

Mrs. Paul W. Cooley
1309 South Oakland
Arlington, Va. 22204

703-979-5077

PAF

November 24, 1970

DAVID HOPKINS (d. 1773) and BETHIAH _____
Roxbury Township, Morris County, New Jersey
and
Some of Their Descendants

by
Marian Hopkins Cooley

1-804-977-3544
Mrs. Purnim Pretzler
"Miedrod"

This is the beginning of a story of sturdy men and their families who met the challenge of primitive every-day life, survived, and prospered. These people never knew the comforts and conveniences we take for granted--automobiles, telephones, good roads, electricity, running water, radios and TV's. But they left us a heritage of physical stamina, of courage and resourcefulness, of desire to seize new opportunities--qualities of the pioneers of the United States.

This is an unfinished story because we do not know who David Hopkins and Bethiah _____ were, when or why they came to Roxbury (now Chester) Township, Morris County, New Jersey. It is also an unfinished story because year-by-year there are additional descendants of this couple. Some of these descendants are found in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Others are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, north and south, east and west. It is hoped to add more details later, so that these descendants may have an appreciation of their Hopkins ancestry.

Name -- HOPKINS is one of the earliest of purely English surnames. It is baptismal signifying the son of Robert and is derived from Hob or Hothe, nicknames for Robert.

Historical Background -- Several HOPKINS and HOPKINS families came to the Colonies in the 1600's and later. Some were prominent in colonial life. No relationship has been found between them and DAVID HOPKINS of Roxbury Township, Morris County, N. J.

Connecticut and New York ? -- Tradition says that the ancestors of David Hopkins left Connecticut because of a disagreement with Robert Treat over land. It may be that the family went from Connecticut to Long Island (perhaps Southold) and then, after a period of years, moved on to New Jersey.

New Jersey Generations

David Hopkins and Bethiah (Thyah) _____. (Names of parents, birth dates, birth places, date and place of marriage unknown)

David Hopkins is said to have first been named an officer of Roxbury Township, Morris County, New Jersey, in 1745. (Jonah Hopkins was first named an officer in 1744.) In 1749 he purchased land from Samuel Eaves. The 1752 Roxbury Township list of freeholders includes the names of David Hopkins and William Hopkins. Whether David, Jonah, and William Hopkins were related is unknown. In 1765 he sold 30-1/2 acres adjoining his residence to John Hamlor. (Later this land seems to have been in Mendham Township.) David Hopkins died 27 February 1773 in Roxbury (now Chester)

Township, Morris County, and his will is on file at Trenton, New Jersey. His place of burial is unknown. He named as executors his son James and his trusty friend Samuel Wills, Esq., a Quaker. The witnesses were Constant King, Victor King, and Peter Fairchild. Presumably his wife, Bethiah, survived him.

Named in David Hopkins' will are his wife, Bethiah, who was to have the use of one-third of the land; married daughters--Rhoday, Bethiah, and Abigail; unmarried daughters--not named, one presumed to be Rachel; and sons--James, Gideon, and Solomon. Daughters Bethiah and Rachel and sons Gideon and Solomon went to Western Florida (Natchez, Mississippi) in 1772 with the party of the Reverend Samuel Swayze, the father-in-law of the daughters, arriving there in 1773 in time to plant corn. The Reverend Samuel Swayze was the first Congregational minister of Roxbury (now Chester), the oldest Congregational church in New Jersey.

Children:

Rhoday, b. 2 Jan. 1746, d. 27 Feb. 1816, Throop, Cayuga Co., N. Y.; married Benjamin Horton

Bethiah, m. Nathan Swayze -24421

Abigail, m.

James, d. 1817, Hardiston Township, Sussex Co., N. J.; m. Jane Pitney?

Gideon, m. Sarah Luce (said to have gone from Western Florida to Bayou Sara (near St. Francisville), La.

