

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

*Hinzman
Story*

Charity COON HINZMAN

by Mo BRAUM and Joy STALNAKER with considerable
input from other COON-HINZMAN researchers.

Editor's Note: *Over the years I have gathered material for most of the early families on Hacker's Creek; and, from time to time, I have pulled from that material for articles for the Journal. Among the information I have collected was an article written several decades ago by Preston LINGER (1883-1957) of Horner. Although I have looked at this information many times, it wasn't until I married into the extended HINZMAN family that I took a personal interest in the story. My husband, Daril W. STALNAKER is the great-grandson of Marietta (HINZMAN) SIMS and the g.g.g.g. grandson of Henry and Charity (COON) HINZMAN.*

The last time I looked over the information, I decided to post some questions to our HCPD listserv. Two or three persons responded to my inquiries. It is from their responses and some personal research that I compiled this story.

Preston LINGER compiled information on the LINGER family and incorporated HINZMAN family information because his grandfather, Joseph LINGER, was married to Mercy HINZMAN, daughter of Henry and Charity (COON) HINZMAN. Of Charity he said,

"Charity COON HINZMAN was born on the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel. According to family accounts, after the Revolutionary War, Indians still lurked in the Hackers Creek area of Lewis County. One day when Henry HINZMAN was away, Indians were seen near the family cabin. Charity hid her children under the floor of the cabin. When the Indians entered the cabin, they seized the mother and took part of her scalp. After being treated by an herb doctor, she always wore a dust cap to cover the injured area of her scalp. . . (she) died in Roane County at the age of 112 years and was buried on Pocatlico Creek. She received a Revolutionary War pension."

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
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Mo **BRAUM** says that most researchers agree that Charity's mother was Mary **COZAD**. However, the identity of her father is somewhat in dispute. Some say he was John **COON** from New Jersey and some say Phillip **COON** from Pennsylvania.

The information that Phillip **COON** was her father seems to come from the compiled records edited by Cline Morgan **KOON**, Ph.D. His handwritten manuscripts, titled "Two Thousand Descendants of Philip **COON (KOON)** of West Virginia" and "A Preliminary Study of Philip **COON**" were recorded by the LDS church on FHC microfilms #833044 and #547830. There is a wealth of good information about the **COON/KOON** family, as well as a good sources list in these manuscripts.

"In looking through these records and the sources that are quoted for the information, **BRAUM's** conclusion is that, "although I believe there was a Charity **COON**, d/o Philip, born in 1760 somewhere near Philadelphia, she is not the Charity **COON** that married Henry **HINZMAN**. I believe that Philip's daughter either died young without marrying, ran off to seek her fortune or simply married someone and lived happily, and apparently untraceably, ever after.

"A more likely origin for our Charity **COON HINZMAN** is New Jersey, not the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel or Philadelphia. The age discrepancy (see Jim **HALTERMAN's** notes below) that shows up in the many different records is one indication that something isn't quite right about Charity. I think it's because there are really two Charitys and there was an assumption made somewhere along the line that they were the same person.

"Charity's mother, Mary **COZAD**, didn't help much. It seems that the **COZADS**, **SUTTONS** and **COONS** were all good Baptists and didn't take well to the Government messing with their marriage records and ceremonies. So we don't have any record of her marriage to John **COON** or her later marriage to Benjamin **CUTLER**.

"We do know that the **COON** and **COZAD** families go way back several generations in NJ. Mary's grandfather, Jacob **COSSART's**, final resting place is given as "the **COON** family lot" of the Presbyterian Church "Old Cemetery" in Bound Brook, NJ. And Thomas **COON**, possibly John's grandfather, was a witness on Jacob's Will. (*Hackers Creek Journal* Vol IV-2 pp84-86)," continues **BRAUM**.

"It seems likely to me that Mary **COZAD** & John **COON** were married about 1770, possibly by her father or grandfather, who were Baptist ministers, or one of her 4 uncles, who were also Baptist ministers. Their three children - John, Jr b.1771, Charity b.1773 and Anthony b.1775 - are all listed in the Harrison Co., WV marriage records.

"Bill **BRILEY** (of Eugene, OR) has sent me some notes on his search for Benjamin **CUTLER**'s origins. This helps to place Mary **COZAD COON**, Charity's mother.

