

THE HEDGES FAMILY IN AMERICA

Joseph Hedges, the founder of the family in America, according to "Colonial Families of the United States of America", by McKenzie, came from England to America in the early part of 1700 and landed on the Delaware River and settled in Chester Co., Penn.; was the son of Charles Hedges, will dated 1730.

From a "Geneology of the Luke - Shepherd - Van Metre Family", by Smyth, we find that Joseph Hedges married Catharine Stalcop, daughter of John S. Stalcop, an early Swedish settler of Salem, Co., N.J., who afterward removed to New Castle, Pa., (now in the state of Delaware). John Stalcop's wife was Catharine, the daughter of John and Madelina Erickson who were among the earliest inhabitants in the Swedish Settlement at Lucas Point on the Delaware, near Salem, N.J. Joseph Hedges was also in New Jersey, afterwards in Chester Co., Pa., whence after his marriage, he emigrated to and located on a plantation at Monocacy in the Province of Maryland where he died in 1732. In his will he describes himself as of "Manacquacy". The return of his estate was made Feb. 17, 1732-3 and was appraised by Robert Jones and Henry Ballinger. (Book 1 Page 203; Prince George's Co., Md.).

His son, Solomon Hedges, was born in 1710. He probably married Rebecca Van Metre at the Monocacy settlement, circa 1735 and immediately thereafter removed to Orange Co., Va., settling on the South Branch of the Potomac. His residence afterward fell within the limits of Frederick Co., when it was created in 1748. From his Father's will it appears that Joseph Hedges died seized of 400 acres of land on the Opequon in Virginia which are "to be cleared and paid for out of my estate." Two hundred acres each of this land are devised to testator's two sons, Charles Hedges and Peter Hedges; while to Solomon is devised a "tract of 285 acres lying at Manacquacy Creek on the west side." The executor (Solomon Hedges) is instructed "to purchase -- acres of land on 'Opechan' which shall be equally divided between 'my two sons' Jonas Hedges and Joseph Hedges", and "to purchase 190 acres of land at Manacquacy" out of the estate for "my son Samuel". This is evidence of the earliest purchase of land in the Valley of Monocacy in Frederick Co., Md., and was probably made by John Van Metre or Jost Hite.

The first recorded purchase of land by Solomon Van Metre

was made April 10, 1738, (Orange Co. Records) by Edward Davis of Orange Co. to Solomon Hedges of same county who, for the consideration of five shillings conveyed a piece of land containing 275 acres lying on the west side of Sherando (Shenandoah) River and Opequen Creek on a branch of the Hangaloota (Potomac) called Tullises Branch, it being a part of 875 acres granted unto said Edward Davis, Nov. 12, 1735; it adjoined lands of Peter Hedges. Witnesses were Peter and Joshua Hedges and Richard Morgan. On the same date as the preceding, Peter also acquired by purchase from Davis 300 acres of the 875 acre tract - Solomon Hedges being one of the witnesses thereto.

The Court of Orange Co., Va., on June 23, 1738, appointed Solomon Hedges and Jost Hite road-viewers.

In 1740 Solomon Hedges sold his patrimony in Maryland, two farms called "Hedges Hogg" and "Hedges Delight" and the conveyance was acknowledged by Rebecca Hedges before the Justice of Prince George's Co., Md., May 8, 1740.

Frederick County having by this time, 1744, been established out of Orange Co., Solomon Hedges was appointed a Justice of the new county and was sworn June 8, 1744 (Frederick County Court Journal); and on the 5th day of October 1745, was commissioned the Coroner of Frederick Co. In this year, also, Rebecca, his wife, received on the death of her father a legacy of 200 acres of his estate and a child's share in the personalty.