Solomon, m. _____ (living in Wilkinson Co., Miss., in 1820; apparently had 1 son, 2 daughters, and wife at home

Rachel, m. Stephen Swayze -24424

_____ (unmarried daughter; perhaps others)

James Hopkins and Jane Pitney ? (Birth dates, birth places, and parents of Jane Pitney unknown)

Swayze now available

James Hopkins, probably oldest son of David Hopkins and Bethiah _____, is said to have married Jane Pitney of Mendham or Morristown, Morris County, N. J., during the Revolutionary War. He probably is the James Hopkins who was paid for hauling and services during the War, but no record has been found of military service.

In 1796 and after James Hopkins inventoried a number of estates in Sussex County, New Jersey. Beginning in 1813 he purchased several pieces of land there. In 1813 he filed an affidavit in Newton selling his share of his father's land in Roxbury Township, Morris County, to Jerome Emmons. He probably lived at Big Spring between North Church and Monroe in Hardiston Township.

A Sussex County history says, "James Hopkins, an early settler, was of English descent, and on his advent to the township became an extensive landowner and trader of stock. He lived in Hardiston during his lifetime, and on his death rendered each of his five children independent by the gift of a farm."

#6101

On October 21, 1815, James Hopkins married Savona (Savina) Struble Simmons, a widow without children. The marriage record indicates that he was a Justice of Peace at the time.

11244
 James Hopkins died 17 September 1817 in Sussex County, N. J., intestate. Family papers are said to have been destroyed in a fire in Paterson, N.J., where his nephew, a lawyer, had an office. The estate was inventoried by George and Morison Beardslee, neighbors, and valued at \$4,406.57. The inventory is on file at Trenton, N. J. David Hopkins was administrator of his father's estate. He is presumed to be buried in North Church Cemetery, but the location of his grave is unknown. **Safvona (Sevina) Struble Simmons Hopkins** died 2 February 1819, leaving her estate to her relatives. Her will is also on file at Trenton.

Children: (all probably born in Roxbury Township, Morris Co., N. J.)

24424
 X David (William David), b. 15 Dec. 1778, d. 31 July 1855, Lafayette Township, Sussex Co., N.J.; buried in North Church Cemetery; married Sarah Simmons, 12 April 1802
 Jonathan, b. 11 August 1780; d. 11 March 1849, Lafayette Township, Sussex Co., N. J.;
 m. (1) Martha Beardslee, (2) Sophia Mains, 8 September 1807; buried North Church
 Bethiah, b. 10 January 1788, d. 20 October 1833, Hardiston Township, Sussex Co., N.J.;
 m. Jacob Kimble, 24 December 1809; buried North Church Cemetery
 Lydia, b. 26 November 1789, d. 5 June 1868, Hardiston Township, Sussex Co., N. J.;
 m. Samuel Tuttle, 6 October 1810; buried North Church Cemetery
 Charlotte, m. Benjamin H. Kays, 24 October 1812

686 24455

David Hopkins and Sarah Simmons.

David Hopkins was born 15 December 1778, presumably in Roxbury (now Chester) Township, Morris County, N. J., the oldest son of James Hopkins and Jane Pitney ?, and probably came to Hardiston Township, Sussex County, with his father and family before 1796. On 12 April 1802, at the age of 23, he married Sarah Simmons, born 11 May 1783, daughter of John Simmons and Elizabeth _____, neighbors of the farm at Hopkins Corners. The Simmons family were of German extraction, and John Simmons came to Lafayette Township as early as 1783. When married David Hopkins gave his name as William David. The significance of this is not known.

A Sussex County history says, "The presence of David Hopkins in the township (Lafayette) gave a distinct identity to the point known as 'Hopkins Corners.' Mr. Hopkins engaged in farming pursuits, which he found both congenial and profitable. His son, Philip Hopkins, now owns and resides upon the land."

David Hopkins died 31 July 1855, intestate. His son, John Hopkins, administered the estate. Sarah Simmons died 21 January 1858. They are buried in North Church Cemetery beside their daughters Elizabeth and Bethiah.

Children: (All born in Lafayette Township, Sussex Co., N. J.)

