

Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange

Volume 1

Number 2



Spring 1996

Welcome To Issue Two!

The first issue of the Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange came out last winter and since that time, there has been some good response, both from those of you on the original list and from lots of new folks-- the list has grown from nine the first issue to thirty three this time. As I said last time, I basically wanted to float the idea and see where, if anywhere, it went. And where it seems to have gone is into a newsletter.

It's exciting for me to see so many people not only talking about Melungeons but actively searching for Melungeon ancestors. That interest has encouraged me to take on a bigger project than I first planned. I am committing myself to at least four issues of the Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange...that would be two more after this one. And I'm willing to admit that it is in fact a newsletter, although that term still scares me a little. I don't, however, want to turn this into a subscription only publication. I believe that the more people who get the information and start thinking about their own families and their own possible connections to Melungeons the further we will all get in documenting the history of a group of people whose roots go deep into the history of North America. So, I am going to borrow the shareware concept from computer software. If you find the newsletter useful and want to contribute to the cost of it's production and mailing, I would appreciate it but this is something I do because of my interest and because I enjoy hearing other people's stories. I'm not going to drop anyone from the list unless you want me to. And to those of you who already sent contributions, many thanks. Money, certainly, is not the only way to contribute! If this is going to be a newsletter, I need news. If you have something you would like to share, please send it along. My original concept was some sort of network that allows people who are researching Melungeon families in Kentucky and surrounding states to share what they found and to try and work collectively to identify families of Melungeon descent. If we decide that the best vehicle to do that is a newsletter, we still need everyone's input. Again, many of you have already sent me material for this issue and I think when you've read it, you'll agree that we have a good cross-section this time.

I mentioned in the last issue that my first idea was to try and focus on Kentucky because I didn't feel that a great deal had been done to identify families there with Melungeon ancestry. It becomes increasingly clear that it is hard to separate the Kentucky families from those in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Often they are the same families. So while I retain the name Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange for the newsletter, I know that we are really talking about the whole region.

I have made a few changes in the format. What kind of newsletter would we be without a "Queries" section? So I added one. If there are families you need help with or if you just want to let others know which surnames you are interested in, send it in. I've cut back some on the letters section and tried to integrate that material into the general body of the newsletter. Finally, I know that several of us have e-mail addresses and tend to use that for a lot of our contacts. In this issue, along with the postal addresses, I added the e-mail addresses I know. If I missed you or if your address has changed, please tell me.

That takes care of the housekeeping material. I hope each of you find something here that helps you on your search, catches your interest or answers a question!

Bill Fields



Jackson Family

The following letter needs an apology with it. Jimmie was the first person to respond to the article in the *Clay County Ancestral News* a year ago which suggested the idea of this exchange. When his letter came I put it in a safe place to wait and see if there was any more interest. And when I did the first exchange, it was in such a safe place that I didn't find it and so did not run it. Again, my apologies to Jimmie!

I found your articles from the *Clay County Ancestral News* on the Melungeons very interesting and informative. If I may, please let me tell you about my ancestry and why I believe I might also have Melungeon blood in my veins.

When I first approached my aunts and uncles about our past, the stories were almost all alike, for the Jackson side. We were direct descendants of a man who they called Powtan, a Cherokee Indian. He and

his sister were all that was left of a village that was massacred by the then Gen. Andrew Jackson. Gen Jackson took the two infants and raised them, actually made them servants or slaves. Later the two children took Christian names: Porter & Elizabeth. Elizabeth supposedly married a black man and moved to the Chicago area and Porter, who adopted the Jackson surname, married to a Mary ?. I could not find any record of Porter Jackson until the 1860 Breathitt Co. Ky. Census when he shows up with Mary and most of his children. He is listed as being born in Virginia and under color as IN or Indian. My father did not know of Porter but he did know his son. my great grandfather, John Jackson, who he said was very dark skinned. By now, you know where this is heading. I just don't know if I believe the Andrew Jackson story or not or if someone is trying to hide something.

Next was my attempt to gather pictures of my long gone ancestors. One day at my aunt's house we were looking at some pictures of my grandmother's side of the family and what I saw made me do a double take. The man in one of these pictures did not look white at all but rather like a mixture of something which I can only guess at. He did not have White features either but his hair appeared to be more white than black. Oh yes, my grandmother's side was Collins.

Very briefly, that is it. I'd like very much to be involved in the exchange that you mentioned. Thanks for doing this,

Jimmie D. Jackson.

Something You've Probably Never Thought Of!

Last month I had a series of articles on Melungeons printed in the *Claiborne Progressive*. As a result, I got the following letter from Albert Runions. I called him and got his permission to print it here. I thought it was one of the most interesting things I had ever come across! Al's address is on the mailing list.

I have been reading with interest your series and am writing to you with additional information regarding a family of Melungeons I am familiar with.

You see, my deceased wife's mother was a Mullins and her mother was a Collins. The family home for generations was in Blackwater VA. When my wife's Dad died her mother came to Cincinnati (where I then lived) to live with us. She developed a knot in the left side of her bowels. The doctor said it was a cyst and that she would need to have it removed through surgery. Three days later when he started to operate, he discovered the knot had moved to the right side. So, instead of operating, he gave her worm medicine.

When the worms wee passed, he asked her when she had been in Portugal. She told him she had never been to Portugal--in fact she had never been outside the U.S. The doctor informed us that the type of worms she had had never been found anywhere in the world except in Portugal!

We figured she must have picked up the worms from tracking barefoot around the farm during warm weather (like so many people used to do).

This happened sometime in 1976 or 1977 (to give you a time frame).

I hope the information will help you gain more research materials pertaining to the Melungeons' history in Appalachia.



From Patricia A. Hopkins Baldwin

Patricia wrote several wonderful letters. I've combined them here into one article. I certainly hope she will continue to share her stories!

The subject of our Melungeon heritage has been hushed up for so long that I hope there are enough interested parties willing to keep the research going. I know I am. From a small child I sat at my great grandmother's feet and asked questions. She told me a lot of what I know today. She wasn't afraid of the implications our heritage might bring. Eastern Kentucky being as ethnically diverse as it is, is still often culturally ignorant. It seems everyone wants to belong to a family of Revolutionary and Civil War background but, in fact, a lot of us DO have this somewhat unspoken, hushed up lineage of the Melungeons and various Indian tribes. I'm proud to be part of this diverse group of people. The big question is how we get the older generations to speak up about traditions, bloodlines and the like. They are, I feel, our only hope to set the record straight. A lot of research has been accomplished, I know. But I would like to hear about personal memoirs of these people. Wouldn't others?

In searching for my Melungeon roots, I have uncovered some good things and some disturbing. The good things were the memories that I have as a child, talking with and listening to my great grandmother speak of her family. She was the grand daughter of Hezekiah and Martha Cottle Wyatt. I remember her speaking of the way that her family did things, their lifestyle, hobbies, etc...