"Benjamin **CUTLER** lived in Morris Co., NJ from 1775-1778 serving in the militia. Mary **COZAD COON** married Benjamin **CUTLER** in 1775 after John **COON** was "killed by Indians." It's unclear when or how they met, perhaps in the Indian campaigns, but their first child, Benjamin was born in 1776.

"Benjamin **CUTLER** is on a deed in Fayette Co., PA in 1784, then shows up in the 1790 census in Harrison Co., VA. Seven of Mary's children are married in Harrison Co., VA between 1784 and 1799, suggesting that the family had moved to W(VA) by about 1784. Then their last child, Mercy Ann, is married to John **SUTTON** (from NJ) in 1802 in the NW Territory (OH). John **SUTTON** and Benjamin **CUTLER** both show up on the tax lists for Greene Co., OH (1800-1810), and Mary **COZAD CUTLER** was laid to her final rest in the **COZAD** Cemetery in Fairfield, Greene Co., OH on 17 June 1811."

According to Stephen Edgar **HINZMAN**, a grandson, Charity was a very strong pioneer woman. She was born with a club foot, called reel-footed at that time. Stephen said that Charity could stand in a one-half bushel basket to keep her from reeling, and balance a three-bushel bag of wheat on her shoulders.

Charity **COON**'s gravestone in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, in Roane County, reads, - Charity, w/o Henry **HINZMAN**, d. 13 March 1872, aged 114 years.

The following comparison of records and analysis done by Jim **HALTERMAN** puts some perspective on Charity **COON**'s age and adds to her history.¹¹

"The LDS records in Salt Lake City, Utah, state that Charity was a daughter of Phillip **COON**, of Pennsylvania, who

¹¹ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/a/l/James-A-Halterman/GENE1-0001.html>

settled in Harrison County, Virginia and built Coons Fort there around 1774. However, in researching other genealogies and the marriage application of Henry and Charity, the following seems most likely.

"The **SUTTON** family history, states that Charity's parents were Mary **COZAD**, b. 1756, and John **COON**, of Somerset County, New Jersey. John was killed by Indians about 1774 and Mary then married Benjamin **CUTLER** in 1775. Mary died June 14, 1811 and is buried at Fairborn, Green County, Ohio. If we go by the above figures, the mother would have been about 10 years of age at Charity's birth. Also, Charity would have been 59 when her last child was born. These figures seem a bit absurd."

However, Henry's and Charity's marriage application of file in Harrison County sheds additional light on Charity's age. The requests and applications for license to marry are recorded and on file in Harrison County, West Virginia, and are worded as follows:

Know all men by these presents, that we, Henry **HYNEMAN**, and Thomas **BERRY**, both of the County of Harrison, and the State of Virginia, are held and firmly bound unto the Governor and His Successors, in the final sum of fifty pounds, current money of Virginia. We bind ourselves and any executors and administrators firmly by the present witnesses on hand, this 23rd day of September, 1794, and 19th year of the Commonwealth. The condition of the above obligation is such that if there should be an lawful cause to obstruct the marriage intended between the above bound Henry **HYNEMAN** and Charity **COON**, both of this County, the above obligation be void. Otherwise, to remain if full force an virtue.
signed - Benj. Wilson, Henry **HINZMAN**'s mark, and Thomas **BERRY**.

September 23, 1794

You will be pleased to give a marriage license to Henry **HYNEMAN**, to get married to me as I am of full age.
signed - Margaret ? (her mark), Charity **COON** (her mark)

This is to certify that Charity **COON**'s twenty-one years of age, and that I am consented to her marriage with Henry **HINEMAN**.

signed - Mary **CUTLER** (her mark), Thomas **BERRY**

Note that Charity was given as being 21 years of age. The record is signed by Thomas **BERRY** and Mary **CUTLER**. Assuming this is correct she would have been born in 1773 and her mother would have been age 17 when she gave life to Charity. Then Charity's age at the time of her last child would be 46, another reasonable deduction. Taking these factors into consideration, Charity's age at death would be 99, a ripe old age and not uncommon to **HINZMAN** descendants.

Henry and Charity (**COON**) **HINZMAN** were the parents of eleven children whose names were written in the **HINZMAN** family Bible and, fortunately for today's researchers, submitted to the Bureau of Pension/General Services Administration when Charity applied for pension on Henry's service in the Pennsylvania Line.

