

Getting To Know The Hoges

This story is derived from a presentation which Mike and Betty Heazel presented at the AAFA Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina in October 2001. Those who attended the presentation know the Hoge Family is related to the Alford's as far back as the 18th century.

For a number of years Betty and I have been digging up ancestors, figuratively that is, but we have a different approach from that used by most genealogists. We both like history and geography and we apply these to genealogy. By putting people into history and geography they tend to come alive and you can begin to put yourself in their shoes. In addition, we like to find old ancestors and go back in history as far as possible.

Another thing that I discovered many years ago is that most of us have both a mother and a father and what we are today is as much the mother's fault as the father's. In genealogy it is important to follow both lines.

We will be doing all of these things in this story.

Let's start with the Alford's and go from there. The earliest known Alford in my line is old John who died about 1748 in Frederick County, VA. In his will John named his wife Mary, but Mary who? This illustrates one of the problems encountered in following a mother's line. In many wills there is something like "I bequeath to my loving wife Mary the following....." This doesn't help much in identifying the wife. John and Mary had a son Thomas who married Elizabeth Field and a grandson John who married Eleanor Hoge. Eleanor came from an interesting family so let's talk about the Hoges.

As is typical with any family name, over time there are many variations in the spelling of the family name. We have Hoge, Hage, Haige, Hogue, DeHaga, Hogg, and others. The first four variations of the name sound very much the same, even though they are spelled differently, and there are a number of other variations which are similar. What's going on here, can't these people spell their own names? The answer is NO! Several hundred years ago very few people could read or

write. This is evident from the many documents which are signed "His X Mark" where the "X" is the person's signature. When a person had a document written, the spelling of that person's name would depend on how he pronounced it, the scribe's interpretation, and how the scribe sounded it out. It is possible that a name could be spelled differently in the same document, if the scribe forgot how he spelled it the first time that he wrote it.

The name DeHaga, or De LaHaga, is a special case and will be addressed later.

Then there is the name Hogg. This does not seem like a good family name, or perhaps the scribe was playing games, but, actually it is a good example of how the meaning of a word can change over time.



Looking at the Hoge coat of arms, you would see three boar heads. A wild boar is a hog! This is a very ferocious animal and very appropriate for a family name.

Let's get back to the story. Any story should begin at the beginning so let's go back in history

to 911 AD. In this year an army of Danish Vikings under Count Rolf (or Rollo) the Walker (he was too big for a horse to carry him and had to walk) appeared at the mouth of the Seine River in what is now France, with the intent of attacking Paris and conquering France. The French King Charles III (called Charles the Simple, no explanation

needed!) had his army in southern France keeping the Spanish Moors from invading France, and he didn't have an army to defend Paris. He made an agreement with the Vikings that he would give them a large piece of territory if they would not attack Paris. This territory became known as Normandy named after the Normans or Northmen.

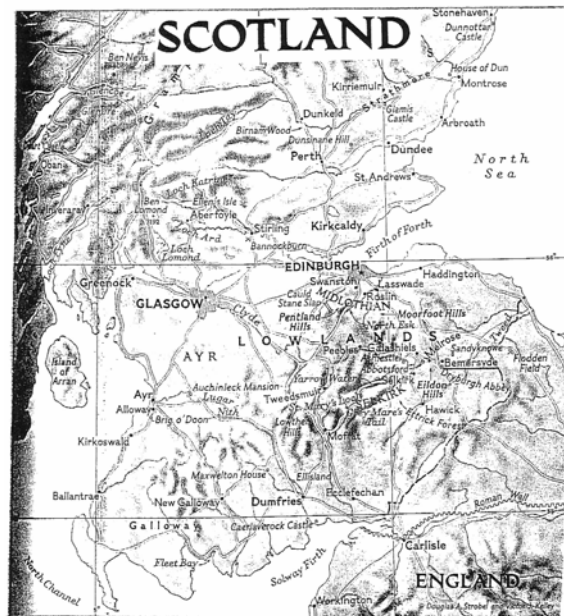
As most of us know, Normandy lies along the northwest border of France and is a prime piece of real estate. When the Vikings occupied the area it was already settled by the French, or Frankish, people and this could have created a civil war.

Any of the victims of the Vikings tell us that they were big brutal, vicious, men. They were probably right but this is only one side of the story. All of the people in that time of history were brutal and vicious, but while the Viking's victims keep written records, the Vikings stories and history was handed down verbally and eventually lost.

