MOSES HOUGH MILITARY SERVICE

The month he became 17, Moses volunteered as a Private in the New Jersey Militia. He marched through New Jersey and parts of New York. Moses was not mustered out for two years, spending the latter part of his service irregularly, sometimes on duty and sometimes at home but always under command of his Officers. Moses served under Col. Hunt, Maj. Lynn, and Capt. William Logan at the Battle of Monmouth and was mustered out a few days afterwards.

Moses served in a regiment under General Washington in one unit on the front near British lines in and about Brunswick, Morristown, Hackensack, South Amboy, Newark and Monmouth. He particularly remembered the Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778) as exceedingly hot, and that he was marched (ten miles) to Hightstown the same evening. Moses never received a written discharge.

MOSES HOUGH FAMILY HISTORY

Moses was born June 16, 1759, at Neshanic Station near the Raritan River, Somerset County, New Jersey. He died March 4, 1836, Spencer County, Kentucky.

Moses’ great-grandfather, Paulus, sailed from Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 6, 1650, on the New Netherlands Fortune, landing December 19, 1650, at New Amsterdam (New York City), NY. He settled Brooklyn, Kings County, Long Island, NY, and joined the Dutch Reformed Church. Moses’ grandfather, Dirrick, relocated to Jamaica, then to Flushing, both in Queens County, Long Island, NY, about 1694, and settled Maidenhead (Lawrenceville), NJ, about 1702. Moses’ father, Joseph, settled in a Dutch area of Somerset County, NJ, at Neshanic Station near the Raritan River.

Most ships from Europe by 1650 sailed southward along the coastlines of France and Portugal, westward across the Atlantic Ocean, and landed on one or more Caribbean Islands that contained friendly inhabitants. It was there where they gathered sufficient food to continue the voyage northward along the east coast of America to their destination.

Moses married Elizabeth Handley April 16, 1780, in Burlington County, NJ, relocated in 1782 to Loudon County, VA, and issued four sons (1783-1789). The family was at Simpson’s Creek Settlement, alongside the West Fork of Monongahela River (vicinity of Morgantown/Fairmount, WV), when the State of Kentucky was formed in 1792. Moses and family were at Ft. Pitt, PA, in 1794, and they traveled down the Ohio River via flatboat in 1795 to Falls of the Ohio at Louisville.

The family traveled overland through Boon’s Settlement (near Shelbyville) to Forks of the Elkhorn (south of Frankfort) where their fifth son was born in 1796. Moses and Elizabeth were listed as members of the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in 1801.

Having lived in a Dutch area of New Jersey until age 21, Moses spoke with a very heavy Dutch accent. It appears that he neither read nor wrote very well the American language until sometime after about 1810.

The family retraced their earlier steps to Boon’s Settlement in 1803, then traveled 18 to 20 miles southwest to the fertile Salt River floodplain area in Bullitt County. They settled in the vicinity of what later became Moses’ namesakes – Dutchman Creek, Little Dutchman Creek, and Hough Run.

On November 23, 1822, Moses and Elizabeth became members of the Plum Creek Baptist Church, Elizabeth by letter and Moses by relation.

Moses and his family owned land on the Salt River floodplain and along, and between, Dutchman Creek and Little Dutchman Creek and Hough Run. The 1824 formation of Spencer
County adjacent to Bullitt County split their land holdings, leaving acreage in each county. The precise location of that Bullitt/Spencer county line remains indefinite today.

Moses’ wife, Elizabeth, died in October, 1834. His fourth son, John, was appointed Spencer County Tax Commissioner that same year.

Joseph Hough, grandson of Moses, operated a Mt. Washington general store (groceries and dry goods), located on the northeast corner of Main Street at State Route 44. Mt. Washington was situated midway between Louisville and Bardstown along the road that connected them, and the store was a rest stop for travelers such as Stephen Foster. Joseph was a charter member of Salt River Lodge F. & A. M. No. 180, served as its Master in 1852, and was a member of the Mt. Washington Methodist Church, which was located across Main Street from his house.

Charles Hough, grandson of Moses, became a Taylorsville merchant in 1865. Charles’ son, Will, continued the business operation until the 1940s. That building, occupied today by a bank, still stands with CHAS. HOUGH & CO. engraved in large letters across the top concrete beam above the second story.

PATERNAL ANCESTRAL CHART

Dirk Hoff, b. 1599, Netherlands

Paulus Dirckse Hoff, b. ca 1620, Luttenborg, Netherlands; d. 1692, Brooklyn, Kings County, Long Island, NY

Dirrick Paulszen Hoff, b. ca 1649, Netherlands; d. 1730, Maidenhead (Lawrenceville), NJ

Joseph Hoff (Huff), b. ca 1700, Flushing, Queens Co., Long Island, NY; d. 12/4/1769, Neshanic Station, Somerset Co., NJ

Moses (Huff) Hough, b. 6/16/1759, Neshanic Station, Somerset County, NJ; d. 3/4/1836, Spencer County, KY, buried at Mt. Washington (KY) Cemetery

William Hough, b. 6/3/1785, Loudoun County, VA; d. 4/15/1850, Hardin County, KY

Harrison Hough, b. 10/1/1811, Bullitt County, KY; d. Wolf Island, Mississippi County, MO; Lawyer in Elizabethtown, KY; elected to 1837 Kentucky Legislature; elected to 1844 Missouri Legislature; appointed first 10th Judicial Circuit Court Judge (southeast Missouri); Missouri State Commissioner, March 1861 Peace Conference (Border State Convention), Washington, DC

William Johnson Hough, b. 3/27/1840, Nelson County, KY; d. 3/13/1915, McCracken County, KY; volunteered for military service in the CSA during the first semester of his fourth year at Georgetown College, Kentucky, and served in the 8th Missouri Cavalry, CSA

William Henry Harrison Hough, b. 9/25/1866, Wolf Island, Mississippi County, MO; d. 5/1/1950 at home of oldest daughter, Evansville, IN

Winfred Cyril Hough, b. 6/11/1893, Cairo, Alexander County, IL; d. 7/6/1969, Paducah, McCracken County, KY; Draftee, US Army, 3rd Infantry Division, WWI

James Emerson Hough, b. 7/25/1930, Paducah, McCracken County, KY; Draftee, US Army, Corps of Engineers, Korean War

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