

Friend Lewis Pidgeon omits to relate that a generation or two before the Civil War the Friends themselves carried their rifles to Hopewell Meeting and stacked them in a corner of the room during worship—or business meetings. This fact was recalled at the Quarterly Meeting in May, 1935, in a reminiscent conversation by a Friend of the community who had gotten the information from his father or his grandfather. But the rifles were carried not with any reference to Indians or other human beings, but for defense against the wolves which still infested the country, and which could often be heard howling and yelping on the ridges west of Hopewell while meetings there were in progress.

The same gentleman related that on one occasion a woman who came to meeting at Hopewell, on horseback, and carrying a baby in her arms, was chased by a pack of wolves as she was returning home; but she outran them and reached home in safety.

FREDERICK FAMILIES

Henry T. Louthan writing from Duane, King William County, Va., April 30, 1935, gives many facts of interest. He says: "My grandfather, John Louthan, who was born in Frederick County, Va., but lived the greater part of his life at Millwood and later at 'Milton Valley' in Clarke County, married Lydia Carter, a daughter of James Carter and wife Rachel Neill. I have my grandfather Louthan's family Bible. Rachel Neill, born May 8, 1772, was a Friend and member at Hopewell."

Mr. Louthan gives several family lines, as follows:

THE CARTER-LOUTHAN LINE

I. Joseph Carter, from England, landed on the bank of the Delaware River in 1687; was a Friend, and a member of Penn's colony. His wife was Catherine ——. He removed from Bucks County, Pa., to what is now Frederick County, Va., either in or prior to 1739, for his name appears in 1738 with 54 other signers in a petition for a court house to be established in Frederick County, as Orange County C. H. was too far away.

In 1743 Lord Fairfax granted to Joseph Carter 600 acres

on Opequon Creek, six miles from Winchester, on the road to Berryville.

Joseph Carter and his wife Catherine had the following children. 1. Catherine, 2. Sarah, 3. Joseph, 4. Mary, 5. Rachel, 6. James, born August 19, 1732 (evidently in Pennsylvania).

II. James Carter (born 1732; died October 27, 1799) married Ann ——, who was born August 5, 1734. He owned large tracts of land in Frederick County, two large flour mills, a flax oyle mill, and a sawmill. There is a record of his supporting the American Revolutionary cause by giving one horse by selling or giving 495 pounds of beef. See Frederick County Order Book 18, pages 14, 17, 35. These first generations of our Carters all seem to have been Friends.

The children of James Carter and his wife Ann were: 1. Catherine, 2. Mary, 3. Sarah, 4. Rachel, 5. Joseph, 6. John (born February 9, 1768; died October 10, 1831), 7. Arthur W. (born May 14, 1772; died January 12, 1846).

I have a portrait of Ann, wife of James Carter (1734-1798). It is painted in the costume of the Friends. On the back of the portrait are these inscriptions:

"Ann Carter Aged 86

August 5th, 1820."

"Ann Carter died on Jan'y 1824
aged 88 years 5 mos & days."

III. James Carter (1768-1831) married, Sept. 17, 1793, Rachel Neill (born May 8, 1772), daughter of John Neill and wife Ann Hollingsworth. Their children were: 1. John, born Sept. 19, 1791; 2. Ann, born July 19, 1793; 3. Thomas, born March 15, 1795; 4. Maria, born Nov. 10, 1797; 5. Jabez, born June 15, 1799; 6. Ruth, born Aug. 15, 1800; 7. Lydia, born Sept. 30, 1805; married John Louthan; 8. Phoebe, born Nov. 23, 1808; married George Louthan; 9. Rebecca, born Dec. 27, 1810; married William Anderson; 10. Joseph, born Sept. 10, 1813; married Lucinda Dunn of Indiana. He lived at Bloomington, Indiana.

III. Arthur W. Carter (1772-1846) was the father of William Arthur Carter (Feb. 18, 1799—Sept. 29, 1846) who built the brick residence, now called Carter Hall, two miles west of Stephens City, in 1832. Carter Hall

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bought by Berryhill McLean Carter, a son of William Arthur Carter, and he lived there until his death, August 28, 1912. Arthur W. Carter joined the Baptists and is said to have been the first of this family of Carters who was not a Friend.

