

under one sky

the melangeon information exchange

volume 2

number 1



spring 1997

Welcome to Issue Four!

While it's taken some time to get it out, issue four brings with it some changes, the biggest of which you have probably already noticed, the change of name. The newsletter inherited the title "Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange" out of the concept from which it grew. That was a much more informal exchange of research among people investigating families in Kentucky. When the project transformed into a newsletter, the name came along with it. I have always found it unwieldy and just using the initials was not comfortable. The scope of the publication has changed over the last year as well. At this point, the suggestion of an exclusive focus on southeastern Kentucky Melungeon families is inaccurate so I felt the time had come to change the name. There's no hidden meaning or long story behind the new name --- I liked the way it sounds. And I like the reminder that we are all really one people on one earth living under one sky. My studies of the history of Melungeons and other mixed-ethnic people has certainly underscored that to me! So now The Southeastern Kentucky Melungeon Information Exchange is Under One Sky: The Melungeon Information Exchange. The address is still the same, P.O. Box 342, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701.

Many of you have sent contributions and letters of support and I want every one of you to know that I do deeply appreciate both. Issue four is really here because of the response to issue three. I thought for a long time about whether I was prepared to continue putting out a newsletter and if so how to insure that it is both self-supporting and accessible. I have concluded that this publication may actually be more important than I understood before. As increasing numbers of people become involved in Melungeon research and new information is discovered there needs to be a print medium to share discoveries, research and ideas. I am one of the most guilty of becoming Internet-dependant but while web pages and e-mail are wonderful not everyone has access to them. So I am committed to continuing Under One Sky as long as I can. The shareware concept still strongly appeals. It means that people contribute as they see fit and that people who may not be able to afford a subscription are not left out. So at this point, I am not prepared to move to a subscription base.

I do however need to make some changes. One is in terms of a publication schedule. I am not going to try and maintain one. That decision has to do with my own resources, time and with material. Basically, when I have enough of all three for an issue I will do one. I still expect that will mean about three a year. The other has to do with the mailing list. I have no real way to update it except for those folks I do hear from. What I need is feedback as to whether you are still interested. I've come up with a system which I hope is not going to be too complicated for me or for y'all. You'll notice that you have a number before your name on the list. You'll also notice a small form after the mailing list. The first digit is the number of the issue with which I added you to the mailing, the rest is just a count of people who have been on the list. Since I think there will be about three a year, I've picked every third mailing as the time I need to hear from you. To catch me up with this issue, I need everyone with an number beginning with a 1 or a 2 to fill out the form and send it back to me. If I don't hear from you, I'll assume you are no longer interested and you'll be taken off the list after this issue. This is just a way for me to try and manage costs and insure that people who get the newsletter want it. You don't have to send a donation, you just need to let me know you still want to be on the list. For any of you who want back issues, that remains unchanged, back issues are \$3.50 each. Again, I charge for back issues because I don't keep a stockpile, I only print the number I need for the list and when someone wants back copies, I have to print them as needed.

Some of you may be curious about the photographs on the cover. They are all my ancestors and I believe all are of Melungeon descent. The infant in the upper left is my mother, Grace (Adams) Fields. The one in the lower right is her mother Mary Morgan, a descendant of George All Sizemore and Aggy Shepherd Sizemore, Jesse Bowling and Ephriam Osbourne. In the upper right is the family of John Wiley (Bedwell) Adams and Nancy Jane Cornett (the two seated older people). The young man in the middle of the back row is my grandfather Marion Adams. John Wiley was the great grandson of "Revolutionary" John Mullins. And in the bottom left are some of the children of Jonathan Hart and Chloe Creech Hart. My paternal grandmother, Laura Belle (Hart) Fields is in the bottom left hand corner of the picture. They descend from Old Ned Sizemore. And the house that follows the Sandy Hall article is the one I was born in on Preacher Fork of Hurricane Creek in Leslie County Kentucky..



Bill Fields



IN MEMORY OF SANDY HALL

This issue of "Under One Sky" is dedicated to the memory of Sandy Hall. I never had the honor of a face to face meeting with Sandy but through the world of computers and Cyberspace, I met her, talked with her and she became my friend. We were on CompuServe together and were involved in a long running discussion of Melungeons that took place there. Sandy was a detailed and dedicated Melungeon researcher who never hesitated to share what she knew. I was always amazed that whenever anyone had a research question, within a day or two, Sandy would answer it, usually starting off with "I ran by the library over my lunch hour..."

Last spring the CompuServe discussion focused on Mahala Mullins and Sandy contributed a great deal of information to that discussion. At the same time, the Timeline Project was forming and she was also involved in the early stages of that. Soon after, however, Sandy was diagnosed with cancer. Like so many of her friends, I was sure she would recover but that was not to be. Sandy passed away Jan 18, 1997 and with her family, we who knew her mourn her passing. I wanted to find some fitting tribute to her but was having trouble imagining one that she would approve of. And then I realized that she had already done it, in her research. The work that follows is part of what Sandy shared with me and others in the months just before her illness and represents some of her last lunchtime and vacation library trips. I'm doing with it what she did., passing it along for anyone else who can use it. What follows are Sandy's own words and own findings. I've edited and ordered it a bit but it is her work, offered in her memory and with my thanks.

RESEARCH BY SANDY HALL

One of my possible Melungeon connections is through the Halls of Wilkes/Ashe Co NC. My earliest known Hall ancestor is Masias Hall (born ca 1775), who came to Floyd County Kentucky in 1820. Before that he was in Scott County Virginia and before that Ashe County NC. His father was probably Jesse Hall, who was possibly the son of John Hall of Mulberry Creek, Wilkes County, NC. John Hall was the son of Thomas "T" Hall of Lunenburg /Halifax/ Pittsylvania counties in Virginia. Brent Kennedy's Isham Hall was in the same area of VA as Thomas and is very probably related. Isham could even have been a son of Thomas and brother to John.

My great-grandmother Mary (Polly) Jane Tackett (who married my great-grandfather Tipton Hall) was the daughter of George "Bud" Tackett and Eliza Kinney. George was the son of George Tackett and Hannah Osbourne, and Hannah was the daughter of Solomon Osbourne and Hannah Bolling, with Hannah as the daughter of Benjamin Bolling and Patsy Phelps. Other surnames on my father's side include Frasure, Bentley, Elliott, Branham, and Little. I haven't done much research on these lines yet, only copied others' work.

Mostly what I've done for the past couple of years is research Hall lines in Virginia before 1800. That's the first question I want to find an answer to: where did Thomas "T" Hall come from? There is a record of Thomas Hall buying property in Goochland Co VA in 1739, and selling that property in 1741. This could be our guy. But where was he before this?

My second question is: what's the connection between John Hall of Mulberry Creek and Jesse Hall the father of Masias Hall? Father and son? Brothers? Uncle and nephew? Haven't found that one yet either.

On Collins' Mullins' and others.....

I've been looking again at Isak (sic) Mullins in 1850. I think it makes more sense as Izah Mullins, especially since there was an Isiah Mullins on the 1840 census (and the ages match up).

Clarah Collins (age 80 on the 1850) could be the older woman in Solomon's household on the 1830 census (age 55-99, rather a wide range). But where was she in 1840?

Solomon's father could be one of those other Collins with Vardy on the 1800 Ashe Co NC census: Thomas, Valentine, or Ambrous. He doesn't seem to have used any of those names for his children, though. (But then that's not an infallible test, is it?) I've been looking through my Wilkes Co record books for Collins and others. The earliest I've found on Ambrose Collins is the following: 4 Mar 1786 David Smith to Levon Cole, 30 lbs, 100 acres North side South Fork New River...mouth of Nathan's Creek... Signed David Smith. Witnesses: Alex Smith, Ambrose (X) Collins, Sarah (X) Wadkens (Wilkes Co Deed Book B-1, p. 120)

David and Alexander Smith were sons of Hugh Smith and his wife Jane. Hugh Smith also had a son-in-law named Morris Baker. They all seemed to keep together, on Nathan Creek/Dogg Creek/Cranberry Creek/Prater's Creek in the mountains of Wilkes Co.

General Census Information.....

Went to the state (Columbus, OH) library genealogy room on my lunch hour today to look for Solomon Collins. There is no Solomon Collins/Collens on the 1820 TN census index.

On the 1830 TN index for Hawkins Co and the Collins surname:

first name	78	Harvey 80	John 56	Mary 78	Vardy 77
page no.	Benjamin	James 80	John 77	Millenton	Wiatt 76
Allen 77	78	James 78	Levi 78	78	William 52
Andrew 77	Edmund 78	James 52	Martin 78	Tandy 59	
Benjamin	George 59	James 52	Martin 77		

Vardy Collins was listed on the 1810 Ashe Co NC census as a free person of color. On the 1820 NC census index there were 2 Solomon Collins, one in BUNC, page 90, and one in HYDE, page 285. No Vardy Collins anywhere. There was an Alexander Gowin in Rutherford Co NC but his age was over 45 while the Alexander Gowin on the 1840 Hawkins Co TN census was 20-30 years old. On the 1820 VA census index there was no Vardy Collins or Solomon Collins. Vardy Collins was issued a NC State grant #1770 on 31 Dec 1798 for 100 acres on the south side of the south fork of the New River (Wilkes Co DB D #750)

These Collins were on the tax lists for Wilkes Co:

1795 district 8: Griffen, David, Valentine
1795 district 12: Verdie and Lewis

1796 district 4: David and Valentine
1799 district 13: Ambrose and Elisha

In 1800 Ashe Co NC census these households were listed as non-white free people: Vudery (Vardey) Collins, Thomas Collins, Valentine Collins, and Ambrous Collins. A T. Collins and an A. Collins were on the 1810 Ashe Co census (the person who took this census listed only first initials and surnames of the heads of households). But they're in the regular listings, not as other.

More census information. ...

1830 Hawkins Co TN census, free colored persons 10 10-23 24-35 36-54 55-99 100 + repeat for females (Notice Shepherd Gibson, a "mixed" household.)

page 77

Charles Gibson 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0
Andrew Gibson 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0

Rachel Bunch (free white) 1 m 5-9, 1 m 10-14, 1 f 20-29, 1 f 50-59

Charles Gibson 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 2 1 0 0
Andrew Collins 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0
Esau Gibson 1 1 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0

Martin Collins (free white) 1 m 5-9, 1 f 40-49, 1 m 70-79

John Collins 3 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0
Sherod Gibson 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 5 1 1 1 0
James Moore 2 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0

James Moore 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0
Joseph F. Gibson 3 2 0 1 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0
Samuel Mullins 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
Solomon Collins 4 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0
Andrew Gibson 2 1 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0

Sheppard Gibson (free white) 1 f under 5, 1 m 15-19, 1 m 20-29, 1 f 30-39, 1 free colored male 55-99

Lucinda Burk (free white) 2 f 5-9, 1 m 10-14, 2 f 20-29

Allen Collins 4 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0
Simeon Collins 1 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0
Jordan Gibson 2 0 0 0 1 0 2 1 0 0 0 0
Polly Gibson 1 1 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 1 0 0
Jordan Gibson 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 2 1 0 0 0

Jonathan Gibson 1 0 0 1 0 0 3 2 1 0 0 0
Jesse Gibson 1 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0
Vardy Collins 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 2 2 0 1 0

page 78

Timothy Williams 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0

10 households (mostly free white)

Mary Collins 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0
Levi Collins 1 3 0 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0
Benjamin Collins 0 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0
Benjamin Collins 3 0 0 1 0 0 2 1 1 0 0 0
Edmund Collins 0 0 0 1 0 0 4 1 1 0 0 0
Millinton Collins 2 0 1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0
Martin Collins 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0
James Collins 2 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0
James Collins 1 3 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0

1840 Hawkins Co TN page 232

(free white males under 5,
5-10,10-15,15-20,20-30,30-40,40-50,50-60,60-70,70-80,8
0-90,90-100, 100 and
over, repeat for females)

Andrew Collins 011001000000 00110000000000
Uriah Gipson 000010000000 000000000000

More Collins/Mullins census information....

