

## CLIMBING THE FAMILY TREE

The Daily Press NEW DOMINION  
Newport News, VA

Sunday, March 3, 1974

### HUDGINS FAMILY

HUDGINS FAMILY OF MATHEWS COUNTY, GLOUCESTER, YOUR AND ELIZABETH CITY COUNTIES, VIRGINIA. Hampton now covers the entire county of Elizabeth City. The following data has been used and with permission of Mr. Edward A. Hudgins, 8148 Tidal Road, Norfolk, Va. 23518, telephone No. 587-9023, we are publishing the data here and continue from the last issue of this feature. This data is most informative and of interest to all of Tidewater Virginia. Much of this Hudgins data includes human interest information, which should be received well by the Hudgins family, as well as others, since it covers the early horse-drawn carriages including the surrey. It also includes the steam boat along the river. We now continue:

"Gone are the days of the good ship 'Mobjack', trusty sidewheeler that conveyed us from Old Point Comfort (Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va.) up the bay to Williams Wharf. She (meaning the boat) always left at six in the morning served breakfast en route which was an adventure in itself. The dining table in the mess was on gimbals and as the old ship rocked the rim of the table was first over your head then under your knees. This was eating "on the fly" and no place for one with a weak stomach, what with the smells of fish and bacon mixed with coal smoke from a following wind. But she got you there and it was a great delight to see her pull up to the docks and take on fish and oysters to be sent to the market in Baltimore (Maryland.)"

"Gone too is the family surrey with the white horse and dear black Millie at the helm. She was my father's 'Nannie', a freed slave who refused to be free. Her command of the vehicle was comparable to that of a coachman of the Royal Household. The trip to 'Bellefield' was long and tedious, a full six miles and a good two hours, what with a stop at Mathews courthouse to pick some meat and a load of local gossip at the store. Being a boy, I had to be given meat, but no other boy down there ever had meat, only chicken and fish. I rather resented

this aspect of being in a different category. To establish my equality I can remember that a collie dog, named Steptoe, frequently got my serving by devious means."

"Still left are two impressive land marks. One of them is a Baptist Church on the road from Mathews Courthouse to Milford Haven built by Houlder Hudgins, II, for his brother-in-law, Rev. Thomas Muse Hunley, a Baptist minister. Later, Houlder's nephew Robert became the minister and I remember him as 'Uncle Robert'. The other landmark is at the intersection of the road to Milford Haven and the entrance to 'Bellefield', there stands a country store once owned by John Lewis Hudgins, son of Houlder Hudgins, I, one of those wonderful stores with a Post Office, plows and molasses candy. Here now stands a large sign that advertises Texaco Gasoline, proclaiming to the world."

"THIS IS HUDGINS, VIRGINIA." "The balance of this paper will be devoted to a genealogy in tabular form of all the descendants of William and Mary Holder Hudgins in America to the extent that they are known to me. The data comes from three sources: (1) The Register of Kingston Parish, the official journal of the Church of England of which, in the first two generations, all members of this family were members. In this register are listed many births, marriages and deaths, but more frequently than not much important detail is missing, and (2) the family Bible of Houlder Hudgins, II, which gives supplementary detail, but which an objective analyst would detect considerable bias for and against those who pleased and displeased the one who made the entries, the worst results of which are more in the omissions than in errors of fact, and (3) a considerable file of correspondence and memoranda drawn from various descendants by my father and his two brothers and later by myself. These are filled with information which is most useful but, due to the very nature of the sources, have required massive research and editing to bring coherence and accuracy. There

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are still many gaps in our knowledge and undoubtedly some inaccuracies still exist. The author will appreciate any information from any reader who can contribute missing details, further extensions of the lines and clear up factual data. All interested descendants or readers are respectfully requested to get in touch with the writer."

(NOTE: As given above the data was sent and with permission of the named Mr. Edward A. Hudgins of Norfolk, Va., however, the data originally compiled by Mr. Houlder Hudgins, 31 Brimmer Street, Boston, Massachusetts.