IV. Lydia Carter (born 1805) married John Louthan of Millwood and "Milton Valley," Clarke County, Va., August 3, 1824. Their son

V. Carter McKim Louthan (born May 11, 1838) married Mary Ella Brown, Feb. 1, 1866, a daughter of Capt. Charles Brown and wife Ann Maria Kelly, of "Melrose," Rappahannock County, Va. Their son

VI. Henry Thompson Louthan (born Nov. 5, 1866) married Elizabeth Rowland Hurt, a daughter of James Thomas Hurt and wife Ann Eliza Ewing Thomas, of "Thornhill," Caroline County, Va., March 25, 1903. They have two children: 1. Mary Tyler Louthan, born May 9, 1904. 2. Carter Thomas Louthan, born July 23, 1906.

THE NEILL-LOUTHAN LINE

1. Lewis Neill, of Lurgan, Ireland, and Frederick County, Va., married Lydia Hollingsworth about 1737. See Jolliffe's book on the Jolliffe, Neill, and Janney Families of Virginia, pages 175-191, for a history of the Neills.

2. John Neill married Anne Hollingsworth, June 15, 1779.

3. Rachel Neill married James Carter, Sept. 17, 1799. They lived at Red Bud Mills, on the west side of Opequon Creek, in Frederick County, but not far from Spout Springs now in Clarke County.

4. Lydia Carter married John Louthan (born January 1, 1804), a native of Frederick County, Va., who after his marriage lived at Millwood, and from 1849 on at "Milton Valley," Clarke County.

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6. Henry Thompson Louthan (born 1866) married Elizabeth Rowland Hurt, March 25, 1903. They have two children, Mary Tyler and Carter Thomas, and are now living (since June 1, 1932) at "Retreat," near Duane, King William County, Va.

Lewis Neill and his two brothers John and William to

passage from Lurgan, Ireland, in 1730, and landed in Pennsylvania; and family tradition says that they settled near Lancaster. But John and Lewis were soon attracted to the Shenandoah Valley. They left Pennsylvania about the year 1733 in company with a number of Friends and took up their residence in Virginia, now Frederick County. There is no record known that William Neill ever left Pennsylvania.

Lewis Neill and his brother John, though members of the Society of Friends in Ireland, did not bring their certificates with them, and were not actually members of the society afterwards, though they always leaned towards that body in their religious beliefs. See Jolliffe, page 178.

Lewis Neill in later life must have attended Friends meetings quite regularly, but William Jolliffe says he can find no record of his ever having joined them in Virginia. He worked with his own hands as a mason upon the walls of Hopewell, as did also some Hollingsworths, and contributed to the erection of the stone meeting house [in 1759].

Lewis Neill fixed his home on the banks of the Opequon at a point now known as Burnt Factory. He built a grist mill and opened his residence as an ordinary. He acquired much land and was wealthy.

THE HOLLINGSWORTH-LOUTHAN LINE

Sections I, II, and III below are made up from "Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth Sr.," by J. Adger Stewart (Louisville, 1925) and "Immigration of Irish Quakers to Pennsylvania," by Albert Cook Myers (Swarthmore, 1902).

I. Valentine Hollingsworth Sr., first of this family in America, was born in Parish Seago, County Armagh, Ireland about 1632, son of Henry and Catherine Hollingsworth. He married, Apr. 7, 1655, Ann, daughter of Nicholas Ree, of the same county. She died Feb. 1, 1671, and he then married Ann, daughter of Thomas and Jane Calvert, of Parish Seago, County Armagh, Apr. 12, 1672. In 1682 he and his family, including his son-in-law Thomas Connaway and indentured servant John Musgrave, sailed from Belfast to the Delaware River, arriving a few months after William Penn's ship, the *Welcome*. He settled on a plantation of nearly 1000 acres, Brandy Wine Hundred, Del. Shortly after his arrival a meeting was established at his house, and in 1687 he granted