One of the things that sticks out in my mind is that my great grandmother, Cynthia Ann, was a gifted jewelry maker. She worked with silver, gold and precious stones. I wear an opal and gold ring that she made for me when I was a child. I also have an opal filigreed necklace to match. I wasn't aware until the research that I've been doing on the Melungeon people that a known trait of theirs to work with silver and other metals. And this was exciting to me, bringing me one step closer to the truth about my family although, throughout my paternal side of the family there are Native American origins and I know that jewelry making is a practice of their's too. It's just with the now known traditions and practices of the Melungeon people that I lean more toward this heritage.

Another thing that Cynthia Ann did was make almost all of the medicinal preparations. And keep alive the 'old ways' that went with them. For instance, she always wore charms (i.e. a 'medicine' bag) around her neck. It was filled with herbs, powders and what ever else she may have 'needed' to cure someone of an ailment. I know that this is also Cherokee or Native American practice. Her medicinal practices were sought by many. She was somewhat of the local 'healer'. I remember times when I was sick as a child that she would have me drink a mixture of whatever was in her 'bag of tricks'. This always seemed to make me feel better. One time in particular I was suffering with Bronchitis and was very ill. My Mother had taken me to the Doctor and the anti-biotics he prescribed weren't working, as I grew sicker. I was taken to Cynthia Ann and she prepared for me a concoction of her herbs. And--passed me under a raspberry bush several times! I remember this very distinctly because it was in the 'dead' of winter and cold! I don't know if it was a combination of the herbs and the passing under of the raspberry bush or just plain faith but this made me better. Within a few days I was well. At the point of my sickest the doctor wanted to put me into the hospital and feared the worse. But my great grandmother made me well.

As for practices revolving around the final resting places, on my paternal side, the old family cemetery dates back to the late 1700s. My great grandmother used to take me there to "visit" our relatives. On quite a few of the graves were the little shelters you mentioned in your newsletter. Some were in pretty good shape, others were in different states of decay. My great grandmother said this was a way to protect those underneath from the elements. These little shelters were decorated much like headstones are today. But, quiet oddly, now that I think back on this, one had locks of hair somehow incorporated into the stone. And one had pressed flowers. I imagine this was part of the practice from either a Melungeon or Native American

tradition.

This method of caring for the dead was, to me, the norm. I thought that everyone put little houses on their graves as this was what I knew at the time. The cemetery that I mention is located in Magoffin Co. KY, in Fredville not far from the border of Floyd Co. I visited the cemetery a few months ago to check on it's condition. Most of the little houses are dilapidated. But I have a picture of the cemetery that might show some remnants of what once was. I will send it to you if you like.

A little background of my great grandmother's family is as follows.

1. CYNTHIA ANN BROWN B. DEC.25 1874 MORGAN CO., KY.
2. DANIEL BOONE BROWN B. CA. 1849 MORGAN CO., KY.
3. FAIRLENA WYATT B. CA. 1850 MORGAN CO. KY.
4. HEZEKIAH WYATT B. CA. 1817 N.C. (I don't know where)
5. MARTHA COTTLE B. CA. 1823 N.C. (I don't know where)

Much research has yet to be done on this branch of my family. I am always searching for 'leads' into piecing together my family history. It seems as if the farther back I try to go the more obstacles I come across. From the censuses to court records to family recollections. But I persevere. And will piece this beautiful family quilt of memories all together someday.

The publication that you have started, I believe, will open up the lines of communication for those who never talked about what they knew about this illusive heritage of the Melungeon people. So in closing, if I can be of any assistance with this wonderful endeavor that you have undertaken, please feel free to ask of me what you will. I will share my research with you and those interested and hope to gain more of an insight to what more we need to know. With this networking effort, we all might end up knowing a lot of the Melungeon story. I'll be looking for the next S.K.M.I.E. with great anticipation. I read everything regarding these people that I can find and it still isn't enough. I would be delighted to correspond with anyone else with this mysterious ancestry.

Patricia A. Hopkins Baldwin

Knox County Kentucky Free Persons of Color by Rollie Campbell

Soon after the first issue came out, I had a call from Rollie Campbell in Colorado. We had a great conversation about Melungeons in general, Melungeons in Kentucky and his Gibson family. Rollie then sent along some the following material from the 1830 Knox County Kentucky census documenting the families classified as "Free Colored" (I've use the abbreviation FC)

In the household of John Gregory: one FC male age 10-24 (also 2 male slaves under 10, 3 female slaves under 10 and 1 female slave 24-36)

In the household of Edward Fletcher: 1 FC male under 10, 1 FC male 10-24, 3 FC females under 10, 2 FC females 10-24, and 1 FC female 36-55 (also 1 male slave 36-55)

The household of John Rudd, all FC: 1 male under 10, 1 male 55-100, 1 female 10-24, 1 female 24-36 and 1 female 55-100

The household of Edward Rudd (next door to John Rudd) all FC: 1 male 10-24, 2 females under 10 and one female 10-24

The household of Patsy Russel, all FC: 2 males under 10, 1 male 10-24, 3 females under 10, 1 female 10-24 and one female 55-100

The household of Sally Mosley, all FC: 2 males under 10, 1 female 10-24 and one female 36 to 55.

In the household of William Anderson: 1 FC male under 10

In the household of Peter Wilson: 1 FC male 55-100

The household of Abraham Ironmunger, all FC: 3 males under 10, 1 male 10-24, one male 36-55, 3 females under 10, 4 females 10-24 and one female 36-55.

In the household of Ambrose Combs: one FC male under 10

The household of Isaiah Goins: No free whites at all, one FC 55-100 (2 male slaves 10-24, 1 male slave 36-55, 2 female slaves 10-24, 1 female slave 24-36 and one female slave 55-100)

The household of Michael Hale, all FC: 2 males under 10, 1 male 10-24, 1 male 55-100, 2 females under 10 and one female 24-36.

Rollie also sent his pedigree chart showing among others, his Gibson line. His great grandmother was Sarah Ann Gibson. Sara Ann was born October 25, 1837 in Knox County Ky. She was married Aug. 24, 1835 in Knox County to Theophilus Head and died August 1, 1902 in Colorado. Her father was Joseph Gibson born ca. 1820 in Kentucky, died ca 1893 in Knox County Kentucky. He married Mary Mason born 1824, Knox County, Ky. Joseph's father was Jesse Gibson born ca. 1797 in Tennessee died after 1860. His wife's surname was Goodin. Jesse's father was Isaac Gibson born before 1775 in North Carolina died ca. 1837. his wife was Ritty born about 1775.

