

THE HOGG FAMILY IN SCOTLAND AND AMERICA.

by
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Feb. 1981

EXPLANATION.

This outline of the movements of the Hogg families from their roots in Scotland to their destination in this country was compiled because some people attending Hogg reunions said they wanted an up-to-date family tree.

The last family tree was compiled in the 1930's by Leon Bishop and Aimee Elizabeth Hogg among others who searched existing records and contacted family members in Broome County and other parts of the country for names and relationships.

In working on the geneology I became interested in the reasons for the emigration and the experiences and hardships of those who came here. It seemed important to have a record of the events around the emigration for future generations and others for whom such an account would be important as history.

It is not a complete chronicle; there are many gaps and omissions. The omissions, mostly names, if included, could only add to confusion to this story of so many family members. I believe there were twenty-four individuals, children and all who came to Mount Ettrick and this area from the same part of southern Scotland.

The involvement with Sir Walter Scott was not a coincidence. Scott, in his search for materials for his poetry and novels came to the Ettrick Shepherd and the Hogg brothers' mother, Margaret Laidlaw Hogg for some of the many unpublished ballads of the Scottish border country. The ballads were usually sung and were the centuries-old folk-lore of Scotland. From them came his collection -The Minstrelsy of the Border and the poems The Lay of the Last Minstrel and Marmion among others.

All of the details of life in Scotland, the emigration and the life on Mount Ettrick were published in local newspapers, principally the Whitney Point Reporter but in Binghampton newspapers also.

Many of these published accounts were the work and writing of Helen Knapp Garrett. She solicited recollections of pioneer life at the Hogg settlement from several people who had long since moved away from there.

On Mount Ettrick there was great interest in the school and the

teachers.

The Hoggs, having come from a country where the parish and church were responsible for the maintenance of the schools, were now in a society where the school was the obligation of the people of the district. They were enthusiastic for a good school and good teachers. The first school was built of logs; the land it stood on was donated by William Hogg.

Some of the children, naturally interested in poetry wrote verses of their own and in this way voiced their thoughts of Scotland and of their new world.

There were a few Hoggs in the Civil War as Union Army soldiers; one of them died in the terrible Libby Prison at Richmond, Virginia.

The youngest of the immigrants survived into the second and third decades of this century, and in the one hundred and fifty years since the first of them came they have spread all over this country.

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THE HOGG FAMILY IN SCOTLAND AND AMERICA.

The Hoggs who settled on Mount Ettrick in the town of Maine, Broome County came from Scotland in the years between 1830 and 1845. The fathers of these families were brothers who had been shepherds in Scotland. They were David and Robert Hogg. A third brother, James, was the poet and writer of Scotland called The Ettrick Shepherd. He was a friend and contemporary of Sir Walter Scott.

The two brothers who emigrated had married sisters, Elinor and Elizabeth Oliver, making their children double cousins. This relationship certainly helped to keep them a closely knit family for the rest of the 19th century and into the present one.

For fifteen years until he left Scotland, David Hogg was shepherd and flock master for Sir Walter Scott on Scott's estate called Abbotsford near Melrose on the Tweed River.

David's brother Robert was shepherd for Peter Tod who leased a large part of Ettrick parish in Selkirkshire. As described by one of Robert's children, the leasehold extended south from Ettrick Water (or river), west to Annon water, south to Esk stream containing many hundred acres. He remembered the frugality needed to provide for a family on shepherd's pay. The mother made the cloth and clothing but the shepherds did the knitting as they watched sheep. Simple meals could be oatmeal and milk for breakfast, keal (mutton soup) and bannocks (oatmeal cakes) for dinner and champies (mashed potatoes with butter) for

supper. Robert's home or cot was isolated; no road came near and no other dwelling could be seen. It was about six miles from the village of Ettrick.