1850 Hancock Co TN page 34, taken 19 Nov, 33rd subdivision

105 Clarah (?) Collins, age 80 F,
widow, 100 acres, born VA
Nancy Mullins, age 25, born KY
Elizabeth, age 9, born TN
Mary Ann, age 5, born TN
Henry, age 2, born TN
Elbert, age 7/12 (?), born TN

106 John Mullins age 39, farmer,
100 acres, born TN
Mahala Mullins, age 25, born TN
Jane, age 9, born TN
Sally, age 8, born TN
Milla, age 7, born TN
Larkin, age 6, born TN
James, age 5, born TN
Burton, age 4, born TN
Ealy, age 2, born TN
Richard, age 1/12, born TN

107 Isak Mullins, age 37, farmer,
100 acres, born TN
Prudy, age 30, born KY
Loucinda, age 15, born TN
Solomon, age 13, born TN
Clarah (?), age 10, born TN

William, age 8, born TN
James, age 6, born TN
Mack, age 5, born TN
Alfred(?), age 3, born TN

1850 Hancock Co TN page 32,
taken 19 Nov, 33rd subdivision

84 Solomon D Collins, age 57,
farmer, 350 acres, born NC
Jincy, age 57, born VA
Franklin, age 25, born TN
Baley, age 22 M, born TN
Enoc, age 20, born TN
Solomon, age 18, born TN
Lethe, age 15, born TN
Elizabeth, age 13, born TN
Sally, age 11, born TN
Milla Ann, age 7, born TN

83 Eliza Gowins, age 33,
Chisittaker (?), born VA
Sarah Gowins, age 56, born VA

1850 Hancock Co TN page 52,
taken 3 Dec, 33rd subdivision

Esau Gipson 0020001000000 2211001000000
Joseph F. Gipson 1211000100000 0000001000000
Samuel Mullins 0100100000000 0000100000000
Solomon Collins 0221001000000 2000001000000
John Mullins 0000100000000 0001000000000
Sherrod Gipson 0001000010000 0010000010000
Ira Collins 0001000000000 1000100000000
Jordan Collins 2000010000000 0000010000000
Shepherd Gipson 1000100010000 0010101000000
Elijah Gowin 0000000100000 0000000100000
Frances Collins 0210000000000 1110010000000
Alexander Gowin 0200200000000 0000010000000
Vardy Collins 0000000001000 0000000010000
Timothy Williams 1000010000000 0000100000000
Millington Collins 0300001000000 1210010000000
Morgan Collins 0000001000000 0001000000000
Allen Collins 1321010000000 1011010010000
Jesse Gipson 1010001000000 1111001000000
William Nichols 0000000010000 0000000100000
Squire Williams 0120010000000 2102100000000
Isom Biggs 1100100000000 1000100000000
Charles Williams 2200000100000 1012000100000
Elijah Williams 1000100000000 2000100000000
Burrell Sullivan 001100010000 01000100100000
Alfred Collins 1000010000000 2110100000000
Wyatt Collins 0000000100000 1001100100000
Isiah Mullins 1000100000000 2000100000000
Martin Collins 3000010000000 1110010000000

364 Varda Collins, age 86, farmer,
1500 acres, born in NC
Margaret, age 77, born NC
Branuare (?) Williams, age 17,
born TN

1830 Hawkins Co TN, page 77

Charles Gibson
Andrew Gibson
Rachel Bunch
Charles Gibson
Andrew Collins
Evan Gibson
Martin Collins
John Collins
Sherod Johnson
James Moore
James Moore
Joseph F. Gibson
Samuel Mullins
Solomon Collins
Andrew Gibson
Sheppard Gibson
Lucinda Burk
Allen Collins

Simeon Collins	Martin Collins, Shepherd Gibson,	TN, page 77
Jordan Gibson	Lucinda	4 males under 10 (Franklin, Silas,
Polly Gibson	Burk, and James Loving, everyone	Bailey, and Enoch)
Jordan Gibson	on this page is listed under "free	1 male 10-23
Jonathan Gibson	persons of	1 male 36-54
Jesse Gibson	color". The Collins' on page 78 are	1 female under 10 (Mahala)
James Loving	also under "free persons of color".	1 female 24-35
Vardy Collins		1 female 55-99

Solomon Collins 1830 Hawkins Co

With the exceptions of Rachel Burk,

Looks like maybe Solomon and wife living with his/her mother and his/her younger brother? Or possibly a son older than Mahala?

On the 1840 census index there are 2 Solomon Collins, one in CLAI (Claiborne) and one on page 232 in HAMI. John Mullins is also on page 232 in HAMI. I assumed that was Hamilton Co, however, our microfilm of Hamilton only goes to page 185. I think they made an error here.

Also found a book called "Obituaries From Tennessee Newspapers". It listed (and I quote): "Mahala Mullins, famous fat woman of Hancock Co, Tn, has died. (Columbia Herald 23 Sept 1898)." Also: "Betsy Mullens, famous East Tennessee mountain giantess, is 82 years old, weighs 500 pounds, and has never been more than a dozen miles away from her birthplace near Sneedville. (Columbia Herald, 19 Dec 1895)."

I went to the library again at lunch and looked at Montgomery Co. I picked these surnames off the lists, since they were all in the north/northwest part of Wilkes Co NC by the late 1780's. "Montgomery Co VA, The First Hundred Years", by Judge C.W. Crush Oath of Allegiance

Capt. Cox's Company 30 Sep 1777	Company: Robert Ozburn James Sturgil Elisha Collins, of Coxes Company	District, 6 Sep 1782 William Bowlin Robert Baker Clisha Collings (Elisha???) James Roark	Menaday Collens (Millington????) John Hall
Andrew Baker George Reves James Mulkey John Collins, 2 Sep Samuel Collins, 11 Nov	25 Sep 1778 List of Fines set by Court Martial		Early Tennessee Tax Lists Grainger County
Capt Ozburn's Company, 29 Sep 1777	Joseph Baker Elisha Collens John Collens Ephraim Osburn John Varaiman William Varaiman	Capt Charles Morgan Company of Militia 1782 Timothy Roark James Roark Elisha Colling Cornealus Roberts	Elisha Collins 1799 Griffin Collins 1804 Griffie Collins 1805 Griffy Jr Collins 1821 Joseph Collins 1804 & 1805
Francis (X mark) Stogil (Sturgil) Jeremiah Ozburn William Landreth Capt Enoch Ozburn, 6 Oct Robert Baker Isaac Weaver Wm Hash Stephen Ozburn Jonathan Ozburn Jno Hash Joshua Pennington Ephraim Ozburn Jr Timothy Roark Ephraim Pennington Ephraim Ozburn Sr Stephen Ozburn Sr	(I wonder if these last 2 were "Vardiman", as in Vardy/Vardiman Collins????)	Joseph Roark John Colling Capt James McDaniel's Companies 1782	Joshua Collins 1804 & 1805 Lewis Collins 1804, 1805, 1821
Those that refused in Capt. Ozburns	28 Apr 1778 Capt. Jonathan Isom's Company Moses Hubbard John Collins George Sozemon (Sizemore maybe???) Several Richardsons A List of the Elk Creek	Sammuwill Phips John Mullens Sammuwill Phips Sr James Hart David Collens George Collens Josias Stamper John Tolever Lewies Collens Sammuwill Hall Jacob Stamper	Archibald Gibson 1804 Archelaus Gibson 1805 Isaac Gibson 1804 & 1805 James Gibson 1799 Valentine Gibson 1799 Archeles Gipson 1799 Garrot Gipson 1799 James Gipson 1799 Hawkins County

Edward Sisemore 1799

James Sisemore 1799

ASHE COUNTY LAND ENTRIES

21 Aug 1800 Volintin Collins entered 50 acres in Ashe Co on "Brushe" Creek, beginning on Joel Gibson's lower line and running down both sides of the creek. (Vardey Collins married Margaret Gibson, from an ahnentafel chart by Rita Mae Justice in Old Floyd Co. KY Families, vol.1, no.3, spring 96. No parents are given for either Vardey or Margaret. According to Jack Goins, Vardy, Valentine, Ambrouse, George, and Thomas were sons of Samuel Collins.) Other Collins: Ambrose, Aron, David, Elisha, Griffeth, Grisey, Lewis, and Thomas.

11 Aug 1800 Shephard Gibson entered 100 acres, beginning near the mouth of a "dreen" that makes into "Baire" Creek (Bear?) and runs up said creek.

11 Aug 1800 Shephard Gibson entered 50 acres beginning near Georg. Miller's lower line and runs down s. fork of New River.

Other Gibsons: Archabell, Charles, Joel, Zacheriah

19 Oct 1810 "Georg" Sisimore entered 100 acres Long Branch waters of Prater's Creek between John Jones' line and Lenoir's line, includes Ned Sismore's old improvement. #2323(Owen and George sons of Edward "Ned" Sizemore)

28 Mar 1800 Owen Sisemore entered 60 acres on Prater's Creek, begins on said Owin's line and runs south. #89

4 Jul 1822 George Sisemore entered 300 acres on Cranberry Creek, beginning near Lottlers (or Lollters) ford of said creek, includes vacant land on Bryery Ridge. #3771

13 Aug 1812 Edward Sysmore entered 100 acres south side New River, Piney Fork of Cranberry Creek, and on south side Peach Bottom Mountain, includes land and improvement where "Sisemore" lives. #2482

ASHE COUNTY DEED BOOK B

14 Jan 1805 Owen Sizemore of Hawkins Co TN to Peter Hart of Ashe Co NC, 400 acres, a "dreen" of Scott's Branch. p485

LAND ENTRIES WILKES CO NC 1783-1795

9 Apr 1787 Wm Morris entered 100 acres on south side New River, at or near upper end of Flatt Shole and runs down said river. [Jacob May lined out]. Transfers to Vardey Collins. #68

1795 Vardy Collins entered 50 acres south side South Fork New River. #1912

1795 Ambrose Collins entered 100 acres on Oba (Obeds?) Creek. #1913

CARROLL THE SETTLEMENTS 1765-1815 (Carroll Co VA), John Henry Alderman.

Milliten Collins 80 acres middle Big Reed, survey Montgomery Co B-182, 10 May 1783, 80 acres on Big Reed Island, grants 29-325, 8 Dec 1793, 80 acres Big Reed Island, adj. Benjamin Bailey.

Stephen Cole 200 acres Big Reed Island, Mont. Co A-71, 3 Sep 1782.

Daniel Witcher of Pittsylvania Co VA, Mont. Co B-165, survey 8 Aug 1783, 480 acres on Big Reed Island.

Millenton and Avy Collins of Grayson Co VA to James Bobbit, 34 pds, 80 acres on Big Reed Island, DB1-480, 22 Feb 1802.

Daniel Witcher of the "county of TN" to John Walter Jr of Grayson Co, 150 acres Road Creek, part of 480 acre grant. DB1-364 15 Jan 1800.