Sarah Ann and Theophilus Head had a daughter, Barbara Catherine born April 20, 1862 in Saline, Mo. She married John Woodward Campbell Jr on December 24, 1876 in Gainesville, Texas. Both died in Montrose, Colorado, he on April 18, 1924 and she on Nov. 8, 1926. Their son, Rollie's father was Claude Monroe Campbell born October 24, 1891 in Montrose Colorado. His wife was Rhoda Hawkins born Sept 25, 1892 in Driftwood twp, Rawlings Kansas.

In documenting Sarah Ann's Gibson's family, Rollie says the following:

Theophilus Head--personal knowledge of Claude Campbell, birth year calculated from 1850 census Knox County, Ky.

Sarah Ann Gibson--Death Certificate, various censuses, headstone.

Joseph Gibson--various Knox County Ky. censuses, military records, marriage record.

Mary Mason--various Knox County Ky. censuses, marriage records, named as child of William Mason in estate settlement.

Jesse Gibson--Circumstantial evidence that he is the father of Joseph Gibson. Joseph named a daughter Ritty and a son Jesse. Jesse was the only Gibson to have a male child of proper age in 1830 Knox County Ky. census to have been Joseph.

Goodin--circumstantial--her given name was probably Thurseley or Thereas. Goodin family researchers state that there was a Theresa of proper age and location--no marriage record can be found.

Isaac Gibson Sr.--circumstantial--Isaac divided his land on Clear Creek in Knox County , Ky in 1837 amongst his sons who lived close by. Jesse had moved over Pine Mountain to Brushy/Greasy Creek area, and so was not included. However, if one accepts the premise that Joseph was Jesse's son, and remembering that Joseph named a daughter Ritty, then we have an argument that Ritty was named for her great grandmother.

the explorations of Juan Pardo

There is a theory that the Melungeons had their origins in the Spanish colony of Santa Elena and in some outposts of the colony established by Juan Pardo. The following is quoted from the March 1988 issue of the National Geographic, in an article titled "Between Columbus and Jamestown, Exploring Our Forgotten Century" by Joseph Judge. Page 351-354

"...Menendez looked to the interior. He thought it possible to trek from Santa Elena to New Spain (Mexico) and find rich mines along the way. On St Andrew's Day, November 30 {1566} he ordered Juan Pardo and 120 soldiers westward {from Santa Elena} to find out. With Pardo as guide and interpreter was the young man once named Guillaume Rouffi but now called in Spanish Guillermop Rufin.

Pardo's own account of his explorations reads like a duty roster, a laconic account of Indian place-names. He stopped at a large settlement named Cofitachequi and went on to the foothills of the Appalachians where, at a riverine town named Joara, he built a fort and left behind a company under Sgt. Hernando Moyano de Morales. He then turned east again, to Guatari, where 30 chiefs met him, and a note from Santa Elena with "news of the French" reached him. Before heading for home, Pardo stationed four soldiers and his chaplain Sebastian Montero, at Guatari--the first successful Christian mission in the present United States."

(Pardo went out again in September 1567. Again from the same National Geographic...)

"For years historians have noted that many of the places visited by Pardo have the same or similar names as places visited by Herando de Soto during his long trek through the Southeast. Soto's route despite his best efforts of scholarship and a presidential commission, has never been known with certainty, thus fixing Pardo's route might unlock one of the oldest mysteries of our early history.



About 1945 historian Herbert Ketcham during a 'fortunate bit of browsing' in the North Carolina State Archives, came upon copies of the 900-page narrative of Pardo's second expedition, written at Santa Elena in April 1569 by the notary Juan de la Bandera. In 1963 Michael Gannon came across Ketcham's translation while searching for the site of Father Montero's mission at Guatari, and in 1979 Gannon's study directed others to the Bandera

document--Charles Hudson and his students Chester DePratter and Marvin Smith at the university of Georgia. Paul Hoffman rendered a new translation and Hudson began to unlock, through

the now clarified Pardo route, the old mystery of the Soto track.

From Santa Elena and Port Royal Sound, Pardo traveled west and north to the village named Guiomae, at the juncture of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers. Here he picked up Soto's route, a well-trod trail leading up the Wateree to the town of Cofitachequi.

What remains of the town today is an assemblage of mounds on the riverbank outside Camden, South Carolina, an aristocratic little city with deep memories of the Confederacy and the Revolution. From here the trail follows the river to Charlotte, North Carolina where the Wateree, now drowned by dams, assumes a new name, Catawaba, and bends westward toward the mountains. Somewhere along its banks was Joara (a town Soto had called Xuala). Charles Hudson places it near Marion, North Carolina, probably in the fertile floodplain locally called McDowell Bottom.

Pardo reached Joara on September 24, then pushed on to Toca, near present Asheville, and crossed the Great Smoky Mountains by walking the margin of the French Broad River. By October 6 he had reached Tanasqui, on a fertile bottom near Newport, Tennessee. And the following day he met with length the patient Sergeant Moyano, waiting for him at Chiaha.

'Chicha was on Zimmerman's Island', archaeologist Richard Polhemus told me. 'It's 70 feet under Lake Douglas because of a TVA dam.' In the spring of 1985 Polhemus surveyed a site where the Pigeon River joins the French Broad and found traces of a town plaza and palisade that he believes was Tanasqui.

'From there,' Polhemus continued, 'Pardo mentions going through rugged country near a place called Calahume and on to a town named Supto. A friendly Indian slipped him the word that a huge army was waiting to ambush him, so he chose the better part of valor and turned around, returning to Chiaha by what he called 'a better way'.'

Those place-names, Chalahume and Satapo, proved keys to unlocking the Pardo path, for they are Muskogean words, the language of the historic Creek and other southern tribes. The Cherokee pronunciation of these foreign words survives in the modern names of Chilhowee Mountains and Citico Creek, both near Knoxville.

'It all fell into place,' says Charles Hudson. 'Pardo came down the east side of the Chilhowee Mountains and at Citico Creek turned back along the Great Indian Warpath. The peoples living in the region were decimated by European disease, and in the 17th century moved south to become the Creek and the Overhill Cherokee moved in.'

On his way home, Pardo drove in a series of manned forts like fence posts across the Southeast from Tennessee to South Carolina, and on March 2, 1568, he reached Santa Elena, bringing sacks filled with sorely needed corn and tales of the wild west."

Portuguese Slave

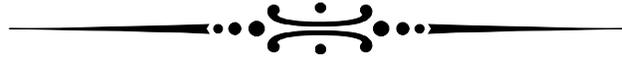
Lisa Savage found the following and passed it along. It's from *North Carolina Illustrated*, 1524-1984 by H. G. Jones Page 84.

"

North Carolina, April 24, 1745.

