

A brief history of the Vanderburgh-Haas Families

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Introduction

My parents Gene Sr. and Edna Russell Huber roamed the country for many years in their motor home, visiting family and doing genealogical research. On one such trip in March 1977 my mother interviewed our great aunt Peter Osborne in her Vero Beach home. She told of her recollections of life growing up in Dutchess County and Yonkers, and about some of her family's relatives and friends. Peter was 89 years old then, but she still had a sharp memory. Fortunately my dad tape recorded an hour of the conversation, and I recently discovered it among his things. I was able to have the old cassette tape re-recorded on the enclosed CD. (Note: the information describing the name of the CD will appear as Chinese characters on your computer screen when you play it.) After listening to the conversation I was curious about how her comments all tied together. Following are the results of my investigation into the history of the Haas-Vanderburgh family, as well as others mentioned on the recording.

Background Notes

The ancestry notations are from the perspective of the Russell cousins' generation of the Hass-Vanderburgh descendents, and the names of our direct ancestors are **highlighted**. The information is based on my dad's extensive documentation of his genealogical research of the families, supplemented by Peter's remarks. Several genealogical charts are also enclosed. Most of the towns mentioned are in Northern Dutchess County, which is on the eastern side of the Hudson River midway between New York City and Albany. Germantown is just north in Columbia County, Poughkeepsie is in Southern Dutchess County and Yonkers is situated adjacent to New York City north of the Bronx Borough.

The Vanderburgh Family

Great Great Great Great Grandparents

Henry Vandergurgh (1756-1841) was born in Beekman, NY. He served in the Revolutionary War. He settled in Pleasant Valley, NY in 1785 where he was a farmer. In 1778 he married **Mercy "Susan" Cary** (1758-1820) who was born in Providence, RI. Their eldest child was **Lewis** (1779-1863), born in Hyde Park in Dutchess County. Their

other 10 children were Margaret (1780-?), Susannah (1782-1860), John (1784-1846), Martin (1786-c.1851), Frances (1788-?), Lucinda (1791-1863), Marie (1794-?), Richard (1796-c.1865), Catherine (1798-1824), Elizabeth (1801-?).

Following Mercy's death, Henry married Abigail Seaman in 1823 – they had no children.

Not much is known of the **Hatfield** family except that they had a daughter **Rachel** (1798-1837) born in Columbia County, NY.

Great Great Great Grandparents

Lewis Vanderburgh was a farmer and served as an Ensign in Col. Bell's Regiment of the NY Militia, and was promoted to Lt. in 1812. {He may have served in the War of 1812.} He married **Rachel Hatfield** in 1823. Their 6th child was **Alonzo** (1831-1900). Their other 8 children were Henry (1824-c.1900), David (1825-1893), William (1827-1903), Martin (1828-1893), Effingham (1830-1906) {he died in Florida – probably the first of our ancestors to live there.}, Melissa (1832-1862), George Washington (1834-1909), and Susan (1837-1901).

Following Rachel's death, probably during or shortly after the birth of Susan in the spring of 1837, Lewis married Ann Treadwell in December of that year and they had two daughters.

Not much is known about the Berry-Sherman families. **Peter Berry** (1804-?) married **Constant Sherman** (1800-?) about 1833. They had a daughter **Mariah** (1833-1862).

Great Great Grandparents

Alonzo Vanderburgh and **Mariah Berry** were married in 1853. {My brother Robin inherited their marriage certificate.} They had two children – Ida (1859-1912) and **Herbert** (1860-1935). Mariah died when Herbert was only 2 years old. Alonzo, Ida and Herbert then boarded with the John Mariott family. They were wealthy Quaker's and owned a large farm on Bangall Lane between Stanfordville and Bangall. They became very close to the Vanderburgh's.

Because of this relationship, Alonzo left his children there in 1862 and enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War, where he participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. {For detailed information see the attached document "Civil War Experiences of Alonzo Vanderburgh" compiled by Robert Huber (my brother Robin). He inherited the canteen Alonzo carried in the war.}

While Alonzo was gone the Mariott's "adopted" Ida and Herbert and raised them with their daughter Elizabeth as a part of their family. When he returned from the war in 1865 he found the children so well adjusted that he left them there when he married Harriet Shepherd Lovelace (widow of his friend George Lovelace who was in his regiment and

was killed in the war) and bought a farm in nearby Clinton Corners. They had no children, but she raised her two daughters from her first marriage – Libby and Sarah.

While growing up Herbert learned to manage the farm and the Mariott's told him he could stay there "for his lifetime".

Herbert's sister Ida Vanderburgh (our great great aunt) married Alvin Sincerbeaux. They operated a successful laundry business in Danbury, CT and after they sold it moved to Bridgeport, CT. They had 3 children: Hattie (m. William Loomis), Olin (m. Edith Ambler) and Charles Henry (m. Rebecca Allen). Ida later married John Graber – they had no children. Olin's daughter Ida Mae married Howard Thomas, who later did extensive research of the Vanderburgh's, which he shared with my dad.

