THE DESCENDANTS

OF

RUMSEY FRANKLIN

AND

HANNAH JANE (LOY) OATES

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WE ARE OUR FUTURE ANCESTORS

As the Mayflower was coming from England to the New World in 1620, an indentured servant named John Howland climbed up on deck to get a breath of fresh air and was hurled overboard when the ship rolled suddenly in a shifting gale. As he flew over the side, he grabbed blindly at a dangling halyard, and though he was carried far beneath the waves, somehow held on long enough for the crew to haul him back to safety.

John Howland’s survival was as fortuitous and random as his near-fatal plunge. In the New World he would thrive, work off his indenture, become a cornerstone of the colony, and marry a pretty young woman named Elizabeth Tilley. She would bear him 10 children, who would in turn produce 88 grandchildren, from whom, over the next four centuries, an estimated 2 million American’s would descend, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Joseph Smith, Franklin Roosevelt, Humphrey Bogart, Chevy Chase, and both George Bushes, father and son.

Source: Finding Your Roots, PBS

Family Reunion Prayer

Oh God, keep in our memories all of those who have gone before us, and those now living, who by their efforts and by their experiences have brought us to this time and place.  Forgive us when we have no regard for the past and act as though everything has it’s beginning with us.

Help us to remember with gratitude the acts of faith of those who have lived in other days and in other circumstances.

           May we learn from them in order that our faith will be as vital, our commitment as sincere, our worship as alive, our fellowship as deep.  May our lives be more than a routine, more than a spending of days, and may we have a heritage to pass on to those who come after us.

          Please give those of us who have inherited the heritage of our past the strength & knowledge to pass it along to the future generations.

           Lord, you have many with you who used to be with us.  We trust you will continue to care for them and love them as we did when they were among us.  They were our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and cousins and they are all missed.  Give them all our love!

AMEN

Source: Random genealogy prayer, tweaked by the author.

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**A HISTORY OF THE OATS/OATES FAMILY**

This is a small attempt, in some manner, to explain the historical significance of the Oats/Oates family in America. We all like to think of ourselves as important and hope somewhere in our past to discover that ancestor who contributed something so important to the world that it would not be where it is today. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the Oats/Oates family.

But do not be too quick to hang your head, Oats descendants, for if it were not for the working average American, where would this country be today? And I think, if

one statement truly defines the Oats/Oates family then "hard-working average American" sums it up. No famous pioneer hero, no great American politician, no all-American sports hero, just good old-fashioned everyday people. When you think about it that's not so bad.

The name of Oats/Oates, as I am sure everyone can attest to, has always created a certain curiosity among people. Until about 1980, I was not knowledgeable enough to answer inquiries. But thanks to the efforts of Dr. Wilmer Kerns, of Arlington, VA, a great deal of information has been uncovered. Dr. Kerns is not a descendant of the Oates family, but has done extensive research into all of the old Hampshire County families.

Dr. Kerns began his research years ago by researching the Oates Family of Hampshire Co., VA (WV). He continually ran into dead ends when he couldn't discover any information past the first purchase of land by Jacob Oats, Sr. in Hampshire County in August of 1793. This prompted him to write the article in the April 1984 issue of *The West Virginia Advocate*. The story was titled, "THE MYSTERIOUS JACOB OATS". In this article he speculated on the possibility that Jacob could have been a Revolutionary War deserter mainly because of his nonexistent past.

Due to Dr. Kerns’ persistent research and the discovery of a deed (Deed Book 13, page 164, Hampshire Co. Courthouse) stating Jacob's name as “Jacob Hauver or Jacob Oats", part of the mystery was solved. It was then that Kerns realized that he was witnessing a name change. Following this lead and the fact that four of Jacob's grandchildren had listed their parent’s birthplace on the 1880 Hampshire County Census as Maryland, he continued his research. He found that Maryland records revealed a heavy concentration of the Hauver name in Frederick County, Maryland.

While checking the records of Apple's Lutheran and Reformed Church in Thurmont, MD, in Frederick County, Dr. Kerns discovered the baptismal records of the children of Jacob and Catharina Haber. The names of those children were Johann Christian, Johann George, Johannes, Daniel, and Elizabeth. This provided the necessary link to begin intensive research into the Frederick County, Maryland area. Dr. Kerns, being involved in numerous other projects, asked me to continue research into the Oats/Hauver connection.