Ran away on the 18th Instant, from the Plantation of the late Col *William Wilson*, deces'd, Two Slaves belonging to the Subscriber, the one a tall yellow Fellow, named *Emanuel*, about 6 Feet high, six or seven and Twenty Years of Age: hath a Scar on the outside of his left Thigh, which was cut with an ax: he had on when he went away, Jacket, an Ozenbrig Shirt and Trousers, and a Worted Cap: he speaks pretty good *English* and calls himself *Portuguese*; is by trade a Cooper, and took with him some Cooper's Tools. The other fellow is a short thick, well-set Fellow, stoops forward pretty much

as he walks; does not speak so plain as the other; had on when he went an Ozenbrig Pair of Trousers and a shirt; a white Negro Cotton Jacket and took with him an Axe. They went away in a small Canoe and were seen at Capt. *Person's* on the Nash River, the 18th Inst. and 'tis believ'd are gone toward *Virginia*. Whoever takes up the said Negros, and brings them to my House on the *Trent* River, *North Carolina*, or secures them so I may have them again, shall have Four Pittoles Reward for each paid by
Mary Wilson



Selections From the Journal of Francis Marion Wilcox

As well as the slave ad, Lisa sent along excerpts from a journal she obtained. As she says, the journal is to be published but the folks doing that were good enough to let us use parts of it here. The following is with thanks to Lisa Savage.

I was lucky enough to receive a copy of a journal that was written in 1897 by a distant ancestor named Francis Marion Wilcox. Only a few have the journal as it is going to be published in the near future. The journal is the property of Bill Lowe of Denver, Colorado who has agreed to have Mary Floy Katzman and Jeff Weaver publish it.

(Francis Marion Wilcox was born in Ashe Co., NC Nov. 13, 1843 and his family moved to "Three Forks of the Kentucky River in Kentucky" when he was about 7 years old. The journal talks about his visit to see his cousins in the Carolina's at the beginning of the Civil War and all the horrors that happened in trying to get back home to Kentucky. He was a Unionist at heart and his NC cousins were Confederates. They moved in 1850 to Kentucky.. The journal goes on to discuss each of his family members and this is what I want to quote to you. His grandfather was Isaiah Wilcox/Wilcoxson who was first married to Fannie Greer and then....)

" to Sarah Mullins who was born March 1826 , and a daughter of one John Mullins, called, I believe, Chunky Bill. He was a descendant of a tribe immigrating to Virginia in an early day and their name and number, in and about the head of the Big Sandy River in Pike County, Kentucky, and Wise County, West Virginia, is like the sands of the sea. The mother of Sarah was a Miss Temperance Blaylock, a daughter of John Blaylock, of Dee River, North Carolina who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War of 1776. To Isaiah and Sarah "Sallie" were born the following children: Dulcena, Louisa, Andrew Jackson, Hiram, Caroline, Thomas Jefferson, Isaish, and Catherine as well as one or two pairs of twins that died in infancy. The above named offspring all reside in Carter County near Willard. Caroline died some years ago. The boys are all good clean men and useful. I wish them well, also 'Sallie' their aged mother who has often divided rations with me. She was a woman possessed of much courage, tall, rather dark complected, black hair, black eyes, stammered a little in speech and when roiled would say, 'There's nary a devil if I don't learn you on which side your bread is buttered !!' and twas only a word or a blow with her. Her and grandfather lived agreeable. She was very kind and devoted to him all of his life. Her nature was to be kind, yet she lacked nothing in temper but could control it admirably."

"Sallie, after Grandfather died, remarried a man named Wright, residing on the waters of the fork of the Little Sandy River, near Willard, Carter County, Kentucky. Wright died on or about 1888, and Sallie went to live with her son-in-law, a Mr. Bryant, residing at Willard, Kentucky. She lives there yet, I presume."

(One other short quote. When the Wilcox's were moving to Kentucky from the Carolina's. Isaiah's son Samuel married Barbara Houck. Some of her family also went to Kentucky with them. Samuel is the Writer "Francis" father.)

" Father rented (Samuel) two farms; one of a Robert Fleming, on Shelby Creek, Pike County, Kentucky for himself, and the other of a Booker Mullins, I believe, on Beehide Fork, Pike County, Kentucky for Uncle Jesse Houck."

(Isaiah Wilcox was born in Wilkes County, NC Feb. 20 1796. He married Fannie Greer about 1817 in Ashe County, NC. He followed his parents and migrated to Owsley Co., Kentucky in 1820. Because of being homesick and having problems with the

Indians they returned to Ashe County, NC around the Spring of 1822. Isaiah stayed in Ashe County for many years. He then again left and went to Pike County, Kentucky but only stayed for a short time. He then took off for the Elk River area in West Virginia.)

"Father and Joseph Houck go in search of him about the year 1847 to find him on the head of the Elk River in rough country. They induce him to return to North Carolina and he did so, only to see his deserted family. He longs to be back. He takes Aunt Nancy Matilda and goes to Pike County, Kentucky. Here he remains only until Aunt marries and Isaiah arises and goes to Pound River, Virginia and there forms an attachment to Sarah Mullins who becomes his second wife. They remain here two or three years, then move to Wise County at the Pound post office, in said county, about five miles south of the top of the Cumberland mountains at a point called Pound Gap. Here he worked the blacksmith trade until 1853 or 4, move to Pike County, Kentucky and settled on Shelby Creek where he remained until 1863, when he migrated to Carter County, Kentucky, settling on the little Sandy River."

This is where he died of pneumonia in 1879.

(One of the things I found really interesting is Isaiah was born in Wilkes County, NC. When he takes his daughter [Nancy Matilda Wilcox - born 1830] to Pike County Kentucky she marries Solomon Mullins Feb. 28, 1848. Solomon is the son of Alexander Mullins and a unknown Mullins.)

"Aunt Nancy Matilda Wilcox, came to Kentucky with her father on or about the year 1845 when but a buxom girl, grew up and married a young man by the name of Solomon Williams, grandson of the old moneymaker and son of Alexander Mullins who resided in Pike county, Kentucky. Solomon and Matilda had born to them several children-- whom we find Andrew Jackson (dead), William (dead), Jacob, Samuel, Sylvester (dead), Francis Marion and Frances. Uncle Solomon was a member of the 39th Kentucky Mounted Infantry. He volunteered, took sick and died at Louisa Kentucky on or about the year 1864."

(So, both father and daughter married Mullins in two different States. (Pike County, Ky and Wise County, VA. There must have been some kind of family connection..... And who do you think the writer is referring to above as "The old moneymaker.")