Charity **COON HINZMAN**, with help from her son Thomas C. **HINZMAN**, began the process of trying to claim her widow's pension as early as 1857 according to a photocopy in **STALNAKER'S** possession. The document is accompanied by the certification of Henry **HINZMAN**'s service in Captain **GREY'S** Company, 4th Regiment Pennsylvania Line.¹²

The letter, written by T.C. **HINZMAN** reads¹³:

Lewis County Virginia Sept 15

Mr. T.T. **AARLLSON** Esq Dear Sir I recd your leter with the act of the legislature of Pennsylvania allowing my mother forty dollars a year which She is ever thankfull for and also a gratuity of forty dollars which you can take your pay for your labors and send the twenty dollars to me as she given me Power of atorny, to act and do her busness with you and I will forward it to her as soon as I receive it you stated in your letter that you wood send her a draft at _____ son at new york it would bee more convenient if you could send the money or draft some salvert bank of Baltimore that

¹² The author is uncertain of the source of these documents but suspects they are a part of the pension file.

¹³ The letter is printed exactly as it was written including punctuation and misspellings.

could be cashd here I must say to you that your excuse for not writing to me sooner is very _____ you will find in closed in this the order to lift the money with the old bible record you will find from the date of that record that it was taken from an older Dutch bible and transferred in this one that these leaves was taken¹⁴ and you will see that father spelt **HINMAN & HINZMAN** in difrent ways I see in looking over his two receipts that the commitioners of the revenue and Sherriffs written his name **HINSMAN + HINEMAN Hindsman HINZMAN** and his sons and daughters have all written thear names **HINZMAN**

Any information that you want write to me and as _____ as lay in my power I will give

No more at present

September 15 1857

¹⁴ Family records from the old Bible of Henry **HINSMAN** and Charity **COON** state they were married in the year of our Lord 1794, September the 16th. (prints received from the GSA Department indicate the actual pages from the old Bible are on file with the pension application in Washington.

Birth of Children (note the varied spelling of the surname)

Abraham **HINSMAN** was born the 29 day of June 1795

Thomas C. **HINZMAN** was born the 2 day of March 1797

Sarah **HINESMAN** was born the 16 day of Feb 1799

Mersey & Elizabeth **HINESMAN** was born the 19 day of March 1801

Henry **HINESMAN** Junr. was born the 20th day of March 1803

William **HINESMAN** was born March the 19th 1805

David **HINDSMAN** was born May the 10 1807

Mary **HINESMAN** was born the 29th day of June 1810

John **HINESMAN** was born the 11 day of July 1813

Rebecca **HINESMAN** was born the 19th day of July 1816

Charity **HINESMAN** was born the 25 day of Feb 1819

We, Jacob H. **BONNETT** and William **CARTER** do certify that the above is true copy of the old family Bible of Henry **HINESMAN**, dec., in the possession of his widow, Charity **HINESMAN**. Given under our hands this 18 day of April 1857.

signed - Jacob H. **BONNETT** and William **CARTER**.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 18th day of April 1857.

signed - Wm. **GANDEE**

Charity **COON HINZMAN** officially filed for Pension 4 April 1859 with the following declaration:

State of Virginia
County of Roane

On this Fourth day of April, in the year A.D. 1859, personally appeared in open court of Record holder, within and for said county and State aforesaid, Mrs. Charity **HINESMAN**, who is a resident of said county and State, aged between 90 and 100 years.

Who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed on the 29th day of July A.D. 1848.

That she is the widow of Henry **HINESMAN**, late of Lewis County, State aforesaid, deceased, who was a Private in the War of the American Revolution, and she frequently heard him relate in his lifetime to-Wit; That he enlisted or volunteered at the City of Philadelphia in the Summer of 1779 or 1780 for the term of some six or nine months and was attached she thinks to the Artillery.

That having been honorably discharged from said Service at the expiration of said term, he again enlisted to serve three years and served in one of the Pennsylvania Regiments until the close of the War, thinks in July or August 1783, thinks the Regiment was commanded part of the time by Col. Butler. That in consequence of loss of memory by age and lapse of time since the death of said husband, she is unable to give the names of his officers. Thinks the name of one of his Captains was **GRAY** or **KENNEDA**. That his second enlistment was about the time of the Revolt of the Pennsylvania Line at which several of the Regiments was consolidated.