By the setting off of Hampshire Co. in 1753 from Frederick Co., the home of Solomon Hedges now lay in the new county; when the youthful surveyor George Washington was engaged in laying out lands in the Northern Neck for his patron, Lord Fairfax, Solomon Hedges obtained, and had surveyed to him, a farm on Patterson's Creek about 40 miles about its confluence with the Potomac. In latter days, when Washington made his "Journey over the Mountains to the Ohio", he stopped at Solomon Hedges's for entertainment, and referred to him as "one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace". (Kercheval's History of the Valley; Maxwell's History of Hampshire Co., Va.)

The Hedges gradually acquired other landed possessions among Hampshire's hills; one tract containing 320 acres

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granted by the Proprietor of the Northern Neck Feb. 18, 1760, and another 102 acres adjoining the first which was also granted by the Proprietor Feb. 16, 1760. These lands were situated on New Creek, Hampshire Co. (now Mineral Co., W. Va.) and were leased to Peter Sternberger Aug. 1, 1760. Solomon owned another piece of property on New Creek containing 250 acres which he sold to Thomas Dean June 11th, 1789.

The property in Frederick Co., Md., that was his wife's inheritance, was disposed of to their son and heir-at-law, Silas Hedges, on August 13, 1770, and to John Wilson of Frederick Co., Va. When David Shepherd, his brother-in-law, became High Sheriff of Ohio County, Va., April 6, 1778, Solomon Hedges became his surety in the sum of £3,500. The bond is recorded at Wheeling, W. Va., April 8, 1778. On the 2nd day of June, 1778, Solomon Hedges came into Court and took oath as Justice of the Peace. And it was "ordered that Solomon Hedges and Jon Williams, gentlemen, distribute the public land consigned to this county upon proper and sufficient certificates to them presented." From this date to and including August 7, 1780, Solomon Hedges and his son, Silas, were justices of the courts of Ohio Co., Va.; sometimes the father and other times the son was presiding judge of the court. At the latter date, Virginia's jurisdiction over any part of Pennsylvania ceased. Solomon Hedges died in Dec. 1801. His will is recorded at Wheeling, W. Va.

The will of Solomon Hedges is also recorded in the County Clerk's office of Brooks County, West Virginia, according to information copied from the record books for me by Helen Kemp of that County. The will is dated Jan. 6, 1797, probated January Term, 1802, in Will Book No. 1, Page 15, and says in part: "This to be my last will and testament in the manner and form following to-wit:

"First I do give and bequeath unto Margarette Hedges, wife of my son, Joseph, and her two daughters, Rebekah and Catherine, ten pounds each rent cur. I do likewise desire that all my estate both real and personal shall be sold at my decease at public sale and equally divided between my four children or their heirs, that is to say to Silas Hedges, Joseph Hedges, Rachel Vance and the heirs of Catherine McColloch; after the legatee is paid; and I also appoint my two sons Silas Hedges and Joseph Hedges to be my sole executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made."

The children of Solomon and Rebecca Hedges were Silas, Joseph, Joshua, who emigrated to Marietta, Ohio; Racheal, Catharine and Rebecca. Since Joshua and Rebecca are not mentioned in the will of their father, Solomon, it is to be supposed that they had passed away prior to his death.

Silas Hedges, eldest son of Solomon and Rebecca (Van Metre) Hedges, was born Dec. 2, 1736, on South Branch of Potomac in Frederick Co., Va., died at his homestead on Buffalo Creek, 6 miles west of Wellsburg, Brooke Co., Va., May 17, 1811; married first, Miss Mummy and second, Margaret Hoagland, said to have been a sister of Capt. Henry Hoagland of Brooke Co., Va., and children of Capt. Derrick Hoagland. Margaret Hoagland was born Sept. 16, 1751, and died March 24, 1837, at McConnellsville, Ohio. It is believed that Silas Hedges was one of Col. Zane's party to Redstone Old Fort (Brownsville, Pa.), on the Monongahela River in the spring of 1765, where he lived for a short time before he married Margaret Hoagland.

