

pay." (Dockets, Frederick Co., Md., Act. #6853, pp. 604-8.)

"Thus," concludes Anderson, "we have a possible family of four brothers at Monocacy (Solomon, Thomas, David and John)."

But now, just a minute. For Mrs. Weir has come up with a family of Douthits in the South Branch valley of what is now northeastern West Virginia which she believes may be closely connected with John.

Settlement began in the South Branch valley of the Potomac in the 1730s or 1740s, and Mrs. Weir found that a George Douthier was recorded as living on "the South Fork of the South Branch of the Pattemuck" in 1749. Her source: Augusta County (Virginia) Records. She suggests that George "probably is a brother of John and Solomon of Monocacy." She points out that the Douthiers were neighbors of a Hedges family in Maryland and that they were also neighbors of the Hedges in the South Branch valley. "The George Douthier and Hedges families likely migrated together over the mountains from Maryland," she speculates, adding: "Beginning in 1763 the Hampshire county records reveal land transactions of two new Douthits in addition to George -- John and Thomas, probably brothers and possibly sons of George."

Mrs. Weir discovered a will, dated September 7, 1803, in which John Douthit (not the John of Monocacy) bequeathed 400 acres in Cabell county (now in West Virginia) to his wife, Margaret, and two sons, David and Daniel. Other children mentioned in the will: Thomas, John, Silas, Caleb, Rebecca, Catherine, Mary, Sarah, Christina.

Both a Thomas and a John Douthait appear in the 1790 U. S. census in the Virginia listing. Thomas was credited with three persons in his household, John with 14 (and none of them slaves, it is noted). The fa-

ther (or fathers) of this Thomas and John is (are) not known.

Obviously, though, the similarity of names among the South Branch Douthits and the Monocacy Douthits -- John, Thomas, Solomon, David -- is striking. It would seem Mrs. Weir's surmise of a close relationship between the two families ought not be viewed lightly.

Summarizing, we now have six candidates for the honor of being brother to John Douthit (1709-1784): Solomon, Thomas and David, who were at Monocacy with John; James, slain by Indians in western Pennsylvania; Samuel, of Philadelphia; and George, of the South Branch valley of the Potomac.

Whether this brotherly jigsaw puzzle will ever be fitted together is doubtful. One thing for sure, though, is that a considerable number of Douthits of various spellings roamed the Colonies in those early days, and it is no wonder that many Douthits, Douthats, Douthets, Douthitts and other variants emanated therefrom and helped over the next few centuries to increase the American population.

The Monocacy phase of John Douthit's life appears to have terminated in 1750 or 1751. It was on November 21, 1750, that Alexander Markham (MacKain) requested the recording of a deed which granted him, for 50 pounds, the 50 acres called Douthet's Chance. Douthit was to make, any time within seven years, "whatever further conveyance Markham (MacKain) or his counsel shall require." (Frederick County Deeds, Book 8, p. 298.) He acknowledged and his wife Mary relinquished her dower right. According to Anderson, Douthit last appeared in Frederick county court records August 27, 1751 (Dockets, Frederick county, Maryland, Act. #6854 p. 188, #30). The November, 1750, date for the sale of the land, plus the August, 1751, court appearance in

Frederick county would seem to argue against the Moravian account that the Douthits reached North Carolina in 1750. Maybe "about 1750"?

We are indebted to the Moravians, nevertheless, for most of what we know about John Douthit and other North Carolina Douthits. They were his friends, and he was theirs, and eventually he became one of the Brethren. Had it not been for their meticulous records, it would have been impossible to narrate the early history of these Douthits with any kind of authenticity.

The Moravians tell us that John Douthit's father was a Quaker and his mother a Presbyterian. Beyond that they were unable to describe his ancestry. They say that for a time after his arrival in the Colonies he worked at his trade of a weaver in New York and Pennsylvania before he settled near the Monocacy River in Maryland in 1733. There, in 1738, at age 29, he and Mary Scott, 17, a native Pennsylvanian, were married.

Confusion has arisen over the maiden name of Douthit's bride because the Moravian memoir for him gave her name (in German) as Mary Wilson. Moravian Archivist Adelaide Fries communicated on this subject with John Howard Pierce, whose wife was a Douthit descendant. "I cannot imagine," Miss Fries wrote, "how the

'Wilson' got in there. I thought possibly I had copied it wrong when I translated the Memoir but no, it is wrong in the original. I am certain that her name really was Scott, for it is so given everywhere else. I checked most carefully."

(The Fries letter is part of the John Howard Pierce Genealogical Collection at the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock, Arkansas.)

What impelled the Douthits, including five children ages one to eleven, to pull out of Maryland for North Carolina, we don't know. Maybe the milder climate, maybe the lure of a fresh start with more and cheaper land, more space for a growing family, maybe the call of a new frontier, maybe just the proverbial greener grass. Anyway, they went. Chances are they used stretches of the "Great Wagon Road" for their trip, that heavily traveled eighteenth century highway which zigzagged from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to the Yadkin River valley. The Douthits, on foot, on horse, with a supplies-loaded horse-drawn wagon, and using the "road" when they could, must have traveled from Frederick county into Virginia via Winchester, Staunton and the present sites of Roanoke and Martinsville, then to the River Yadkin.

There the Douthits got well acquainted with the Moravians.