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Knoxville 17, Tennessee
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JOSEPH A. SHARP COLLECTION
~~MCCLUNG HISTORICAL COLLECTION~~

Mrs. Harrison Hines
29 Barclay Road,
Knoxville, Tennessee

I am enclosing a brief compilation of the information I have collected about the Catlett family. There is a mass of other detail, but this is the gist of it.

Since this is the only copy I have, would you mind returning it to me some-time? I still have all the notes from which it was taken, but I do not have another copy of this.

Census records show that Benjamin and John Catlett were born in Virginia, and that Samuel Catlett was born in Tennessee, the latter in 1798. Benjamin was born in 1797, and John 1784. If we can assume that these three were brothers, which does not seem unlikely, then the Catletts came to Tennessee from Virginia between the time Benjamin was born in 1797 and the time Samuel was born in 1798. I have never found any evidence that Reuben Catlett came to Tennessee at all, but if it is true that these three were brothers, then he was the father of them all, and it seems hardly likely that such young boys would come to the frontier of those days alone. So it must be that Reuben was in Tennessee. I am hoping that your Bible may throw some light on this. It seems that you are descended from Samuel Catlett.

Sincerely Hugh Allen

From 1850 Census for Sevier County, Tennessee:

- #513 WILLIAM CATLETT, 33 Tennessee Horse trader
NANCY CATLETT, 50 Tennessee widow of Benjamin Catlett
ADELINE CATLETT, 17
- 514 HENRY CATLETT, 24 Horse trader son of Benjamin and Nancy
- 562 SAMUEL CATLETT 52 Tennessee
wife, Hannah, 49, Tennessee
Hannah 19
Perlina, 18
James, 16
Albert, 12
Ira, 10
Cherissa, 8
- LOFTY CATLETT, N~~X~~ 29, Tennessee living in same household with
Samuel so presume he was son of
Samuel.
wife, Jane, 22
- #651 JOHN CATLETT, 66 Virginia b. 1784 was he elder brother of Benja-

min and Samuel?

wife, Mary, 65, Virginia
John P. Catlett, 20, Tennessee

669 GEORGE W. CATLETT, 38, Miller, Tennessee.
wife, Levinia
Calawy, 12.

"The Catletts are descended from John Catte of County Kent.... family name and mansion of Hugh de Catte in 1442.

COLONEL JOHN CATLETT was born in 1622. He came from County Kent, England, to Virginia in 1650. He lived in Essex County, in the part that later became Caroline County. He was a colonel of militia. He accompanied John Lederer on his third expedition to explore the country west of the Blue Ridge. He married in 1654, Elizabeth, the daughter of Captain William Underwood; the widow of Joseph Baldwin. Colonel John Catlett was a justice and a leading man in Essex County. He was one of three commissioners appointed to settle a dispute about the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia. He was killed by Indians at Port Royal, Virginia, in 1670.

There is listed a Nicholas Catlett, the son of John, above, who came with his father to Virginia. (Compendium, Volume LV, Page 710.)

John Catlett(II) was born in 1658 and died in 1724. He married Elizabeth Gains, the daughter of Daniel Gains of Essex County. This John Catlett was the son of the above, and apparently also was called colonel.

JOHN CATLETT (III) died in 1739. He lived in St. Mary's Parish, Caroline County, Virginia. He married Mary Taliaferro, the daughter of John Taliaferro and Margaret Bernard. Margaret was the daughter of Thomas Bernard, who was in turn the son of Sir John Bernard.

The will of John Catlett (III), dated June 14, 1738, names his wife, Mary; his son, John, and minor children, Mary, Judith, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Reuben and William. It names as executors his brothers, Thomas C. and John. (Apparently discrepancy here, as John hardly would have had a brother named John.)

THOMAS CATLETT died in 1739. Martha Catlett was named his administratrix. This probably was the brother of John (III).

REBECCA CATLETT married, in 1718 or 1720, Francis Comsay. She was the daughter of John (II) and therefore the sister of John (III).

JOHN CATLETT (V) was born in 1733 and died in 1789. He married Elizabeth Thornberry.

CAPTAIN THOMAS LAWRENCE CATLETT died in 1821. He married, in 1810, Mariah Fitzhugh. (I have not pursued this line further, since it obviously is not the one in which I am interested.)

The estate in Caroline County once owned by the Catletts was Locust Hill. Caroline County was set up in 1729, cut off from Essex and other counties.

(All of the foregoing information is from authentic published records.)

