THE MELSON FAMILY
IN
AMERICA

With special emphasis on the John-John-Daniel-Daniel-Benjamin-Sampson branch
that originated on the Eastern Shore of the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia Peninsula

Lewis B. Melson
1928 Pendennis Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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1996
OUR BRANCH OF
THE MELSONS IN AMERICA

JOHN MELSON - ELIZABETH PAINTER
ENGLAND & ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA.
c1645-17?? c1648-17??

JOHN MELSON JR. - MARY SMITH
ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA.
c1676-1736 c1677-1743

 DANIEL MELSON - MARY CARY
WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
c1707-1791 c1710-1791+

 DANIEL MELSON JR. - LOVEY CANNON
WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
c1725-1798 c1740-1798+

 BENJAMIN MELSON - EMELIA (MILLEY) GORDY
WORCESTER COUNTY, MD, & SHELBY COUNTY, MO.
1777-1842 1780-1858

SAMPSON DAVIS MELSON - JULIANN ELIZABETH CATHERINE JONES
SHELBY COUNTY, MO, & MARION COUNTY, OREGON
1817-1894 1824-1895

JAMES ASBURY MELSON - MARY AMANDA GIBSON
SHELBY COUNTY, MO. & MARION COUNTY, OR.
1843-1906 1860-1940

SAMSON LEROY (ROY S.) MELSON - HATTIE ETTA WELCH
MARION COUNTY, OR.
1883-1955 1889-1973

LEWIS BYRON MELSON - MARY KATHERINE MELTON
ANNAPOLIS, MD.
1914- 1914-1996

LEWIS BYRON MELSON JR. - KATHERINE DEANE CRADDOCK
EUGENE, OR.
1945-1983 1948-

CHRISTOPHER LEWIS MELSON -
EUGENE, OR. & ANNAPOLIS, MD.
1968-
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SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND
17TH CENTURY

HUNDREDS
1. WICOMICO
2. MONIE
3. MANOKIN
4. ANNAMESSEX

SCALE NOT EXACT
INTRODUCTION

Florence Wilson Bessac whetted my interest in the background of the Melson Family and its related lines in 1939. In a sprightly letter written at the time of my selection for promotion to CAPTAIN, U.S. NAVY, she remarked assignment to duty at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia placed me near the homes of the earliest known members of the family. This fact, and the discovery on a map of the location of the small community of Melson, MD., started me on the long road of tracing our ancestors and learning as much as possible about them, who they were, where they lived and what they did. Florence graciously sent me a copy of the information she had received from her grandmother, Matilda Melson Wilson, together with the names of two east coast cousins, Mrs. Mirian Melson Strack and her daughter, Miss Anne Melson Stommel. These cousins gladly permitted me to study their records. From the voluminous information that formed the basis for my records, the assembly of the supplemental information that eventually tied our lines to the first members of the family to arrive in America got underway.

In pursuing the trails of our ancestors, I regretted I was unable to supplement what Florence Bessac, Marian Strack and Anne Stommel provided with the recollections of my parents, grandparents and great-aunts. As a child, I recall having heard Great-Aunts 'Nervy', 'Tilly', and 'Josie' tell about their childhoods in Missouri and the slow tiresome crossing of the plains and mountains to Oregon in 1864 in a covered wagon. Grandmother Melson spoke of the friendship her parents had with Abraham Lincoln in Petersburg, Illinois, and Grandfather Noah Welch told of his youth in south-eastern Ohio, Alas, none of us other than Florence thought then to write down these tales and reminiscences. Florence had inveigled her grandmother to chart her ancestry back through Daniel Melson Junior. This chart drawn on a piece of brown wrapping paper on her grandmother's kitchen floor permitted us to tie what she had drawn with the information passed along to Marian Melson Strack by her father. Without the valuable information lost when time stilled the voices of my parents, grandparents and other relatives, the trail in ultimately tracing the generations took many long years of effort.