The Vikings did have a form of writing using figures called runes, but, while in Latin or Greek each letter represents a sound, and putting letters (or sounds) together allows for an almost unlimited number of words, each rune represented, more nearly, a word or expression which permits only a limited number of words. This difference in writing isn't surprising since the Romans did not get as far north as Scandinavia and the Scandinavian culture was developed entirely independent of the Roman culture. The Vikings believed in individual freedom, their artwork and shipbuilding was outstanding, and they were very adaptable in that they were very quick to adapt to anything that looked good to them. In Normandy there could have been a butting of heads of the two cultures, but instead, the Vikings integrated the two cultures, adopted a pseudo French language, written Latin, and, over the generations, became at least as culturally advanced as any of the western Europeans of the time.

In 1066 the king of England, Edward the Confessor, died without leaving an heir. One of the eligible persons for the throne, Harold Godwinson, was in England at the time, and he was quick to grab the crown and proclaimed himself King of England. The King of Normandy, William the Bastard (because he was one), or better known later as William the Conqueror, also had a claim to the throne and he actually claimed that Edward had verbally promised him the throne when he died. William quickly gathered a number of ships

and invaded England. William defeated the English army at Hastings and killed Harold. William then claimed the throne of England. Following this, for several centuries, England had two distinct classes, the ruling Normans with a relatively high culture and who spoke French, and the peasants (Saxons) with a lower culture and who spoke the Saxon language. The Normans considered the Saxons as dirt and their language was considered vile. (Note: Our English language comes from the Saxons.) To add insult to injury, for nearly 150 years the Norman English kings never lived in



England and some of them never set foot on English soil. It should be noted that William did not conquer Wales or Scotland and for centuries the English were subjected to raids from both of these peoples. There was no definite border between England and Scotland and essentially a "no man's land" existed called the "marches" of Scotland.

Now let's get back to the Hoges. The earliest member of the Hoge family that we know about was William Hogue who was living in the northern part of France, but we don't have an exact date. Due to religious persecution, William and his family emigrated from northern France to Normandy. Over the generations they became Normans and changed their name from Hogue to DeHaga, which is a much more Norman sounding name. In about 1150, part of the family, including Petrus DeHaga, emigrated to England where, as Normans, they would be part of the ruling class. As such, Petrus was given a large tract of land on the "marches" of Scotland in Berwickshire. Petrus named his estate Bermerside, and he became the first Baron of

Bermerside. Bermerside is a short distance southeast of Edinburgh. This land, on the "marches" of Scotland, was expected to act as a barrier to defend England from the raids of the wild Scots, so, while it was a working estate, it was primarily a military establishment. These Marcher barons were a rough lot. They were selected for their toughness and lack of scruples. When they couldn't find any Scottish raiders to fight, they fought among themselves. It wasn't a dull life!

A typical estate of this time consisted of a manor house for the baron, family, servants, and armed men, and a number of outlying villages for the peasants. The peasants farmed and raised animals for the baron but, at least one day a week, they had to work in the baron's fields and any other time that he desired. Even without the continual wars, life in one of these estates was dismal. The manor house was built of wood without any running water or sanitation facilities. The villages consisted of a few houses along a dirt road which turned to mud when it rained. Animals ran loose but they were cared for since they were very valuable. The water supply was a local stream whose water was used for drinking, cooking, washing, the animals, and for sewage disposal. Life expectancy was low! The houses generally consisted of a single room with a dirt floor, a small fireplace for cooking and heating, and several pieces of furniture including a wooden platform covered with straw which was the bed. The odor had to be outstanding!

The next time the Bermerside people show up is in 1297/8.

It should be noted that all through the Middle Ages the news media was not very active. There were no radios, television, or newspapers (no printing presses) although it didn't matter much since very few people could read. News was spread by word of mouth by traveling minstrels, poets, or bards. These people, in their travels, would see newsworthy events but they didn't write them down, because they couldn't write, so they put them in rhyme form which could be remembered easily. As they traveled these rhymes were repeated and the news spread. One of these rhymes is shown here.

*When Wallace came to Glenwood Cross
Haig of Bermesyde met him with many
good horse*

"Wallace" is actually William Wallace, known to us

as "Braveheart" the Scottish hero. The name "DeHaga" has been changed from a Norman sounding name to the more Scottish sounding name "Haig". "Many good horse" refers to many well armed horsemen, or cavalry. The family has changed sides from defending England from the Scottish raiders to fighting with the Scots against the English.

