

173
11 Walnut Street,
Bordentown, N.J. 08505,
28 February 1977

Mr. Dave Boatman, Editor,
The Hull Family Register,
P.O. Box 38457,
Houston, Texas 77088

Dear Cousin Dave:

The first issue of THE HULL FAMILY REGISTER arrived here today, and I thank you very much for sending it to me, and I should like to become one of the subscribers and friends of the Hull Family Register, and I'm enclosing my check for \$8.00 herewith.

I am 74 years old (born 30 June 1902), and have been actively engaged in Genealogy since the age of 13, so I can say that I have been a genealogist for 61 years. Naturally, I have a fat file on the Hull family, and I have done some research on them in England. I am familiar with all the problems in the earlier generations of the Hulls, but certainly CANNOT claim to know the answers to most of these problems, on which people have worked since the days when Horatio Gates Somerby wrote to William Sumner Appleton about the Hulls in 1870 (as noted on p. 11 of TFHR).

While I was in Crewkerne, in 1937, I copied all the HULL entries in the Parish Registers of St. Bartholomew's Church, Crewkerne, and I know where the PESON (Pesinge, Pysing, Peasing, Peyssun) family came from too.

But I was greatly disappointed to find no clue to the marriage or marriages of our Rev. Joseph Hull. It is my own opinion that he was probably married twice, and that AGNES was the second wife. But the late Colonel Charles E. Banks has suggested that if Agnes's age in the passenger list of the ship on which the Hulls and their friends came over in 1635 was mistakenly written, and if she had been 35 instead of 25 as the passenger list stated, then possibly she could have been mother of all the children. (This, however, is not my own preferred view; I think the generally accepted opinion is correct: there were two wives, and Agnes was the second, whom Mr. Joseph married not long before he sailed in 1635).

Anyway, I have searched at the Society of Genealogists in London; at Crewkerne; at the Devon & Cornwall Record Society at Exeter, Devonshire; and at Salt Lake City in the Library of the Genealogical Society of the L.D.S. Church, and have found no clue to Joseph's marriage or marriages.

Another marriage which has so far eluded me is that of Tristram² Hull to Blanche ----- . This ought not to be so hard to find, because Blanche was an exceedingly rare name among Puritans in New England. Capt. Tristram Hull married Blanche about 1644, at Barnstable or Yarmouth on Cape Cod. The population there was not great, and there could not have been more than one or two women named Blanche in the area. But Tristram Hull's wife continues to elude us.

Now I regret that I must point out to you some errors on pages 16-17 of TFHR: There were more children in Mr. Joseph Hull's family than you have mentioned. Here they are according to my records:

1. Joanna, prob. b. at Northleigh early in 1620.
2. Joseph, prob. b. at Northleigh ca. 1622.
3. Tristram, prob. b. at Northleigh ca. 1624.
4. Temperance, bapt. at Northleigh 20 March 1625/6. As you know, the original Parish Registers of Northleigh prior to 1697 have been lost for many years, but the Bishop's Transcripts for a few of those years survive, and are kept in the Diocesan Registry at Exeter, where I saw and copied them. The only surviving HULL entry was Temperance's baptism, as stated above.

5. Elizabeth, bp-ob. b. at Northleigh ca. 1628.
6. Griselda, prob. b. at Northleigh ca. 1630. I DO NOT THINK SHE MARRIED JAMES WARREN, and I urge you to look at Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire (original edition, Portland, Maine, 1928-1939; reprint by Genealogical Publ. Co., Baltimore, in recent 1960's); see pp. 357-358 for an account of Joseph Hull and his children; p. 721 for James Warren Sr. and Jr. As you will see, James Warren Sr. (whom various people have "wanted" to marry Griselda Hull) had a wife MARGARET, who was seeming' his only wife (she was his wife in 1670 when she "was admonis for using profane speeches, such as "divil-a-bit") and she was his widow who survived James Warren in 1702. It is true that the Warren couple had a daughter named Grizel, or Griselda, who was taken captive to Canada by the Indians, and there redeemed by some French people, was baptized a Catholic, and married (1) Richard Otis (another New England captive taken to Canada), and after his death she married (2) Philip or Philippe Robitaille. I also urge you to look at Emma Lewis Coleman, New England Captives Carried to Canada (2 volumes, Portland, Me., 1925), there are a number of references to this woman under her French Catholic name of Marie-Madeleine Robitaille in the index in vol. 2, p. 444. But the principal account of her is in vol. 1, pp. 147-8, which describes her as "... GRIZEL, wife of Richard Otis, daughter of James Warren (Scotch Protestant) and Margaret ... (Irish Catholic).

This statement proves conclusively that Grizel Warren, who was taken captive to Canada, was the daughter of James Warren and MARGARET, and NOT the daughter of Griselda Hull. The tale of Griselda Hull's marriage to James Warren was evidently invented by some genealogical nitwit, probably in the 19th century, who came across the rare given name Griselda or Grizel, and "wanted" to add the romantic story of a captive taken by Indians to the descendants of Joseph Hull.