CASWELL COUNTY NC TAX LIST 1777

St. James District, Charles Collins, Martin Collins, Middleton Collins, Paul Collins

SURRY CO. NC TAX LISTS 1771 (alpha)

Jacob Gibson	Capt Gray Bynum's district	Capt Benj. Cleveland's district
William Gibson		
Humphrey Gibson 1	Joel Gibson 1	Edward Sizemore and James Hart 2
Valentine Gibson 3	William Gibson 1	
James Shepherd 1		1784 Surry Co NC (land and tithes)
	Capt John Deatherage district	
1774		Capt. Goins district
Capt Martin Armstrong's district	Valentine Gibson, son James, son	
	Garret 3	Valentine Gibson 150 1
Moses Baker and Nathan Baker 2		John Gibson 0 1

James Gibson 200 1
Garrot Gibson 0 1

Joseph Goin 200 1

Barnabas Rowark 100 1
Elisha Rowark 200 1
Timothy Roark 0 1

1785

Capt Gains district

James Gibson 200 1
Archelaus Gibson 0 1
John Gibson 0 1
Garrett Gibson 0 1
Valentine Gibson 150 1

Joseph Going 150 1

1860 census Hancock Co TN

HA 102-524

John Mullins, 41
Mahaley 36
Sally 17
Milly 14
Larkin 13
James 12
Burton 11
Elby 9 (male)
Richard 8
Maryan 7
Jeremiah 6
John 5
Reuben 4
Oliver 2

HA 101-524
Isaah Mullins 49
Clary 19
James 15
MC. 13
Alfred 11
Willson 9
Nancy 6
Emily 4
Campbell Sexton 24
Berthena 25
Winfite 1

HA 97-522
James Mullins 45
Nancy 40

Jane 14
Ellen 12
Matt 11
Persia 7
Wallace 6
Rebecca 2
James 1
Wayman Mullins 19
Alsey 18

HA 101-524
Samuel Mullins 55
Armon 56 (f)
Clary 81

1770 Botetourt Co VA tithables

Robert Osborn 1
Enoch Osborn 1
Isaac Weaver 1
Charles Collins 1
John Collins 1
Samuel Collins 1
McChiger Bunch 1
Morris Baker 1
Hugh Smith 1
Moses Damron 1
Jonathan Osborn 1
John Couch 1
John Richardson 1
Jonathan Jenings 5
Benjamin Ray 1

1771 Montgomery Co VA Tax Lists

William Herbert's Company

Robert Osborn
William Hash
Enoch Osborn
Charles Collins
John Collins 4
Samuel Collins 2
McChegar Bunch (Micager?)
Moses Baker
Moses Damron
Robert Baker
Jonathan Osborn
John Couch
Benjamin Ray

1772 W. Herbert's list (alpha by first name)

Benjamin Ray
Charles Collins
Enock Osburn 2
Efrom Osborn
George Collins
John Collins 4
Jonathan Osborn
McCager Bunch
Moses Damron
Samuel Collins
Stephen Osborn Sr
Stephen Osborn Jr
Thomas Ray

1773 John Montgomerie's list of Tithables (alpha)

Robert Baker-Indin Land
Micarah Bunch-Indin Land
David Collens
Elisha Collens
Amburs Collens-Indin Land
Samuel Collens-Indin Land 2
John Collens
Lewis Collens
John Collens Jr
George Collens-Indin Land
Charles Collens-Indin Land
Moses Damron-Indin Land
William Hash
John Hash 2
Isaac Little-Indin Land
Ephraim Osborn
Stephen Osborn
Jonathan Osborn
Robert Osborn
Enoch Osborn 2
Timothy Rourk
Hugh Smith-Indin Land

1782 Montgomery Co tax lists (alpha) (tithes, slaves, horses, cattle, land)

Charles Cole 0000yes
Stephen Cole 2026yes
Ambrose Collins 1011yes
Daniel Collins 1049yes
David Collins 1002yes
George Collins 1004yes
John Collins 1012yes
Lewis Collins 1012yes
Martin Collins 1010
Militon Collins 1010

Hawkins Co TN Wills Vol. 1, 1786-1864 (Eugenia L. Messick) LWT of Simeon Collins, no date, page 110

Simeon Collins being of sound and perfect mind and memory did make and publish this his last will and testament in manner and form following. He desires and requests that his wife Frankey should have and keep all his property, both real and personal, for the purpose of keeping her children together and to raise them on what he left as his wife Frankey had labored with him for all they possessed which said Will and Testament was made while on his death bed and no opportunity of committing his last will to writing as he was soon after taken dangerously ill and died somewhat unexpectedly and appeared not to have had his mind engaged on the subject no more, which last Will and Testament was declared in presence of the undersigned subscribing witnesses. N.B. He the said Simeon further requested that all his just debts be paid and satisfied and the balance retained for the purpose above stated.

Sardy (X) Collins, Morgan (X) Collins, Charlotty (X) Collins, Millenton Collins, Allen Collins.

LWT Shepard Gibson, dated 7 Dec 1842, page 224

I, Shepard Gibson do make and publish this as my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at any other time made. First, I direct that all my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid as soon after my death as possible, out of any money that I may die possessed of or may first come into the hands of my Executor. Secondly, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Matilda all the land whereon we now live and all the lands elsewhere which is in my name, and all my livestock of personal property, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and all the household and kitchen furniture. Thirdly, I give and bequeath to each of my brothers and sisters the sum of one dollar each, paid as soon as it shall come into the hand of my Exec. Fourthly and lastly, I do hereby nominate and appoint Vardy Collins my executor. In witness whereof I do to this my will set my hand and seal. This 7th day of December, 1842.

Shepard (X) Gibson

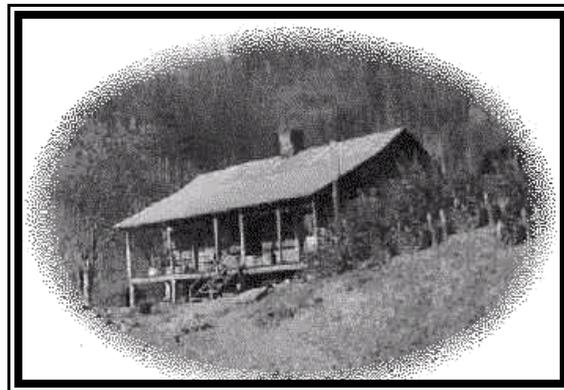
Signed, sealed, and published in our presence and we have subscribed our names hereunto in the presence of the Testator. This the 7th day of December, 1842. Witness: Timothy (X) Williams, Vardy (X) Collins, B.G. Sullivan. Proven 2 Jan 1843.

Hawkins Co TN Circuit Court Minutes 1822-1825 (Silas Emmett Lucas Jr)
5 Oct 1824 State vs John Bunch, security Vardy Collins and Benjamin Bunch.
11 Oct 1822 James Mullins on jury.
no Gibsons/Gipsons indexed

SURRY CO NC LAND ENTRIES 1778-1781

21 Jul 1778 Barny Roark Sr 300 acres Bigg Creek, waters of Dan River, adj.Richard Nowlin's. #304
21 Jul 1778 Barny Roark Sr 100 acres both sides Dan River #305
10 Sep 1778 David Roark 150 acres Beaver Dam Creek, waters of Dan River #695

WILKES CO. NC STATE DOCKET Court of Pleas 1778-1792
Apr 1790 State vs Vardy Collins, sec. David Smith, continued from Oct 1789.
Apr 1790 State vs Jordan Gibson, sec. David Smith.
Jan 1791 Vardy Collins and Jordan Gibson failed to appear
Apr 1791 David Smith delivered Vardy Collins and Jordan Gibson to court



The

Plecker

Letters

Some of you may recall that in the last issue, an article by Brent Kennedy contained a letter from W.A. Plecker who was the Registrar of the state of Virginia in the 1930s and 40s. S.J. Arthur was able to locate the following series of correspondence found the letters at the TN Library and Archives in Nashville TN. They are between Plecker and Mrs. John Trotwood Moore who was State Librarian and Archivist in Tennessee. The letters speak for themselves as to Plecker's racism and underline that fact that official hate campaigns against the Melungeons and other people of color are not a thing of distant history.

The letters from Plecker are on Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health letterhead bearing the state seal. In the upper right hand corner is printed "Bureau of Vital Statistics, W.A. Plecker M.D. Registrar" They are signed by him. The ones from Mrs Moore seem to be carbon copies and have no signature and are on plain paper.

S.J. Arthur was born and raised in Logan County, Kentucky and is dedicated to the heritage of mountain people. I really appreciate this contribution. It is more concrete evidence that Melungeons have, in fact, been the targets of racism.

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Health
Richmond

August 5, 1942

Secretary of State,
Nashville, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

Our bureau is the only one in any State making an intensive study of the population of its citizens by race.

We have in some of the counties of southwestern Virginia a number of so-called Melungeons who came into that section from Newmans Ridge, Hancock County, Tennessee, and who are classified by us as of negro origin though they make various claims, such as Portugese, Indians, etc.

The law of Virginia says that any one with any ascertainable degree of negro is to be classified as colored and we are endeavoring to so classify those who apply for birth, death and marriage registrations.

We have a list of the free negroes, by counties, of the 1830 U. S. Census in which we find the racial origin of most of these Melungeons classified as mulattoes. In that period, 1830, we do not find the name of Hancock County, but presume that it was made up from portions of other counties, possible Grainger and Hawkins, where we find considerable numbers of these Melungeon families listed.

Will you please advise as to that point and particularly which of these original counties Newmans Ridge was in.

Thanking you in advance and with kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,
(signed)
W. A. Plecker, M. D.
State Registrar.

WAP/mhd
encl.

August 12, 1942

Mr. W. A. Plecker,
State Registrar
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Richmond, Virginia

My dear Sir:

The Secretary of State has sent your letter to my desk for reply.

You have asked us a hard question.

The origin of the Melungeons has been a disputed question in Tennessee ever since we can remember.

Hancock County was established by an Act of the General Assembly passed January 7th, 1844 and was formed from parts of Claiborne and Hawkins counties.

Newman's Ridge, which runs through Hancock county north of Sneedville, is parallel with Clinch River and just south of Powell Mountain. The only map on which we find it located is edited by H. C. Amick and S. J. Folmsbee of the University of Tennessee in 1941 published by Denoyer-Geppert Co., 5235 Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, listed as TN 7S TENNESSEE. On this map is shown Newman's Ridge as I have sketched it on this little scrap of paper, inclosed. (*Note: this was not included on the copy*) But we do not have the early surveys showing which county

it was originally in. It appears that it may have been in Claiborne according to the Morris Gazetteer of Tennessee 1834 which includes this statement: "Newman's Ridge, one of the spurs of Cumberland Mountain, in East Tennessee, lying in the north east angle of Claiborne County, west of Clinch River, and east of Powell's Mountain. It took its name from a Mr. Newman who discovered it in 1761."