Silas Hedges was very active in the campaign against the French and Indians and is thought to have served as an officer with the levies. He settled on Buffalo Creek, Ohio Co., Va., in 1773. His name is frequently found in the Minute Book of the Virginia Court which was held at Fort Dunmore (Pittsburg) for the District of West Augusta, 1775-76; and at the organization of the first Court of Ohio County held at Black's Cabin, on Short Creek Jan. 6, 1777, the oath was administered to him as one of the justices of that County and at the same time was recommended to the Court as Colonel of the Militia. Before this, he was a member of the Committee of Safety which was organized at the house of Esakial Dewitt, Dec. 27, 1776, and at its second meeting was appointed one of the inspectors of the troops enlisted by Capt. John Lemon for Continental establishment in the War of the Revolution. (See Am. Pioneer, Vol. 11, page 396.) He was chairman of the meeting of this Committee held Feb. 8, 1777, and at this time made his report in the inspection of Lemon's men. Governor Patrick Henry wrote him to proceed with a military organization in Ohio Co., on Continental establishment and addressed him as Chairman. With Andrew Fouts he went down to Wheeling in 1777, to assist in burying the dead, after Capt. Dorman's defeat. He was also enrolled at this time as a member of Capt. Ogle's Company and took part in the siege of Fort Henry. On June 7, 1777, he sold 607 lbs. of bacon to Francis Duke, the commissary of Fort Henry, and in August 1777 received a store of ammunition for the use of the militia of Ohio Co., and the commission

was read in open court; and at the same time was recommended by the court as High Sheriff of the County. Silas superseded, as Colonel of Militia, his cousin, Col. David Shepherd, who had been advanced to the Lieutenantcy of the County. On the 25th day of April, 1778, Silas Hedges served on a court martial that tried and honorably acquitted Col. Shepherd for proclaiming martial law in Ohio County without the order and authority of the court, when the safety of the settlers was jeopardized. At the organization of the court on Jan. 7, 1777, Silas was appointed by the court to contract with Abraham Van Metre and obtain two acres of land for the County buildings. During the whole time that the courts were held at Black's Cabin in Ohio County, or until 1780, Silas was one of the County justices. His commission as Colonel of the Militia he resigned to Beverly Randolph, Sept. 7, 1789, because of old age and infirmities. Silas Hedges was tall in stature and slim, nearly six feet in height and very straight, and of dark complexion. He had ten children, all but two of whom were born on Buffalo Creek, in Ohio County. They were:-

Name	Date of Birth	Married
Silas, Jr.	10/15/1777	Mary Cox
Isaac	1/17/1788	Mary Fouts
George	1/22/1793	Elizabeth Koontz
Ruth Ann	5/- /1791	James Roland
Solomon	1772	Susannah Miller
Elizabeth	1779	Joshua Weeks
Catherine	9/9/1773	Isreal Robinson
Joanna Hedges	1795	William Fouts
Rebecca	1781	Ezekial Hiatt
Joseph	Killed by Indians, Dec. 1793	

Silas Hedges served in Lord Dunmore's war, Oct. 1774. He became a citizen of Ohio Co., Va., and the Roll or Honor of that County contains his name. (This information is taken from "Private History of Ohio Co., W. Va.", by Hon. Gibson L. Crammer, 1870.)

Of the above children this genealogy is concerned with Isaac Hedges who was born on Buffalo Creek, Va., Jan. 17, 1788, and died at his residence Millgrove, Morgan Co., Ohio. He married Mary Fouts on Oct. 3, 1809, daughter of Andrew and Nancy (Lemon) Fouts. Mary was born Aug. 2, 1791, and died Nov. 3, 1876. Isaac moved to Morgan Co., Ohio in 1816.

Although information states that he died at his residence Millgrove, the 1850 United States Census for Morgan County lists him as living in the home of his daughter, Joanna Gillespie, so whether Millgrove also was the home of James and Joanna Gillespie is not clear.