A bard who knew the Bermerside family well (Thomas the Rhymer) wrote this rhyme as a prediction rather than as a news story:

*Tyde what may betyde
Haig shall be Haig of Bermesyde*

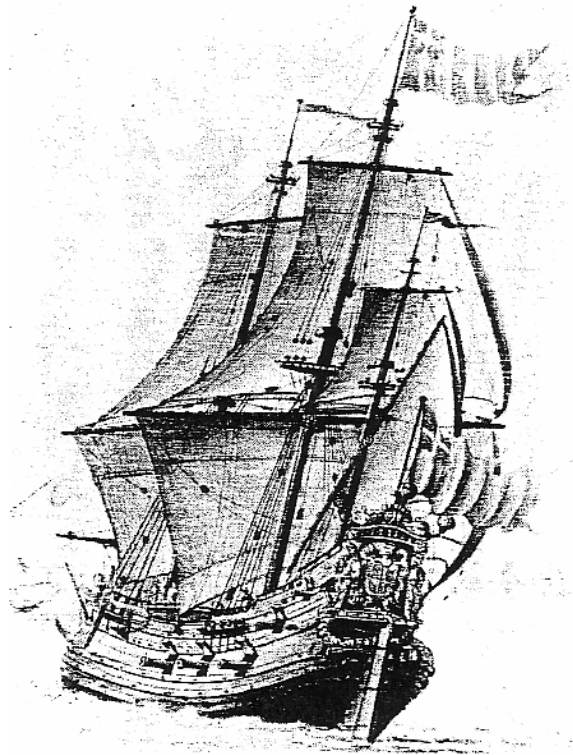
His prediction was correct since the family did remain at Bermerside. In 1535 a castle was built here but it is now a complete ruin. While the earlier manor house was primitive, the castle was not much better. The castle was built for defense and not comfort. The courtyard was dirt, which could be either mud or ice, according to the weather. In the summer the stone walls tended to keep the air inside cool but in the winter they were like ice cubes. There were only a few rooms with fireplaces but in other rooms a fire in a brazier could be used, which filled the room with smoke. In addition, as before there was no running water or sanitation facilities. A castle may look pretty but it is no place to live.

The Bermerside estate and the title of baron was handed down from father to son in a direct male line to James Haig of Bermerside, the 18th baron, who is the last that I have heard of, and the property is probably still in the family. All through the Middle Ages the oldest son received the title and all of the property. The next two sons would receive much less, and the fourth and later sons practically nothing. It was the later sons who branched off from the family and went on their own. In one of these branches we find a man named George Hoge (spelled Hoge) and through him William Hoge, our emigree.

William was born in Musselbury, Scotland in 1660. Musselbury is located southeast of Edinburgh.

All through the Middle Ages, and in 1660, there was no separation between church and state. The king's religion was the state religion. In the late 1600s there were two predominant religions in Scotland, the Episcopalian (Church of England) who believed in having a very formal hierarchy, and the Presbyterian (followers of Calvin) which had relatively independent groups. The King of

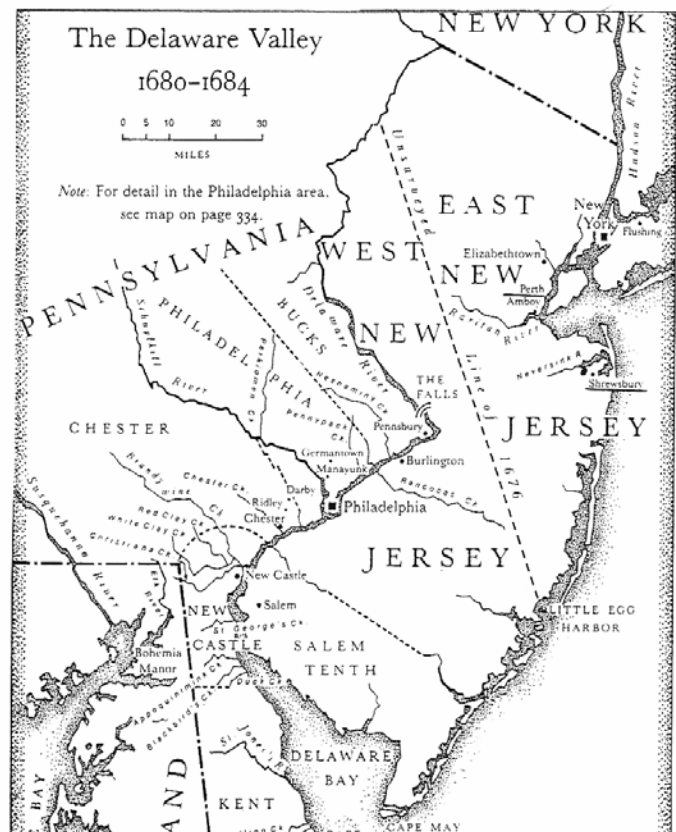
Scotland in the late 1600s was Charles II who initially leaned toward being a Presbyterian but gradually changed to being an Episcopalian. A large number of the Scottish people were Presbyterians so the king had to tread very lightly or he would have a revolution on his hands. The Presbyterians were not persecuted unless they became too vocal.