Thanks to the records of Florence, Marian and Anne together with the assistance of many more relatives and other with whom I corresponded over the years, the history of the Melson Family gradually emerged. Without the unstinting assistance of these dedicated contributors, this account could never have been written. Regrettfully gaps remain in our knowledge of our ancestors that cry out to be filled. To my intense disappointment, we have been unable to determine exactly from where they lived in England before emigrating to the New World, and what were the forces that impelled their so doing. Through the research of Mr. John D. Melsom, Framlingham, Suffolk, England, we know about the settlement of Melsonby, North Riding, Yorkshire and its founder. Obviously, our ancestors emigrated to this country during the formative years of its earliest settlements to begin better lives. The first Melson (Mellson) known to have landed, did so in 1650, barely forty years after the first settlements were made.

Basically farmers and planters during those early years in Colonial America, they moved quietly through the pages of history. Infrequent glimpses...
of them are to be found in the archives retained in the Eastern Shore Courthouses, and the Halls of Record of the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. For almost two centuries, they accumulated land, seldom selling, passing these acres onto their sons. After the American Revolution, some were swept up in the unrest that sent thousands to the south and to the west of the original colonies. These migrations continued until the shores of the Pacific Ocean were reached and the vast interior of the continent had been filled. It was not until our generation that descendants of these earlier pioneers reversed the flow and again saw the Atlantic Ocean. It will be interesting to know what the future holds for our descendants.

In addition to the help I received from Mrs. Eugene P. (Florence Wilson) Bessac, Riverbank, CA; Mrs. Henry D. (Marian Melson) Strack, and her daughter, Miss Anne Melson Stommel, Red Bank, NJ; I am deeply indebted to all the cousins and friends who have cheerfully permitted me to use their records in assembling what we now know about the Melson and allied families. Among these are John D. Melson, Framlingham, Suffolk, England; Leamon Ackley Melson Jr., Williamsburg, VA; Mr. and Mrs. Matthew B. Gordy, Houston, TX; Mrs. T. Moore Holcombe IV (M. Catherine Downing), Milford, DE; Dr. Harry Robert Glahn, Falls Church, VA; Mr. Frank Baker Melson, Arlington, VA; Mr. Alfred Vaughn Melson, Berlin, MD; my sisters Mrs. Courtney (Ruth Melson) Duncanson and Mrs. Ewald D. (Evelyn Melson) Franz, Keizer, OR for their assistance in researching the Melson family.

For the Welch and Hare families, in addition to the treasured records of my mother, Mrs. Roy S. (Etta Welch) Melson and her mother Mrs. Noah (Alverda Hare) Welch of Salem, OR., I wish to thank Mrs. Charles (Cora Nist) Sappingfield, Salem, OR. and her brother Col. Cecil Nist, USARET, Bradenton, FL. and Mrs. Lawrence (Eva) Sheets, Glasco, KA.

Mrs. Guy M. (Margaret Eva Melton) Austin, St. Marys, GA; Mrs. Lucy Fortune Ellis, Bostic, NC, and Mrs. Wes (Grace Fortune) Banse, Manasquan, NJ for their information about the Melton, McFarland and Fortune families.

Although we may never learn exactly where in Britain the first Melsons lived before landing on North American shores, it is my hope eventually someone will locate the missing information needed to establish this fact together with more about their lives in England before emigrating to these shores.

