

## DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS HUGHES AND HANNAH BUCKELL

This being a report on families who are early settlers of Hennepin County and primarily of Plymouth and surrounding townships, and whose descendants still reside on the originally home-steaded lands, I choose the family headed by Thomas Hughes who came from Dorsetshire England in 1849. Into this family I married in 1909.

Thomas Hughes was born in England on November 25, 1803. He served in the British army for five years. In February 1824 he married Hannah Buckell. To this union, nine children were born. James, Mary, Ann, John, who died, Thomas, Henry, Charles, Ellen (deceased), Edward and Ellen 2nd, who also died. In the year of 1849, he brought his wife and children, except James the eldest, and located in Burlington, Iowa, where they lived for five years. In the fall of 1853, they moved to Minnesota and settled on a claim, section 19, in Plymouth. The date of actual purchase was October 18, 1860. At the time he came, there were no roads, excepting the Indian trails, used by Shakopee and his band of Sioux. Here he built a home, and lived until his death in 1887. His wife had died in 1882. Both are buried in Parker's Lake Cemetary.

James Hughes, eldest son of Thomas Hughes, was born in England, January 2nd, 1825. He lived with his parents until he was 21, in the meantime serving an apprenticeship of seven years at the black-smith trade. He then went to Wales, and was engaged in Lee's iron-works for nine months. He returned to England and established his own smithing business. He was

married to Elizabeth Hatcher in England in 1848. They had nine children, six of them lived. They were Edward, Ellen (Mrs. Joseph Day), John, Julia (Mrs. Frank Hatcher), Thomas and Carey. In 1852 he left England and followed his father to Burlington, Iowa, and engaged in business there, until March 1854, when he started for Minnesota. He had at the time six yoke of oxen, two cows and a covered wagon. The journey was pleasant until they arrived in Minnesota Territory, where they found much snow and no roads. He was obliged to leave his family alone in the wagon one night, while he went in search of food and help, during a bad snow-storm. They finally arrived at Red Wing, and had only five oxen and 1 cow, the others having perished enroute. Here they shipped to St. Paul, where he sold his remaining cattle, and went to St. Anthony, and in May 1854 made his claim to 120 acres in Section 18, in Plymouth. Actual purchase and payment was made on March 4, 1857. Here he engaged in farming and smithing until during the Civil War. In July 1864 he enlisted in the 8th Minnesota, and was detailed as post-blacksmith at Fort Snelling, where he served until mustered out in May 1865.

While he was at Fort Snelling, his family lived in their cabin back in Plymouth, and one day while his wife Elizabeth had her quilting frame set up on four flour barrels a band of Indians stopped, and asked for food. Only one of the barrels contained some flour, and the Indians looked into the three which happened to be empty. Leaving the fourth in disgust they walked out the door, and into the garden patch, where the young vegetables were coming thru the ground. They proceeded to

trample the rows methodically, until they were ruined.

After James Hughes had returned from serving at Fort Snelling, there were other experiences with Indians, one of which showed the kindlier side of the Indian nature. While out hunting one day, he found an old Indian with his feet frozen. He carried him home to his cabin, and tended him, until he was able to walk again, and sent him on his way. Late that winter one night, there was a thud as if some heavy object hitting the cabin door. On going to see what it was, they found a saddle of fresh venison lying there. There was no explanation except that it must have been the grateful Indian.

During the years between 1858 and 1866, James Hughes held various township offices, such as constable, town clerk, overseer of highways, and supervisor of the town board. He passed away in 1882 and his wife in 1894. Both are buried in Parkers Lake cemetery.

Thomas Hughes, third son of Thomas Sr. lived all his life with his father, and never married. He enlisted in the 6th Minnesota Infantry in 1861, served one year, and was transferred to Company K, 23rd Regiment, Vet. Reserve Corps, and served as General's orderly until mustered out at St. Paul, in 1865. He was engaged in the battle of Birch Coolie and Wood Lake, during the Indian out-break. He is reputed to have been a very strong man, and at one time on a dare, he lifted and carried into the store, a full barrel of molasses, for Joseph Hamel, who ran a store at what was then called Lenz, now Hamel. He died in 1888.