The Haas Family

Great Great Great Great Grandparents

Matthias Haas (1764-1837) and **Margaretha Obergfell** (1766-1833) married in 1787 and lived in St. Georgen in the Black Forest region of Germany, where he was a 3rd generation nail smith. {My brother Robin inherited gold framed oil paintings of them painted in 1832 shortly before their deaths.} They had 10 children: Christoff, Maria, Salome, Dorothea, Matthias Jr., Friedrich, Johann (John), **Gottlob** (February 26, 1806-January 31, 1865), Bartholomew, and Maria (the first Maria died a month before she was born).

Nicholas Allendorf (November 23, 1775-January 18, 1853) married **Elizabeth Stickle** (November 23, 1775/8-January 26, 1839) in 1799 and they had a large successful farm in Upper Red Hook on Old Post Road. They were of German descent. They had 6 children: daughters Betsey (m. Henry Shook), Anna Marie "Maria" (1805-19__ m. Isaac Fuller and later John Teats, Jr. of Lafayette) and **Catherine** (February 29, 1812-1900), and sons Harry, John and George.

Great Great Great Grandparents

Gottlob Haas and his brother John emigrated from Germany to New York in 1824. Gottlob later built and operated the Park Hotel, and then a general store, in Red Hook. The reason he settled there may have been because he had relatives in nearby Germantown (off Post Road and River Road).

Catherine Allendorf was first married to Adam Drum (died January 4, 1833), a Red Hook schoolteacher, and they had a daughter Rosanna L. (March 5, 1831-1918). Rosanna was raised in the Haas family and adopted their name (see below). Rosanna married Franklin J. Cornelius (August 3, 1829-1919), who owned a farm in Pleasant Valley, and they had three children: Catherine, Charles (October 21, 1869-July 1, 1938?) and Henry (May 6, 1871). Following Adam's death at a young age, Catherine moved back to the Allendorf farm along with her sister Maria who was also widowed.

After Adam's death Catherine married Gottlob in 1835. {My sister Judy inherited her Bible and some other books in which she recorded family births and deaths.} They had three sons John M. (November 3, 1836), **William N.** (October 31, 1840-January 5, 1889), and Charles Frederick (January 24, 1849), and also raised her daughter Rosanna. (After Gottlob's death in 1865 she married her 3rd husband William Tremper – see "Tremper's" below).

Not much is known about the Sharp family. **Capt. Sharp** (c.1820-?) lived in England where he married an unknown woman of the same age. He is believed to have been a sea captain. They had at least one child, their daughter **Harriet** (1844-1867).

Great Great Grandparents and Siblings

Gottlob and Catherine's eldest son John Haas married Emily Lasher (see "Lasher's"). They had a daughter Minerva, who Peter referred to as "Auntie Minnie" although she was really her mother Cornelia's cousin. John was a harness maker for the NY Fire Department and his wife ran a boarding house. Minnie married Edgar Taylor and they had no children. She died December 27, 1933. {I inherited five pieces of sterling flatware, most engraved with their initials. Aunt Dittie gave one of Minnie's rings to my mother Edna who made it into a flower pendant. My sister Judy inherited it and had it made into a small drop pendant, which she often wears.}

Their second son **William Haas** and his first wife **Harriet Sharp** were married c.1862. Their only child was their daughter **Cornelia Maude** (December 12, 1863-December 13, 1953). {I inherited a silverplate soup spoon and fork with her engraved initials.} Harriet became ill with TB and they moved into Catherine's home so she could help care for her and her baby. After Harriet died, when Cornelia was 4 years old, William and Cornelia moved to New York to live with John Haas and his family. Their two daughters - Minnie and Cornelia - were raised together as "sisters".

While living in New York William Haas later married his 2nd wife - a Miss Fulton - and they had no children. He owned a cigar store at 36 Broadway in Manhattan. Cornelia was unhappy living with her new stepmother, so she returned to Rhinebeck to live with her grandmother Catherine and her husband Captain Tremper (see "Tremper's").

Their third son was Fred who was a diamond setter at Tiffany's and was considered a "gay bachelor" and a "dandy" who mingled with high society. Peter said that he had dated the famous actress Lillian Russell. He then moved to Chicago where he worked for Spaulding's, another jewelry firm. After retiring from the jewelry business he married Louise Morrison late in life and they operated a squab farm in Plainfield, New Jersey. After she died in 1929 he returned to the Rhinebeck where he lived with Cornelia until his death in 1938. {Grandma Russell inherited his hammered gold knot cuff links set with small chips of sapphire, ruby and diamond. She had rings made from them and presented them to my sister Judy and cousin Ginny when they graduated from high

school since they were her two eldest grand daughters. Unfortunately after wearing the ring for many years Judy lost it in the 1980's.}

Catherine had carried a mortgage on a house in Lafayette (east of Rhinebeck), near where her sisters lived. She eventually foreclosed on the property, and after she died she left the house to her sons John and Fred. {I'm not sure why their other brother William didn't get a share. My speculation is that he may have inherited Catherine's house in Bangall.} After John retired in New York he and his wife Emily bought out Fred's interest and lived in the Lafayette house with Minnie. When they died Minnie inherited the house, and having no children she then left it to our great aunt Dittie after her death. The Taconic State Parkway now runs through the town.