Magoffin County Kentucky Census Records by Harold W. Mullins

Introduction

The information enclosed is reseach that I did on the 1860, 1870 and 1880 Magoffin County, Kentucky Census. the research was to identify individuals and families that were Indiand or of Indian heritage. The census notes identify "I" as relating to Indian, "M" as relating to Mulato, "B" as relating to Black. There are also notations in the census as "Mu" with no explanation. I personally believe the "Mu" notations also indicated Mulato. Mulato is defined in the dictionary as : (1) a mixed breed, (2) a light brown skin. During this time period there was a stigma concerning the races to keep blacks from voting, etc. For example, in Tennessee they used the term "persons of color" for a century to identify any dark skinned person. In my research I choose to group persons and families identified with "M" as Indian and "Mu" as Mulato. I feel certain that "Mu" more or less was used to identify Melungeon Indians, a group of people associated with the Cherokee Indian, etc.

Cole Maugoffin Co. Census Indian 1860

26 (Pg. 2) - Cole, Charles, b. 1826 Wife Charolette (Cole) 1826 Indian

Issue all Indians

1. Cole, Wallace b. 1848
2. Cole, Shepherd b. 1849
3. Cole Apperson b. 1851
4. Cole Nancy b. 1854

5. Cole Pego b. 1858

34 (Pg 3) - Cole, Riley b. 1848 (Farm Laborer for Sam Salyer) Indians

384 (Pg 26) - Cole, George b. 1828 - Clarence Cole b. 1827 in home of Calvin Salyer

502 (Pg 34) - Cole, Vallentine 1866 b. 1812 Indiand Mariah Cole (W or B see 127, Pg. 8, 1870 census)
Issue 1/2 Indians

1. Cole, Parline b. 1824
2. Cole George b. 1847
3. Cole Adam b. 1851
4. Cole Rufus b. 1859

507 (Pg 34) Cole John b. 1837, Nancy (Barnett) Cole, 1837 Indian
Issue, all Indians

1. Cole, Dicey b. 1854
2. Cole, Jensey b. 1857
3. Cole, Jesse b. 1859

1860 Census

518 (Pg 35) Cole Hiram, 1866 b. 1834, Elyann (Perkins) Cole b. 1837 Indians
Issue, all Indians

1. Cole, Elizabeth b. 1857
2. Cole, Franky b. 1859
in same home
1. Perkins, Emily b. 1853
2. Perkins, Jack b. 1832

1870 Census

46 (pg 38) Cole W.R. b. 1832, Margaret J. Cole b. 1834 Indian M
Issue (race not indicated)

1. Cole, Liddy M. b. ?

1880 Census

201 (pg. 148) -Cole, Linzy b. 1786 in NC wife - Mariah Cole b. 1794 in VA Indians
Issue

1. Cole, Nance J. b. 1835 (daugher-in-law) widow, Indian
2. Cole, Jefferson b. 1853 (step-son)
3. Cole, Narcisses b. 1848/1853 (step-daughter), Indian
4. Cole, Refus b. 1836 (son), Indian

202 (pg 148) -Cole Adam b. 1830, wife Christiny b. 1837, Indian
Issue all Indian

1. Fletcher, Garfield b. 1847
2. Fletcher, Lucrecy b. 1848

203 (pg 148) -Cole, Liney b. 1831, wife -Sara J. Cole b. 1834, Indian
Issue

1. Perkins, James b. 1856, Indian

204 (pg 148) Cole, John W. B. 1831, wife Rebecca 1837 Indian

205 (pg 148) -Cole, Lotta b. 1810 Widow

Issue, all Indian

1. Cole, Calvin b. 1843
2. Cole, Lousia b. 1846
3. Cole, Page b. 1847
4. Cole, Sarah b. 1831 (wife of Page ?)

206 (Pg 148) -Cole, Meredith b. 1836, Wife Wemily b. 1835, Indian
Issue all Indian

1. Cole, Lara b. b. 1848/49 (daughter)
2. Little, Lealey b. 1855 (step son)

207 (pg 148 -Cole, Amanda b. 1826 Single. Indian
Issue, all Indians

1. Cole, Nelson b. 1854 (son)
2. Cole, Tennessee b. 1859 (daughter)

208 (pg 148) -Cole, George b. 1811, Wife _Nancy cole b. 1812 Indian
Issue all Indians

1. Cole, Jahaza b. 1846 (daughter)
2. Cole, Survilla b. 1849 (daughter)
3. Cole, Monk b. 1852 (son)

In same household

Cole, William (100 years old) Father
Cole, Rebecca b. 1810 Step-mother
Cole, George b. 1849 (nephew)
Cole, Ollivia b. 1853 (niece) 1/4 or 1/2 Indian
Stewart, Wilie (grandson) 1/2 Indian

211(pg 149)-Cole, Fereby b. 1827 (widow)

Issue

1. Cole, Mary 1842
2. Cole, Cereta 1844
3. Cole, Malenda 1850
4. Cole, Lotta 1848

213 (Pg. 149)-Cole, John b. 1811, Wife - Jancy J. Cole b. 1814
Indian

Issue All Indians

1. Cole, Lonzo b. 1842
2. Cole, Daniel b. 1845
3. Cole, Margaret J. b. 1847
4. Cole, Rosanna b. 1851
5. Cole, Martha A. b. 1854
6. Cole, Susan b. 1856
- A. George Flethcer b. 1842 (nephew) 1/4 or 1/2

214 (Pg 149) - Cole, Jesse b. 1840, Wife - Jane Cole b. 1846 Indian

127-127 (Pg 8) 1870 Census - Mariah (Mu Indian) Cole b. 1810, Widow
of Valentine Cole, #502 (pg 34) 1860 Census

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Cole, Geogre b. 1838
2. Cole, Adam b. 1841
3. Cole, Rufus b. 1859
4. Cole, Tiney b. 1848
5. Cole, John M. b. 1851

128-128 (Pg 8) Cole, WM b. 1800 - Rebecca b. 1810 Mu Indians

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Cole, Marrilla b. 1845

129-129 (Pg 8) Cole, Amunal b. 1830, Elizabeth Cole b. 1838 Mu Indian

130-130 (Pg 8) Cole, John b. 1820, Nancy Cole b. 1828 Mu Indian

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Cole, Dicey b. 1846
2. Cole, Gensey b. 1848
3. Cole, Jesse b. 1850
4. Cole, Sunanna b. 1852
5. Cole, Margaret b. 1854

**Magoffin County Census
Indians
Perkins
1860**

47 (Pg 32) - Perkins, James b. 1815, Manerva Perkins b. 1821 Indians

Issue

1. Perkins, Rebecca b. 1841
2. Perkins, Christina b. 1842
3. Perkins, WM. G. B. 1847
4. Perkins, Elizabeth b. 1849
5. Perkins, Menervia b. 1851
6. Perkins, Jeremiah b. 1854

202 (Pg 14) - Perkins, Virginia b. 1841, Washer-Woman

Issue

1. Perkins, Louise b. 1849
2. Perkins, James F. b. 1852
3. Perkins, George W. b. 1855
4. Perkins, Samantha E. b. 1857
5. Perkins, John W. W. b. 1859