Assembling the information needed to piece together the story of our and our allied families over the past three decades has been a challenge. Now that what we know has been assembled, I trust this will clear the way for future travelers along the genealogical trails to contribute to their furthering the knowledge of this story.
CHAPTER ONE

THE ORIGINS OF THE FAMILY

The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames lists four classes for the origins of names, especially those of British descent: first-names, place-names, occupational-names, and nicknames. The name "Melson" originated from a first-name that became a place-name, which after modifications emerged as our surname, "Melson." The place-name was for a small community on Gatherly Moor, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, England. The founding of this village was, according to Cameron (Ref. 1), an excellent example of the transfer of an Irish personal name to that of a place-name. In c883, a Viking of Danish descent, who had then been living in Ireland, named Maelsuithan, emigrated to England, ultimately settling on Gatherly Moor. His emigration was traced by Mr. John D. Melsom, Framlingham, Suffolk, England. This settlement became known as "Maelsuithansby." In Viking Danish, this meant "Maelsuithan's place or farm." (Ref. 2). As the years passed, pronunciations and a lack of standard spelling of such names by Clerks trained only to write in Latin, modified "Maelsuithansby" through variations such as Malshamebi, Malshamby, Melsham to Melsonby. This form has been used since the Thirteenth Century for the village. At the time of the Great Census decreed by King William The Conqueror, and known as the Domeday Book, taken in 1087, the village was listed as "Malshenebi." It then had a church and a resident priest, see pages 11-36 through 11-41. An example of 1087 Anglized Latin is shown on page 11-39. By the Twelfth Century, the family holding Melsonby had adopted its name as the family name. Thusly, Melson, which started as a first-name, then transferred to a place-name, modified by time and spelling was finally a recognized family name. The suffix "by" was dropped. One member, Sir Simon de Melsonby, was honored as a founder of the present Norman style Church of St. James The Great. The construction began in 1153, and was completed two centuries later. It replaced an earlier Anglo-Saxon church that lay to the west. A stone effigy of Sir Simon is exhibited in the South Chapel.

None of the existing church records, which date back only to 1680, list any Melsons. None of the tombstones in its graveyard show any Melsons. This is not surprising, as other research shows the family as located elsewhere. A Hugh Melson is shown in the records of the Mormon Church Genealogical Library to have been in London in 1256. These same records show Melsons in Lincolnshire in the 1500's. This county lies south of Yorkshire and east of Nottinghamshire between River Humber and The Wash on the North Sea. The Lincolnshire records list besides those names Melson, families named Melshambie, Melshamby, Melsonbie, and Melsonby. These spellings indicate Melsonby, Yorkshire was the ancestral home. The vagaries of medieval spellings were many as shown in the name forms listed on pages 11-87 and 11-88.

Melsonby lies north of Richmond, southwest of Darlington, County Durham, and one mile west of the intersection of British Highway Routes A1(M1) and A66 near Barton. The twisting lanes from this busy intersection wanders between fields lined with hedgerows and stone walls on a roadbed sunken below the level of the adjacent fields after centuries of use on into the small community. Once within the village, on the north side of a small stream stands the Church of St. James the Great on a small knoll overlooking the village. Typically an agricultural community, today it sustains itself with farms raising livestock and such grains as oats and barley.
Barton, the adjacent town to Melsonby, which sits astride the A1(M1) & A66 highways was named for its principal occupation. In Old English, "beretun" meant "barley farm."

Coincidentally, my wife's maiden name "Melton" is also old Yorkshire. At first glance, it was appear her name came from the same source as mine, "Mel(1)" with the suffix of "ton" appended. Not necessarily so, "The Story of ENGLISH" (Ref. 3) in reviewing how the English language originated gave as an example of how the melding of the Old Norse and Old English tongues changed Old English "Middletoun" into Scandanavian "Meddleton" and finally "Melton."

