

# The Joseph Project

18 May, 1999

## Preamble

Thousands of people in the United States are descendants of Joseph HEDGES: "Joseph of Monocacy" as he was known during his lifetime and we call him still today. Joseph died at Monocacy Manor in Prince George's Co., Maryland in 1732. He was not the first "Hedges" in the New World, but if you share our ancestry, he was the first of our line confirmed to have been in America. (1)

Unfortunately, the information being circulated about Joseph of Monocacy seems to be as much misinformation as fact. Depending on whom it is you want to believe, his parents could have been any one of three or four pairs; and about as many names have been suggested for his wives. (2)

As one book puts it, "Joseph Hedges was English, but - not withstanding elaborate family claims to the contrary - no substantiated tie has ever been established to a marriage in England or to his antecedents there."(3)

The problem is that his early life is not well recorded. Primary documentation is sparse and secondary documentation is scarcely better. Most of the time neither is cited. Nowhere, to our knowledge, has there been a recognized effort to bring the documentation together in one place where it can be evaluated. In this age of electronic communications we believe it is possible to do better. Cooperative efforts can be mounted to improve the documentation. Even if no further evidence is located, merely bringing the information together so that the preponderance of evidence can be discussed and assessed, offers hope for a consensus about Joseph of Monocacy.

We propose **The Joseph Project** - A global effort: To share the facts, legends, opinions, and whatever else seems relevant about Joseph of Monocacy. To identify opportunities for improving the factual base. To conduct further research where it seems appropriate. To document what is found. To compile the findings into a single collection. To evaluate and discuss what is found. To reach conclusions and a consensus, if possible, about the facts and the life of Joseph of Monocacy.

### Signed:

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### Footnotes:

- (1) By one scenario, Joseph was the son of William, and **William** was the first of the line in America.
- (2) [Known alternatives have been listed for interested readers.](#)
- (3) "Pioneers of Old Monocacy, the Early settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743" by Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dem, Clearfield Company, Baltimore, 1987.

### 1. Research Goal One: Document the date and place of Joseph's birth

Existing information indicates that Joseph may have been born in England in 1670, or about 1672, or as late as 1675, but the documentation is inconclusive, conflicting or secondary. One source claims Joseph's paternal family came from Wilts, Berks and Gloucester, with later family interests in London. Another associates his father with Finchley, in suburban London (north beyond Hampstead). Still another believes he was born in America.

### 2. Research Goal Two: Document the names of Joseph's parents

Existing information is ambiguous in suggesting several possible parents for Joseph. Suggestions include *Catherine* (TATE) and Charles HEDGES, or *Mary* (CALDWELL) and William HEDGES. If Charles was the father, was he the son of William HEDGES, or the son of *Eleanor* (SMITH) and (Sir) Charles HEDGES?

### 3. Research Goal Three: Document the particulars of Joseph's marriages

It seems well established that Joseph was married more than once, but not as many times as the four or five wives attributed to him. *Catherine* STALLCOP is cited often, although considerable doubt attaches to her. Other names are *Mary* FETTLEPLACE, *Katherin* TINGEY, *Mary* BECKENBAUGH, and *Catharine* LAND (HOGG). Documenting when and where the marriages occurred would go far to answer other questions as well.

### **Other Research Goals**

While it would not be unreasonable to set further goals (e.g., agreement on the date and place when each of his children was born), we are proposing to keep the Project relatively simple and stick with just these three. There will be spinoff benefits, anyway, and additional goals can be added later if desired.

### **How Can These Goals be Realized?**

On one level the answer is "Through the cooperative efforts of all those interested." The Internet and e-mail allow rapid communications from anywhere around the world. We will utilize several sites for communications and the exchange of data (see "Logistics" below).

On a second level the answer is "Through the sharing and compilation of citations and documentation, including original research where appropriate."

### **The Process - Overview**

The process needs to concentrate on a few topics of wide interest, one at a time. **Documentation** is the thread that unifies the effort. For example, documentation that addresses part of the first goal is likely to answer part of the second and third goals as well. It therefore makes sense to focus on the documentation and on specific sources which may, with effort, be available. We want to identify primary documentation; and if that proves impossible, to improve the quality of the secondary documentation. Although many of these items probably do not exist due to earlier practices and the loss of records over time, possible sources for documentation include any relevant materials normally used in genealogical research, such as:

- Parish christening records
- Passenger lists of arriving ships
- Marriage records
- Family Bibles
- Census records
- Tax rolls
- Local special rolls
- Personal correspondence
- Records in which Joseph made declarations
- Deeds and wills
- Other records contemporary to the subject
- Tombstones and similar inscriptions
- Community directories
- Published biography

### **The Process - Getting Started**

We propose that the Project start by "collecting" known documentation and citations of the sort listed above. This is a cooperative process that needs input from you and anyone else with data.