I have been involved in researching the Oats/Oates Family since the mid- 70's and met Dr. Kerns after he inadvertently left off my ancestor, Daniel, from the list of Jacob, Sr.’s children in the Advocate article of 1984. This error prompted me to write a letter and thus I discovered how valuable Dr. Kerns is as a researcher. Since that time, he has provided me with page after page of his labors to help me with the Oats research.

Dr. Kerns has always said that someone needed to go to Frederick County, MD and begin research on the Oats/Hauver line. On August 11, 1988, I spent the day in Thurmont, MD, trying to contact members of the Hauver Family still living in the area. I finally did reach a gentleman named Robert Hauver who still lived within sight of Apple's Lutheran and Reformed Church. He provided me with a Bible record of a George Hauver, who was buried at Apple's Church. He also told me of a lady by the name of Roberta J. Hauver, who still lived on the original homestead of the Hauver Family in the northwest corner of Frederick County. It was not until July 6, 1989 that I finally located her. As a result of this meeting, I was given the name of Mrs. Leah Spade of Foxville, MD, who had the necessary information to solve many of the questions surrounding the mystery of the Oats/Hauver relationship.

**THE NAME**

Upon beginning my research into the Hauver Family in Frederick County, MD, Robert Hauver said that his father told him that years ago one of the Hauvers moved to Virginia and changed his name to Oats. This story seems to always come out when talking to Hauver Family genealogists. Other researchers from the Frederick County, MD area are not so quick to accept this relationship and are still very skeptical and many even still deny the relationship. What has the Oats Family done to deserve this? My appearance as an Oats researcher in Frederick County, MD, trying to prove this relationship, was called by one Hauver descendant as "revolutionary" while others simply still deny any relationship.

The literal translation of the German word for Haber or Hafer is "oat", the grain. Early records in Frederick Co. alternated the use of Hauver and Oats, but Hauver was more prevalent and was retained. Other spellings are best shown by the Frederick Co., MD Census reports from 1790 to 1840:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1790 Hover

1800 Oats

1810 Huver

1820 Hawver

1830 Hoover

1840 Hauver

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

During this text I will use many of these spellings without explanation. Please understand that they are considered correct. They have been copied verbatim from various sources.

**RECORDS OF THE EARLY HAUVERS**

**OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

A Peter listed, as single, is first mentioned in the Apple’s Lutheran and Reformed Church records on May 17, 1775 and George’s first activity is a sponsor at a baptism on May 21, 1778. Jacob and his wife first show up on July 4, 1782 as a baptism sponsor. Anna Barbara Hauver, single, appears also as a sponsor on June 22, 1776. All the above were brothers and sisters.

Susanna. Inscriptions are:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*George Hauver died Dec. 12, 1831*

*age 76 yrs. 5 mos. 7 day*

*Susanna Hauver, wife of George, born Feb. 16, 1783*

*Died July 16, 1856*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Records from Roberta Hauver also show a written copy of a Bible record copied approximately 20 years ago. The Bible belonged to a George Hauver with the same date of birth as the above tombstone. Below is the text written in what appeared to be German. Note: Mr. Hauver sent this inscription away to be translated.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*“In the year 1755, on the 5th day of July (the hay month), Johan*

*Jorg Hauver was born into this world.*

*In the year 1775, on the 10th of Mar., I entered matrimony with*

*Catrina Scheiderin.*

*I lived for 5 months as a widower. In 1813 I again entered into*

*Matrimony on the 7th day of Mar. with Susanna Kesslerin.”*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE BEGINNINGS OF THE OATS FAMILY IN AMERICA**

George Haber, Sr. (born circa 1725) was the European immigrant

that came to America. Georg arrived in Philadelphia, PA, on Oct. 20, 1752 or

the ship, "Duke of Wirtemberg", Daniel Montpeiler, commander from Rotterdam

"Last from Cowes". From there Georg migrated north to Williams Township, Northampton Co., PA., where Georg and his wife, Anna Susanna, (maiden name unknown), had their first two children, Anna Barbara and Johan Peter. They were both baptized by the reformed Minister, Rev. Jacob Lischy of York Co., PA. It is unclear whether they still resided in Williams Township or had removed to York. Their last recorded activity in Pennsylvania was the baptism of Johan Peter on April 20, 1754. No records of a baptism of George, Jr., their next child; Jacob, our ancestor, or any of the other children have been discovered yet.