Unless a family with historic roots in England is fortunate enough to trace its ancestors through the nobility or prominent members, it is difficult to obtain valid information earlier than 1680. Since that date, all parishes have maintained complete records of births, marriages and deaths, as ordered by Oliver Cromwell. Before that time, census and tax rolls (this term sprang from the practice of using sheepskin hides for recording information, then these hides were 'rolled' for storage) were prepared, but only approved persons were permitted to inspect them. The Clerks listed those taxed. They wrote in the then current form of Latin with spellings of names easily varying widely from reality. Most people then other than the Clerks could not read or write and had no idea how their names were spelled when entered on those rolls. These sheepskin rolls were stored in the local parishes before 1680. After that, the parish rolls were transferred to a common public storage, Somerset House. Over the years, those older rolls were lost, destroyed by fire and rot, or misplaced. Today only approved genealogists are permitted to examine those remaining and few have been rewritten for public use. Many rolls were lost during the bombings during World War II. A typical example is the fate of those stored in the central parishes of Birmingham. An old family tale hinted the possibility of our ancestors living in Birmingham before emigrating to the colonies. On a visit to Birmingham in 1976, I attempted to locate such records only to find all records from the 40 central parishes were lost in the firestorms that engulfed the city from WWII bombings.

The name "Melson" is not unique to England. On the European continent, the name is found throughout Germany and Scandanavia in the form "Melson" and variants such as "Melsen" "Melensen," and "Melsom." It is doubtful in the European form "Melson" developed from the same root name "Maelsuithan" that ours did. A more likely choice would have been from the old word "Halle" meaning "hammer" or "mace." One such version is found in Normandy as "Mallet."

In European telephone books in the 1970's, I counted twenty listings for Melsens both in Copenhagen, Denmark, and in Kiel, Germany. In addition both cities had numerous Melsens. Although records exist of Melsens emigrating from Norway to the United States, I was unable to locate any families with the names of "Melson" or "Melsom" in Oslo, Trondheim, Tromso, or Stavanger. In Sweden, neither the telephone books of Stockholm or Gotaborg listed any customers with those names, although numerous "Melsens" were shown.

Further research might develop additional roots for the present spelling of Melson. One such example might come from the Anglo-Saxon word "myln" or "mill." Whatever the original source name might have been, we are certain the first emigrants so named arrived on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in the middle 1600's.

St. James The Great, cl100, Melsonby, Yorkshire, Eng
1 Mar. 1974

Interior St. James The Great, Melsonby, Yorkshire, England
References to CHAPTER ONE

CHAPTER TWO

THE FIRST MELSONS IN AMERICA

James Mellson, transported, 1650 was the first Melson in the colonies (Ref. 1). He is mentioned once more. In 1664, he sold a warrant for 350 acres to a John Edmundson in Somerset County, MD. (Ref. 2). There is no further information about him.

The first mention of our line is found in "CERTIFICATES AND RIGHTS, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1663-1709," Stratton Nottingham, Gen. Pub. Co., Balt., 1977. "16 Feb. 1663/4 A Certificate is granted to John Renny for one hundred Acres of Land due p. Rights underwritten viz: Edward Whitehill, Elizabeth Penter." She, of course, was Elizabeth Painter, who married John Melson. It is not known exactly when Renny brought John Melson to Virginia, but 1665 would be a logical estimate. The next entry is found in Somerset County, MD. Judicia Liber AZ #8 folio 43 announcing the publication of banns for John Melson and Elizabeth Painter, 9 Jan. 1671/2. On 4 April 1672, John and Elizabeth were married at the Rehoboth Plantation, just south of Pocomoke, Somerset County, MD., by Robert Maddox, Clarke (Pastor) (Ref. 3).

Both were mentioned again in Maryland Land Records 1670-1673 folio 530, "Came John Renny of Somerset County and proved his right in Three Hundred acres of Land to him for transporting John Renny Mary Renny John Melson, Elizabeth Melson Henry Allen and Warren Day to this Province in Inhabit Somerset County in the Province of Maryland planter for and in consideration to me in hand paid & do Assigne Sell and Set over and by these presents have Signed sold and made over to John Baker of St. Mary's County all my Rights Title and Interest in these Rights following John Renny Mary Renny John Melson, Elizabeth Melson Henry Allen Warren Day which I did transport into the Province here to Inhabit In Witness whereof I have here unto set my hand & Seale this 12th. day of June 1672 Signed Sealed & Delivered in the presence of us.