A citation, for example, might be from the IGI index in which a specific christening record is referenced for Joseph, one of his wives, or one of his children. To be suitable, the christening citation would identify the parish and where it was located, and all particulars stated in the index, including any source references. The next step in the process is to obtain (if possible) the underlying primary document. For the christening, the primary document would be a copy of the actual parish record (from the original or microfilm); a properly identified transcript of the original is "second best", but better than none.

In other instances, a source of information available to us may be secondary or tertiary. It also may not be possible to "go behind" what is said, to find and see what documentation was used in its preparation. As long as a source of information is identified, however, any level of authentication is acceptable for the Project. Even "Aunt Minnie Rodgers gave this to me in 1947 as part of the family genealogy passed down to her through the family" is acceptable, although it doesn't carry as much authority as a record made during Joseph's lifetime.

The whole point of the Project is documentation. Information submitted without documentation will be challenged or rejected. We already have loads of undocumented data.

Some of the documentation items may be more important or less reliable than others. Some of it, for example, will probably turn out to be for the "wrong" Joseph. That's all right: Post anything you think may make sense, because sorting it all out is part of what this Project is all about. But to keep things straight, limit your postings to Joseph of Monocacy, his life and times. As usual, we ask that your inputs cite copyrighted materials rather than reproduce them, and avoid abusive language and otherwise inappropriate statements.

### Logistics

- This location on the Hedges Web site has been established for general information and summaries. (We thank Paul Hedges and RootsWeb for the support). We will update this page and its supporting links periodically, to reflect and summarize inputs from readers and participants. As the Project progresses, the summary should develop into a useful bibliography and data compendium for further research and citation, and perhaps also an expression of consensus and conclusion.
- A set of "Hedges" electronic bulletin boards has been established with GenConnect for posting information and queries. The boards are:
  - <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/hed/Hedges>  
for queries
  - <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/hed/HedgesBibl>  
for bibliographic references as well as old Bible records.
  - <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/hed/HedgesBios>  
for biographic sketches and vital statistics including birth, christening, and marriage records; include relevant information here about parents and siblings
  - <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/hed/HedgesObits>  
for obituaries and tombstone inscriptions
  - <http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/surnames/hed/HedgesWill>  
for wills, deeds/conveyances, and court records
- E-mail can be sent as below, although most of the time you will be better off to use the GenConnect boards. If you want to send GEDCOM or other file attachments, for example, these e-mail addresses are available:
  - [lchedges@spitfire.net](mailto:lchedges@spitfire.net) (Larry Hedges)
  - [galechap@aol.com](mailto:galechap@aol.com) (Gale Corson)
- Electronic communications are fast and convenient, but if surface mail seems more appropriate, send it to:
  - Gale Corson
  - 434 Nikki Drive
  - Santa Rosa, CA 95401
- In addition, we will post messages in a few places that direct people to this site - like RootsWeb's Hedges-L mailing list

### Synopsis

Do you care enough about this important ancestor to participate in **The Joseph Project**? Drop a note now on the Query board to indicate your interest and e-mail address, and return when you can to post information on the data boards. Working together we may just be able to accomplish something that has always been out of reach before.

[Hyperlink \(from footnote 2\):](#)

## **"Known" Data Alternatives for Joseph of Monocacy** **The Joseph Project**

The following alternatives for Joseph of Monocacy have been abstracted from various Internet and other sources. Each has been offered by someone as part of "the" genealogy of Joseph of Monocacy.

The reader will recognize that many of the alternatives are mutually exclusive. For example, Joseph could not have been the son of William Hedges and also the son of Charles Hedges. Therefore all "facts" offered here appear without attribution or reference because many are incorrect and all have yet to be documented.

### **The date and place of Joseph's birth and/or christening:**

- a. England in 1670, " of Gloucester and London"
- b. or about 1672,
- c. Christened 28 December 1675 at Shrivenham (near Swindon), Berkshire, England; the son of William.
- d. Born in 1677, the son of William who died 1702 in Salem, NJ.
- e. Born 1690, New Castle Co, DE
- f. Born somewhere in America (possibly Delaware), the son of Mary and William Hedges

### **Joseph's Siblings:**

- a. Charles, the son of William, christened 3 January 1675 at Shrivenham (near Swindon), Berkshire, England; Charles may have had a sister *Mary* christened 19 Nov 1671 in Hampshire. This may have been the Charles who was knighted 1 Jun 1689.
- b. *Mary* Hedges born 1669 in England, married Thomas Douthitt. *Dorcas* Hedges born 1671 in England, married in 1693 to Moses Burvell; she also married Daniel Smith. Charles Hedges born Aug. 6, 1673 in Gloucester, England, died Nov. 8, 1743 in Chester Co., PA.[or 10 Jun 1714 [1720] Richmond, London(?)], and married *Eleanor* SMITH b: c.1677; [daughter of George SMITH (Protector of London)].