Selkirkshire is that region of southern border country of Scotland containing the Ettrick and Yarrow rivers. The two rivers have a confluence near the town of Selkirk and join the Tweed river flowing on east to the North Sea at Berwick on the coast. The watersheds of the Ettrick and Yarrow rivers was once a great forest - Ettrick Forest, which in medieval times was a convenient hiding place for political refugees from England as well as protection for any scoundrel. James V, king of Scotland and father of Mary Queen of Scots is said to have been the one who introduced sheep to the forest and sheep changed it to the pasture, hill and moor it is today.

Common divisions of the countryside were parishes. Each parish had a kirk and a schoolhouse. Social contact was in attending church in Ettrick, visiting neighbors and in the visits of peddlers. Shepherd's children earned pennies by gathering and selling scraps of wool picked from wherever they could be found shrubs or fences. This apparently is the source of the word 'woolgathering' - much wandering with little to show for it.

In 1827 Peter Tod's lease at Ettrick expired. He then rented three farms on the Isle of Arran in the Firth of Clyde, a wide estuary on the west coast of Scotland. Robert moved there that year to be shepherd for Tod's sheep. When Robert left Ettrick for Arran he wrote the following lines - his own poetry, later published in the Scottish Weekly of 1894.

Farewell native stream. From your mountains I wander.
 Oftimes I've refreshed my warm heart with your springs.
 As o'er rocks you did rave and through valleys meander.
 Where wildflowers bud and the blithe birdy sings.
 I moan not the leaving your snow-covered mountains.
 Your fertile vales - I've none of your spoil.
 You kept me at bay on the frost-bitten desert
 In summer and winter through storms, aye to fail.
 Yet still thou'rt my native, thou stream of the forest!
 'Twas on thy green banks I beheld first the day.
 With thee I am leaving my friends and acquaintance.
 With thee my dear parents now cold in the clay.
 Yet think dear Ettrick my comfort's in thee.
 Nay these things shall go with me, come weal or come woe;
 One thing makes me joy when I'm going to leave thee-
 On thy green banks I leave not one foe!
 With tender emotion I think on my childhood.
 As from youth into age in thy bosom I grew;
 Like thee pruned from the forest of wildwood.
 May I learn all the follies of youth to subdue.
 Then farewell my friends and acquaintances cheery!

May health peace and plenty around thee still flow,
Is my heartfelt wish wherever I wander;
This tribute to you I certainly owe.

The Isle of Arran was owned by the Duke of Hamilton. It was presented to the first Duke of Hamilton in the early 14th century by King James II, his father-in-law. Now, six centuries later, the island is still mainly controlled by the Hamilton family. When Robert and his family moved to Arran they found the inhabitants still speaking the gaelic language and although schools taught in English, children addressed their parents in the old language. The Isle of Arran is rocky and mountainous. The highest mountain, called Goatfell is in the northern part of the island and is one of the highest in all Scotland. Heather grows everywhere and in winter when snow buries the grasses the sheep feed on it. Winter storms sweep up the Firth of Clyde and roar and crash against the island from the Irish Sea to the south and Ireland can be seen forty miles to the southwest. Also on Arran are some standing stone circles of prehistoric origin as well as ruins of ancient forts and castles.

Robert's children remembered school games they played while on Arran. They played golf which they called shinny. Rugby football was a school game and matches were held between parish schools. They also played something like cops-and-robbers but the culprit in this game had an illicit whisky still. He was chased and captured by revenue officers, tried, put in prison but often escaped through a stratagem of his friends.

In those years, people in all of Britain, particularly Scotland and Ireland were in the midst of feverish migration elsewhere but mostly to America - Canada and United States. The government urged it. In Scotland the social and economic stability that once had been based on the clan structure was no more. It ended as Prince Charles - the Bonnie Prince was defeated in the Battle of Culloden Moor in 1746. His military attempt had been to return his father and the Stuart line to the throne of Scotland. The population was high and the economy low. Young men could see little future for themselves - no jobs to be had.

After several years on Arran, two of Robert's sons, William and James sailed for America. William was 23 and James 16. When they left, Mr. Tod gave James this note of recommendation to carry.