Tho. Taylor & John Betts

John Renny had himself been transported into Virginia along with William Willett by Charles Scarburgh as Headrights May 10, 1652. Once released from his indenture, he purchased land in Accomack County, 400 acres on Muddy Creek Jan. 10, 1662, a second Patent for another 400 acres again on Muddy Creek, Feb. 13, 1663, and 500 acres patented Sep. 10, 1664 on Crooked Creek. That same year he sold 200 acres on Muddy Creek to William Wallis.

John Melson must have completed his indenture to Renny by the time he and Elizabeth Painter were married. After their marriage, they remained in Maryland. John was mentioned in the Inventory for James Williams of Calvert County, Maryland on Jun. 23, 1683 (Ref. 12). However, they were back in Accomack County, VA. soon afterwards, as he was listed on its Tax Lists for the Years of 1675-1687 (Ref. 4).

John and Elizabeth Painter Melson had three known children (Ref. 6); Samuel Melson, John Melson Jr., and Joseph Melson. All appear to have been born in Accomack County, VA. In 1694, a deed dated Oct. 19, 1694 and filed in the Accomack County Clerk's Office by Robert Atkins reads, "to my loving God-son, Samuel Melson, son of John Melson, formerly of aforesaid County, gift of cattle." (Ref. 6). This deed indicates Samuel Melson left Accomack County, VA. He would have been twenty years old, he settled in Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, MD, becoming a prominent plantation owner. His line will be traced in Chapter Seven.

John Melson Jr., the second son, remained in Accomack County, VA. He married Mary Smith, a daughter of Joshua and Margaret Smith. In 1702, he purchased 50 acres of land from Jeremiah and Sarah Cary, that was northwest of William Willet's mill in Tract 99 on Hunting Creek.
The lands first occupied by the colonists in the so-called Middle Colonies of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia between the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay were heavily wooded low-lying sandy loam soiled coastal plains. The Swedes, Dutch and English squabbled over the northern portion that ultimately became Delaware. The mid-portion was awarded Lord Calvert by the British Crown, with the southern section included in the Virginia Corporation's grant again from the British Crown. All three colonies had overlapping boundaries and long and bitter legal battles lasting more than a century resulted before the presently known boundaries for the states emerging from the former colonies were determined.

In the Virginia eastern shore portion, the original county erected was Northampton County in 1634. The influx of settlers soon demanded the formation of a second county to handle the growing number of plantations in the northern half of the peninsula. This division occurred in 1662, when the second county was formed and called Accomack, after the original Indian name for the region. The first land granted above present day Onancock was in 1656 to Tabitha and Matilda Scarburgh for 10,000 acres. Once Accomack County was a reality, patents for additional lands abutting onto the north of the Scarburgh grant were made and designated A86 through A118. These tracts were north of Tasley and Accomack Court House up to Bloxom extending in a band crossing the county from west to east. A more complete description of the patenting of these lands may be found in Ralph T. Whitelaw's "Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties" Ralph T. Whitelaw, Onancock, VA. In this reference may be found:

A100

In 1664, a patent was given to John Cary for 400 acres. In 1696, he left 100 acres to his son Jeremiah and the home part balance to his son Solomon. In 1702, Jeremiah and Sarah Cary sold 50 acres to John Melson, who in 1737 (wife Mary) left to his son John. John Melson made no disposition of his wife's own inherited land, although he mentioned other sons, Daniel, Joshua and Smith. The next year, the widow gave 60 acres of her land to her son John for her life. In 1744, Mary Melson bequeathed the 60 acres to John and left the balance of her land to her son, Smith, her son Joshua may have died, as he was not mentioned in her will. John Melson died intestate and was succeeded by a son Solomon, who in 1774 left a home place of 50 acres to his son Isaac and a place of 60 acres to his son Daniel. Solomon's acquisition of the 50 acres is not noted nor how it went from Isaac to Daniel, but in a later survey of adjacent land, it then belonged to Daniel and formed the northeast corner of this tract just south of the 46 acres of land he had obtained from Thomas Bayly, which resulted in the latter owning the western half of the tract and Daniel and Smith Melson between them, the eastern half.

