

Phoebe Ann Carr 1904 Letter

Phebe is famous in this Huffman family for writing a letter to her daughter Cora Carr in 1904 which has been invaluable to the descendants of Henry Huffman.

Though there are errors in her recollections, mostly in the Hull connections, the information given has made it possible to connect to many Summers, Huffman and Raner descendants and gives solid evidence that her grandmother, Elizabeth, was a Hull. One significant error was in naming Samuel Rexroad's wife as Mahulda. He married Naomi Huffman. Mahulda married Henry Rexroad. **Hull names erroneously assigned to this family. Note that she took the word of another individual in naming them and had no first-hand knowledge.

A Letter Written in 1904 by Phoebe Ann Huffman Carr Davis courtesy of B. Dave Sarles

Typed Copy of Transcript of a Letter Written By Phebe Ann Huffman Carr Davis To Her Unmarried Daughter, Cora Carr, Hunnewell, MO; June 4, 1904 Afternoon

Dear Cora,

I will endeavor to answer some of your inquiries, if not all. My Grandfather Huffman was not in the regular army of the Revolutionary war but was one of a company that marched out through West Va. To the Ohio on some official business, he being under age for a soldier. I never heard of his having any brothers or sisters in America. He had two cousins in Kentucky, Michael and Henry Hoffman. There is where Paul got his Hoff (instead of Huff) as Father wrote his name. Fathers name was Michael. He had one brother Henry and four sisters. Sally and Lizzie married Rexroads, Polly married a Moyers; Katy a Jordan.

My Grandmothers name was Elizabeth Hull. I think that General Hull and Capt. Hull were her relatives. Grandmother had several sisters. One married a Yeager, one a Sigaluce and two others that I can't remember their names. (Zickenfose?)

My mothers name was Susanna Summers. She had two sisters, Rachael Coulter and Phebe Davis and four brothers. Jehu Summers lived in Elks River some 50 miles above Charleston W. Va. He had a large family, 2 wives (one at a time) and 20 children. George Summers lived in Lewis Co. Va; had two daughters and four sons. William Summers lived in Summersville, W. Va., where Grandfather Paul Summers and Elizabeth my grandma died. Adam Summers lived and died in Kansas City, Mo. My grandparents all lived to be 80 or over. Father 89; mother 86; Aunt Katy 96; Brother William 93. there was some consumption in the family. I think it was brought on by exposure and weaving carpets more than hereditary as it seemed to be for the Huffman families.

Of course you know that mother had a large family. Augusta Rouse's Mother was my sister; also Dyer Booth's Grandmother was my sister Naomi. Sister Elizabeth Mitchell and Rachel Rainer were also my sister. You know my two brothers Hoffmans and 3 (4) Huffmans but all full brothers.

My Mother had two sisters, Rachel married William Coulter. They had five children – three sons and two daughters. Adam Coulter moved from Ohio to Maryville Missouri, where he settled on a farm.

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Naomi Bulter lived in Ohio. They had several children. Tom not far from Gyandot W. VA. Harriet, George, Charley and Minna daughter of Adam Coulter. They lived in and near Maryville, Nodaway Co. Same Coulter moved to Illinois and took his mother with him where she died about 20 miles south of Quincy. Paul Coulter moved to Maryville Mo. also. He had two sons. He died in or near Maryville, Mo. One of Rachel Coulter girls married Hunter. They had several children. Jane and Maggy. They lived in Ironton, Ohio.

Archie Rexroad enlisted in 34th Illinois. Was shot in Tenn. Full name Samuel Archibald Rexroad, son of Samuel Rexroad and Mahulda Huffman Asa Mitchel, son of John and Elizabeth Mitchell enlisted in 83rd Illinois and was riddled with bullets as he raised the flag of fallen standard bearer near Lookout Mt.

Wm. Rainer was in Andersonville Prison.

Phebe Ann Huffmans Great Grandfather was born on the high seas when his parents were coming from Germany to America. I used to say to her: "The only thing I have against you is that your ancestors were Germans." To which she replied – "Well I can't help that, they got away as soon as they could." His name was Frederick Huffman.

Her grandfather, Henry Huffman when 17 and too young to enlist was sent as a special messenger to General Braddock with the Army of Virginia under the command of Major George Washington in November 1755 who took the expedition to Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) to help the colonists capture Fort Duquesne and the Ohio Valley and rescue General Braddock's army.

