

Hight/Hite Family Genealogy

Submitted by Lynn Coffey

Note: This article, written by Carol Harlow of Rockbridge Baths, was first published in the April 1998 Backroads newspaper after several people specifically asked for more information on the Hight (Hite) family. Answering these requests, Carol sent in an abundance of Hight/Hite genealogy for the reader's enjoyment. Carol is the fourth great-granddaughter of George Hight.

George Hight/Hite 1755—1837

George Hight was born in King and Queen County, Virginia on July 3, 1755 to John and Mary Hight. On May 24th, 1782, he married Agnes Lovia Lunsford. She was born on June 24th, 1760, possibly a daughter of William Lunsford. They were married in Amherst County, Virginia. George died on August 21st, 1837 and Lovia died on June 3rd, 1843. Both are buried in the Haines Chapel Cemetery in Rockbridge County, near the Nelson County line.

In 1776, George Hight volunteered and served with Captain John Gilmor to fight against the Cherokee Indians. After returning home six months later, he enlisted in the Third Light Dragoons for the duration of the Revolutionary War. He was severely wounded and left for dead near Hackensack, New Jersey, and was taken prisoner at Monck's Corner, South Carolina. He was then brought to Jamestown, Virginia after several months and released as part of a prisoner exchange with the British.

George Hight gave the land for Haines Chapel, also known as South Mountain Chapel, on August 5th, 1835, along with a parcel set aside for a graveyard. It is said he was the first person buried there. At one time he owned practically all of what is known as South Mountain, located in northern Rockbridge County, near the Nelson County line. A part of this land is still owned today by some of his descendants. In 1826, George purchased 1,146 acres of land at an auction in the valley below his mountain. He kept the land for eleven years before selling it to Edward Bryan, who developed an iron ore furnace on the property.

According to filed papers, George applied to get his war pension for his wife to receive her widow's pension after his death. The couple had nine children and four of those were deceased when Lovia died in 1843.

The will of George Hight is recorded in Will Book, page 492, in Rockbridge County Courthouse and it states in part that his real estate is to go to his son Joel, unless his son William, who has gone to Missouri, is still living; if so, William is to get half of the property. He leaves \$200 in money or bonds to a John Hite. This John Hite was his nephew, who was married to Sarah, the illegitimate granddaughter of George. He also instructs that his personal property is to be sold and the money divided between the children of his son, Tillman. The children of George and Lovia Hight are as follows:

Nancy Hight, born May 26th, 1783, who married James Campbell. Nothing else is known about Nancy. She was deceased before her mother died in 1843.

Tillman Hight, was born on February 1st, 1785. I have been told he died on September 29th, 1850, supposedly he was dragged by a horse and did not survive. On June 20th, 1813, he married Elizabeth Holmes, born November 29th, 1797. She was a daughter of Martin and Julia Venum Homes. Elizabeth died on November 24th, 1887 near Crabtree Falls. Tillman and Elizabeth were the parents of 15 children. She was living with William Paul and Caroline Hight (her daughter) in 1880. In December of 1843, a public auction was held to sell the personal property of Tillman Hight to pay his debts to an Alexander Fitzpatrick. In reading the list of items sold, it would appear that everything he owned was sold, including his furniture and farm animals.

Fleming Hight, was born on October 29th, 1786, and was deceased before 1843.

George Hight, was born on February 8th, 1789, and went to Indiana. No other documented information is known about him. It is rumored he had a son, George B. Hight, who married a Nancy James. Nancy is said to be the aunt of Frank and Jesse James. To date, this has not been proven, but the James brothers did have an aunt named Nancy, whose husband George B. Hight was referred to as “Old Man Hight” at Frank James’ trial. And two of Nancy’s sons; Robert Woodson and Clarence Hight rode with the James gang.

Docia Hight, was born on July 30th, 1791, and died before 1843. She never married, however in 1808 she gave birth to a daughter named Sarah. Sarah later married John Hight who was her mother’s first cousin and they had a family of eight. Sarah died in 1870. One of Sarah’s sons was Rev. Robert S. Hight, who married into the Humpries family near Vesuvius. Other names from this family include; Tyree, Kesterson, and Patterson.

Joel Hight, was born on September 27th, 1793, and died in 1866. On August 28th, 1815, he married Nancy Campbell, daughter of William and Sally Goode Campbell. She was born on September 1st, 1794, and died after 1870. They were married in Nelson County and are buried at Haines Chapel Cemetery in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Nancy had a brother names James, who married Joe’s sister, Nancy Hight. Joel is in his father’s will to inherit all the real estate unless his brother William, who is living in Missouri, is still living. There were 11 (known) children born to Joel and Nancy. Joel apparently “fell on hard times” because in the last few years of his life, a lot of the property he had inherited from his father was sold to satisfy debts.

Dacey Hight, was born on May 6th, 1796, and died after 1860. According to church records, Dacey is buried in the Mount Carmel Cemetery. On January 6th, 1817, she married William Moran, son of Elijah and P. Moran. William was born in 1802 in Nelson County and died in December of 1862. His burial place is unknown. They were married in Nelson County. She is not mentioned in her father’s will but she is listed as living when her mother applied for her widow’s pension.

Catherine Hight, was born on June 24th, 1800, and married Charles Moran and moved to Indiana. She was still living in 1943. I am inclined to think that this Charles Moran was a brother of

William, who married Catherine's sister, Dicey. William and Dicey remained in Rockbridge County after Catherine and Charles moved to Indiana.

William Hight, was born on December 7th, 1802, and went to Missouri and married a Miss Wingo. Apparently, he never returned to Virginia and died sometime before 1843.

Note from Carol: Research on George Hight is an ongoing project. My goal is to attempt to document as many descendants as possible of George Hight. I am asking for any interested parties to provide names, dates, etc. to me. I have the families of Tillman, Joel, Docia, and Dicey researched in most families to the present generations, but would be grateful for any additional information. I have also compiled information on Samuel Hight, a brother of George. I can be reached at 48 Shiloh Lane, Rockbridge Baths, Virginia 24473.



George Hight's gravestone at Haines Chapel Church in Rockbridge County, Virginia



Gravestone of George's wife, Lovia