A survey of Smith Melson's land showed he owned 120½ acres in the southeast corner of the tract and in 1796 (wife Betty) he left to his son Smith.

A98

In 1666 patent to Richard Hill for 1000 acres; it was an inland neck between the two head-branches of Hunting Creek and it was called Drake's Neck, in honor of the maiden name of his wife. In 1694, Hill (wife Mary) bequeathed it as follows: to his grandson Francis Ayres, the 200 acres at the northwest end of the neck in the fork of the branches; to his grandson Drake Drummond, the next 300 acres in the northeast corner; and to his grandson John Ayres, 200 acres in the southeast corner.
Hunting Creek area of Accomack County, from Ralph T. Whitelaw's *The Eastern Shore*. The patent designations are from Whitelaw.

Tracts 98, 99, 100 and 101 showing Hunting Creek, now Coards Branch and the lands of John Melson Jr. & Sr, Joseph Melson, John Cary, and Joshua Smith. Tracts 98 and 100 are bisected by VA.Rt 316 and Conrail. (Reference "THE WILLETT FAMILY, VOL.II, William Willett, 1987"
John Ayres Part

1699, John and Abigail Ayres sold as 188 acres to George Middleton. In 1715, he deeded it to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Joseph Melson, but with the proviso their oldest son would inherit half of it. 1747, although his father, Joseph, was still living, Middleton Melson sold 100 acres to Joseph Middleton Melson, son of Joseph, who thus would have been his brother. The deed stated it was the land left to him by his grandfather, George Middleton.

1749, Joseph M. and Elizabeth Melson sold 50 acres to Henry Milliner, and the balance of 44 acres the next year.

1751, Joseph Melson (his first wife had been the above Elizabeth Middleton, but she died and his widow at this time was an Ann) left the other 100 acres to a son, George Melson, who died intestate in 1781.

William Abraham Part

William Abraham arrived in Virginia in 1637 (Ref. 10) on TRISTRAM or JANE. 1672, he and his wife, Mary, resold to Joshua Smith, who in 1683 (wife Margaret, a daughter of William and Mary Abraham) left the 200 acre plantation to his sons, John and Joshua. His will also mentioned a daughter, Mary. No more is recorded about the sons and later records indicated both had died and that Mary inherited the land and married John Melson.

These tracts of land in Accomack County, VA, were clustered along Hunting Creek, which flowed into the Chesapeake Bay. William Willett, whose home plantation was in sector A101, constructed mill ponds along the branches of the Creek purchasing lands to enlarge the mill ponds from John Cary and George Middleton in A98, A99, and A100 including portions of Francis Ayres tract in the Drakes Neck area. The lower mill was along today’s road #661 near its intersection with road #658. Hunting Creek is shown today as Coards Branch.

No records have been located telling us when either John I and Elizabeth Painter Melson died or where. John II inherited the lands and acquired more land in the Hunting Creek area. He married Mary Smith, the daughter of Joshua and Margaret Abraham Smith. John Melson II is shown on the Accomack County Rent Rolls of 1704 as possessing 180 acres (Ref. 7). He had purchased 50 acres from Jeremiah and Sarah Cary in 1702 (Ref. 8). John II drew his will 30 Dec. 1736, it was filed for probate 3 Aug. 1737 (Ref. 9). In this will, he, as abstracted, bequeathed:

<table>
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<th>to son</th>
<th>John Melson</th>
<th>land where he now lives known by the name of Hunting Creek, 50 acres.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td>Elizabeth Lewis</td>
<td>1 shilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td>Mary Elliott</td>
<td>1 shilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>son</td>
<td>Daniel Melson</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td>Adah Gunter</td>
<td>1 shilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>son</td>
<td>Joshua Melson</td>
<td>1 shilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td>Tabitha Cary</td>
<td>1 shilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>son</td>
<td>Smith Melson</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dau</td>
<td>Abigail Melson</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>balance of estate during her widowhood, then to my children who are not named.</td>
</tr>
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Wife exec. at the death of my wife, Tobias Bull, Roger Abbott, John Simpson and Thomas Riley to divide estate.