1870

99-99 (Pg 21) - Perkins, June b. 1821, Mu Indian

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Perkins, Samantha b. 1847
2. Perkins, John b. 1849
3. Perkins, Wm. R. b. 1853

209 (Pg 149) - Perkins, Elizabeth b. 1790 White

Hester Nicks b. 1855 (granddaughter) Indians

Also pg 35, #518 Cole Hiram Cole Family 1860 Census

1. Perkins, Emily b. 1853
2. Perkins, Jack b. 1832
3. Perkins, Elizabeth b. 1806 (Dom of Green Nickel) 1870 Census Pg 8, more 1870 Census

131-131 (Pg 8) - Perkins, Lewis b. 1812 Mary A. Perkins b. 1819 Mu Indian

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Perkins, Isaac P. b. 1842

2. Perkins, James B. b 1848
3. Perkins, Nancy C., b. 1850
4. Perkins, Benjamin b. 1852
5. Perkins, Elizabeth b. 1854
6. Perkins, Hila M. b. 1857

**Magoffin County Census
Indians
1860
Nickels**

385 (Pg. 26) - Nickel, Joseph b. 1822 (Tenn), Omev Cole, b. 1822 (KY) Indians
Issue All Indians

1. Green Nickel b. 1845
2. Martin Nickel b. 1847
3. Eliza Nickel b. 1848
4. Esquire Nickel b. 1852
5. Valentine Nickel b. 1854
6. Bird Nickel b. 1856
7. Blank Nickel b. 1848/1857

124-124 (Pg 8) - Nickel Wm b. 1820, Jamama Mu Indians
Issue All Mu Indians

1. Sarah Nickel b. 1842
2. Harvy (Hardy) Nickel b. 1845
3. Susanna Nickel b. 1846
4. Asbury Nickel b. 1848
5. Harvy (Harley) Nickel b. 1854

125-125 (Pg 8) - Nickel, Joseph b. 1810 - Oney b. 1850 Mu Indians
Issue All Mu Indians

1. Surena Nickel b. 1842
2. Elizabeth Nickel b. 1840
3. Teney Nickel b. 1844
4. Buddy Nickel b. 1846
5. Pee Nickel (boy) b. 1851
 - A. Tempy McCarty b. 1818 Mu Indian Domestic
 - B. Bucanon Nickel or McCarty b. 1849 Mu Indian

126-126 (Pg 8) - Green Nickel 1836-Eliza Nickel b. 1839 Mu Indian
Issue Mu Indian

1. Fairlena Nickel b. 1859

132-132 (Pg 8) - Nickel, Martin b. 1839 - Polly Nickel b. 1840 Mu Indian
Issue All Indians

1. Greenville Nickel b. 1857
2. Wm. Nickel b. 1859

157 (Pg 142) 1880 Census - Nickel, Thomas b. 1800, Elizabeth Nickel b. 1790 Mu Indians
Issue? Disa Mathew Indian

212 (Pg ?) - Nickel, Wm. b. 1790, Minda Nickel b. 1800 Mu Indian
Issue All Mu Indians

1. Harvy Nickel b. 1838
2. Henry Nickel b. 1843

3. John Nickel b. 1844
4. Sherman Nickel b. 1846
5. Menifer Nickel b. 1856

393 (Pg 26) 1860 Census - Oxyer (Oxier or Auxier) Margaret b. 1801
Washer Woman Indian
Issue All Indians

1. Etha Oxyer b. 1830
2. Hiram Oxyer b. 1842
3. Clara Oxyer b. 1845
4. Doctor Oxyer b. 1846
5. Tiney Oxyer b. 1851
6. Shepherd Oxyer b. 1853

394 (Pg 26) 1860 Census - Oxyer (Auxier ?) Exek b. 1838, Spicey Oxyer b. 1837 Indian
Issue All Indians

1. Bethney Oxyer b. 1856
2. Nancy Oxyer b. 1859

51 (Pg 4) 1860 Census - Oxyer (Auxier ?) b. ? Indian in Calvin Salyer Home

370 (Pg 25) 1860 Pricilla Failey (Indian ?) b. 1843 in Ruben Frailey, a domestic

179-179 (Pg 11) 1870 Census - Spiller, Wm. b. 1838, Charlotte Spiller Listed as BI (check this) Issue Nancy b. 1858

180-180 (Pg 11) 1870 Census Gardener, Judy b. 1837 BI (ditto) - Leana Gardener, Issue b. 1848 - Mariah b. 1850, John b. 1859
(all BI ditto)

180-180 (Pg 11) 1870 Census Gardener, Judy b. 1833 BI (BI check that)

Issue All BI's Ditto

1. Leanna Gardener b. 1848
2. Elizabeth Gardener b. 1847
3. Mariah Gardner b. 1850
4. John Gardner b. 1859

189-189 (Pg 12) 1870 Census - Gibson, Squire b. 1885, Perlina Gibson b. 1832 Mu Indian

Issue All Mu Indian

1. Harrison Gibson b. 1846
2. Jefferson Gibson b. 1848
3. Frankie (female) Gibson b. 1851
4. James Gibson b. 1855
5. Kish Gibson b. 1859
6. Nancy J. Gibson b. 1848/1857
Squire in Homers
 - A. George Fletcher 1852
 - B. Garfield Fletcher (?) b. 1858
 - C. Lucrea Fletcher (?) b. 1857

188-188 (Pg 12) 1860 Census - Gibson, Kiah b. 1825, Margaret Hensley Gibson b. 1839 Mu Indian

Issue All Mu Indians

1. Mallena Gibson b. 1844
2. Savany Gibson b. 1846
3. Christina Gibson b. 1849
4. Babby Gibson b. 1853

44 (Pg 38) 1870 Census - Risner, Taylor b. 1840, Polly Risner b. 1829 Indian

Issue All Indians

1. Jack Risner b. 1846
2. Alvin Risner b. 1848
 - A. Clark Hagans b. 1829 in Home

193 (Pg 147) 1880 Census - Gibson, Hezekiah b. 1880 (Tenn) Indian, Wife - Margaret Gibson (white) b. 1830

Issue 1/2 Indian

1. Robert Gibson b. 1843

Magoffin Co., KY
Census
Black Families

320 (Pg 117) 1880 Census - Gardener, Will B. b. 1807, Lewisa Gardener b. 1828

Issue All B1

1. Margaret Gardener b. 1848
2. Harry Gardener b. 1820
3. Wheeler Gardener b. 1852
4. Leander Gardener b. 1854
5. Mary Gardener b. 1848/1851

321 (Pg 117) 1880 Census - Keeton, Charlotte B. b. 1832

Issue All B1

1. Emily Keeton b. 1854
2. Faine Keeton b. 1856
3. Susie Keeton b. 1859

322 (Pg 117) 1880 Census - Keeton, Tildy B.