Early historians of East Tennessee who lived in that section and knew the older members of this race refer to Newman's Ridge as "quite a high mountain, extending through the entire length of Hancock County, and into Claiborne County on the west. It is between Powell Mountain on the north and Clinch River on the south." Capt. L. M. Jarvis, an old citizen of Sneedville wrote in his 82 nd year: "I have lived here at the base of Newman's Ridge, Blackwater, being on the opposite side, for the last 71 years and well know the history of these people on Newman's Ridge and Blackwater enquired about as Melungeons. These people were friendly to the Cherokees who came west with the white imigration from New River and Cumberland, Virginia, about the year 1790...The name Melungeon was given them on account of their color. I have seen the oldest and first settlers of this tribe who first occupied Newman's Ridge and Blackwater and I have owned much of the lands on which they settled.. They obtained their land grants from North Carolina. I personally knew Vardy Collins, Solomon D. Collins, Shepard Gibson, Paul Bunch and Benjamin Bunch and many of the Goodmans, Moores, Williams and Sullivans, all of the very first settlers and noted men of these friendly Indians. They took their names from white people of that name with whom they came here.They were reliable, truthful and faithful to anything they promised. In the Civil War most of the Melungeons went into the Union army and made good soldiers. Their Indian blood has about run out. They are growing white... They have been misrepresented by many writers. In former writings I have given their stations and stops on their way as they emigrated to this country with white people, one of which places was at the mouth of Stony Creek on Clinch river in Scott County, Virginia, where they built a fort and called it Ft. Blackamore after Col. Blackamore who was with them... When Daniel Boone was here hunting 1763-1767, these Melungeons were not here."

The late Judge Lewis Shepherd, prominent jurist of Chattanooga went further in his statements in his "Personal Memoirs", and contended that this mysterious racial group descended from the Phoenicians of Ancient Carthage. This was his judgment after investigations he made in trying a case featuring the complaint that they were of mixed negro blood, which attempt failed, and which brought out the facts that many of their ancestors had settled early in South Carolina when they migrated from Portugal to America about the time of the Revolutionary war, and later moved into Tennessee. At the time of this trial covered by Judge Shepherd "charges that Negro blood contaminated the Melungeons and barred their intermarriage with Caucasians created much indignation among families of Phoenician descent in this section."

But I imagine if the United States Census listed them as mulattoes their listing will remain. But it is a terrible claim to place on people if they do not have negro blood. I often have wondered just how deeply the census takers went into an intelligent study of it at that early period.

I have gone into some detail in this reply to explain the mooted question and why it is not possible for me to give you a definite answer. I hope this may assist you to some extent.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Trotwood Moore
State Librarian and Archivist

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Health
Richmond

August 20, 1942

Mrs. John Trotwood Moore
State Librarian and Archivist
State Department of Education
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mrs. Moore:

We thank you very much for your informative letter of August 12 in reply to our inquiry, addressed to the Secretary of State, as to the original counties from which Hancock County, Tennessee, was formed.

We are particularly interested in tracing back, as far as possible, to their ultimate origin the melungeons of the Newmans Ridge section, especially as enumerated in the free negro list by counties of the states in the U. S. 1830 census. This group appears to be in many respects of the same type as a number of groups in Virginia, some of which are known as "free issues," or descendants of slaves freed by their masters before the War Between the States. In one case in particular which we have traced back to its origin, and which we believe to be typical of the others, a slave woman was freed with her two mulatto sons and colonized in Amherst County in connection with a group of similar freed negroes. These sons were presumably the children of the woman's owner, and this seemed to be the most satisfactory way of disposing of them. One of those sons became the head of one of the larger families of that group. All of these groups have the same desire, which Captain L. M. Jarvis says the melungeons have, to become friends of Indians and to be classed as Indians. He referred to the effort which the melungeon group made to be accepted by the Cherokees, apparently without great success. It is interesting also to know the opinion expressed by Captain Jarvis that these freed negroes migrated into that section with the white people. That is perfectly natural as they have always endeavored to tie themselves up as closely as possible either with the whites or Indians and are striving to break away from the true negro type.

We have a book, compiled by Carter G. Woodson, a negro, entitled "Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830," listing all of the free negroes of the 1830 census by counties. Of the names that Captain Jarvis gave, we find included in that list in Hawkins County, Solomon Collins, Vardy Collins, and Sherod (probably Shepard) Gibson. We find also Zachariah Minor, probably the head of the family in which we are especially interested at this time. We find also the names of James Moore (two families by this name) and Jordan and Edmund Goodman. In the list for Grainger County we find at least twelve Collins and Collens heads of families. This shows that they were evidently considered locally as free negroes by the enumerators of the 1830 census.

One of the most interesting parts of your letter is that relating to the opinion of the Judge mentioned, in his "Personal Memoirs," who seemed to have accepted as satisfactory certain evidence which was presented to him that these people are of Phoenician descent from ancient Carthage, which was totally destroyed by Rome. We have in Virginia white people, descendants of Pocahontas, who married John Rolfe about 1616. About twelve generations have passed since then, and we figured out that there was about 1/4000th of 1% of Pocahontas blood now in their veins, though they seem to be quite proud of that. If you go back to the destruction of Carthage in 146 B. C., or to the destruction of Tyre by Pompey in 64 B. C., when all characteristic features of national life became extinct and with it racial identity, you will see that the fraction of 1% of Phoenician blood would reach astronomical proportions and be totally lost in the various mixtures of North Africans, with which the Carthaginians afterwards mixed. The Judge also speaks of the inclusion of Portuguese blood with this imaginary Phoenician blood. It is a historical fact, well known to those who have investigated, that at one time there were many African slaves in Portugal. Today there are no true negroes there but their blood shows in the color and racial characteristics of a large part of the Portuguese population of the present day. That mixture, even if it could be shown, would be far from constituting these people white. We are very much afraid that the Judge followed the same course pursued by one of our Virginia judges in hearing a similar case, when he accepted the hearsay evidence of people who testified that they had always understood that the claimants were of Indian origin, regardless of the documentary evidence reaching back in some cases to or near to the Revolutionary War, showing them to be descendants of freed negroes.

We will require other evidence than that of Captain Jarvis and His Honor before classifying members of the group who are now causing trouble in Virginia by their claims of Indian descent, with the privilege of inter-marrying into the white race, permissible when a person can show his racial composition to be one-sixteenth or less Indian, the remainder white with no negro intermixture. We have found after very laborious and painstaking study of records of various sorts that none of our Virginia people now claiming to be Indian are free from negro admixture, and they are, therefore, according to our law classified as colored. In that class we include the melungeons of Tennessee.

We again thank you for your care in passing on this information and would be delighted if you ever visit in Virginia and in Richmond if you will come into our office. Miss Kelley and I would be greatly pleased to talk with you on this and kindred subjects and to show you the work which Miss Kelley is doing in properly classifying the population of Virginia by racial origin. She is doing work which, so far as I know, has never before been attempted.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed)

W. A.

Plecker, M. D.

State Registrar

WAP:w

September 10, 1942

W. A. Plecker, M. D. Registrar

Bureau of Vital Statistics
Department of Health
Richmond, Virginia

My dear Dr. Plecker:

You were most kind to reply so fully to my letter, and you have given me so much information on this vitally interesting subject that I am really grateful.

My husband was so interested in it and had studied it with a view to writing on the subject but never got around to it. I recall that he was interested in an article on the Melungeons that appeared perhaps two years before his death (May 10, 1929) in the Dearborn Independent. I do not have the article but I think it was written by a North Carolina writer. I am sorry I cant bemoore definite but if there is a file in the State or Public Library it might interest you.

We have Carter G. Woodson's "Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830", but I have never made a study of it.

Virginia is fortunate to have you and Miss Kelly doing such an important piece of research. I wish Tennessee could borrow you. Anyhow, what you are doing will be, in effect, for all the Southern States and there was never a time when it was more needed.

If I am in Richmond at any time I shall certainly be pleased to stop by your office and talk with you and Miss Kelley. If your work is to be published we shall want to secure a copy for this library.

Thank you for the circulars inclosed and I wish you full success with your undertaking.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Trotwood Moore
State Librarian and Archivist

MRS JTM:VAR

AN UPDATE ON MELUNGEON RESEARCH

from
N. Brent Kennedy

Please remember that our findings remain theory. However, evidence suggesting a significant Middle Eastern/Mediterranean heritage continues to grow.

ANCESTRY AND ARRIVAL IN AMERICA

The Melungeons are most likely descendants of: 1. 16th century Iberian settlers (Portuguese and Spanish) who were abandoned or otherwise cutoff when the English overran the Santa Elena (Beaufort,

South Carolina) Colony in 1587, and 2. Several hundred Ottoman (Turkish and other Muslim) Levants (sailors) set off on Roanoke Island, North Carolina in 1586 by Sir Francis Drake. Drake, in turn, had freed the Turks from their Spanish captors who had utilized the Turks as slave labor at Cartegena in the Caribbean. The Spanish and Turks were constantly engaged in naval warfare back in the Mediterranean and the Spanish regularly used captives as galley slaves and general slave labor.

Among the excellent sources for the probable Turkish element are the works of British historian David Beers Quinn. Current Turkish research indicate the possibility of an even earlier group of Ottoman sailors being brought to America by the Portuguese in 1558. The evidence indicates that both of the above groups (Ottomans and Iberians) intermarried with Native Americans (primarily Cherokees, Creeks, Powhatan, Pamunkey, Catawba, and Chickahominy), and that the resultant populations were eventually pushed together in the mountains of western North Carolina and upper South Carolina, where they merged.

This general population later claimed what to Anglo settlers seemed to be an absurd and politically unacceptable ethnic heritage - Portuguese, Moorish, Turkish and Native American. And, of course, the mysterious term "Melungeon", a spelling based on how the word sounded to the earliest Anglo settlers, came to be associated with these people from the earliest encounters. "Melun can" - a Turkish term pronounced identically to "Melungeon" (i.e. Meh-lun-jun) - means "cursed soul" or "one who has been abandoned by God." It has as its roots the Arabic "Melun Jinn."

The Melungeons could not be classified as white, black, mulatto, or Indian and were consequently legally categorized as "free persons of color." Their significant land holdings were confiscated, they were denied rights to education, voting, and judicial process, and driven either westward or higher into the mountains of the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia. And America's first "melting pot" population was subsequently almost lost to history. A major premise of our research is that the size of the Melungeon population has been drastically underestimated and the number of descendants consequently far exceeds previous estimates.

GENETIC EVIDENCE

Genetic studies (gene frequency) of the Melungeon population indicate no significant differences between Melungeons (177 individual samples from Lee County, Virginia, and Hancock County, Tennessee, taken in 1969, re-analyzed in 1990. Guthrie/Tennessee Anthropologist/Spring 1990) and populations in the Galician Mountain region of Spain and Portugal, North Africa (Morocco, Libya), the Levant (Greece, Turkey, Syria), and the Middle East (Northern Iraq and Northern Iran).

Diseases consistently identified in the Melungeon population include established Mediterranean and

Middle Eastern illnesses such as sarcoidosis, Behcet's Syndrome, Machado-Joseph Disease (Azorean Disease), and thalassemia.

Ottoman scholars are presently studying the evidence via committees at two prestigious Turkish institutions: the University of Istanbul and Marmara University. Dr. Zakiriya Kursun has already published several major scholarly articles on the growing evidence of the relationship.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC EVIDENCE

An amazing body of cultural and linguistic evidence also supports the Ottoman and Iberian origins. Several examples:

Southeastern Native American dress styles includes turbans (Cherokees), and the fez (Creeks/Seminoles), as well as the layered "Levant" style dress of both tribes, a style identical to the uniforms worn by 16th century Turkish Levants. Especially interesting is the Cherokee and Creek habit of wearing the turban or fez with a single feather--the typical Ottoman head dress. Drawings of Cherokee Chief Sequoyia, himself part Melungeon, show a clothing style identical to the 16th century Turkish Levants.