#24440
 X James, b. 24 Jan. 1803; d. 3 Oct. 1868, Ransom Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., buried Milwaukee Cemetery; m. Margaret Coss
 #446
 X Solomon, b. 8 Feb. 1808; d. 15 Sept. 1884, Newton Twp., Lackawanna Co., Pa., buried Newton Cemetery; m. (1) Mariah Sturr, (2) Ruth Tinkham Clay
 Jonathan, b. 25 November 1809; d. 26 April 1888, Lafayette Twp., Sussex Co., N.J.; buried North Church Cemetery; m. (1) Mary Ann Kyte, (2) Charlotte Kay (cousin)
 John, b. 1810; d. 30 May 1876, Sussex Co., N.J.; buried North Church Cemetery; m. (1) Mary Ann Coss, (2) Susannah Westbrook
 Susan, b. 1812?; m. M. Alfred Bunn; removed from Frankford Twp., Sussex Co., N.J., after 1843, perhaps to Pennsylvania or farther west

David Hopkins (d. 1773)

24439

- Philip, b. 6 March 1815; d. 22 April 1892, Lafayette Twp., Sussex Co., N.J.;
buried North Church Cemetery; m. Hannah Clay
- Bethiah, b. 19 March 1822; d. 10 April 1858, Lafayette Twp., Sussex Co., N.J.;
buried North Church Cemetery
- Phoebe A. (twin), b. 7 Dec. 1823; d. 15 February 1897, Sussex Co., N.J.;
buried Fairview Cemetery near Sussex; m. Noah Talmage Woodruff
- Catherine I. (twin), b. 7 Dec. 1823; d. 1 April 1911, Sussex Co., N.J.; buried
Fairview Cemetery near Sussex; m. George Hunt

PAF

Pennsylvania Settlers

*Start here then
if you find relatives
go back*

James Hopkins and Margaret Coss

James Hopkins, the oldest son of David Hopkins and Sarah Simmons, was born 24 January 1803 at Hopkins Corners, Lafayette Township, Sussex Co., N. J., and died 3 October 1868 in Ransom Township, Luzerne (now Lackawanna) Co., Pa. He married about 1828 Margaret Coss, probably of Frankford Township, Sussex Co., N.J. She was born 25 September 1805 and died in 1875, of a stroke, at the home of her daughter Sarah Ann (Mrs. Amos Saxe), Ransom Township, Lackawanna Co., Pa. They are buried in Milwaukee Cemetery near the road, and nearby are their daughters Rebecca and Mary.

James, and his brother Solomon, five years younger, according to Harry W. Hopkins, spent the winter of 1829 in a cabin in the woods near Ransom. In the spring they returned to New Jersey. James brought his wife and infant son, Philip, born 7 June 1829, back to Falls Township, Luzerne County (now Ransom Township, Lackawanna County), Pa., very soon, as the 1830 census shows that James was farming in that area and that his family was with him. In 1839 James purchased land on what is now the road between Milwaukee and Ransom and farmed there until his death in 1868 at the age of 65. The farm was later owned and worked by his sons Andrew and David. It is interesting that the deed of 1839 mentions no neighbors, except for a line adjoining property belonging to the heirs of Peter Harris.

Note

In 1850 James Hopkins purchased 145 acres in Newton Township, Luzerne County, adjoining land of Elias Smith. Presumably this was the farm occupied by his son Philip Hopkins who married Sarah Smith.

Children: (all except Philip born in Ransom Township, Luzerne Co., Pa.)

Philip, b. 7 June 1829, Sussex Co., N. J.; m. Sarah Jane Smith, July 21, 1855, by Rev. John Miller

Sarah Ann, b. 12 March 1831; d. 10 Aug. 1908; buried Milwaukee Cemetery;
m. Amos Saxe, 10 September 1847.