William Hoge was a Presbyterian along with some of the family friends, including Sir James Hume. Sir James was apparently too vocal and he was thrown into prison. He had a brother, George, who had some influence and managed to have him exiled to America. They must have thought that going to America was not as bad as being in prison. Traveling in that time was dangerous and people generally went in groups for safety. In 1682 James Hume, his wife, his 12 year old daughter Barbara, William Hoge, and likely some other people who were being exiled, boarded the liner Caladenia, in Edinburgh, and left for America. A typical merchant ship of the late 1600s was about 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. They were built to carry as much cargo as possible so the hull was rather square and it floated about like a cork. The owners were looking for profit so they stuffed as many paying travelers on board as possible. The

food consisted of salt beef or pork and hard biscuits, the water was in short supply and rationed, sanitation was poor, and if anyone was sick it spread quickly. It took at least six weeks to cross the Atlantic and several months if they had bad weather. It isn't surprising that some passengers didn't make it, as was the case with James Hume and his wife. William Hoge became Barbara's guardian and, when they reached New York delivered her to her uncle who lived there.

William then went to Perth, New Jersey to live (Perth is a little southwest of New York City). One story says that he had worked for a company in Edinburgh which had a facility in Perth, so he had



a job there. He was a tailor by trade so this makes sense.

William and Barbara continued to see each other and they were married in about 1685 and returned to Perth. In 1688 they bought land in Monmouth County, NJ (on the coast south of Perth) and moved there. Their first son, John, was probably born in Perth while their sons William (b.c. 1700) and James (b. 1706) as well as their other children, Margaret, Alexander, George, Nancy,

and Joreber, (whose birth dates are unknown) were probably born in Monmouth County.

The political situation in New Jersey in the late 1600s was a mess. The Puritans from New England had settled in East Jersey while Quakers from Pennsylvania had settled in West Jersey. Puritans and Quakers don't mix very well so a situation existed which is probably similar to our present day Democrat and Republican parties who fight all of the time and don't get anything done. In the middle of this mess we have William Hoge, a Presbyterian, and a complete misfit. This is probably one of the things which caused them to move west in 1710.



In 1710 the Hoge family moved from N.J. to Chester County, Pennsylvania. to the area indicated on the map between the two horizontal dotted lines. The land was on the PA/MD border and it was the subject of a land dispute between William Penn and Lord Baltimore, of Maryland. King Charles I of England gave Lord Baltimore a land grant whose northern border was the 40th parallel while Charles II gave Penn a grant whose southern border was below the 40th parallel. This left a strip of land 20-25 miles wide along the whole border which was not settled until the Mason-Dixon line was established in 1763/67 time period.

The approximate location of the Hoge property is shown on the map as a "dot" just north of the Chesapeake Bay, actually on the word Cecil. The property was adjacent to the Quaker settlement of Nottingham. The Quakers, from Pennsylvania, were passivists and while William Penn was enticing any people to settle in this disputed area, to establish ownership, he was probably happy to

see a feisty Scotsman show up. He promised the Hoges that if their land became a part of Maryland. they would be refunded the cost of the land. The Hoge property consisted of 1000 acres on the east end of Nottingham.