Georg and his family left Pennsylvania and moved into the Foxsville area

of Frederick Co., MD. In researching the history of the Frederick County area,

one finds that a Swiss colony made the first settlement in what is now called,

Hauver's District, about the year 1758-59. This area which lies in the Catoctin Mountains, would follow the national instinct of the Swiss to love

mountainous regions. One can only speculate whether Georg and his family were of this Swiss Colony and settled that early in this region. Anyhow, enough for speculation. Eventually they did settle in the area and remained there as tenant farmers until Georg's descendants purchased the same property in 1858. The Old Hauver Family Cemetery is located on this property. When I visited this in the early 1990’s, the stones contained no inscriptions, but old family stories tell of initials on some stones. Georg, Sr. and his wife; son, Peter and his wife are said to buried there.

SPECULATION: Another possibility for our direct ancestor - Johan Georg Hafer last in Philadelphia on Aug. 13, 1750 on the Ship Bennett Gally, John Wadham, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Portsmouth. On board the same ship with Johan David Neumann. A David Neumann was present at Georg and Anna Susanna’s first child’s baptism. Is this our ancestor or Georg Haber, who arrived two years later?

Both Georg and his wife were born circa 1725 in the German or Swiss

area of Europe. They were married circa 1750's, quite possibly before emigrating to America.

The children of Georg and Anna Susanna Haber, Sr. were:

1. Anna Barbara was baptized on July 5, 1753. Sponsors were David Neu-

man and Anna Barbara Husserin (Houser?). Any other details concerning her are unknown.

2. Johan Peter was born Mar. 1, 1754 and baptized April 20, 1754. Sponsors were Peter and Susannah Lau (Law?). He married Hannah Caspier or Kassbehr circa 1771. They had approximately ten children. This is the Peter written about in the "History of Frederick County" by Williams and Titsworth. It is stated that "Peter was born in Germany and emigrated to America. He lived in what was named Hauver's District, where he took up a large tract of land". Here timber was cut and transported to the Catoctin Furnace for fuel. Obviously, the statement concerning Peter’s birthplace was in error.

3. George, Jr. was born July 5, 1755. He first married Catrina Scheiderin

(Snyder?) on Mar. 10, 1779. After her death in the fall of 1812, Georg married Susanna Kesserlin (Kepler?) on Mar. 7, 1813. George had at least three children by his first marriage and his second wife brought at least three from a previous one. His will was dated Aug. 28, 1831 and was probated Dec. 21, 1831. He was buried at the Apple's Lutheran and Reformed Church in Thurmont, MD. See previous tombstone inscription.

4. Jacob was born circa 1757. This is our direct ancestor. We will discuss more on him later.

5. Christian was born circa 1758. He married a woman by the name of Elizabeth (maiden name unknown). They lived in Hauver's District and had at least three children.

6. Jonas was born circa 1762 and married a Catherine Raught. All I know is that they had one son named Johan George, born 1786.

7. Anna Elizabeth was born 1764. She first married a Mr. Schmidt and later married a Peter Bruner.

8. Nancy Matilda was born circa 1768 and died Oct. 19, 1833. She was sometime called "Nentzi". She married David Wolf, Sr. He was born Oct. 1761 and died Dec. 29, 1845. He was the son of Adam and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Wolf. They are buried on their homeplace in Garfield, MD.

**FIRST GENERATION**

**JACOB HAUVER OATS (ca. 1757-1831)**

Jacob Hauver, Sr. and his wife, Catharina (Hermann/Harmon) Hauver were German speaking folks living in Thurmont, Frederick County, MD, from 1778 to 1793. Catherine was the daughter of Marcus and Christena (maiden name unknown) Hermann. The last name of Hauver was spelled in various ways over the years. Many of the different spellings will be used within this text. The records of the Apple's Lutheran and Reformed Church, Thurmont, MD, show that the following were the children of Jacob and Catharina (Hermann/Harmon) Haber, Sr.

1. Johan Christian Haber was born on April 21, 1783. This man became known as Christopher or Christian Oats and was the progenitor of many of the Oats/Oates clan in the Wardensville/Hardy County, WV area. Genealogically, he is one of the more elusive members of the Oats family.