She further declares that she was married to the said Henry **HINSMAN** at Harrison County, Virginia on the 16th day of September 1894, by one John **LOVEBERRY** a Preacher of the Baptist denomination. That her name prior to her marriage with the said Henry was Charity **COON**. That the said Henry

HINDSMAN her husband died at Hackers Creek, Lewis County, Virginia on the 24th day of December 1827. She further swears that she was a widow at the passage of the Act and is still a widow and that she has never before made application for a United States pension but has received bounty land from the United States under Act 3rd March 1855 that the record evidence of her marriage and Births of Children and death of Husband was filed with the papers of her declaration for said Bounty Land and asks that reference may be had thereto for proof of same. signed - Charity **HINESMAN** (her mark) Witness - Henry **GLAZE**, Abram **RAINES**

Sworn and Subscribed before me the Presiding Justice of the aforesaid court of Record holder at Spencer in and for the County of Roane, State aforesaid on this 4th day of April A.D. 1859, and I certify that the consequence same was signed in open court. signed - David **SERGEANT** R.H.

State of Virginia

County of (Lewis marked out) Roane, S.S.

On this 18th day of April, A.D. 1857, personally appeared before me acting Justice of the Peace, within and for Said County and State, Mrs. Charity **HINSMAN**, aged 88 years, who is a resident of the county aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law doth dispose and Say that She is the Widow of Henry **HINSMAN**, late of Said County, deceased.

Who, in his lifetime, represented himself as having been a Soldier in the American Revolutionary War. That in the year 1780, he volunteered at the City of Philadelphia for the term of Seven or Nine months, as she had heard him frequently say, in the Company of Command of Captain _____ **GREY**, and was attached to Colonel **PROCTORs** Artillery.

That after said term of Service expired, he then enlisted for the term of three years, and served until the close of the said War, then he was again discharged in the City of Philadelphia. That Said Services, was as she thinks from the best of her recollection of said Husbands frequent conversations,

many years since, respecting the War. In the company commanded by one Capt. **KENNADA**, and in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Butler and thinks she has heard him say that it was the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment. That she the said deponent may be mistakes, as to the names of officers and dates in consequence of Superannuation and the great length of time since the death of her said husband which is near thirty years.

She further states that she was married to him, the Said Henry **HINSMAN**, at the County of Harrison, Va., of the sixteenth day of September in the year A.D. 1794, by one John **LOVEBERRY** who was a preacher in the Baptist Church and that her name prior to her marriage was Charity **COON**. That her said Husband died at the County of Lewis, State aforesaid on the 24th day of December A.D., 1827.

That she is now a Widow and has not intermarried since the death of her said Husband. the said Henry **HINSMAN**. And that she has not heretofore made any application for Bounty Land nor received Bounty Land from the United States under any act of Congress.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty Land to which she may be entitled under the act of Congress approved March 3, 1855 and c. And authorizes **F.F.A WILSON**, of Mead-



Certification of Henry **HINSMAN**'s service in Capt **GRAY**'s Company, 4th Regt. Pennsylvania Line ville, Pennsylvania, and Geo. C. **AMES**, Esq. of Washington City, D.C., as her true and lawful attorneys in the projection of the same and prays the department of the Interior that in consequence of her advanced age and indigency of circumstances that her claim may be examined at an early day. signed - Charity **HINESMAN** (her mark)

The Widows Pension Record of Charity (**COON**) **HINZMAN**, No. W 3549, BLWt 73598-160-55, granted on the services of her husband, Henry **HINESMAN**, of the Continental Pennsylvania Line, as copied from records of the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., reads as follows:

" Wheeling: Charity **HINESMAN**, widow of Henry who served in the Revolutionary War, as a Private. Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of 23 dollars 33 cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of September 1860. Certificate of Pension issued the 16th day of June 1866, and sent to George A. Jackson, Weston, West Virginia. Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under act of July 29, 1848, page 146, Vol. 26."

She also was to receive back pay from 4 March 1848. On 4 September 1860, her name was dropped from the Pension Rolls.

In her petition for reinstatement, made 26 May 1865, in the County of Roane, State of West Virginia, Charity **HINSEMAN** testified that she was unable to labor on account of her advanced age and that "she had not, in any manner, encouraged the Rebels or manifested a sympathy with the cause of the Rebellion." Her name was reinstated to the Pension Rolls on June 16, 1866.

Records in the Treasury Department show that at the time of her death, Charity **HINSEMAN** was receiving \$10.27 per month, and the last payment was made to Stephen **STARCHER**, Administrator.