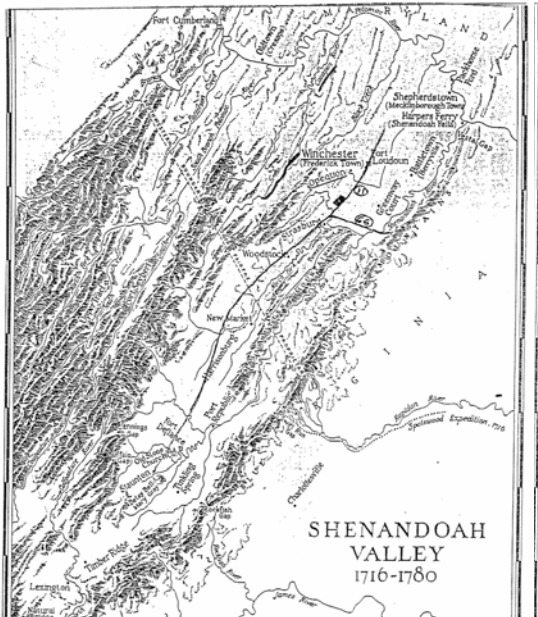
By the 1720s this dispute over the PA/MD border had practically turned into a civil war. Lord Baltimore did not like William Penn's settlers on the land and he was sending raiding parties into the area to force the people to leave. There were the Hoges, in trouble again. In 1729 William Hoge wrote a will in which he said that he was weak of body but clear of mind, but we don't know if this means that he was ill or had been injured. He apparently thought that he might die but he did survive. This may have affected the Hoge's decision to move west again in the early 1730s.

In the early 1730s the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (shown below) was being opened to settlers. Josh Hite, a Pennsylvania Dutchman, became the proprietor of a 40,000 acre parcel of land, in the vicinity of what is now Winchester, Virginia, which he intended to sell to 40 buyers of 1000 acres each. At the same time, Lord Fairfax also had a claim to the same land. This isn't surprising since in the early 1700s Virginia extended to the Mississippi River, and nobody knew what was west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Land grants were made with no knowledge of what they were granting. Josh Hite began selling land and later Lord Fairfax challenged these sales. In either case, here was good, cheap, frontier, wilderness land for sale.

In the early 1730s the Hoge family moved to Kernstown (south of Winchester, Va.). William bought 2000 acres and William Jr. bought 411 acres of land but we don't know who they bought it from. The only member of the family who did not go to Virginia was John, a minister, who moved to the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania where he established Hogetown. William was in his 70s by now.

The Shenandoah Valley was the frontier at this time. An Indian trail extended down the Valley which was being developed into a wagon road. This road consisted of two ruts through the wilderness which was muddy when it rained, blocked by fallen trees after a storm, had to ford rivers and streams, but it was passable. The

Hoges established Hoge's ordinary on this road in Kernstown in about 1735. An ordinary was the Holiday Inn of its time. A typical ordinary had a tap room which a typical ordinary had a tap room which was the room for eating and drinking, with a



fireplace. The proprietor and his family lived on the first floor where the kitchen was located. On the second floor there were probably two bedrooms. One was a private room with a bed, a table for a wash bowl and pitcher of cold water, and a thunder bowl for night use. The public bedroom had one or two large beds and probably nothing else. There might be four or five complete strangers sleeping on the bed but this was no problem since people wore the same clothes day and night for weeks at a time and in the winter it may be months. Remember, there were no bathtubs or hot water so people didn't take baths. If there was no room on the bed you slept on the floor. The outhouse was in back, summer or winter. One added advantage of the ordinary was that there would be a place to stable and feed your horse.

If you are ever in the vicinity of Kernstown, look for the Creekside Village shopping center on U.S. Route 11. The building facing Route 11 is built partially on the foundation of the Hoge Ordinary.

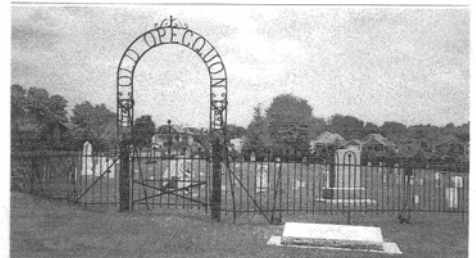
The Opequon Presbyterian Church was the first Presbyterian church in the Shenandoah Valley. It lies a short distance off of the highway just south of the Creekside Village. William donated land for the church in 1736.

We made it a point to be in the Valley on a Sunday morning and went to the service in the church. It was a pleasant experience. The people were very friendly and the pastor invited us over to the parsonage that afternoon. He was a new pastor and knew very little about the history of the church or the property but we spent the afternoon with him going through the old church records.



The present cemetery is to the left of the pictures.

This is the plaque. As can be seen, the birth dates of both William and Barbara are shown.