### **The names of Joseph's parents:**

- a. *Catherine* (TATE) and Charles HEDGES, the son of William HEDGES
- b. ~~*Catherine* (TATE) and Charles HEDGES, the son of *Eleanor* (SMITH) and (Sir) Charles HEDGES. They were married in 1720.~~
- c. Charles HEDGES (born 1647), the son of Henry HEDGES
- d. *Mary* (CALDWELL) (born 1648 in London, England) and William HEDGES (born 1645 [or 1651] in London, England; died Dec. of 1678 in New Castle Co., DE). They were married 1668 [or 1672] in London
- e. ~~"William HEDGES, of Youghal, Ireland, and Gloucester and London, England, was at Wilmington in 1675 and owned property there under the Duke of York's rule, through Governor Fenwick's administration of South Jersey"~~
- f. *Ann* FENWICK (born in England) and Samuel HEDGES, married November 1676, had three sons, Samuel Jr., Josiah, and Joseph (born 1690); and one daughter named *Mary*.

(Comment: Most or all of these people were in fact the parents of a child named "Joseph Hedges" at about the right time. Sorting out which were the parents of our Joseph of Monocacy is another matter.)

### **Ancestral Locations / paternal family:**

- a. Wilts, Berks and Gloucester, with later family interests in London.
- b. Finchley, in suburban London (north beyond Hampstead).
- c. Richmond Green
- d. Compton Bassett, near Calne (Wiltshire, southwest of Swindon)
- e. [where "the family arms are still preserved around the parapet of the house."]
- f. Wanborough

### **Joseph's marriages and wives:**

Married 45 years after  
Joseph's birth

- a. *Catherine* [*Catharina/Kathrine/Katherine/Cathrine*] STALLCOP [STALCUP, STOLCAP, etc] (born 1688 in New Castle Co, DE); married 1709 [ 8 Sep 1709] at Monocacy [Bloomfield], Prince Georges Co, MD [or in New Castle, DE]
- b. *Mary* FETTLEPLACE (of Kingswood, Wilts; born 1693); married 1 Jan 1708 [1709] in England [or New Castle, DE]
- c. *Katherine* [*Kathrin*] TINGEY [TINGLEY] (of London; born 1672); married 8 Sep 1713
- d. *Mary* BECKENBAUGH (born 1672)
- e. *Catharine* LAND (HOGG)

#### **Joseph's Children:**

For our present purposes Joseph's children are important only as they tell us something about their father and mother. The first two may have been born in England, the rest were born in America (with little or no dispute):

1. Solomon, "the eldest child", the son of [*Mary or Cathrine*], born in England c.1710 [or in Wheeling, Ohio Co, WV]. Immigrated with parents c.1713/1714. Married 1735 [1769] *Rebecca* Van METER [METRE] at Redshire, Old Fort, PA [or Frederick Co., MD].
2. Charles HEDGES, the son of *Mary* [or *Cathrine*], born in England 1712 [or New Castle Co, DE, or Frederick Co., MD]; immigrated with parents c.1713/1714. Married 12 Feb 1736 *Mary* STILLE of PA, in New Castle Co., DE.
3. Joshua HEDGES, son of *Catherine/Kathrine*, born 14 Apr 1714 [1713] America, perhaps Virginia, [or England]. Married 1743 *Elizabeth* CHAPLINE of Queen Parish MD
4. (all the rest were born in America)

#### **Other particulars about Joseph Hedges:**

- a. One belief is that Joseph left England for America c.1713/1714, and he then spent time in (Chester County) PA [1717?] and DE (Marlborough district) before settled in New Castle County, DE [1703?]. NJ is also mentioned.
- b. The first record reported for him pertains to land on Red Clay Creek, Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, DE; a warrant dated 8 Sep 1702 led to a survey dated 4 April 1703.
- c. Joseph held property later along the Monocacy River in Maryland (currently along US highway 15, about six miles north of Frederick, Frederick County, MD). The land was surveyed for him 1 Jul 1730. He named it "Hedge Hogg".
- d. Joseph died 29 Nov 1732 at Monocacy Manor (Manaquacy), in what was then Prince George's Co, MD (Frederick County, MD was established in 1748). His will was dated 6 Sep 1732.

#### **Bibliography:**

The following is just enough to get the ball rolling. Contributors should be able to add many more references.

"Pioneers of Old Monocacy, the Early settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743" by Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, Clearfield Company, Baltimore, 1987.

"International Genealogical Index" (IGI). Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (LDS), Salt Lake City, Utah (several editions in various years, on microfiche and CD-ROM, updated at irregular intervals).

"History of Kentucky and Kentuckians" by E. Polk Johnson, in three volumes, Lewis Publishing Co., New York & Chicago, 1912. Common version, (Vol.III, pp. 1360-1361)

"The Colonial Descendants of William and Mary Hedges" by Peter Stebbins Craig, Washington D.C. , November 1988.

"The Diary of (Sir) William Hedges, Esq. during his agency in Bengal; as well as on his voyage out and return overland (1681-1687)", transcribed by R. Barlow, Esq. Burt Franklin, publishers, New York, NY; originally published by the Hakluyt Society. In three volumes.

"Frederick County, Maryland, Genealogical Research Guide", by Donna Valley Russell, Catoctin Press, Middletown, MD 1987