

Ishmael Hughes (c1775-c1832)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1986

Ishmael Hughes was born between 1775 and 1780 in Virginia. A biography of his son, Timothy L. Hughes, published in the book, Kentucky: A History of the State (J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin, & G. C. Kniffin, c.1885) indicates that Ishmael Hughes was a native of Virginia and of Irish descent,

In 1810 Ishmael Hughes was residing in Harrison County, Virginia. The only household head by the name of Ishmael appearing in the 1810 censuses of the states of Virginia and Kentucky was the one in Harrison County, Va. The census listing appeared as follows:

1810 Harrison County, Virginia census, p.84:

Ismael Hughes 1 male 26-45
 2 females 0-10, 1female 6-26

The ages and members in the above household corresponds exactly with the later census listings for Ishmael Hughes of Muhlenberg County, Ky. and no doubt they are one and the same. About 1815 Ishmael Hughes settled in Muhlenberg County, Ky., where he purchased a farm of 65 acres on Pond Creek. The year of 1815 was the first year he was listed in the annual tax books of Muhlenberg County, Ishmael Hughes and his family were enumerated in the 1820 and 1830 censuses of Muhlenberg County. The listings appeared as follows:

1820 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census, p.141:

Ishmael Hughes 3 males 0-10, 1 male 26-45
 2 females 0-10, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 26-45

1830 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census, p.97:

Ishmael Hughes 2 males 0-5, 1 male 5-10, 2 males 10-15, 1 male 15-20, 1 male 50-60
 1 female 5-10, 1 female 10-15, 1 female 15-20, 1 female 40-50

Ishmael Hughes died in Muhlenberg County sometime between 1831-1833. He last appears in the Muhlenberg County tax lists in 1831. The Muhlenberg County tax books for 1832 and 1833 or missing. In the 1834 and later tax lists of Muhlenberg County Ishmael Hughes is no longer listed. According to the biography of T .L. Hughes, Ishmael Hughes's wife Susan about 1834 left Muhlenberg County and moved to Ballard County in the Jackson Purchase area of Western Kentucky, evidently this was soon after the death of her husband. Susan Hughes went to Ballard County with several of her children, including sons, Harrison and Timothy L. In the 1840 census index for the state of Kentucky could not find a Susan Hughes listed as a head of a

household in Ballard County, she probably was residing with another family. In the 1850 census of Ballard County, Ky. Harrison and Timothy Hughes, sons of Ishmael and Susan, were residing in the household of David Unsell:

1850 Ballard County, Ky. census, p.243, #631:

Unsell, David	46	m	farmer	Ky.
Elizabeth	42	f		Va.
William	20	m		Ky.
Moses	18	m		Ky.
Ann	17	f		Ky.
Oliver	15	m		Ky.
Elizabeth	10	f		Ky.
Mary	7	f		Ky.
Whittier, Nancy	13	f		Ky.
Minerva	11	f		Ky.
Emily	8	f		Ky.
Utterback, George	28	m	merchant	Ky.
Hughes, Harrison	28	m	merchant	Ky.
Timothy	24	m	merchant	Ky.
Stovall, S. J.	24	in	carpenter	Ky.
Stom, Besly	27	m	blacksmith	Ill.
Unsel, Moses	23	m	laborer	Ky.

Harrison and Timothy L. Hughes may have been related to the Unsel family with whom they were living in 1850. Several Unsel families were neighbors of the Hughes family while they lived in Muhlenberg County. Their older brother was named Henry "Unsel" Hughes.

Henry Unsel Hughes, son of Ishmael and Susan, in 1850 was listed in the census of Muhlenberg County:

1850 Muhlenberg County, Ky; census, #415:

Hughes, H. U.	33	m	farmer	Ky.
Nancy W.	27	f		Ky.
William H.	10	m		Ky.
James S.	8	m		Ky.
Wilson	1	m		Ky.
Tooley, Jacob S.	22	m	laborer	Ky.

The biography of T .L. Hughes indicates he was one of eleven children of Ishmael and Susan Hughes. Three of their children were: Henry Unsel Hughes born 24 October 1816 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married Nancy Tooley 7 February 1839, died 6 December 1906, buried in the Hughes Cemetery at Dunmor in Muhlenberg County. Harrison Hughes born about 1822 Muhlenberg County, Ky., 1850 living in Ballard County, Ky. And Timothy L. Hughes born 25 November 1825 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married Catherine Stovall May 1860, in 1885 living at Wickliffe in Ballard County, Ky. At the time of the 1830 Muhlenberg County census

nine children, were living in the household of Ishmael Hughes. Four years later when Ishmael's widow, Susan, removed to Ballard County, several of their children were probably still residing at home and went with her to Ballard County, In the 1850 Ballard County census no Susan Hughes was listed as a head of a household. Susan Hughes was born between 1780 and 1790 in Virginia, she died after 1834.