I do hereby certify that the bearer thereof
James Hogg has served me for eighteen months
past, that he has been known to me from
a child his Father having served me for
twelve years that he is a sober diligent and
attentive lad and of good principals having
been well and industriously brought up

Glenree 4th, June
1830

Peter Tod
Tachsman of Glenree
Isle of Arran
N Briton

Where these two brothers spent the first year or so is said to have been Otsego County, N.Y. but by 1832 they were at Silver Lake in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania working for Dr. Robert Rose. In that year they were joined by their brother Samuel who emigrated alone. He was 21. A history of Susquehanna County records that in July 1832 Dr. Rose acquired one thousand three hundred fifty-two sheep and that in one month eleven were killed by wolves. Dr. Rose had purchased a tract of land running thirteen miles along the state line making up much of Silver Lake township. He advertised land for sale - three dollars per acre and four if on a road or turnpike.

The time had come for Robert, his wife and his younger children on Arran to leave Scotland; now that there was a destination and employment. His oldest daughter Isabelle was married and remained in Scotland. She and her husband William Paisley would emigrate with their children twelve years later. When they departed, Robert, his wife Elizabeth and children Margaret, Robert (named for his father), David, John and the youngest, five-year-old Betsy left Arran to board the sailing vessel Romulus at Greenock near Glasgow. It was June 1833.

In memoirs recorded in local newspapers one of these children remembered that on their last day in Scotland the whole family walked through the town of Greenock out into a steep pasture....

"before long a man came at a quick pace and charged us with trespassing. My father explained, speaking of his love for his native hills and his regret for leaving. From how he said it he was undergoing the most tremendous ordeal of his whole life. The whole family was in tears. The landlord appologized for even thinking we were injuring him and told us to run and play to our heart's content. They sat and talked until it was time for us to board ship and thus ended the last time our feet ever trod the hills of Scotland."

Concerning emigration the Ettrick Shepherd wrote --

"I know of nothing so distressing as the last sight of a fine industrious independant peasantry taking the last look of their native country, never to behold it more.

My own brothers, sisters nephews and nieces are all going away; and if I were not the very individual I am I should be the first to depart.

I saw the children in high spirits - how different the

aspect of the parents! They looked backward toward their native mountains and glades with the most rueful expression of countenance. Their looks never can be effaced from my heart; and I noted always, that the older the men were, their looks were the more regretful and desolate."

Sailing vessels were still the only method of ocean travel then; it was forty years before steamships came into common use. On shipboard the family was assigned two bunks, one above the other and about six feet square. Food and provisions except water for the voyage had to be brought aboard and last for the whole voyage. Cooking was done individually in a long, iron, coal-filled trough on deck. Water was meted out per capita and insufficient for any need except drinking.

The voyage on the Romulus was to take six weeks and three days until docking at New York - a long hard time for all of them. Not

all would survive to land there. The ship carried about three hundred sixty emigrants. All those people in confined space below decks, sleeping, eating and trying to keep dry hastened the spread of disease. There were emigrant ships which had outbreaks of cholera, yellow or typhoid fever.

On the Romulus measles broke out among the passengers quickly spreading throughout the ship. Among those afflicted was Robert, the father of the family. He was recovering but caught cold which soon developed into pneumonia. He died in mid-ocean and was buried at sea. He was sixty-three; his death preceded that of his brother the Ettrick Shepherd by only two years.

The children later recalled that when they landed in New York they were quickly processed through customs and boarded a small steam vessel to travel up the Hudson to the river port of Kingston where they boarded a canal boat pulled by mules on the D. and H. Canal to go to Honesdale, Pennsylvania. This canal was built primarily to carry coal from the Pennsylvania mines to New York City. It had been in use only three years. The family was met by son James with a team of horses on a wagon.

He had travelled two days from Silver Lake. It is likely he did not know his father had died until he saw his mother and the five young brothers and sisters. All of Robert's family except Robert himself and his oldest daughter Isabelle was at Silver Lake, their first home in America.