Barbara died in 1745 and William in 1749. When William's will was probated it was contested by a "Mary". Apparently William married again, after Barbara died, and the second wife was expecting an inheritance, but William never got around to updating his 1729 will. Actually, when Barbara died, William was 85 years old and didn't need a wife, per say, but he needed someone to take care of him, however, it would create a scandal for a woman to live with a man without being married. Mary settled for an annual income of 40 shillings for life.



William Hoge's house was supposed to be located some distance west of the church, and there is a

group of trees in that direction with some houses in the trees. The most prominent house is a large brick structure dating back to the Civil War, called the Pritchard-Grimes house but from the Church we could not clearly see the other buildings. A number of years earlier we had driven down the dirt road to the Pritchard-Grimes house, to investigate, but we encountered a closed gate with several no trespass signs. I am allergic to buckshot so we turned back. During the afternoon we spent with the pastor we mentioned the Pritchard-Grimes house, and he knew Mrs. Grimes who owns the place. He called her and got permission for us to visit the area. The house in this group which got my interest was a small house on the property which from its appearance and the type of its foundation appeared to be much older than the Civil War. We tried to see in the windows with no luck and the door was locked so we could only speculate as to its age.

Several years ago Mrs Grimes decided to sell the property. This property lies on a Civil War battlefield (battle of Kernstown) and a number of local people decided to buy it to preserve the battlefield. This opened it to the public. Last summer we went over to look at the house again only to find that in the spring some boys had managed to set it on fire. The firemen stripped all of the clapboard off the house to put out the fire and surprise-surprise there was a log house under there. This is a classical early 1700s house. The corner logs were notched and fitted, the logs were



chinked, and there had been a loft with a narrow stairway in one corner, etc. This is most certainly William Hoge's original house.

In 1742 James Hoge, William's son, bought a 760 acre tract of land in Frederick County, Va. from Josh Hite and named it Cedar Grove. In 1748



James sold 300 acres to Josh Hite's son Isaac Hite and his son Isaac Jr. built the manor house of Belle Grove on the property which is still standing. The last major battle of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley (battle of Cedar Creek) took



place on this property and every year there is a re-enactment of the battle.

This is an illustration of the actual battle. The house seen here is called the Heater house after the owners at that time. As can be seen, it was in the middle of the battle.

We had been going to the re-enactment for several years before we acquired the deed to the James Hoge property. After going through many old maps we discovered that the battleground was on property which had belonged to James Hoge. This land lies north of the intersection of Interstates 81 and 66 (refer to the map on page 99). The Heater house is very prominent on the property and it was of particular interest to us. From the appearance of the house, and from a pseudo description of the house in James Hoge's will, this could be the

house that was built by James Hoge in the 1740s, but there was no way of knowing. One day we were at Bell Grove and talking to the local historian. We asked if he had heard of James Hoge and he replied, "no." Next we asked him if he had heard of Cedar Grove and his answer was, "the Heater house was originally known as Cedar Grove Farm." BINGO!!! We sent him all of the information that we had on the property. As it turned out, since the Cedar Creek battle took place in the vicinity of the house, they intended to restore it, and our information may have helped in that decision. We later received a letter from the Battlefield Association saying that they had determined that the house was built in the mid 1700s, and that it was built by James Hoge. The lower picture is of the back of the house with the clapboard removed. As can be seen it is a log house but of a later age than the possible William Hoge house. The logs are joined by mortice and tenons.



James Hoge's son, James Jr., married Elizabeth Howe in 1768.

Joseph Howe, Elizabeth's father and other pioneers, were early settlers in the Lost Valley of the Cacapon River, which is the next valley west of the Shenandoah Valley in the Kernstown area. The property was under the proprietorship of Lord Fairfax and he was not happy with the squatter on his land. In 1748 he sent George Washington to survey fifteen sections of land, each 350 to 400 acres. Joseph helped George survey his section of land, Another section was surveyed for the Dunbar family consisting of Ann, the mother, her son Phillip, and his family including his daughter Eleanor. Joseph and Elenor were married in about 1750.

Joseph helped George Washington survey his

land in the Lost Valley so he was probably considered a surveyor. In about 1750 he was hired to "view" the trail which ran out through southwest Virginia and would become part of the Wilderness Road.

"Viewing" a trail meant looking for places where



the trail was not passable for a wagon and finding an alternate route. In the process of doing this, Joseph became familiar with this area and the potential for farmland.