Southeastern Native American blanket and pottery designs, as well as a number of Appalachian quilting patterns, indicate no difference from 16th century Turkish and Arabesque carpet and kilim designs (tulip, geometries, etc., almost always repeated in identical squares). While quilting is an equally entrenched Anglo and northern European tradition, styles and designs can serve as intriguing evidence of other cultural influences. Turkish (Anatolian) dances appear quite similar to forms of Appalachian line dancing (NOT clogging, however) and instruments almost indistinguishable from both the mountain dulcimer and the hammered dulcimer provide a stunning "Middle Eastern bluegrass" background. The use of musical "spoons" by both the Appalachians and the Ottomans and Iberians is also being explored. The apparent melding of Scots-Irish, Anglo, German, Native American, African, and Mediterranean/Middle Eastern art forms into a singular Appalachian culture is an intriguing possibility. Plans are underway to bring Turkish musicians to the Appalachians where they will "compare notes" with Appalachian musicians. Many words - of which only a few appear below - indicate Turkish or Ottoman origins (the Ottoman Empire at that time included Turkey, Egypt, Syria, most of North Africa, and the Balkans - Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia). Many of the words are old Ottoman, as opposed to modern Turkish, adding even more

credence to the similarities.

Common Melungeon given and surnames include Canara, Lopes, Chavis, Martin, etc.--all Portuguese surnames found on the list of Iberian settlers at Santa Elena.

Many place names also indicate Mediterranean origins; example, "Blackwater," Virginia, an old Melungeon site, was originally called "Dona"--Portuguese for "Bridal gift," while the "Hurricane section of Wise, Virginia was originally called "Fernalda." Other common Melungeon surnames have identically pronounced Turkish equivalents: examples; Cumba, Cumbo, Ramey, Ramsey, Alley, Sampson, Berry, and Hall.

"AMERICAN" WORD/ TURKISH/OTTOMAN WORD(S)/ TURKISH MEANING

Examples far exceed this list, but this sampling should illustrate the intriguing nature of the linguistic comparisons presently being studied.

Allegheny (mountain) -- Allah gents -- God's vastness (spaciousness)

Tennessee --- Tenasuh --- A place where souls move about

Croatoan --- Croatan (Ottoman Croatian word) ---- the Croatian people (Croatsians were likely among the liberated Turks)

Appalachian --- Apalache (Ottoman Croatian) --- treaty

Hopo! (Catawba word: oops!) --- hopu --- oops! or whoa!

Chesapeake --- cesapeke --- most (extremely) spacious
satz (old Melungeon term for watch or timepiece - used until early 20th Century) --- saat --- watch

Shenandoah -- sen doga (pronounced "shen-doah) -- happy natural setting

Red Bone (slang term for Louisiana Melungeons --- ray-dag-bin (Pronounced "ray-dah-bin") --- Lost Mountain Tribe (literally, "the mountain multitude gone astray")

Ana-Ta (Cherokee word for 3woman²) -- Ana-Ta -- Immortal Mother

Tuckahoe (Algonquin) Powhatan word for tubular, potato-like plant) --- Tur-kih-ot Pronounced

heritage, including Abraham Lincoln and Elvis Presley (both through their maternal lines-- NOTE: one historian says this is VERY SIGNIFICANT). Today ALL races and ethnic groups can claim descendancy from the Melungeons. It is NOT a rare heritage, but an unrecognized one. Related subgroups include the Redbones of Louisiana, the Lumbees of North Carolina, the Carmel Indians of Ohio, the Guineas of West Virginia, the Brass Ankles, and the Turks of South Carolina, and the Brown People of Kentucky. Strong relationships also exist between the Melungeons and several Native American tribes, most prominently the Powhatan, Pamunkey, Catawba, Cherokee, and Creek.

Cooperative research is presently underway with the previously mentioned Turkish institutions, as well as researchers at the University of Porto in Porto, Portugal and Portuguese medical researchers at McGill University in Canada. Eloy Gallegos continues his excellent research efforts on the Spanish connection, while Manuel Mira and Fernanda Rodrigues do likewise for the Portuguese connection. Chester DePratter, the Committee's principal humanities scholar, remains hard at work as one of the principal archaeologists at the Santa Elena, South Carolina dig. And Evelyn McKinley Orr, Ruth Johnson, and Dr. Bob Gilmer- probably the three earliest proponents of a Turkish theory continue to pursue related research areas. Jack Goins remains hard at work on the Powhatan connection and Dr. Tommy Johnson and Carroll and Betty Goyen continue their sleuthing in Louisiana.

A major documentary film (not-for-profit) on the history of the Melungeons is underway with filming in Turkey completed in May, 1995. William VanDerKloot of VanDerKloot Film & Television in Atlanta, Georgia (the producer of World of Audubon, and Portrait of America, for TBS, as well as Time and Dreams - the official film of the Atlanta Olympic Committee), is producing and directing the film, funded in part through grants from the humanities councils of Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Virginia. The film will explore the various theories and competing evidence in a sort of "in search of" approach.

N. Brent Kennedy
Office of Development & College Relations
Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia
1 College Avenue, Wise, Virginia 24293-4400

The Melungeon heritage itself appears to be far more widespread than originally believed, with descendants spread throughout the U. S. Several hundred Turkish men, and a sizable group of Iberians as well, could exert a significant genetic, linguistic, and cultural influence on the 16th Century tribes into which they married. Strong evidence links many American leaders and celebrities to this

Race, Face, and Place: On Becoming Color-Minded

By Darlene Wilson

When people ask me for a definition of 'Melungeon,' I like to say that it depends on the century in which someone chose to wear the word as a self-label. In the sixteenth-century, to say 'I'm a Melungeon' might have been a way of saying, 'Don't kill me, I'm not English!' In the seventeenth, it could easily have been a way of saying: 'Don't kill me, I'm not a Virginian or a Carolinian!' But, by the eighteenth-century, the lingo had so changed that to say, 'I'm a Melungeon,' probably meant: 'Don't kill me, I'm not White!' since it was, along Appalachia's ridge tops and river-bottoms, mostly 'Whites' who caused grief and misery for anyone who displayed anything other than a lily-white face and features.

When I first joined the Melungeon genealogy LIST, I was fascinated by the other names and labels that, along with Melungeon, signified similar patterns of class- and race-based persecution. It seems that personal histories and local conflicts spawn micro-labels at the level of community so that a person called Melungeon in one community might, if he or she moved, be renamed a Brass Ankle or a Guinea or a Lumbee. I'm beginning to suspect that even short geographic distances between us can mean "a thousand vernacular miles" when localized by a ridge or two that serve as social and political barriers.

In 1956, when I was four, my family moved to a house on Pole Bridge Road in Wise County, VA. It seemed to me that at least half the other twenty or so families with whom I was most acquainted (at Maple Grove School and Nash's Chapel Church) were related. This neighborhood is on the top of Guest Mountain, also known as Coeburn or Wise Mountain-- to wit, if you 'tended' to identify with Wise, then you said that my neighborhood was at the top of Coeburn Mountain since Wise Mtn. could also mean the old road between Wise and Norton. People in Coeburn, however, refer to it as Wise Mountain. Only since the adoption of modern mapping by Virginia's Dept. of Trans. and, later, a 911-system for the county, have we legitimated one designation --Coeburn Mountain-- for local use but, on USGS maps, it's still Guest Mountain. For those who have read Brent Kennedy's book(s), it is the site of the Nash homeplace and heritage.

I grew up hearing the term 'ramp' applied to people who were also referred to as 'Melungeons.' A 'low-class people' who supposedly lived over in either Scott or Lee counties, but certainly in the vicinity of Stone Mountain, were called either Melungeons or 'Stone Mountain Ramps.' While some people of Nash descent or Nash connections probably used the term in my hearing, it was also well-used by others who had married in or moved in, as my family had. As kids, we just picked up the labels and replicated them.

But when I got to high school, I learned that the 'big kids' in our

neighborhood had been correct in their warnings-- the town kids referred to all of us as "Pole Bridge Road Ramps" and indeed meant it as an insult. Later, I learned that folks from Duncan Gap (near the Hurricane section of Wise County and originally called Fernalda or Fernauda) were also plagued with that label of "ramp." But, still, the label mainly served as a sarcastic weapon, carried a tone of dismissal, and was mostly used by those for whom town-living was part-and-parcel of their 'class' privilege and social consciousness. Race wasn't implied since 'we' were all 'white' or so we were told.

Then, when I was 16 yrs old (summer of '69), I took a part-time summer job at Doc Durden's lunch counter/store (remember that, anybody?) on Park Avenue in Norton. Around the first of August, the proprietor and his wife (I called her the 'Dominatrix' but that's another story) began going over the store and carefully securing everything, removing counter displays, locking up the lipsticks and jewelry, keeping the back door (to the alley) locked up every day instead of open for the convenience of workers in buildings behind Park Avenue.

When I asked why they were doing all that, a regular employee told me that August was the unofficial, but widely recognized, annual "Melungeon time" for merchants in Norton. I probably looked dumb-struck since she went on to explain about all these "rogues" and thieves and their in-bred kin-folks who came down once a year from Stone Mountain to shop (and steal) in Norton; she added: "of course, you know, they're really FROM over in Scott and Lee counties."

The next day, I got my first look at these 'Melungeons' when the same employee grabbed my arm and pointed to the door, saying, See- here THEY come! I looked and saw what appeared to be customers like many others who came in day-after-day: regular-looking people, a family perhaps, their clothes were clean but not 'high(ly)-styled', some (but not all) had dark brown or black hair, sharp, swarthy features and dark brows, and a propensity to shyness when approached by sales clerks or waitresses.

The point is-- they looked and acted just like me and many members of my extended family. The differences were few-- they weren't dressed-up in the sense of 'going out-on-the-town' and tended to be dressed too warmly for August weather. But then, as I learned when I "waited" on them, they had been traveling since before day-break, bringing their ginseng and other trade-goods to market. Hence the splurge of shopping, 'the Melungeon Time' for the merchants. The women and children were prone to touching merchandise-- pretty silky fabrics or smell-good stuff-- but then so was I, though my mother would occasionally slap my hand and say, 'You don't know who else's been handling that!'

Later on that first M-day, I asked Mrs. Durden/Dominatrix how much merchandise she thought they'd lost to these Melungeons over the many years that they'd been in Norton. She couldn't remember that they'd lost anything because they'd been warned on their arrival by other merchants to "lock it all up" when the Melungeons came to town and to make sure they didn't "touch"

anything that couldn't be cleaned of their taint.

Then she told me to get some disinfectant and start washing down the booths where several such Melungeon families had just finished eating. Since it was still the middle of the busy afternoon-hours, I must have objected because I remember that she almost hissed at me-- "Do it now! Those folks are nasty and nice people might have to handle what they just touched!" " or words to that effect.

I was stunned and still am. I know that, even as a kid, had people rushed to wash off everything I touched, I would have noticed and been heart-broken! Especially if they had just taken my hard-earned money. Why wouldn't young people want to strike back at such proprietors with petty larceny or vandalism? Now, I'm not advocating such acts of retribution but gee whiz! I'd be more surprised if they had NOT been resentful. No wonder everyone of my parents' generation tried to escape the 'label' of Melungeon as soon as they could do so.

BUT, then, this makes me feel guilty too! I see what the media refers to as the "under-class" or "trailer trash" and recognize 'kinfolk' (spiritually and historically if not directly) but I don't trouble myself to object on their behalf. Despite their own Melungeon ancestry, I grew up listening to my own family, some neighbors and too, too many co-workers degrade and debase others as low-class, or no-class, ramps, rogues and Melungeons. Some of them are also vicious racists, despising all darker-others. If you don't believe me, you should hear the talk on the "radios" of truckers hereabouts and those of workers at the strip mines of Wise County. Racist, women-bashing, hate-filled and class-drenched-- they congratulate each other for heightened prejudices and for helping to inflame each others' biases. They hate Blacks, Japs, Jews, poverty pimps, Fem-i-Nazis, and bleeding-heart liberals but they also advocate violence against "tree-huggers" and "frog-kissers." These too are our 'cousins' and they resent the upsurge of interest in Melungeons and ridicule those involved in rescuing our lost common-heritage.