Witt: Robert Caldwell, Henry White, Sarah White.
Mary Smith Melson, the widow of John Melson, did not survive her husband by many years. John had not included her properties in his will, leaving it for her disposition. She drew her will Feb. 1, 1739/40, it was filed for probate Feb. 28, 1743/44. In this will, she bequeathed:

"to son Smith Melson plantation where I now live and for want of heirs to my grandson Daniel Melson.

son John Melson forever the land I have given him to use for my lifetime.

my three daughters that are now single, to have the use of the plantation, where I now live until they are married.


In order of probate - John Melson, heir at law." (Ref. 9).

Mary Smith Melson's will ignored two sons, Daniel, who had moved to Somerset County, MD., Joshua, and four married daughters: Elizabeth Lewis, Mary Elliott, Adah Gunter, and Tabitha Cary. Abigail Melson and two additional daughters, not named, were granted permission to live at home until married. Joshua Melson, like Daniel, had left home. In 1738, he purchased 50 acres in the tract A174. His wife's name was Mary, see (Ref. 11). His mother's will suggested her son, Smith, was not married at the time of her death, and that her grandson, Daniel Melson, who was a son of her second oldest son, Daniel Melson, who'll be reviewed later as Daniel II, was named as alternate heir for her plantation, the lands she had inherited from her parents. Smith Melson later married and had heirs, so the alternate stipulation was never invoked.

Joseph Melson, the third and youngest son of John and Elizabeth Painter Melson, was born c. 1678, in Accomack County, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Middleton, the daughter of George and Bridget Mackwilliams Middleton. Joseph and Elizabeth Middleton Melson farmed in the Hunting Creek area of the county. They were married about 1700. Their two sons were: Middleton Melson, born c. 1701, and Joseph Middleton Melson, born c. 1703. George Middleton had, as shown on the previous page, deeded to his daughter and her husband, 188 acres, with their oldest son to inherit half of it. Middleton Melson sold his share of the land to his younger brother, Joseph M. Melson in 1747, while his father was still alive. Joseph died in 1751. Elizabeth had died years earlier, and he had remarried as his will listed his wife as Ann.

Of the three sons of John and Elizabeth Melson, who had been transported into the American colonies by 1672 by John Rennie (Renney) and had established themselves in Accomack County, Virginia, Samuel had settled in Somerset County, Maryland; John Jr., who married Mary Smith, had become a substantial planter in Accomack County, Virginia, as had Joseph Melson. The families of both Samuel and Joseph will be traced in Chapter Seven. The line for Daniel Melson, the second son of John Melson Jr., will be traced in the following chapter.

In collecting the information about the first Melsons in North America, on May 21, 1961, I visited Mrs. Mary Esther Pederson, 36 Haughton Lane, Newport News, VA. Mrs. Pederson was a Melson. During our conversation, she said there was an old family story about two Melson brothers who had emigrated from England to Virginia. She could not recall just when this occurred. She did mention a Melson cousin, Mrs. Martha Melson Finch, whose parents had sold the lands in Newport News to Collis Huntington for the construction of the Newport News Shipbuilding Corporation, and who still owned large tracts of land in downtown Newport News. Mrs. Finch had become interested in her Melson lineage and had had it traced back into England and Norway. When I asked if I could meet Mrs. Finch to learn more about our family, she said she doubted if this was possible.
Finch was then gravely ill. This statement was borne out when I read in the papers the following morning her obituary. I requested her sons to permit me to review her family records, but never received any reply to this request. Whatever she had learned about the origins of the Melsons was never revealed.
References to CHAPTER TWO