That home soon was to be the home also of Robert's brother David and his children. David Hogg's employer, Sir Walter Scott had died and while it might have been possible for him to stay in Scotland, the surge of emigration along with discouragement over the future for the children probably made him decide to move and

join his brother's family in Pennsylvania.

David's children recalled many incidents and event in the village of Melrose and at Abbotsford, Scott's home and estate. They remembered that Scott was lame from polio and that when he was old and ill he walked around his lands supported by the arm of an employee. He walked daily to a large stone called 'turn again'. Those words were carved on it. They also remembered a flock of swans which they often fed. They also recalled a dog named Maida - they called it an enormous brute needing to be muzzled at all times. When the dog died Scott buried it next to the front entrance of Abbotsford. He then had a replica of the dog carved out of stone to be used as a hitching post in front of the mansion. They were acquainted with townspeople of Melrose who had become characters in Scott's novels and they were in the long funeral procession after Scott's death in September, 1832.

In leaving Scotland David and his family first visited the Ettrick Shepherd who bade them all goodbye no doubt knowing he would never see them again. They sailed from Scotland in May of 1834 - destination Silver Lake, Pennsylvania. With their arrival there were more than a dozen Hoggs at Silver Lake. There were the surviving brother David, his children and Robert's widow and her children.

The sojourn at Silver Lake lasted only three or four years. Sheep raising in the forest was quite different from the almost treeless hills of Scotland. By 1837 they had moved to New York State and Broome County. In moving, two of Robert's sons drove a cow and calf from Silver Lake to Mount Ettrick. They walked first to Binghampton, stayed overnight then continued up the Chenango River, branching off west at Glen Castle and went up the creek valley to the hill where most of them would live for many years. As described by one of these young men the trip north of Binghampton was through thick forest broken only by small clearings surrounding log cabins or log houses. Only one home in Mount Ettrick area was of sawn lumber.

The reason they settled on this hill is unclear. One could surmise however that once one of them was there others would follow and settle nearby. The first to own a farm there was probably Robert's oldest son William. In time he became known as Squire William. His new home was a log house, two acres of orchard and about seven acres of brush and stump lot to be cleared. All the remaining land was the untouched original forest.

To that home in 1845 came the last of the immigrant Hoggs - Robert's oldest daughter Isabelle and her husband William Paisley. With them came small children - the first of Robert's grandchildren. In a few short years after William Hogg moved there more Hoggs of both families bought homes and farms on Mount Ettrick. There were nine children in Robert's family and six in

David's. For every one of David's children there was one in Robert's with the same name.

The children were named according to Scottish custom rather than with a desire to have so many cousins with the same names. A name for the first-born was selected from the father's side of the family; a name for the next was borrowed from the mother's. The result for these Hoggs was two Williams, two Samuels, two James', two Roberts, two Margarets and two Isabelles. What hadn't been foreseen was that so many of them would be living in the same neighborhood on Mount Ettrick.

The three of Robert's family without like-named cousins were John, David and Elizabeth but only because there were three more in that family. Imagine the confusion as these Scotch immigrants married and had children of their own!

Early days on Mount Ettrick were like those of most pioneers in this country - the clearing of land of the nearly continuous forest, planting crops, raising cattle and sheep and even sometimes hunting wolves. The settlers formed a school district and built a school on land given by Squire William Hogg. They argued about roads and built them. They formed farm societies and had celebrations of their closeness and their scotch origins. One annual gathering was the observance of the birth of Robert Burns on January 25th, each year.

In 1870 they called all of the original immigrants together for a celebration of the 100th year of the birth of their uncle the Ettrick Shepherd. This celebration was reported in local newspapers of the day and it was even published in the Times of Moffat, Dumfrieshire, Scotland. Moffat being one of the towns near Ettrick.

There are no Hoggs on Mount Ettrick now. The last to have lived there is Amos Hogg of Apalachin, N. Y. and his family. Amos is the great-grandson of David Hogg - the immigrant brother who survived the voyage from Scotland. Because of its altitude the hill is now an airport for Broome County, N. Y.

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Ref:-HOWARD01

Copied with some alterations D Parr Oct. 1989.
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