Her Father Michael Henry had recruited a company, trained, ready to go to the front in the War of 1812 when peace was declared.

Grandfather Henry Huffman had two cousins in Kentucky – Michael and Henry Hoffman. That is how Paul came to use the o instead of Huffman.

Father Michael Huffman had one brother – Henry, and four sisters. Sally and Lizzie married Rexroads, Polly married a Moyers, Katy married a Jordan. Michael married Susanna Summers (1806?).

Phebe Ann Huffman was born Sept 4, 1831 in Randolph Co. West Virginia, 30 miles from Beverly the county seat on Tiger River – what was called Tiger Valley. When between seven and eight we moved to Braxton Co. five miles up the river from Suttonsville the

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County seat and about two miles south of what is now Plat Woods Station.

I had to row across Elk River and walk over the hill about a mile to school to Flat Woods Creek. I came west in the spring of 1850 with Mother and Altea. We first stayed with John and Elizabeth Mitchell; then with the Rexroads and Adam Huffman. I was married at Adam's in the log house with cement milk house at the head of Sulper Spring Creek on Nov. 2, 1851.

(Extract of letter written by Phebe Ann Huffman)

I do not know where the Hulls came from to West Virginia, but they lived east of the Allegheny Mts. On or near the South Branch of the Potomac River in a place called the "Bull Pasture", I think in

Pendleton Co., not sure about county. Grandma Elizabeth Hull married Paul Summers and both died at Summersville, W. Va.

General William Hull**, the hero of 1776 who surrendered at Detroit August 16, 1812 was a relative; also his nephew Capt. Isaac Hull** commander of the Constitution ("Old Ironsides") which defeated and sunk S. S. Guerriere on Aug. 10, 1812.

There was also a Wash Hull** of later date of whom Paschal Davis used to speak, also his sister Phebe Wilson mentioned Wash when I visited her at Staunton Va. Nov 8, 1901.

Elizabeth had several sisters. One married a Yeager, one a Sigaluce, Cornal or Cornell Hull** was a first cousin of Elizabeth.

Paul and Elizabeth Summers had seven children –

(1) Susanna Summers married Michael Huffman and had thirteen children

(2) Rachel Summers married William Coulter and they had three sons and two daughters

(3) Phebe Summers married a Davis. There were four brothers.

(4) Jehu Summers lived in Elk River, some 50 miles above Charleston West Virginia. He married twice and had 20 children.

(C. W. Bell says 21)

(5) George Summers lived in Lewis County, Virginia. He had two daughters and four sons.

(6) William Summers lived in Summersville, W. Va. Where Paul and Elizabeth died.

(7) Adam Summers lived and died in Kansas City, Missouri.

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Naomi had seven children – two living, one in Colorado, Julia Harmon, one in Comanche, Iowa.

Angeline had five children. Elizabeth had four two living at last count. Mollie in Dakota and Martha Young in Nebraska.

Rachel had ten children. James and Jasper Rainer in Southern Kansas, Mary Marlow and Adam Rainer in S. W. MO., Susan Cox and Cetelba Ford in Montana. Elizabeth Hull in N.W. Iowa, Louella Ford in Wisconsin. Mahulda Rexroad had 3 children, Augusta living near Grand Island, Neb. Adam in Denver, Colo. One girl died young.

It was probably Grandfather Huffmans place that Wm. Visited. He was living when William was married to Polly. Mother took care of him in his last sickness. Grandpa Summers had moved with Uncle William to Summersville, West Virginia. Grandpa Huffman lived in Pendleton Co, east of the Seleglung Mountains.

Sawyer Davis says Carmel Peter Hull was Mother's first cousin and his sons being our second cousins.

Your Affectionate Mother, P. A. Davis

Sources:

1. Find-A-Grave Memorial for Phebe Ann Davis:
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8833678/phebe-ann-davis>
2. David Bruty's post in the Descendant of Henry and Mary Eva Propst Huffman Facebook group
5 August 2020:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/597706653729679/permalink/1637150246451976/>

Links:

This letter: <http://family.beacondeacon.com/ap.htm#phoebecarr1904letter>

Huffman Ancestry: <http://family.beacondeacon.com/ap.htm#huffman>

Sources and ancestries for Propst, Huffman, Pence, Eye/Au/Owie and Zorn:
<http://family.beacondeacon.com/ap.htm>