The following random notes have been taken from published records, but have not been fitted into the picture definitely.

There is mentioned a John Catlett, born in 1749, died in 1826, who married Ollie T. King. He served as a captain of Virginia Militia.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY, Virginia, records show that Captain John Catlett served in Colonel Spottswood's Virginia Regiment and participated in the battles of

Monmouth and Stoney Point.

DAR Records show that David Catlett, 1753-1834, received a pension for his service with Virginia troops. (Vol. 160, Page 212.) He was born in Prince William County, Virginia, and died at Covington, Ky.; He married Ann Morgan in 1783. She died in 1840.

Shenandoah County records also show that Marquis Calmes, who was born in 1768, married Henrietta Catlett, who was the daughter of Robert Catlett. George Catlett married Letitia Buck, and Letitia Buck's brother, John Buck, married Sara Catlett. There is a record of transfer of land in 1776 to John Catlett Jr. A Charles Catlett is listed in the census records for 1785.

There is a reference to the family Bible of John Catlett Allensworth and Amelia Pellard Carter, of Christain County, Kentucky, which I have misplaced.

Records of the First Baptist Church, Sevierville, in 1846 show Nancy Catlett, John Catlett, George Catlett and Lavina Catlett.

Henrietta Catlett, 1781-1850 (where) married Butler Allensworth.

Martha Catlett, died 1760, married William Hampton. Her father was Major Thomas Catlett.

Names on Masonic records in Caroline County, Virginia, 1771, include Thomas Catlett, Lawrence Catlett and John Catlett.

LAND GRANTS. John Catlett took up a grant of 358 acres on both side of Brent Town Road east of Darrell's Run in Fauquier County, Virginia. This land was taken up November 7, 1715, and John Catlett appears as seated on it in 1759. (Faugquier County was set up in 1759, cut off from Prince William County. Prince William County was set up in 1731, cut off from Stafford and King George Counties.)

The following land grants appear in Caroline County: Thomas Catlett, 66 acres, September 28, 1732; Thomas Catlett, 1376 acres, March 23, 1733; Lawrence Taliaferro, 12 acres, August 30, 1763, and 12 acres July 10, 1767.

A survey was made April 27, 1730, for Major Thomas Catlett for 66 acres in St. Margaret's Parish, (Caroline County) and another in the same year in St. Mary's Parish for 1376 acres, "abounding" on Taliaferro.

The John Catlett who appears as seated in Fauquier County in 1759 must have been John (V) as none of the previous John's were living in that year. It probably was "taken up" however by one of the earlier John's.

It would appear from Caroline County records that the tribe of Catlett left the county early. There are no Catletts listed as Revolutionary soldiers in that county, although there definitely were Catletts in the Revolution.

The town of Sevierville, Tennessee, was laid out in 1795, and among the citizens are listed:

John Catlett, carpenter

Date when they were citizens was 1830.

Richard Catlett, hatter

Benjamin Catlett, tavern keeper

This is recorded in Goodspeed's History, but I am inclined to doubt it. The 1830 census lists exactly the three same names as living in Sevier County in 1830, and I am inclined to believe the historian is confused, as he was in not a few cases.

ALL OF THE FOREGOING is from printed books. But Now-- Benjamin Catlett, the tavern keeper of Sevierville, is my wife's ancestor. Benjamin Catlett was born in Virginia April 29, 1797. He died in Sevierville in 1831. He married Nancy Levelady.

Benjamin Catlett's son was Henrietta Catlett. (Strange name for a man,

but not that the name occurs several times before.) He married Martha Ardes. Benjamin Catlett's FATHER was REUBEN CATLETT. He lived in Virginia, since his son was born there.

MY GREAT PROBLEM is to tie this REUBEN CATLETT with the long line of Johns in Virginia. Could this Reuben have been the Reuben mentioned as a minor child of JOHN (III)? The recurrence of the names John and Benjamin make it beyond any reasonable doubt that there was a connection, although this Reuben might have been grandson instead of son of JOHN (III), and of course definite documentary proof is almost impossible.

Your inquiry in DAR magazine had the happy effect of needling me to set down and reassemble the data I have on the House of Catlett, and I am taking the liberty of sending you a carbon copy in the hope that somewhere in it you might find some bit of information that would be of help to you, or might tie in with other information you have.

If you have any information that will clarify any of the many questions that this incomplete screed presents, I would be most happy to hear from you.

And I wish you much luck in the never-ending quest for the elusive ancestor that is always just beyond the end of the rainbow.

Sincerely

Hugh Allen