Children of Isaac Hedges and his wife Mary were:-

Solomon---married Susan McGonigal
 Charlotta
 Joanna-----married James Gillespie
 Absalom---married Elizabeth Barlow
 Sarah-----married John Barrett
 Margaret
 Nancy
 Joseph
 Ruth
 Isaac-----married Satira A. Coburn
 William

With the exception of Joanna, the only ones of the above children of Isaac and Mary Hedges that we have any personal knowledge of are Absalom and Joseph. In a letter to Mrs. C.H. Harmon (Frank Converse) dated Oregon City, Oregon, October 5, 1927, Judge Hedges of that city says, "Absalom Hedges was my Uncle. My father's name was Joseph Hedges. Absalom came to Oregon in or about 1844 and he returned to Ohio in 1848 or 1849; the purpose, as I remember, of his trip East was to obtain machinery for a boat that he and others were interested in, that was to run on the upper Willamette River. He returned in the next year and my father followed in 1852 and settled on the Absalom F. Hedges and wife Donation Land Claim on the Willamette River just South of this City. Absalom married Jane Barlow, as I remember, and had many children."

SUPPLEMENT

The following information on Joseph Hedges, the founder of the Hedges Family in America, was sent to me by Don P. Hedges of Washington, D.C.

The paper had been prepared by Mrs. Mary P. Hedges and was found amongst the papers of Don P. Hedges' Great Aunt Nora Hedges of Gary, Indiana after her death in 1942.

Because of some of the quaint wording used in this paper and the information on the effects brought to this country by Joseph Hedges, I think it should be included in this manuscript.

"I wish to say a few words about some of the oldest settlers of America, knowing that in so doing I will interest not one, but many of your readers in Kentucky and near-by states. Among those who came to this country from England in the days of Lord Baltimore was one Joseph Hedges, who settled in Maryland and who figured to some extent in the local history of that commonwealth at the time I have put down.

"Descended from an old and wealthy English family, he fetched with him to the new world many household effects, such as tapestries, china, silverware, pictures, books, and such like, which at that time were rare in this country, together with some 10,000 to 20,000 pounds. He invested his money in land in Maryland and Pennsylvania. At one time, at an early day he owned about 1,000 acres of land near Monocacy, Md., where he built a house modeled after the manor houses of England.

"He died in 1732 leaving a widow and nine children surviving him. The children settled in Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and in other states of the union and their descendants now number probably over 1,500 persons.

"Many of the non-perishable articles brought across the sea by Joseph Hedges, founder of this particular branch of the Hedges family in the United States, are still preserved as heirlooms by his descendants. Zachary T. Hedges, of Little Rock, Ark., has in his possession nine silver spoons and a set of china of eighteen pieces, the set originally numbering fifty odd pieces, which were once the property of

Joseph Hedges. This china was manufactured in France, is of lavender color, the edges heavily inlaid with gold leaf, each piece being embellished with an exquisite painting. There are coffee and tea urns, sugar and berry bowls and five cups and saucers, all in very good state of preservation. The spoons are large, dinner-sized, quaintly marked with the letter "H" on the front of each. Another set of china, once the property of Joseph Hedges, and which is of robin-blue color, made in Saxony, is in possession of a descendant in Delaware or Pennsylvania.

"Besides these are some small oil paintings in silver frames. These latter style of frames were in use in England in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

"The will of Joseph Hedges is among the records in the office of Register of Wills, Ann Arundel County, Maryland, and is dated September 6, 1732. It is a quaint document. The bequests therein consist for the most part of landed property, the testator having a large and valuable estate to hand down to his heirs. The sons, Charles and Solomon, are named as executors, and implicit directions are given them as to the manner of dividing the estate between the children. No bond is required, the testator relying fully on the honesty of the executors."

I would like to add that in information that I could find there was no mention of a widow and less than nine children.