

MY HICKS ANCESTORS

by Terry Hicks, UE

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My former colleague of many years, Mr. C.J. (Jack) Brown, is an extremely accomplished gentleman and a genealogical sleuth. It is to him I owe the inspiration and skill in my search.

My father had always told me that the Hicks family were of Loyalist heritage. He remembered my great-grandfather Eli Hicks and that Eli's mother was an Ouderkirk. In August 1989, Jack and I went to Ogdensburg, New York where my grandfather Hicks, a Methodist minister, had retired and passed away in 1934. Through his will we were pointed to Kars in the Ottawa Valley. A visit there revealed the well-kept graves and markers of Eli, Joseph Hicks (Eli's father) and Maria Ouderkirk, named as the wife of Joseph. Joseph had died in 1866 at the age of 72 years. From this it appears he was born in 1794. In Thomas B. Wilson, *Marriage Bonds of Ontario 1803-1834* there appears the following entry:

Hicks, Joseph, Yeoman and Miss Mary Outerkirk, spr.

Both of Williamsburg - 16 March, 1817 at Williamsburg.

In the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the O.G.S. *News and Views*, March 1990, Jack learned the details of a Marlborough Township census of 1802. The only Hicks family in the whole list contains the names of Elizabeth, 38, Sarah, 14, Gertrude, 12, Thomas, 10, and Joseph, 8. Thus, this Joseph was born in 1794 in agreement with the inscription on the tombstone in Kars. The evidence seemed to point to Elizabeth as my great-great-great-grandmother.

The scene then shifted to a Genealogical day held in Morrisburg on the 10th August, 1991. In "Early Lutheran Church Records - District of Matilda, Williamsburg and Osnabruck 1790-1830" the following item appears:

No. 141 Joseph Hicks ux, eq Elizabeth Infantes Thomas born July 17, 1792.

Baptized Aug. 19, 1792.

We concluded from this that the Thomas Hicks born 17 July, 1792 was the Thomas Hicks listed in the Marlborough Township census of 1802 as being 10 years old in 1802. It would appear that the husband of Elizabeth Hicks in that census was another Joseph Hicks - Joseph Hicks Sr., possibly deceased prior to the census.

On the 19th August, 1991 a visit to the National Archives in Ottawa uncovered a wealth of information including an application for a land grant in Joseph Hicks' (Sr.) own beautiful handwriting dated 10th June, 1791. He was granted 200 acres although the documents do not say where. Other documents show that he was living in Kingston in 1794 when Elizabeth filed a land claim as a daughter of a Loyalist, Joshua Losee, who had served in Jessup's Corps. In another document appeared the following statement: "I do certify that Joseph Hicks named in the annexed Certificate served last war as a Soldier in Major Edward Jessup's Corps until the reduction 1783 - Thos. Fraser". Jack instantly recognized the significance of this statement as he knew that Thomas Fraser was a most distinguished citizen - a Captain in Jessup's Corps, a

member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada and the receiver of a reward of 4000 acres from the Crown.

Another lead in our Morrisburg visit came from the Ouderkirk family history confirming Maria's marriage to Joseph Hicks Jr. and a suggestion that the family originally came from Schoharie, N.Y.. A visit to Fonda, N.Y. turned up information in the "First Census of the United States, 1790, New York". There were six Joseph Hicks living in the state. From the Marlborough Township census we knew that "my" Joseph Hicks would have 3 females and no males in his household (Elizabeth, Sarah, born 1788 and Gertrude, bom 1790). The only one of the six Joseph Hicks whose census information met this requirement came from Schenectady, a few miles to the east. This led to the "Marriage Record of Schenectady Reformed Church 1694 - 1852". The following entry for 1786 was discovered:

8.30 Joseph Hicks Clifton Park
Elizabeth Losee Clifton Park

So the marriage had taken place in Clifton Park, a suburb of Schenectady, N.Y. on the 30th August, 1786.

While at the Archives, Jack expressed a desire to consult the book *The Parish Register of Kingston Upper Canada 1785-1811*. The index quickly revealed the only entry for a Hicks was Joseph Hicks who died on the 24th May, 1890 and was buried in St. George's Burial Ground. Hence his failure to appear in the 1802 Marlborough Township census. On our return to Kingston this was quickly confirmed in the original record book held in the Anglican Diocesan office. This office identified St. George's Burial Ground as being located at the corner of Queen and Montreal Streets. St. Paul's Church was built on the burial ground in the early 1840s. Some graves, as we know, are outside the current structure. Joseph Hick's grave is not one of the few remaining. So one aspect of our search was complete: Joseph Hicks Sr., UE., my great-great-great-grandfather was buried on the site where our branch has its regular meetings!