Census records indicate that Ishmael and Susan Hughes married about 1804-1808. There is a good chance they married in Harrison County, Virginia, where they were residing in 1810 only a few years after their marriage. Harrison County is now Harrison County, West Virginia and the county seat is Clarksburg. An inquiry to the County Court Clerk, Harrison County Courthouse, Clarksburg, W.V. may determine whether or not Ishmael and Susan Hughes where married there or not.

Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

.....

Kentucky: A History of the State, J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffen, 1885 (Ballard County section:

T.L. Hughes, of Wickliffe, was born November 25, 1825, in Muhlenburg County, and is the tenth of eleven children born to Ishmael and Sarah Hughes, natives of Virginia, and of Irish and German descent, respectively; was reared and educated on a farm. At the age of nine years he came with his mother to Ballard County, where he has lived ever since. He has been engaged as a pilot on the Mississippi River nearly all his life, his first trip having been made when nineteen years old; he has also carried on a farm, but in 1881 moved to Wickliffe, where he has been engaged in general merchandising. He was married in May, 1860, to Catherine Stovall, of Blandville, a daughter of J. H and Hanna (Smith) Stovall, natives of Muhlenburg County, December 29, 1806, and died March, 1884. Mr Hughes had born to him by this union nine children: Harrison, Jesse L., John H., Eugenia, Joseph W. (deceased), Thuanna, Thomas L. (deceased), Katie (deceased), and one not named. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are members of the Baptist Church, and he is a member of the Masonic fraternity and I.O.O.F.

.....

Ishmael Hughes was born 1775-1780 Virginia. He married Susannah Elizabeth Kincheloe, 23 December 1806 Harrison County, VA. He died 1831-1833 Muhlenberg County, Ky. His wife died c1880. They were buried in the Hughes Family Cemetery, Dunmor, Muhlenberg County, Ky. Their children were:

1. Nancy, born 4 July 1806 Harrison County, VA; married Isaac Randolph, 12 November 1833 Muhlenberg County, Ky. (she may be born to an earlier marriage of Ishmael Hughes)
2. Elizabeth, born 14 November 1807 Harrison County, VA, died 16 February 1864
3. Ruhannah, born 30 May 1809 Harrison County, VA, married Daniel Thompson (1801-1873), 22 January 1824 Muhlenberg County, Ky., died 12 May 1888 Clark County, Ill., buried Thompson Cemetery, Clark County, Ill.
4. Peter H., born 2 March 1811 Harrison County, VA, married Elizabeth Wilcox, 4 November 1830 Muhlenberg County, Ky.
5. Tobitha Elizabeth, born 17 March 1813 Harrison County, VA, married George W. Wilcox (1808-1844), 4 November 1830 Muhlenberg County, Ky., died 15 April 1894 Muhlenberg County, Ky., buried Wilcox Cemetery, Muhlenberg County, Ky.
6. Mary Ann, born 19 November 1814 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married Presley Whitaker, 4 December 1836 Muhlenberg County, Ky.
7. Henry Unsel, born 24 October 1816 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married Nancy W. Tooley (1822-1892), 7 February 1839 Muhlenberg County, Ky., died 6 December 1906 Muhlenberg County, Ky., buried Hughes Cemetery, Dunmor, Muhlenberg County, Ky.
8. William, born 11 August 1818 Muhlenberg County, Ky.
9. Nancy, born 22 January 1821 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married John B. Cheek, 12 January 1837 Muhlenberg County, Ky.
10. Harrison, born 26 November 1822 Muhlenberg County, Ky., in 1850 he was living Ballard County, Ky.
11. Timothy Lyon, born 25 November 1825 Muhlenberg County, Ky., married Catherine Stovall, May 1860 Wickliffe, Ballard County, Ky., died 5 July 1886 Ballard County, Ky.
12. Jacob B., born 20 February 1828 Muhlenberg County, Ky.

.....

On 15 December 1986 I visited Mrs. Sherman (Golden Hughes) Babbitt (1902-1989), at her home at Buford in Ohio County, KY. She was a great-great-granddaughter of Ishmael & Susannah Hughes. Years before she had corresponded with the wife of Jesse Lyon Hughes (1863-1956), of Ballard County, KY. Jesse was the son of Timothy Lyon Hughes and the grandson of Ishmael Hughes.

The letter Mrs. Babbitt received contained a handwritten transcription of a bible record listing the names and births of the children of Ishmael & Susannah Hughes. The following was recorded in the letter:

Nanny born 4 July 1806
 Elizabeth born 14 November 1807
 Ruanna born 30 May 1809
 Peter H. born 2 March 1811
 Tabitha born 17 March 1813

M _ yan born 19 November 1814
?nery S. (? Henery) born 22 October ___
William born 11 August 1818
Nancy born 22 January 1821
Harrison born 26 November 1822
Timothy born 23 November 1825
Jacob B. born 20 February 1828