Someone recently told me of an elderly man from Wise County who said that Melungeon had been a 'fighting word' when he was young and he couldn't understand that now anyone would want now to be one. I think he was expressing the sentiments of many for whom Melungeon and "ramp" still mean "dirty" and "low-class." Let me put it like this: you can't have an Appalachian (or American) 'white middle-class' unless a mostly-white, or trying-to-be-white, under-class is also available for the middle-class to point to and say, 'See the no-class, see the Melungeon, see the filth--well, that's not me or my people!'

Scholars have only recently begun to investigate how such a "caste-system" operated, even in African-American communities, to create America's own version of white-winged "apartheid." Hate begets hate in a downward spiral; self-loathing is the penalty that some have to wear for the system to work. Melungeons and mixed-ethnic American people were hated, so they, in turn, hated and feared the taint or accusation of dark-ness. Rather than oppose it, most of us have perpetuated

a two-class, two-caste system: the two classes being 'men' and 'not men'; the two castes 'people-of-color' and the 'uncolored.' Yet, thinking of 'us-versus-them' in THESE terms sure can change the balance-of-power, can it not?

This cycle of self-loathing and 'other'-bashing must end with us, the Living. So, I hereby suggest that we embrace the old language of hatred and rob it of its power-to-wound-- This woman-of-color will proudly dance at a "ramp frolic" and visiting Melungeon "cousins" are always welcome at MY table! We can't make up for the past, we can't erase all the pain, but we CAN throw a mighty monkey-wrench into the cycle-of-violence and of-hate that is still endured by people-of-color in our own back-yards and around the globe.

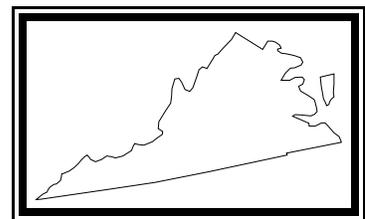
[Darlene Wilson is studying for her PhD in History at the University of Kentucky. She is also a mother, a grand-mother, and the 'Web-Spinning Granny' for UK's Appalachian Center.]

Darlene Wilson
University of Kentucky
e-mail < dgwils0@pop.uky.edu >
WebSite: <http://www.uky.edu/RGS/AppalCenter>
Home Phone: (540) 328-5643 Mail PO Box 1391, Wise, VA 24293

Melungeon Memories Circa 1965

by Charles K. Stallard, Jr.

I grew up on Coeburn Mountain between the Wise County towns of Coeburn and Wise. From the top of that mountain where the Louisa Nash homestead is located and looking southeast, Stone Mountain and High Knob dominate the horizon. That part of the Jefferson National Forest is still today much like it was at the turn of the century; except that the Forest Service has built a lot of access roads and clear cut large stands of timber. As you go up Stone Mountain from U.S. Alt. 58 at Tacoma, the first major fork in the road to the left takes you into what I have always known as Melungeon territory. These are the people who in 1996 still wear the label Melungeon and still keep very much to themselves. When my mother died a few months ago, several of those people (also relatives: Nixon, Sexton, Collins) came to her funeral and brought back memories that may be instructive about why it is so hard to trace Melungeon ancestry.



In 1965, just out of college, I returned to Wise County to be a volunteer in Project Headstart--it's first year of operation. One of the goals of Headstart was to bring mountain children down to town (Coeburn in this case) and clothe them and introduce

them to the marvels of the modern world.

So many times I had driven past the "Melungeons" going to fish in Bark Camp Lake or deer hunt in the National Forest and wondered about them, but I never had a real reason to stop and introduce myself. It would be 10 years before my grandmother told me about the Nixon family and our connection there. But in 1965 I had an official reason to stop and make introductions...to enroll the children in Headstart.

Bringing the "Melungeons" to town was not easy at first. I dealt entirely with the women, and they were standoffish. But in time most of the ones I talked to agreed to come with their children on the busses we provided to Coeburn Elementary School. The summer of 1965 was full of trips to Kingsport, TN to eat fast food and ride escalators and elevators...something very new to these people.

Midway through that summer, the Project provided us money to buy new clothes for the children, a lot of money as I remember. I could only imagine how happy it would make the merchants in town. There was some sentiment to take everyone to Kingsport to shop, but I insisted on taking my "families" to local shops.

Then reality stepped in. I took a family into a department store on Coeburn's main street (a store that has been gone for decades now, and one I will not name). We browsed the racks of children's clothes for a few minutes. I noticed how Ms._____, the mother of the two little girls I was shopping for was reluctant to touch anything, so I selected couple of items of clothing for her to consider and offered them to her. The owner of the store, who was standing right beside, snatched them away before she could take them. Then taking me by the arm and aside, but not out of her hearing range, he told me to take them back where they came from. His exact words were, "I don't want that filth in my store." I explained who I was and that I had several hundred dollars to spend and that there would be more. He didn't want any of the money and ordered us out of the store.

Ms._____did not show any emotional reaction except to take the girls, one on each arm, and walk quietly out of the store. I apologized to her and vented my anger at the discrimination I had just witnessed, but she said nothing. We drove in silence back to Stone Mtn. that afternoon, and I never saw her or her children again.

A small incident in the scope of world events, but very large in the lives of that woman and those children...and in my own life. I think it speaks to the fear some people now have about being dragged out of the closet. They have heard such stories from elders or even experienced the discrimination themselves. There is comfort in belonging to the dominant culture and safety too. And there is danger in being outside that culture. Look at Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. Perhaps those who resent being exposed have a point of view we should all stop and consider. We are, in effect, setting ourselves apart and saying with pride that we are different. We are an instant minority group. The

federal government even has a ethnic code designation for Melungeon. I ran across it somewhere on the Web recently. What does it mean to be a minority? I think we are about to



find out both the good and the bad.

On Black Dutch

By Kay Martin

In my 17 years of searching for "THE" meaning of the term, I've come to believe that Black Dutch meant many things to many people. Apparently it could mean descendants of the Spanish who went to the Netherlands and later came to the US with the Dutch. An elderly lady who had been born and raised in the Netherlands told me that it means just what it says -- Black and Dutch. Period. One theory is that the Black Dutch are descendants of the West Indies when it was under the control of the Dutch. The National Genealogical Society at one time accepted the theory that the Black Dutch were descendants from peoples who lived in the Black Forest of Germany. (That has since been discarded, but who knows -- maybe some families with a tradition of Black Dutch do descend from these people.)

Some Creek Indians consider themselves to be Black Dutch and some Cherokee used the term. As did some Melungeons.

I've had some people tell me that they think it does have to do with religion... That one of the sects who wear dark clothing might be Black Dutch. However, this idea is one of the least common that I've found.

Something that I think is interesting. In my research, those who have a family tradition of being Black Dutch have all had ancestry in the Southeastern states or across the South: VA, KY, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL and/or AR, OK, TX.

My personal opinion has come to be that Black Dutch was used as a cover up term. It might have meant a mixture of Dutch people with Melungeon or Native American. Possibly it came into use when the Free Persons of Color laws were enacted, or during the time of the Indian removal. Nowhere have I found Black Dutch used when a family was still north of VA and yet many families having come into PA and/or MD during the 1500's and 1600's moved down the coast into VA and NC or TN and somewhere along the way picked up the tradition of being Black Dutch.

Above all, it seems to be a term that each of us will have to figure out for ourselves what our families meant when they used it. I do wish everyone who is Black Dutch much success! And, if you find a proven meaning - please tell me! I feel like our Black Dutch might well have been Melungeon, but I sure can't

seem to find any real proof.

The Melungeons The Resurrection of a Proud People

Revised Edition

by N. Brent Kennedy with Robyn Vaughan Kennedy

A Review

by
Bill Fields

The original publication of Dr. Brent Kennedy's The Melungeons by Mercer University Press in 1994 marked the beginning of an upsurge of interest in the history and origins of the Melungeons and other mixed ethnic people. It has served as a focal point for discussions and research and has been instrumental in the emergence of a new ethnic pride among Melungeons and people of Melungeon ancestry.

The first edition of the book made no claim to be the definitive, final answer as to who the Melungeons are and from whence they came. In Dr. Kennedy's own words, "It is a book of speculation begging for more inquiry. I am not a professional historian, anthropologist, physician, or genealogist, but a simple human being who, after a debilitating illness, stumbled onto something that I found to be both intriguing and deserving of further research. My book is an up-front call for help from qualified scholars, with the entire premise of the book being 'Here is something worth examining. I know there are errors in my work, please help solve this mystery.'" The newly released revised edition of the book continues in that same vein, presenting new findings and theories while still maintaining that the final answers are yet to be revealed. Like the earlier edition it too is an encouragement to others to join in the search for the answers.

The revised edition does not replace the theories presented in the original book. Rather, it expands upon them with new findings and more detailed information. Most notable among the new material is a more detailed discussion of possible links between the Melungeons and Turkey. In 1586 Sir Francis Drake captured several hundred Turks, Moors, Spanish Africans and South American Indians during his South American expedition. Evidence is that a large number of these

men, most of which were Turks and Moors, may have been left on the east coast of North America on Roanoke Island. (One of the more intriguing bits of information is that the Ottoman military regularly recruited men from the Balkans who called themselves "Croatan"--- the same word left carved on a tree by the English colonists who were "lost" at Roanoke.) Dr. Kennedy discusses his recent trip to Turkey and highlights many linguistic and cultural similarities between modern day Turks and Melungeons.

The original book was not without it's critics. One of the most frequent charges concerned the limited documentation. The revised edition includes expanded source notes and additional supporting evidence. There are also changes and corrections to some of the genealogical material. Like the first edition, however, it should be apparent to most readers that this is not solely or even primarily a genealogical work. What is provided is a general outline of the ancestry of the author, used to frame the context for the rest of the material.

Dr. Kennedy's work on the Melungeons has always been rather unique in that he does not simply inform but tries to actively engage his reader in the process of discovery. The degree to which he has succeeds is evident in the number of people now aware and proud of a part of their history once hidden in fear and shame. Those who look to the revised edition of The Melungeons for final and absolute answers will be as disappointed with it as with the original book. However, those people who were intrigued, inspired and challenged will certainly welcome this edition for what it is, the latest instalment in an ongoing search for the lost origins and history of a people now beginning to take their place in the tapestry of America.

The book, *The Melungeons The Resurrection of a Proud People* by N. Brent Kennedy with Robyn Vaughan Kennedy may be ordered directly from the publisher, Mercer University Press, Macon Georgia (1-800-637-2378) or through Clinch Valley College (where all profits go to the Athletic Department - the College telephone

number for orders is 1-800-468-3412; ask for the Athletic Department!).

Melungeon Surnames compared with the Eastern Cherokee Roll Book; Volume I

(part 2, continued from issue #2)

Transcribed by: Patricia A. Hopkins Baldwin

As per N. Brent Kennedy's most common Melungeon Surnames mentioned in his book.