Henry, fourth son of Thomas Hughes Sr., was born in England January 28th, 1835. He came to the United States with his parents

in 1849, and was engaged in blacksmithing in Burlington, Iowa, until 1853, when at the age of eighteen, he had accumulated two yoke of oxen, two cows, three horses, and two wagons. They were 27 days on the road to Minnesota. He worked one year at Blacksmithing at St. Anthony, and then joined his father on the home-stead in Plymouth. He was married December 4th, 1862 to Mary A. Case of Ohio, and they had nine children. They are Fred, Frank George, Robert, Clarence and William, and Amanda, Ida, and Rosa-Nell. William the youngest, still lives in the old homestead, but in a new house, the old one having burned to the ground in 1914. Uncle Henry passed away in 1899. His wife in 1929. Both are buried in Parkers Lake Cemetary.

Charles Hughes fifth son of Thomas Hughes Sr. was born in England May 2nd, 1838. He came with his parents to America in 1849, and to Minnesota in 1853. He was fifteen years old at the time, and remained at St. Anthony, working with Daniel Bassett, one of the first carriage makers in the place, for 1 1/2 years. He and his older brother Henry, made claims in Benton county, remained one year, but were obliged to abandon them, because of a scarcity of provisions. In the fall of 1859 he built a carriage shop near the suspension bridge in Minneapolis, and remained there until 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, 1st Minnesota Infantry, and served until mustered out in May 1864. He participated in 21 engagements, some of them the hardest fought battles of the Civil War. In 1864 he joined General Sully's expedition up the Yellowstone. He returned in the fall, and worked for the government at Fort Snelling, till the spring of 1865, when he came to Plymouth and bought 40 acres

of land, later adding another 40 acres, and built a home for the wife he married on May 14th, 1865. She was Martha Hatcher daughter of Frank Hatcher Sr. who also had migrated from England. Eight children were born to them. They are John, Charles, Henry Hubert, Annette, Cora, Addie and Minnie. His wife died March 18th, 1882. He sold his farm, and moved to Minneapolis. Later he left the state, for Denver, Colorado. He died in 1912, at the age of 74, and is buried as is Martha, in Parkers Lake Cemetery. (See letter written to his sister from the army, also poem.)

Edward, youngest son of Thomas Sr., was born in England in 1844 and he too migrated with his parents, brothers and sisters to America in 1853, and lived with them until grown. He was one of the first eight men in Plymouth to volunteer for service in the Indian uprisings about 1863. He served one year and after suffering a broken leg, was mustered out. At the age of 25 years he was married to Ellen O'Hearn of Norwalk, Ohio. To this union were born five children. Mark, Albert, Mary, Emma, and Emory, who died at an early age. Edward, or Uncle Ned, as we called him, died in 1918. His wife, Aunt Ellen, in 1940. Both are buried in Holy Name Cemetery, in Medina.

Now we come to the third generation, and find there were four sons, and two daughters, descendants of James Hughes. As mentioned before, they were Edward, Thomas, John and Carey, Ellen (Mrs. Joseph Day) and Julia (Mrs. Frank Hatcher). Of these Thomas and John stayed on the original land inherited from their father, and their sons in turn are still on the farms, which they have inherited. My husband is James, eldest son of Thomas 3rd, and

Harry, his brother, second son of Thomas 3rd. Sisters are Gertrude and Mable.

It is to my good father-in-law, Thomas Hughes, that I owe the knowledge of these accounts and happenings which he remembered from his youth. He told of helping to clear the land on which we now live, it having been entirely covered by Maple trees, as was much of the territory. There was a bog in which wild cranberries grew in abundance, and the higher ground where the wild strawberries grew. There were still a few of these when we were married 44 years ago. That it was the abode of Indians has also been proven, as we have found arrow tips and tomahawk heads of the farm when turning the soil. These are things which our children in the fifth generation treasure. We treasure too, the Memory of all these good and simple people who were our forbears, and whose virtues and deeds we aim to perpetuate. They have lived, laughed, and loved to serve their God, and their neighbors, and may we too live simply in the love of our God and of our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted

Eva J. Hughes