- Children (Saxe):
- Emma, b. 9 November 1849; d. 22 August 1851
 - Clarence, b. 23 April 1852; d. 17 August 1852
 - Ira D., b. 3 June 1854; d. 25 January 1930, Rockford, Ill.
 - James A., b. 8 June 1855; d. 12 September 1855
 - Elizabeth, b. 31 July 1856; d. 14 December 1943
 - George W., b. 3 February 1858; d. 12 September 1858
 - Irvin, b. 14 May 1859; d. 7 May 1908
 - Andrew, b. 16 March 1861; d. 27 August 1861
 - Margaret Ann, b. 22 April 1862; d. 22 February 1865
 - Ada, b. 18 June 1865; d. 16 November 1951
 - Mary, b. 14 January 1867; d. 30 August 1946

d. Note

David Hopkins (d. 1773)

Children of James Hopkins and Margaret Coss, cont'd:

Rebecca, b. 25 Jan. 1833; d. 30 Jan. 1872; buried Milwaukee Cemetery

David, b. 12 Nov. 1834; d. 19 Feb. 1901; buried Milwaukee Cemetery; m

Bedell, 1861

Children: Margaret, b. 9 May 1868; m. (1) Frank Winters

Jennie, b. 1864; d. 1903; m. Charles E. Richards, M.D.

Phoebe J., b. 15 Jan. 1837; d. 30 June 1872; buried Milwaukee Cemetery;

755 m. Jacob Keim Child (Keim): Willie, d. age 18

Andrew, b. 8 Jan. 1841; d. ; buried

m. Sarah E. Michaels, d. 1876; buried Milwaukee Cemetery

Children: Will

Mary (Mamie), b. 18 Mar. 1841; m. William Henry Davis

24473 Mary, b. 16 May 1843; d. 18 Oct. 1873; buried Milwaukee Cemetery

Solomon Hopkins and Mariah Sturr

Solomon Hopkins was born 8 February 1808, at Hopkins Corners, Lafayette Township, Sussex County, New Jersey. He was a small man, it is said, liked horses, and may have been a jockey in his youth. He would ride back to New Jersey to visit his family after he moved to Pennsylvania.

On June 7, 1829, Solomon Hopkins married Mariah Sturr, daughter of Isaac Sturr and Mary Demorest. She was born on 7 December 1808 near Paterson, New Jersey. Isaac Sturr died of yellow fever leaving a family of children. Mariah Sturr may have lived with or visited Demorest relatives. The Demorests were early settlers of Sussex County.

Solomon Hopkins and his brother James are said to have spent the winter of 1829 in a cabin in the woods near Ransom, Luzerne County, Pa., and then to have returned to New Jersey in the spring. The 1830 census shows Solomon Hopkins farming in Hardiston Township, Sussex County. His first son, Peter, was born in New Jersey on 7 January 1830. Before the birth of their next child, a daughter Eliza (Lizzie), on November 1831, they had moved to Pennsylvania. They lived first near Milwaukee, but in a few years moved to Schultzville where Solomon Hopkins purchased 201 acres in 1857, part of which is still owned by his descendants.

The first home of the Solomon Hopkins family at Schultzville was on top of the hill above the Harry W. Hopkins residence, the road at that time going across the hill. Also on the road was a house where the oldest son, Peter, lived. Later the family lived in the house which used to be at the corner of present-day Falls Road and Lubeck's lane. About the time of the Civil War, Solomon Hopkins built a new house on the northwest side of the creek where he lived until his death on 15 September 1884. The house has since burned but has been rebuilt by the Lubeck family in the same location and looks much the same.

In 1868 Solomon Hopkins & Son (Peter) built the first steam saw-mill in Newton Township, in a gully not far from the Harry W. Hopkins residence, the foundations of which are still visible.

Mariah Sturr died 26 May 1870 from an overdose of morphine given for the measles. On January 2, 1871, Solomon Hopkins married Ruth Tinkham Clay, widow of William Clay of Gravel Pond. She had no children of her own, but an "adopted" daughter, Hattie Clay, lived with them. Solomon Hopkins and Mariah Sturr are buried in Newton Cemetery. Ruth Tinkham Clay Hopkins is buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Check - was s/o Orin Richards a physician.