THE MELUNGEONS

*The Resurrection of a Proud People:
An Untold Story of Ethnic Cleansing in America*

Swetland Roll 1869

Prepared by S. H. Swetland as a listing of those Eastern Cherokee, and their decendants, who were listed as remaining in North Carolina by Mullay in 1848. Made pursuant to an act of Congress (1868) for a removal of payment authorization.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>
Cole Caroline	1561	Going David	1536
" Catherine	1558	" Ernee	1539
" Elizabeth Emeline	1562	" Jim	1534
" Elizabeth	1560	" Moses	1538
" Geo. Washington	1563	" Nancy	1535
" William A.	1559	" Sally	1537
Davis Ah Na Ghee	428	Graham William	1481
" Ah Sig Ah Ghee	429	Jackson Alla	1510
" Ah Wheh	430	" Charlotte	1518
" Chi Ah Tee	427	" Col Le Lo Hee	1511
" Isaac	257	" Jenny	1517
" John	258	" Jim	1509
" Will Oh Stee	426	" John	566
" Ih	628	" "	564
" Ih Niecy	632	" "	1515
" Ih Sal Ley	631	" Lizer	1512
" Ih Tah Chun Tih	630	" Nelly	1519
" Ih Tu He Coe	629	" Sally	565
Garland Elizabeth	1586	" Sol Lo Lee Woh	1513
" Elizabeth	1590	" Solla	1514
" Jamie C.	1592	" Wah Tee	1516
" Jessie Lavayette	1588	Robertson Duleena	1637
" Julius Breckenridge	1587	" Mary Ann	1636
" Roxanna	1589	" Wesley	1638
" William Sherman	1591	Shepherd Eliza	1634
Gibson Jane	1622	" Laura	1635

Hester Roll 1883

Compiled by Joseph G. Hester as a roll of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in 1883. (This roll is an excellent source of information, including ancestors, Chapman Roll number, age, English name, and Indian name.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>
Atkins Emmitt D.	2835	Cole Caroline	1528
" James W.	2836	" Elizabeth	1532
" Mary F.	2837	" Ella	1535
" Ruthie L.	2834	" Elmira	1531

Hester Roll 1883 con't

<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll Number</u>
Cole G. Washington	1530	Davis Susan Electree	2381
" Tennessee Emmaline	1529	" Tennessee	2742
" Thomas C.	1533	" Tsaw Cau Hih	47
" William	1536	" Tyler Jefferson	2734
" William Alex	1534	" Will Ste	42
Coleman Addie	2805	" William	2549
" George Washington	989	" "	2726
" Harrison E.	987	" Wm Emory Speare	2523

" William Edward	990	Fields Annie	2723
Collins Charley	2430	" George	2755
" Hampton McAffey	2428	" James	2756
" Ira Jackson	2432	" John	2746
" John Parker	2424	" Ranie	2754
" Loretta	2431	" William	2747
" Marcedus	2427	Gann William Thomas	2781
" Mary	2426	Garland Elizabeth	1518
" Melissa Esther	2429	" "	1521
" Savannah	2425	" Harriett C.	1523
Davis Adeline	2450	" Jesse Lafayette	1519
" Ah Yu Wih	46	" John B.	1526
" Albert	2728	" Josephine	1525
" Alice	2729	" Roseanna	1520
" Amanda	2547	" Sally	1911
" Barilla	2374	" Te Nox Yee	1527
" Barilla Elizabeth	2534	" Tellius B.	1524
" Benjamin	2527	" Wm Sherman	1522
" Biddie	2541	Going Drucilla	2740
" Coleman	2548	" Eliza	2738
" Cynthia	2839	" Ellen	2739
" Daniel Benjamin	2531	" James	1313
" Daniel Jr.	2375	" Wm Henry	2741
" Daniel Sr.	2522	Hall Alice	R33
" David	361	" John	R33
" Delilah Sr.	2546	" Nellie	R33
" Delilah Jr.	2525	" Rachel	R33
" Dock	2532	Hill Abraham	837
" Earle	2537	" Davis	2377
" Elijah	2727	" E Yah Nih	879
" Henry	1251	" Margaret	836
" Jack	2371	" Rachel	2376
" James Madison	1248	" Robert	2378
" James	2838	Jackson	153
" Jane Sophronia	2372	" "	184
" Jesse	2730	" Ah Lih	1042
" John	2731	" Eliza	1046
" John Jr.	2379	" John	638
" John Sr.	2370	" Nih	1024
" John Yes Sih	44	Keith Chs Joel	R37
" Johnson	45	" Florida Ann	R37
" Joseph	2555	" James Gordon	R37
" Joseph Warren	2529	" Mathew	R37
" Julia	2380	" Reuben W Freeman	R37
" Lafayette	2721	" Sissie	R37
" Laura	1250	Martin Barret L.	2667
" Lorenzo Dow	2539	" George	380
" Martin Burrell	2384	" George Ann Oliva	2399
" Mary	43	" Ida Ann	2397
" "	1249	" Margaret Ann	2396
" "	2383	" Lena	2401
" "	2526	" Martha	2666
" Mary Eveline	2530	" Mary G.Franklin	2398
" Mary Jane	2725	" Nellie	379
" Miller	2536	" Octavia	2400
" Nancy Angeline	1247	" Su Yeh Tuh	382
" Nellie D.	2723	" William C.	2668
" Newton Lorenzo	2524	Moor Cynthia Albina	2242
" Ora	2737	" Elizabeth Vell	2269
" Rachel	2382	" Emily Lovely O.	2270
" Robert Lee	2373	" Fella	2268
" Samuel	494	" Mary Emma	2218
" Samuel L.	2722	" Sarah Alice	2241
" Susan	2538	" Sarah L.	2267
" Susan	2528	" Walter Thomas	2219
" "	533	Perry Julia	2566

For more information on the names listed in Volume I: Eastern Cherokee Rolls--Cherokee Roots; please refer to the following address: CHEROKEE NAMES AND FACTS, PO BOX 525, CHEROKEE, N.C. Phone (704)-497-9709 This is a research service with more detailed information on the name you would like searched. There is a \$30.00 fee per person & number on the roll.

Credits:Bob Blankenship; author of Cherokee Roots, Volumes I & II.

(Note: the final part of this series will appear in issue #5)

Fort Caroline: A French Settlement In North America

By
Sherry Bourn

In 1513, Ponce de Leon landed on the northern coast of Florida, and claimed Florida for Spain. There were several failed attempts by Spain to colonize in the ensuing decades, as well as De Soto landing in Tampa Bay and marching through the northern part of Florida in 1539.

In 1562, France decided to challenge Spain's claim and sent an expedition headed by Huguenot Jean Ribaut. Ribaut touched at the St. John's River, then left a small garrison at present day Port Royal Sound South Carolina. Due to religious civil war in France, reinforcements and supplies did not reach the colonists and after much suffering they built a ship and sailed across the Atlantic for home.

When peace again returned, three ships left Havre de Grace in June of 1564, carrying three hundred people; most of them were Huguenots. One hundred ten were sailors, one hundred twenty soldiers and rest were artisans, servants and a few women. There were no farmers in the group. Rene de Laudonniere was the commander. He had been with Ribaut in 1562.

Arriving on the northern coast of Florida, they sailed up the St. John's River a few miles and selected a site on a flat knoll on the river bank. The Indians helped them raise a triangular fort of earth and wood that enclosed several palm-thatched buildings. Smaller structures were built in the meadow outside of the fort. It was named Fort Caroline in honor of the French King Charles IX. The colony was in the country of the Timucua Indians. The local Indians were friendly enough, but they could not get the Indians farther inland to trade the things that the settlers needed.

Within the colony, there was trouble, as people wanted to explore for gold but Laudonniere would not allow it until the settlement was strengthened. By the end of the year, mutineers stole a vessel and sailed south. After taking a Spanish treasure ship and attacking a Cuban hamlet, they were seized by the Spaniards, who now had real evidence of the French colony. That winter, more mutineers captured three Spanish ships, but were soon captured by the Spanish themselves. Some were hung, but 26 escaped and made their ways back to Ft. Caroline where the ringleaders were shot.

During the winter of 1564-65, the Indians as usual, withdrew inland and hunted, until their new crops ripened. Without their help, the French were close to starvation. In desperation, Laudonniere seized Outina, one of the chiefs, for ransom, but after the exchange they were ambushed and lost most of the supplies. They decided to repair a ship and sail for France. Just at that time an English slave trader, John Hawkins entered the St. Johns to replenish his water supply. This gave the French an opportunity to trade cannon and powder for supplies, and for

one of Hawkins' ships. By August 15, they were ready to leave, waiting for a good wind, but before they could set sail a relief fleet led by Ribaut himself arrived with reinforcements, soldiers, gentlemen and artisans with some families. Supplies were put back in the storehouses and there was no more talk of leaving.

On the same day that Ribaut had arrived at Fort Caroline, Pedro Menendez de Aviles, an admiral of Spain was off the coast looking for the French. He had been sent by King Phillip to "drive off corsairs of other nations..." and to explore and colonize the area. Menendez landed at the River of the Dolphins, later to be known as the Matanzas River, for those who know their Spanish. About a week later they arrived at the mouth of the St John's and anchored landward of four French vessels, including Ribaut's flag ship, making it impossible for Ribaut to return to his ship.

That night, the French prepared to set sail and the next morning, they were able to repel the Spanish from boarding and sailed north, outrunning the Spanish. Menendez returned to the St Johns and met unfriendly fire, and thus continued south back to the River of the Dolphins, where he founded St. Augustine on Sept. 8 1565.

Ribaut and Laudonniere disagreed on the next step. Ribaut insisted on sailing for St. Augustine in the face of a brewing storm thus leaving Ft. Caroline virtually undefended. He arrived at the River of the Dolphins and found some of the Spanish fleet there. Menendez was able to reach the shore and the Spanish ships outside the bar set sail for Hispanola. Ribaut was unable to cross into the river and was preparing to sail back north when the storm struck, hurling the ships south, where they wrecked somewhere near present-day Daytona Beach. Meanwhile, Menendez and his men marched north, led by Indians and a French colonist who has lived through the mutinies and pirating of Spanish ships.

They reached the fort at night while the storm was still raging. The French, feeling they would not be attacked in such weather did not have any watches or guards out. The Spanish attacked at dawn. Laudonniere and a few others escaped to the river and were rescued by French sailors, and they immediately sailed for France. Menendez hanged the rest of the French, sparing only the women and children.

Returning to St. Augustine, Menendez learned of the French shipwrecks and found about 500 Frenchmen stranded, after surviving the surf and hostile Indians. The first group of about 140 surrendered after Menendez told them he would "do with them what God should direct". They were brought across the inlet in boats, ten at a time. Most were killed in the dunes of Anastasia Island. Later, on October 10, Ribaut arrived at the inlet and tried to negotiate ransom and safe passage. Menendez would accept only surrender and 200 of the French walked back down the beach taking their chances with the Timucua. The rest, including Ribaut, surrendered. Ribaut was stabbed, run through with a pike and beheaded. Most of those who surrendered did not survive.

When word reached France, there was talk of avenging the Huguenots. Dominique de Gourgues, a captain of the French Army, and of a distinguished Catholic family, decided to "avenge French honor". Telling no one of his plans, he borrowed from friends and sold part of his own belongings to fit out three ships. He gathered one hundred fifty soldiers and eighty marines and set sail for Florida in August of 1567, reaching the St. John's by April 1568. There were small forts on both sides of the mouth of the river and the Spanish, mistaking them for Spanish ships, fired a salute, and the French returned their friendly greeting, and sailed north to the St. Mary's River which is about 20 miles. There they found some of the Timucua chiefs who were by then very displeased with the Spanish.

They agreed to help De Gourgues with an attack on the three river forts. It was estimated there were about four hundred Spanish soldiers garrisoned in the three forts.