Issue All B1

1. George Keeton b. 1847
2. Samuel Keeton b. 1848

323 (Pg 118) 1880 Census - Keeton, Wm. B. b. 1837, Louanna B. Keeton b. 1846

Issue Black

1. George Keeton

335 (Pg 118) 1880 Census - Franklin, Dick B. b. 1837, Mandy Franklin B. b. 1840

Issue B

1. Charley Franklin b. 1859

211 (Pg 104) 1880 Census - Keaton, March B. b. 1835, Annie Keaton b. 1837

Issue All B

1. Kate Keaton b. 1858
2. Rosa Keaton b. 1855

89 (Pg 11) 1880 Census - Peggy Causill b. 1830 B(F) - Milton Caudill b. 1841 B (M)



Looking Back.....

I came across the following in the vertical files in the library of the McClung collection in Knoxville, Tennessee. The copy I have is transcribed and has a handwritten note at the top "from the Charles Milne(?spelling) Seymour Papers". I have no idea of the origin of it or really how authentic it may be or not be. I am including it because it is the earliest dated reference to the Melungeons I have. I do so with a caution however. **I find this article to be extremely offensive on several levels. It certainly must be viewed in the historical context and whatever information of value can be extracted from that.** Reading it leaves absolutely no question as to the attitudes toward the Melungeons in 1849 and why some people may have chosen to hide that heritage.

"From Littell's Living Age-No. 254-31 March, 1849

THE MELUNGENS

(We are sorry to have lost the name of the southern paper from which this is taken.)

We give to-day another amusing and characteristic sketch from a letter of our intelligent and sprightly correspondent, sojourning at present in one of the seldom-visited nooks hid away in our mountains.

You must know that within ten miles of this owl's nest, there is a watering-place, known hereabouts as 'black-water Springs.' It is situated in a narrow gorge, scarcely half a mile wide, between Powell's Mountain and the Copper Ridge, and is, as you may suppose, almost inaccessible. A hundred men could defend the pass against even a Xerxian army. Now this gorge and the tops and sides of the adjoining mountains are inhabited by a singular species of the human animal called MELUNGENS.

The legend of their history, which they carefully preserve, is this. A great many years ago, these mountains were settled by a society of Portuguese Adventurers, men and women--who came from the *long-shore* parts of Virginia, that they might be freed from the restraints and drawbacks imposed on them by any form of government. These people made themselves friendly with the Indians and freed, as they were from every kind of social government, they uprooted all conventional forms of society and lived in a *delightful* Utopia of their own creation, trampling on the marriage relation, despising all forms of religion, and subsisting upon corn (the only possible product of the soil) and wild game of the woods. These intermixed with the Indians, and subsequently their descendants (after the advances of the whites into this part of the state) with the negroes and the whites, thus forming the present race of Melungens. They are tall, straight, well-formed people, of a dark copper color, with Circassian features, but woolly heads and other similar appendages of our negro. They are privileged voters in the state in which they live and thus, you will perceive, are accredited citizens of the commonwealth. They are brave, but quarrelsome; and are hospitable and generous to strangers. They have no preachers among them and are almost without any knowledge of a Supreme Being. They are married by the established forms, but husband and wife separate at pleasure, without meeting any reproach or disgrace from their friends. They are remarkably unchaste, and want of chastity on the part of females is no bar to their marrying. They have but little association with their neighbors, carefully preserving their race, or class, or whatever you may call it: and are in every respect, save they are under the state government, a separate and distinct people. Now this is no traveller's story. They are really what I tell you, without abating or setting down in aught in malice. They are behind their neighbors in the arts. They use oxen instead of horses in their agricultural attempts, and their implements of husbandry are chiefly made by themselves of wood. They are, without exception, poor and ignorant, but apparently happy.

Having thus given you a correct geographical and scientific history of the people, I will proceed with my own adventures.

The doctor was, as usual my *compagnon de voyage*, and we stopped at 'Old Vardy's', the hostelry of the vicinage. Old Vardy is the 'chief cook and bottle-washer' of the Melungens, and is really a very clever fellow: but his hotel savors strongly of that peculiar perfume that one may find in the sleeping-rooms of our negro servants, especially on a close, warm, summer evening. We arrived at Vardy's in time for supper, and thus despatched, we went to the spring, where were assembled several rude log huts, and a small sprinkling of 'the natives, together with a fiddle and other preparations for a dance. Shoes, stockings, and coats were unknown luxuries among them--at least we saw them not.

The dance was engaged in with right hearty good will, and would have put to the blush the tame steppings of our beaux. Among the participants was a very tall, raw-boned damsel, with her two garments fluttering readily in the amorous night breeze, who's black

eyes were lit up with an unusual fire, either from the repeated visits to the nearest hut, behind the door of which was placed an open-mouthed stone jar of new-made corn whiskey, and in which was a gourd, with a 'deuce a bit' of sugar at all, and no water near than the spring. Nearest here on the right was a lank lantern-jawed, high cheekbone, long-legged fellow who seemed similarly elevated. Now these two, Jord Bilson (that was he,) and Syl Varmin, (that was she,) were destined to afford the amusement of the evening: for Jord, in cutting the pigeon-wing, chanced to light from one of his aerial flights right upon the ponderous pedal appendage of Syl, a compliment which this amiable lady seemed in no way to accept kindly.

'Jord Bilson,' said the tender Syl, 'I'll thank you to keep your darned hoofs off my feet.'

'Oh, Jord's feet are so tarnel big he can't manage 'em all by hisself.' suggested some pasificator near by.

'He'll have to keep 'em off me,' suggested Syl, 'or I'll shorten 'em for him.'

'Now look ye here, Syl Varmin, ' answered Jord, somewhat nettled at both remarks, 'I didn't go to tread on your feet but I don't want you to be cutting up any rusties about. You're nothing but a cross-grained critter, anyhow.'

'And you're a darned Melungen.'

'Well, if I am, I ain't *nigger-Melungen*, anyhow--I'm *Indian-Melungen*, and that's more 'an you is.'

'See here, Jord,' said Syl, now highly nettled, 'I'll give you a dollar ef you'll go out on the grass and right it out.'

Jord smiled faintly and demurred, adding--'Go home Syl, and look under your puncheons and see if you can't fill a bed outen the hair of them hogs you stole from Vardy.'

'And you go to Sow's cave, Jord Bilson, ef it comes to that, and see how many shucks you got offen that corn you took from Pete Joemen. Will you take the dollar?'

Jord now seemed about to consent, and Syl reduced the premium by one half, and finally came down to a quarter, and then Jord began to offer a quarter, a half, and finally a dollar: but Syl's prudence equalled his, and seeing that neither was likely to accept, we returned to our hotel, and were informed by old Vardy that the sight we had witnessed was no 'onusual one. The boys and gals was jist having a little fun.'

