

## THE FINALE — AT LONG LAST!

Here, alongside the great Mississippi River, in Adams County, Illinois, we come to the end of a History of the Hunsaker Family in Early America and Switzerland.

Up to this point the ever forward, ever westward movement of an integral Hunsaker family whose activities and achievements could be followed and recorded so as to provide a cohesive written account of their joint lives. But, here in the riverport city of Quincy and the agrarian Adams County, Illinois, the family separated.

George and his family, and other descendants of Jacob Jr., and his second wife, stayed in Adams County, where descendants still reside. As we have noted, some family members had branched off in Kentucky to go to Missouri. In the case of Jacob Jrs' family all the children by Polly Luce left Adams County and scattered in three directions; Abraham joined the Mormon Church, made the historic march with the Mormon Battalion to California and eventually went to Utah in 1848 and to Nevada in 1849, and some of his sons went to Arizona in 1875-84; Jacob T., accompanied by sisters Nancy and Catherine who had married Wigle brothers, went to the Oregon Territory; John Luce went originally to Austin, Texas and eventually tried to join Abraham in Utah but died just as he reached the state at Santa Clara.

This present work compiles into one volume — an encyclopedia — all the facts, information, beliefs and some guesstimates that several historians of various branches of the family and other researchers have acquired over a cumulative total of perhaps a hundred years regarding the Hunsaker family.

I owe a very special debt of gratitude to my nephew, Dr. Donald B. Croft, who came to the rescue when the completed manuscript got bogged down in the quagmires of a computer for three years until he got the project again afloat and through much tedious effort this final computer format was produced from my old-fashioned typewritten manuscript.

It has been an interesting, difficult, rewarding and sometimes a maddening process to ferret out this information and try to make sense of it all. I wouldn't give up the experience for anything—but I wouldn't do it again for anything either.

## The Author

Q Maurice Hunsaker, the researcher-collector-writer of this History of the Hunsaker Family, is one of twenty-two (1993) surviving grandchildren of Abraham Hunsaker, the polygamous Mormon pioneer ancestor of the Utah Hunsakers. All Q's life was wrapped up in tales of the life and doings of Abraham as told to Q by his father Benham.



Benham wanted Q to write a History of Abraham, so in 1957 Q co-edited A History of Abraham and His Family, in 1960 he researched and wrote Hunsaker Burial Grounds, and now has finally completed this encyclopedic history of the entire family (including a translation of Die Hunziker von Aarau) and traced the family from Hartman's arrival in 1731 across the then growing US to Illinois in 1845 where the integral group separated and some members went to other parts of the country.

Q was born in 1916 and raised in Ogden, Utah where he attended schools through Junior College. He went to Washington, D.C. in 1937, worked for the US Government and graduated from Law School in 1941. In 1941 he was assigned to the US Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was commissioned a Naval Officer in 1942 and became an Assistant to the Naval Attache.

He married Hortensia Hartman in 1945 and returned to the US. They have three children, Emilie, Michael and Sandra, and three grandchildren by Sandra, Taryn, Lindsey, and Hartman.

Q and Hortensia moved to San Diego in 1945 where Q remained active in the Navy (with a sideline real estate business). He transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1949 and transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency as a Career Officer in 1950. He served in various Western Hemisphere locations until he retired in 1973.

In addition, Q was vice president of the Utah Family Organization from 1953-58, president from 1958-61, and was appointed Family Historian of the organization in 1965.