Peter told about riding in a carriage with her grandmother Catherine once a month from Bangall to Lafayette (about 6 miles) to visit Catherine's sister Betsey. She mentioned there was another family there, probably Maria, her 2nd husband and her children (Catherine's nieces and nephews). She also said that Catherine was a friend of the innkeeper there.

The Tremper's

Following Gottlob's death in 1865 of blood poisoning he contracted from removing his corns, Catherine Haas married her 3rd husband Captain William Tremper in 1871. She had met him while visiting her daughter Roseanne on her farm in Clinton Corners. He had a fleet of boats that carried freight on the Hudson River between New York City and Schodak Landing (near Rhinebeck), and owned a large home in Rhinebeck. He was 13 years older than Catherine, and had three boys from his first marriage - George, William "Will" and Jacob. {My brother Robin inherited a wooden lap top writing desk, said to have been used by Catherine while sailing on the Hudson with William on his boats.}

Captain Tremper died in 1872, the year after they were married. Catherine insisted that she not receive any inheritance, so all his property went to the Tremper boys. In view of her generosity the sons kept in contact with Catherine the rest of her life. She moved out of their house after she built a new "little" house on Bangall Road near Lafayette, about 40 miles away. She and her grand daughter Cornelia moved there, and Peter described the house as being "beautiful and with lots of flowers". {I inherited a small Cherry wood table that was crafted by a local carpenter from a tree that had grown on the property. After restoring it I gave it to my daughter Tina.}

Peter related the legend of how Bangall got its name. Early in its history a tin peddler was pushing his cart along a very rocky road. The pots and pans were banging together and making lots of noise. The peddler is said to have remarked: "this is Bang-all".

George Tremper lived in his father's house and had a daughter Lucy who never married. She worked in George's hardware store and later in the post office when he was postmaster. George and Lucy often visited Catherine and her grand daughter Cornelia in Bangall, and the two girls became friends. George Tremper's partner in the hardware

business was Mr. Cookingham, whose son dated Cornelia when she visited Rhinebeck. He in turn had a son, Fair, who later moved furniture for Peter after she and Herman (see "Vanderburgh's") were married and built a house in the area. He was surprised when Peter said she had known of his father.

Great Grandparents

Vanderburgh - Haas Family

Herbert Vanderburgh and **Cornelia Haas** were married in 1881. They settled in the Mariott house, where our great aunt Edna (Dittie) (1884-1968) was born. Shortly thereafter the Mariott's died. Elizabeth, who was never happy with the attention Herbert had received, successfully contested the will and evicted the family from her house. Elizabeth never married, and after she died the Mariott's large house and farm was taken over by the local Historical Society.

The Marriott's had another small farm the other side of Bangall, which was only suitable for grazing sheep. Elizabeth allowed Herbert to use it for that purpose after they left. They were then living with Cornelia's mother Catherine Haas Tremper in her house on Bangall Road, which was where our grandmother **Vida** "Pompy" (1887-1962) and our great aunt Edyth "Peter" (1889-1991) were born. {It is believed that one of their pieces of furniture was a walnut veneer 3 drawer chest. It was passed on to Vida, then to my mother Edna, and is now in my home. After years of use the exterior was not in very good condition and the drawers had worn to the point they would not open properly, so I restored it in 2011.}

Herbert had no special skills other than that of a "gentleman overseer" of the Marriott's large farm. He worked briefly as a mechanic and telegraph operator. With no solid job prospects, shortly after Peter's birth he left his family in 1891 to head west to "seek his fortune" in the Colorado gold fields at Cripple Creek. With no luck there, in 1897 he traveled to the Klondike gold rush but didn't have the fortitude to survive the harsh conditions there.

He was embarrassed to return home empty handed, so began a life as an itinerant worker holding various odd jobs on the west coast, eventually settling in the Los Angeles area. Apparently Dittie managed to keep in contact with her father and had urged him to return home to Rhinebeck, which he finally did in 1927. But after an absence of 35 years he and Cornelia could not adjust to living together, and he soon returned to Los Angeles where he worked as a gardener until his death.

With Herbert gone and three daughters to support Cornelia became a nurse for mothers and babies in the Bangall area (mostly with little or no pay) while her grandmother Catherine watched the three girls in her home. Needing to earn a living, Corneila and her daughters soon moved to Poughkeepsie. The local physician in Bangall, Dr. Ferris, thought very highly of Cornelia's nursing ability and recommended her for a nursing job in a hospital there.