They sailed south, back to the St. Johns and attacked the two garrisons at the mouth of the fort, taking them easily. The Indians actually swam across the river to help attack the fort on the south side. Many of the Spanish were killed in these skirmishes. Some tried to run westward toward San Mateo only to be cut off and killed.

De Gourgues moved on to Fort San Mateo, the former Fort Caroline. The Spanish were "greatly astonished" to learn that the garrisons had been taken and the French were knocking on their door. Fire was exchanged and night fell. Before dawn, the French prepared to attack from the south side of the fort, where the moat was, but before they could sixty Spanish soldiers ran out to harass the French and were caught in a crossfire. All were killed, which terrified those left in the fort. Many tried to escape through the woods, becoming targets for the Indians laying in wait. Many turned back around into the arms of the French.

De Gourgues reminded his prisoners of the slaughter of the Huguenots and the Spanish were hanged from the same trees from which they had hung the Huguenots. Before leaving and returning to Spain, the three forts were all destroyed, so they could not be used again.

Five years later, Franciscan missionaries arrived in Florida and began conversion of the Indians, and the Spanish missions were begun, ranging from St. Augustine up the coast beyond Hilton Head.

Fort Caroline is on the fringes of present day Jacksonville. The actual site has been lost due to time and dredging, but a recreation of it stands on a rather surprising high bank of the St. John's. I haven't been there for a number of years but there was a beautiful view. If you don't look too hard, you don't see too much encroachment of modern civilization

Sources:

Mainly taken from: Old Hickory's Town: An Illustrated History of Jacksonville, by James Robertson Ward, also from

encyclopedias and local flyers.

Melungeon Gathering

As national attention has turned to the Melungeon story following the publication of Dr. Brent Kennedy's book, *The Melungeons: Resurrection of a Proud People*, the descendants of Melungeons across the United States have been assembling on the Internet at a variety of home pages and discussion groups. The sharing of information and exploration of research and genealogy data that originated on the Internet have led to plans to hold a first ever gathering of Melungeon descended people and those interested in their history and culture. In what some are calling a "family" meeting, but officially referred to as First Union, the event will be held in the heart of Melungeon country, the town of Wise, in the southwest corner of Virginia on July 25, 26 and 27.

Nationally recognized speakers and workshops are planned for three days in July at Clinch Valley College. Meeting strands include topics on Melungeons, Native Americans, Brass Ankles, Lumbees, Genealogy Research, Grantsmanship, and the formation of a nonprofit foundation to support Melungeon and Appalachian cultural and historical research. Other topics will examine the Tennessee Department of Highway proposal for a Melungeon Heritage Trail, and Kentucky, North Carolina, and West Virginia Melungeon connections.

Dr. Barbara Tracey Langdon of Nebraska will present sessions on the Melungeons in American Literature. Renowned story teller, Linda Goodman will host story sessions, and Dr. Brent Kennedy will present recent research findings at a banquet. Researchers Evelyn Orr and Dr. William Goins will conduct sessions on related regional research findings and the future of Melungeon research.

The public is invited to all functions and to participate in the creation of The Melungeon Heritage Foundation. Accommodations are available in the nearby city of Norton, VA and on the campus of Clinch Valley College. Those attending the first ever gathering of Melungeon descendants and researchers will automatically become charter members of the Melungeon Heritage Foundation. Registration is only \$5.00 per person if mailed before June 15, 1997. After that date, the cost is \$15.00. Banquet events and tours have limited space. Send your check or money order to made out to Mary Goodyear, Treasurer at the address below.

For more information contact one of the following people:
Mary Goodyear, P.O. Box 70, Shauck, Ohio 43349-0070. (kat@mail.bright.net.) **Audie Kennedy**, P.O. Box 1495, Wise, Virginia 24293. (audie2@juno.com.) **Charles Stallard**, 605 Botetourt Gardens, Norfolk, Virginia 23507. (metaphysic@aol.com.)



QUERIES



In past issues I have had a section for letters and a separate one for queries. With this issue I have combined them into one. In some cases, I may have edited your original letter/query but when I did, I tried insure I included all the essential information.

COLLINS, & OTHERS

My lines are COLLINS, SIZEMORE, GOINS, ANDERSON, LYONS, MINOR. These are all from Hawkins and Hancock Co. TN. Some of them grew up on Newmans Ridge. I have traced them back to the early 1800s. I already knew that they fought in the Civil War and otherwise, they had a hard life, some of them including a ggggfather was murdered, they cried, prayed, cursed and were cursed just like every one else, before I found out that they were in the middle of this Melungion thing. They came to Crawford Co. AR about 1870's.

Kathleen O'Kelley

GOIN/ SINNES

Want Help!! Need proof of marriage of THOMAS GOIN and JEMIMIA SINNES. Probably abt 1773, maybe in VA, NC or that part that became TN. Jemimia was the dau of BENJAMIN SINNES who appeared in the 1835 Henderson Roll. Thomas Goin lived in Claiborne Co, TN from it's inception to his death in 1838. In the 1830 Census, Thomas was a single head of household, so Jemimia was dead by then. There was a Jemimia Gowing in an 1810 Court Record in Grainger Co, TN, she was charged with petty larceny, which was dismissed.

Thomas and Jemimia Sinnes Goin's dau, POLLY GOIN mar JACOB COONTZ/COOTS, about 1810 in Claiborne Co, TN. The Coontz family left CC, TN in the mid 1820's. In 1896, Jestern Coots Castoe, dau of Jacob & Polly Goin Coontz/Coots, applied for Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation, she was denied. In the 100 pages of her application is the above information. In the Court Records of CC, TN are

FIELDS & OTHERS

I am the following surnames that may or may not have Mulungeon ties: FIELDS,

references to the Goin and Coontz Families, but no mention to the wives of either man. Any information appreciated.

Dianne Stark Thurman,

HARRIS

Alfred Harris enlisted in the regular US army in North Carolina in 1810 and served for 5 years. The company descriptive role gives his color as "yellow" which I understand is another way of saying mulatto. I know little of him until he appears in Knox Co. when he started living with Martha "Patsey" German about 1832. They lived in Roane Co., TN until after 1850. The 1840 census shows the entire family is free colored except for one white woman which would be Patsey. They drifted briefly into Morgan Co. TN, but by 1858 were in Overton Co., TN. Patsey claimed that Alfred was the son of a white woman and an Indian, and she described him as a colored man with straight hair who was never a slave. Neighbors described him as "Portugese or some other mixed race." People who remember their grandchildren call them Melungeons. So I don't know if Alfred Harris was really a Melungeon or if the term has just been applied to him and his offspring by people who call any mixed race person a Melungeon. Oddly, no matter where Alfred and Patsey went, people knew they were not married and identified their children by their mother's name - German. Can anyone identify Alfred Harris as a true Melungeon?

John German

SEXTON / MOORE / WHEATLEY / SKEEN

Looking for information on the following people. Solomon SEXTON & Susie May Moore, 1830 Scott Co. VA

COLLINS, STEELE, BLANKENSHIP, COOPER, DALTON, ADAMS ADKINS to name a few.

Darla Ludi

Hatler H. SEXTON (1832-1914) Solomon marries 2nd Loucinda, 1850 Letcher Co. KY 1850 Hancock Co. TN 1860 Letcher Co. KY William & Nancy (Moore) Sexton, Tabitha B. SEXTON (1834-1918) 1831 Scott Co. VA> 1850-? Letcher Co. KY Elisha SEXTON & Tabitha, Sampson SEXTON & Catherine "Catey" Long, Robert Benjamin SEXTON (1831-1864) & Amanda "Nancy" WHEATLEY (1839-?), Sarah Catherine SEXTON (1854-1924) Scott and Wise Counties, VA Hatler H. SEXTON marries Tabitha B. SEXTON they have a son... James M. SEXTON (1854-1946) marries Sarah C. SEXTON 1879 in Wise Co. VA, their son Milton B. (1892-1917) marries Nannie B. SKEEN. I am waiting for information on Hatler H. and Robert B. from the National Archives and the Library of Virginia. Both served with the CSA during the Civil War.

Dianne C. Peterson

SIZEMORE/BOWLING

I am forever looking for the parents and siblings of Harmon SIZEMORE b. abt 1806 TN. Harmon married 1874 in Perry County, Kentucky to Susan SIZEMORE b. 1816 Clay County, KY. Susan was the dau of John "Rockhouse" SIZEMORE and Nancy BOWLING.

Nancy Tarver Schlegel

BOWLIN / HALL

Seeking parents etc. of William BOWLING b. 1822 Lee Co. VA, m. 1840 Cynthia HALL b. 1825. They lived in Lee Co. VA. William & younger brother John were probably descendants of William BOWLING (1740s-1820s) and Ann --- (1749-1853).

Carol Botteron,

CLINE/MULLINS

Seeking info on the two families of my g-g-grandmother Clarissa "Claary" Cline born July 1852. Wyoming Co. WV area.

Clary had at least three children before marriage: my g-grandmother, Amanda Victoria Cline b. 1881 Pineville WV, Martha Cline b ca. 1867 and Nancy Isabelle Cline b. 1878. In 1891 Clary m. William Mullins at the home of her father Peter Cline in Wyoming Co. WV Clary and William had four sons between 1893 and 1899: Niel, Milton, Walter and Benjamin Mullins. I am most eager to exchange information with descendants of either of Clary's families and would very much like to know who fathered her first three children. Who was my g-g-grandfather??

Sandra Lake Lassen

COLLINS//VEST/GARNER

Was my mysterious g-g- grandfather a handsome blue-eyed Irishman or a handsome dark eyed Melungeon??? His surname was Collins and he fathered my g-grandfather David Crockett Collins with my g-grandmother, Melinda Francis Vest on 13 Dec. 1876 in Giles County, VA when "Melindy" was only 15. Family lore describes Mr. Collins as "an Irish or British immigrant" who died

before David's birth. Little David lived with his grandparents, William and Mary Vest and was called a "nephew" in the Giles Co. Census. At that time his mother was bording with another family. David was Melindy's only child although she did later marry Joseph J. Garner. David Collins (later Garner) lived most of his adult life in McDowell Co. VA. But who was his father Mr. Collins???

Sandra Lake Lassen

BINGHAM / PHIPPS

For over 10 years I have been looking for anything on John A. Bingham and his wife Deborah Phipps. John died sometime before 1820 in Claiborne Co. TN but was taken to Calloway KY (present Bell Co.) To be buried. There is a family tradition of Cherokee ancestry and references to Black Dutch. In 1808 Joshua Bingham first appears in Knox Co. KY In Dec. 1811 he married Mary DePriest in Claiborne Co. TN at the home of William McCarol, his wife's uncle.

Steve Bingham.

COLLINS

I am trying to find my ancestors who came from the Carolinas and Tennessee about 1840. They were named Collins but were from the Cherokee people. The oldest names I have are Ira and Patsy Collins. They had two daughters, Peggy and Francis. Peggy was my g-grandmother b. 1834, d. 1932. I'm reading all I can about the Melungeons as I believe my ancestors are Melungeon.

Carl David Collins

ARMSTRONG & OTHERS

I am searching for ANY information on the following surnames. If you are researching these, and then I will be glad to discuss details. The surnames are: Armstrong, Bourn, Brewer Brundage/, Case , Cout, Craft, Chain, Dunn , Eady, Foster, Goins, Hall, King, May, McLeod, Pickering, Sanders, Sartin, Tullos, Watts, Webb, Whitehead, Wayland.

Barbara (Patchez) Wyland