7. Dorothy, prob. b. at Northleigh ca. 1632.

The exact date of Joseph Hull's resignation of the rectory of Northleigh is not stated in the Diocesan Registry at Exeter, but it is stated that his successor, Mr. John Ford, was instituted Rector of Northleigh on 24 March 1632/3, "upon the free and voluntary resignation of Joseph Hull, the last incumbent." It seems to me possible that Joseph Hull's first wife died shortly after Dorothy was born, and that Joseph, in an upset frame of mind, resigned his position. But he soon had to marry again, in order to have a woman in the home to look after all the young children. He apparently moved away from Northleigh in Devonshire, and returned to his native county of Somerset, but not to his native town of Crewkerne. Instead, he went to Batcombe, co. Somerset, where the minister, Rev. Richard Bernard, was Rector. (For Richard Bernard, see the article by George Andrews Moriarty in the New England Historical & Genealogical Register, vol. 113, pp. 189-192). Some people think that Joseph Hull's second wife Agnes was from Batcombe, and some even think she may have been a relative of the Rev. Richard Bernard. This is possible, but totally unproved. At any rate, one of the sons of Richard Bernard, who had the unusual given name of Massachiel Bernard, accompanied the Halls on their ship from Weymouth to New England in 1635.

The children of Mr. Joseph Hull and his (presumed second) wife Agnes were:

8. Hopewell, b. at Weymouth, Mass., ca. 1635, d. at Piscataway, N.J., 3 April 1693 according to the original "Piscataway Town Book" in the Town Clerk's office at Piscataway. As you say, he married Mary Martin.

9. Sarah, b. at Weymouth, Mass., ca. 1636; d. at York, Me., 1647.
10. Benjamin, bapt. at Hingham, Mass., 22 March 1638/9, by the Rev. Peter Hobart of Hingham (see Rev. Peter Hobart's Diary, New England Historical & Genealogical Register, vol. 121 (1947), p. 11). He d. at Piscataway, N.J., ca. 1713, having married at Dover, N.H., ca. 1668, Rachel York.
11. Naomi, bapt. at Barnstable, Cape Cod (then in Plymouth Colony), 23 March 1639/40; d. after 4 July 1682; married after 1667 Davy Daniel. Apparently she had an illegitimate child before marriage.
12. Ruth, bapt. at Yarmouth, Cape Cod (then in Plymouth Colony) 9 May 1641. No further information, and I think she probably died young.
13. Dodavah, b. at York, Me., ca. 1643; d. at Portsmouth, N.H., in 1682 (before 6 June of that year); married Mary Seward.
14. Samuel, b. at York, Me., ca. 1645; d. at Piscataway, N.J., before 7 April 1706; married at Piscataway, N.J., 16 Nov. 1677, Wary Manning, who was his only wife. He did NOT have a second wife Margaret. It was his son, Samuel, Jr., who married Margaret ---. (Incidentally, PISCATAWAY, N.J., is the correct spelling of the name of that place, not "PAS..." as on p. 27 of THFR. "Piscataquis," on the other hand, is the name of the place in Maine, to which a number of the settlers went first, who came later to Piscataway, New Jersey. The two spellings are variants of the same Indian name.
15. Phineas, b. at York, Me., ca. 1647; deposed in 1674 saying that he "was aged about 47;" according to Colonel Charles E. Banks's study of the Hull family, Phineas was killed by Indians at York, Me., 25 January 1691/2. He married (1) between November 1673 and June 1679 Jerusha Hitchcock; he married (2) after 21 Dec. 1689 Mrs. Mary (Rishworth)(White) Sayward.
16. Reuben, baptized at Launceston, co. Cornwall, England, 23 January 1648/9; d. at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, between 23 Dec. 1689 and 30 Oct. 1693; married ca. 1672-3 Hannah Fernside.
17. Ephraim, bapt. at Launceston, co. Cornwall, England, 13 February 1649/50. Must have died fairly young, as no more is heard of him.
18. Isaac, bapt. at Launceston 25 March 1651; buried there 27 August 1653.
19. Priscilla, bapt. at Launceston "32" (thus written in Launceston Parish Register) March 1652; no doubt error for 30 or 31 March; buried at Launceston 9 June 1652.

(Priscilla was the last child. No children of Joseph Hull were baptized at St. Buryan, Cornwall, England).

Now then: on page 19 of THFR, you have attributed Benjamin, Phineas, John and Dodivah to Joseph Hull, Jr. I'm sorry to say this is wrong. Benjamin, Phineas and Dodivah belonged to the old man, as I have just shown. The John Hull who married Mary Spencer belonged to a different Hull family altogether, and as far as I know was not related at all to our people.

Just what happened to Joseph Hull, Jr., born at Northleigh about 1622, is one of the many Hull mysteries. He was "in disgrace" at York, Me., in Feb. 1644/5 (Geneal. Dict. of Me. & N.H., p. 358), and he may very likely have returned to England and enlisted in the army of Oliver Cromwell, as did not a few other young men in New England. But whether he survived the English Civil War, or was killed while in service, we do not know. There are absolutely no lists of enlisted personnel in the English Civil War records.

If it happens that Mrs. Mary Ulmer has never ordered the reprint of Noyes, Libby & Davis, Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire, from the Genealogical Publishing Co. in Baltimore, tell her (from me) that it is a work which is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY even in Deep Texas. But if it takes her a long time to order it, see if the book is not available in the libraries of either Rice or the University of Houston. Actually, it is such a useful reference work that it should be in all three places, but most especially in the William Clayton Library of which Mrs. Ulmer is the Director.

There are other matters to be discussed, but I want to send you t much today, and let the rest go till another day.

Very sincerely,

John I. Coddington

John I. Coddington