2. Jacob Hafer, Jr. was born circa 1784 and died in Frederick County, VA sometime after 1860. He married Elizabeth Slonaker, the daughter of Christopher and Mary Ellen (Noel) Slonaker, sister to the wife of George.

3. Johan George Haber was born on Mar. 25, 1786. He became known as George Oats and, also took up residence in Hampshire County, VA/WV. He married Catherine Slonaker, also the daughter of Christopher and Mary Ellen (Noel) Slonaker. He died in Park's Hollow, Hampshire County, VA, in 1844. George's will is on record at the Hampshire County Courthouse.

4. Johannes (John) Oates was born Jan. 17, 1788 and died in 1824.

He married Mary Kerns on Mar. 14, 1814 in Frederick Co., VA. She was the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Reid) Kerns, Sr. John died early in life, after fathering many children.

5. Daniel Haber was born April 12, 1790. This is our direct descendant of

the Oats/Oates line. This was the great-great-grandfather of Rumsey.

More about Daniel later.

6. Elizabeth was born in 1792 and was baptized on August 12, 1792. This was the last entry of the Hauver Family in the Apple's Lutheran and Reformed Church records. After this the family moved to Hampshire County, VA. She married a John Carlyle.

7. Peter Oats was born in 1800 in Hampshire County, VA. He married Sarah Kerns, daughter of Nathan and Sarah (Reid) Kerns, Sr. on Feb. 12, 1820.

8. Mary Oats was born in 1802. She married Robert Nelson on Feb. 27, 1820. They lived in Hampshire County on U. S. Rt. 50, just east of Capon Bridge along Mill Branch.

9. Susannah Oats has yet to have her date of birth discovered. Dr. Kerns corresponded with a lady in Oregon who can substantiate this daughter. She married a Lewis McQuade.

10. Jane Oats. She married John Fletcher.

The Haber Family moved into Hampshire County in 1793 and settled atop Timber Ridge, the Hampshire County side. Jacob had also purchased land from his father-in-law, Mark Harmon, on August 19, 1785 (Deed Liber WRG, folio 86) in his native Frederick County, MD. This land was retained until Jacob Hauver deeded the property to his brother-in-law, Christian Harmon, on April 15, 1793 (Deed Liber 11(?), folio 477). The next public record shows Jacob purchasing 111 acres from Christian and Mary Slonaker in Hampshire County, VA (WV) on August 4, 1792 (Deed Book 9, page 241). Subsequent purchases were made in 1802, 422 acres and possibly another in 1830 of 135 acres. But the later could have been Jacob, Jr.

Another deed, (Deed Book 34, page 554) dated July 30, 1839, still within the estate settlement of Jacob, Sr., states that the "land still undivided between his 10 children." This deed also lists the heirs to the estate. They are as follows with their relationship to Jacob, Sr. in parentheses:

1. Daniel (son) and Mary, his wife

2. John Fletcher and Jane, (daughter), his wife

3. Robert Nelson and Mary, (daughter), his wife

4. John Carlyle (son-in-law and husband of Elizabeth).

5. Lewis McQuade and Susannah, (daughter), his wife

6. Jacob, (Jr., son) and Elizabeth, his wife

7. Jacob Sirbaugh and Elizabeth, his wife (listed as heirs of the John Oats Estate. He died in 1824.)

This only leaves three of Jacob, Sr.'s children unaccounted for during his estate settlement. These three were: George, Christopher and Peter. George and Peter, I still can find little on them. Christopher Oats and his wife, Mary, heirs to the Jacob Oats estate, sold land on July 30, 1834, to William Odell (Deed Book 34, page 386).

Jacob, Sr. died sometime in 1831. His estate was settled on August 18, 1832. A list of his personal property and debts are on record in the Hampshire County Courthouse (Will book 10, page 133). As to where Jacob, Sr. is buried no one really knows. Many speculate that he was buried on Timber Ridge. The graveyard in question was said to be destroyed in the 1930's by an irate and prejudiced man who had reason to believe that "colored folk" were buried amongst the white folks. For that he destroyed the entire cemetery with a bulldozer.

Others believe that he is buried in an unmarked grave at the early site of the Timber Ridge Christian Church. There is also a chance that he died at the home of his son, Christopher, and this family plot has not yet been found.