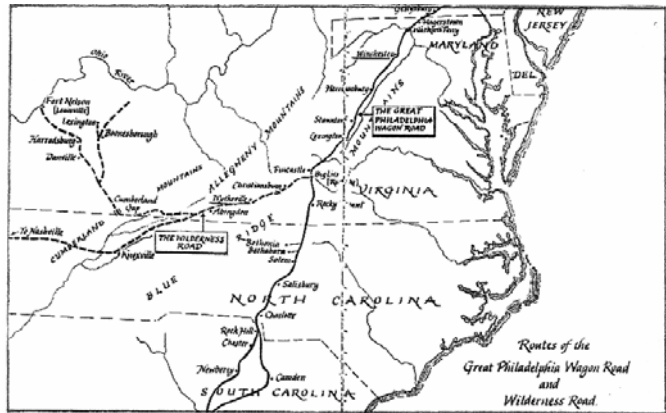
The Shenandoah Valley was somewhat settled by the 1750s but the Lost River Valley was still the frontier. Things were rather hectic during the French and Indian War. The Shawnee Indians, living in Ohio and the western Appalachian were in alliance with the French and conducted raids across the mountains. The first settlements which they encountered were in the Lost Valley. Conditions were so bad that some of the people moved to the Shenandoah Valley or farther east for a while. The remembrance of these conditions may have been a factor in the Howes moving west in later years.

James Hoge Jr. married Elizabeth Howe but there is the question of how they met. The Hoges lived about 25 miles south of Kernstown while the Howes lived about the same distance west of Kernstown. In that day and time 50 miles was a long distance and, while the wagon road ran from Kernstown south by the Hoge's Cedar Grove, the way west from Kernstown was a trail which was good for horses or walking. I have a theory of how this meeting may have taken place.

The Howes, like all of the pioneers, were very tough, independent, and self sufficient people. They had to clear trees on their land so that the

sun would reach the land and they could grow crops. The trees were used for building a cabin and a shelter for their animals. Once they were established they used wool and flax to spin thread, wove it into cloth, and made their own clothes, or used animal skins. Wild animals were abundant and hunting furnished a part of their food supply. They made almost everything that they needed, but there were certain items which had to be "store bought" like salt and gunpowder and lead for bullets for hunting. Probably the nearest store to the Howes was in Kernstown and several times a year the family traveled across the mountain to shop. It was a long trip and it is possible that they stayed overnight in Hoge's ordinary. On one of these trips James and Elizabeth may have met. The Shenandoah Valley was very sparsely settled at this time with your nearest neighbor being as much as a mile away. If two eligible and compatible people met they tended to stick together, it may be their last chance. This is one of the reasons why we sometimes find cousins marrying in some of the remote areas.

In 1767 the Howe family settled in what is now Pulaski County, Va. The Wilderness Road, a wagon road, went as far as Fort Chiswell (locally pronounced Chisel) near present Wytheville, which was the end of the road, so to speak. Other settlers, such as the Alford, stopped here also. James Hoge Jr. had a good thing going with



Elizabeth Howe so he either went with them or followed shortly afterward to southwest Virginia. James and Elizabeth were married in 1768.

James Hoge, Jr. built a log house which he called Hayfield, on Back Creek, after a name in Frederick County, but it was destroyed many years ago and we do not know what it looked like. Joseph Howe also built a house on Back Creek which he named Sunnyside.

James and Elizabeth had a daughter, Eleanor Hoge, born in 1769 in Pulaski County, Virginia. Eleanor married John Alford in 1789 in Montgomery County, VA. This brings us back to where we started.

Hoge Information Sources

20 Sept. 2001

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3. Opequon Presbyterian Church, Kernstown, Va.
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5. "Listen to the Mockingbird" by Daniel Dunbar Hoge
6. "Hoge and Hoge" by Lolia G. Hogue & Jacquelyn RH. Gentry
7. "The Hoge, Nichols, & Related Families" by William D. Nichols
8. Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934
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10. Chester County, Pa. tax records
11. J.V. Hollingsworth Collection — Chester Co., Pa. Historical Society
12. Cecil Co., Md. Historical Society Elkton, Md.
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15. Info. & pictures from Mr. & Mrs. Graber of Creekside Village, Kernstown, Va.
16. "Early Adventures on the Western Waters" Vol II by Mary B. Kegley
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20. "The History of Hardy County" (present W. Va.) by Richard K. MacMaster

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