And so it proved, for about midnight we were wakened by a loud noise of contending parties in fierce combat, and, rising and looking out from the chinks of our hut, we saw the whole party engaged in a grand me lee; rising above the din of all which, was the harsh voice of Syl Varmin, calling--

'Stand back here, Sal Frazar, and let me do the rest of the beaten of Jord Bilson; I haint forgot his hoofs yit.'

The mele closed, and we retired again, and by breakfast next morning all hands were reconciled, and the stone jar replenished out of the mutual pocket, and peace ruled where so lately all had been recriminations and blows.

After breakfast, just as the supper had been at old Jack's, save only that we had a table, we started for Clinch river for a day's fishing where other and yet more amusing incidents awaited us. But as I have dwelt upon this early part of the journey longer than I intended, you must wait till the next letter for the concluding incidents."

Melungeons in Fiction.

by Bill Fields

Like most of us, I spend a lot of time looking for any reference books or articles I can find that might have even the smallest bit of information on Melungeons or other similar mixed-ethnic groups. Lately I have also come across some fiction with Melungeon characters or Melungeon themes. So next time you get tired of reading old newspaper clippings or you are on the verge of microfilm

blindness but still need that Melungeon fix, you might want to try some of these!

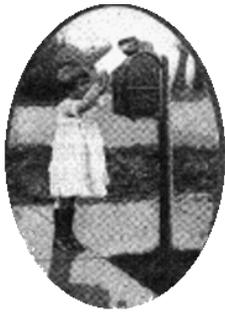
Probably the best known is Jesse Stuart's *Daughter of the Legend* which was first published in the mid 1960s and has been reprinted several times since then. I understand that the latest reprint contains a forward by Brent Kennedy although I have not seen that edition.

Daughter of the Legend is the story of an outsider, Dave Stoneking, who comes into Cantwell County, Tennessee (which is clearly a fictionalized Hancock County) and falls in love with Deutsia Huntoon, a Melungeon girl. Jesse Stuart must have done a great deal of research. He captures very well the prevailing attitudes of the times toward Melungeons. In the eyes of the community Dave, because he chooses Deutsia, forfeits his identity as a white man. Stuart talks about the discrimination, the harassment and social segregation the Melungeons face and the absurdity of the color lines drawn in Cantwell County. Incorporated into the love story is the legend of Mahala Mullins, renamed Sylvania but still selling moonshine and evading the authorities by virtue of her size.

The next two books are by the same author, Sharyn McCrumb. The first I read was *She Walks These Hills* (copyright 1994 and published by Signet). Personally, I am not a big fan of mysteries. Had I known it was a mystery, I probably would not have read it. But all I knew was that someone told me one of the minor characters was Melungeon. It's actually several stories, each with it's own mystery, woven together across time, from the frontier to the present. The book is excellent and would be so even without it's Melungeon--but a Melungeon character never hurts!

Having been won over to McCrumb by *She Walks These Hills*, I went in search of more of her work and came across *Lovely in Her Bones* which was written earlier, in 1985 and published by Ballantine Books. There is no doubt. From the first pages, *Lovely In her Bones* is a murder mystery. But one centered around an archaeological dig to try and determine the origins of a group of people near the Tennessee North Carolina border called Cullowhees. As far as I know the Cullowhees and their community of Sarvice Valley are fictional. I'm just not sure if they are suppose to be Melungeon or Lumbee or a combination of both. The story Cullowhees and the mystery of their origins runs parallel to the murder story and by the last pages, both are solved. Giving rise to yet another theory of the origins of the Melungeons.

Finally, there is James Alexander Thom's historical novel *The Children of First Man*. It does not deal directly with Melungeons but rather with a figure sometimes associated with them. Over the years some people have suggested that a Welsh Prince, Madoc, who came to North America with a group of settlers between 1150 and 1200 may figure into the beginnings of the Melungeons. There really is no evidence for such a connection and Thom does not attempt to make it. Rather, he ties Madoc to the Mandan. The interest of this book with respect to the Melungeons is the process of contact, conquest, integration and transformation that happens to Madoc and his descendants over generations as they interact with the Native People of North America. Thom's work in general tends to be as historically accurate as possible and *The Children of First Man* is no exception. It left me with a much better idea of what the results of the earliest contact between the later Europeans and Native people could have been. We are taught to think in general terms that all cultural assimilation was one way, with Native Americans exterminated by or adsorbed into the emerging Euro-American society. But early on, when the numerical advantage was not with the Europeans, that may not have been the case.



???

Queries???

Have a question or problem with a family? Maybe someone else has the answer!

HALL

I am trying to locate information on a John Hall born about 1810 who lived and married in Wilkes Co., NC in 1834. He married a Nancy Stamper and they had several children including my g grandfather Ruebin Hall. This family was rumored to be Cherokee Indian but I believe they were connected to the Melungeons. John and Nancy disappear after the 1870 census. I don't know if they both died or left for Kentucky as many other relatives did. Thanks for any help.

SIZEMORE

I'm looking for the parents of George "George All" Sizemore and his wife Aggy/Aggie Shepherd. Both were probably born about 1750. They arrived in southeastern Kentucky (present Leslie County area) circa 1800. Family tradition says that George was the son of a "Cherokee chief" and a white captive and that Aggy was Cherokee, captured as a child and raised by a white family named Cornett. Logistically, neither of these stories really fit. I have some indication that they may have been in the area of Claiborne Co., Tennessee before coming to Kentucky. I have records of nine children: Henry, John, Edward, George, Sallie Ann, Winnie, Rhoda, Ruth and Susan. My descent from George and Aggie is through Susan who married John Bowling.

RUTLEDGE/MASSEY

Stephen W. RUTLEDGE, born 7 July 1833, Hawkins Co., TN., married Mary MASSEY on 15 Dec 1850, Bledsoe Co., TN. Mary supposedly 1/2 or 1/4 Native American. I think that Stephen could have had either Melungeon or Native American heritage as well. Would like to exchange with anyone researching these families.

ALPHA/BAKER/LEWIS

Recently a cousin told me that our ancestor, Sara Alpha, 1st wife of John Baker, was a Melungeon. I have looked everywhere for her family or some evidence that she had a family in TN where she probably died. I find nothing except the children of her marriage to John. I have no pictures of the old Baker children. It would be interesting to see what they looked like and to find the origins of Sara Alpha. I have heard her described as "Belgian, Dutch, etc." At this point, I am not sure that the ancestors of John Baker can be "proven". I think about the heritage and my dark skin could have come from the Lewis side (goes back to Sara

Alpha) but many of them are blonde and blue eyed. Perhaps when someone reads this it will stir some thought.



Note: For this on-line version the contact addresses were removed from the queries section and elsewhere as they are old and not always accurate. The mailing list was also removed.