3600

3602

-3609

439

Dwight grand father

Maternal

4103?

3rd c

24472

646

David Hopkins (d. 1773)

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Children of Solomon Hopkins and Mariah Sturr:

- ²⁴⁴⁰⁰
Peter b. 7 Jan. 1830, Hardiston Twp., Sussex Co., N.J.; d. 25 Oct. 1898, Newton Twp., Lackawanna Co., Pa.; buried Newton Cemetery
m. (1) Ellen Slate, (2) Nettie Havens
Children (by Ellen Slate): George Adams, b. 22 Feb. 1856; d. 3 June 1927
m. Mary E. Reed - no children
Anna Mariah, b. 22 Nov. 1857; d. 8 May 1858
Ida Ellen, b. 15 Sept. 1866; d. 29 May 1923 - 24478
Dwight's grand parents
- ²⁴¹⁵³
^{Note}
Eliza ^{#638}
(Lizzie) b. 23 Nov. 1831, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 22 April 1904; buried Newton Cemetery; m. Levi Coon, 30 August 1862
Children (Coon): ~~Everett Grant~~, b. 1 Feb. 1865; m. (1) Minnie Lasher, *Dwight's grand parents*
(2) Margaret Hopkins Winters (cousin)
~~Galusha A.~~, b. 19 Sept. 1868; m. Minnie Fenstermaker
Eva, b. 15 Sept. 1873; m. William H. Newman, M.D. *Note*
- ^{#24479}
John J. b. 20 May 1834, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 30 Mar. 1865; m. Mary Congleton
Child: Willard D., b. 3 Sept. 1862, m. Ada U. Huthmaker *Cousin of Lizzie*
- George W. b. 23 June 1836, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 2 June 1864, Cold Spring Harbor, Va., buried on battlefield, name on marker in Newton Cemetery;
m. Elizabeth Mack of Waverly, 21 January 1861 - no children
- Margetta (Mettie) b. 2 Sept. 1838, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. m. George Sherman; lived at Waverly, Pa. Child (Sherman): Wilhemina Family buried in Hickory Grove Cemetery, Waverly, Pa.
- Alfred b. 6 April 1840; died young, burned in fireplace
- William S., b. 26 July 1843, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 10 July 1903, Newton Twp., Lackawanna Co., Pa.; buried Newton Cemetery; m. Jennie Rozelle, 25 June 1868
- ²⁴³⁶⁵
Judson D., b. 15 Jan. 1845, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 28 Apr. 1913, Scranton, Pa.; buried Newton Cemetery; m. Johanna E. Winter, 24 June 1874
Children: Luella Jenny, b. 16 Sept. 1878; m. Linley J. Stonier - 24364
Harry Winter (twin), b. 17 Nov. 1884; m. Avis H. Dorsheimer *CH*
Helene Winter (twin), b. 17 Nov. 1884; m. Ray Osgood Hughes *marion*
- James H. b. 21 Sept. 1847, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 1914, Bisbee, Arizona; buried ; m. (1) Louella Stewart in Kansas *missed*
(2) Estelle Winchell, 5 June 1889 at Waverly, Pa.
Children (by Louella Stewart): James Henry, d. y.
Arthur Alva, b. 25 April 1876, Livermore, Colorado
Child (by Estelle Winchell): Alta Estelle, b. 8 January 1892, at Scranton, Pa.
- Alvey T. b. 16 May 1852, Luzerne Co., Pa.; d. 1889 in fire in Colorado; buried in Newton Cemetery

update coming

Readers and/or Relatives: This is a "working paper." Are there any additions, omissions, or corrections, any comments or suggestions? If so, I would like to hear from you.

Perhaps you know of other descendants of David Hopkins and Bethiah _____. If so, I would like to know about them.

Additional copies of the paper are available. Please send a large self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

Mrs. Paul W. Cooley
1309 South Oakland
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Sincerely,
Marian Hopkins Cooley

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