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   CO. BALTIMORE, 1968.
2. MHR "SOMERSET COUNTY GENERAL INDEX TO WARRANTS & ASSIGNMENTS, EARLIEST –
   168," LIBER 7 TRANSCRIBED FROM OLD LIBER CC FOLIO 88.
3. MHS "SOMERSET COUNTY LIBER I KL, BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, 1600-1720,"
   EARL BRODIE, POLK, 1908, PAGE 110, AND, "OLD SOMERSET OF THE EASTERN SHORE
   OF MARYLAND," CLAYTON TORRENCE, 1935, REPRINTED BY REGIONAL PUBL. CO.,
   BALTIMORE, MD. 1966, PAGE 366.
4. "ACCOMACK COUNTY TITHABLES (TAX LISTS), 1663-1695, STRATTON NOTTINGHAM,
   ONANCOCK, VA. 1931.
5. MHS "CALVERT PAPERS, INDEX TO TAX ROLLS, SOMERSET COUNTY, LIBER 22 FOLIO 360,
   VA, c1938, ON FILE AT THE ACCOMACK COUNTY LIBRARY, ACCOMACK, VA.
6. "ACCOMACK GENEALOGY, UNPUBLISHED PAPERS OF MARK LEWIS, ONANCOCK, VA.
   ON FILE AT THE ACCOMACK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACCOMACK, VA.
7. "ENGLISH DUPLICATES OF LOST VIRGINIA RECORDS," LOUIS DE COGNETS, JR.
   PRINCETON, NJ, PAGE 125.
8. "GRANTEE INDEX TO DEEDS, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA FROM 1663-1799.
9. "WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA," STRATTON
   NOTTINGHAM, ONANCOCK, VA., 1931, PAGE 115.
10. "PASSENGER & IMMIGRATION LISTS INDEX, 1983 SUPP." FILBY & MEYER, GALE
    RESEARCH CO., DETROIT, MI. PAGE 2 "WILLIAM ABRAHAM, VIRGINIA, 1637, SEE
    HIDEN "ACCOMPTS OF THE TRISTRAM AND JANE."
11. "VIRGINIA’S EASTERN SHORE," RALPH T WHITELAW, ONANCOCK, VA., VIRGINIA
    HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RICHMOND, VA. VOLUME 2 PAGE 1333. 1951.
12. MHS "CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES WILLIAMS,
    APPRAISED JUN. 25, 1683."
CHAPTER THREE

Daniel Melson I, the second son of John Melson Jr and Mary Smith of Accomack County, VA, was mentioned in his father's will, but was not bequeathed any land. He had emigrated earlier to the Wicomico Hundred, Somerset County, MD, where his name first appeared on the Tax List in 1735 (Ref. 25). This was on the northern border of the county. The Lords Baltimore were then offering attractive rates for settlers to open those lands to bolster their colony's boundary claim. This overlapped that of the Penns. The Baltimores claimed all lands south of Indian River from the Atlantic westwards through present day Millsboro and Seaford before swinging northwards to intersect the Penns claim near New Castle, DE. (see page 11-9). The Wicomico Hundred became a part of Worcester County, MD, in 1743.

The first patent in Daniel's name on file in Maryland Records was for a tract named "GOOD HOPE" laying next to his "old field". The Patent was signed by the Lord Commissioner in 1745, but backdated to June 14, 1743, the date the Warrant for the tract was issued (Ref. 1). From here on, he'll be listed as Daniel I to distinguish him from his son, Daniel Jr. or II and his grandson, Daniel III as all were alive at the same time. The location of Daniel I's "old field" and GOOD HOPE are fixed by a fortunate circumstance that occurred during the survey of the final boundary between Maryland and Delaware westwards from its origin on Fenwick Island on the Atlantic coast to the Middle Point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. In 1751, the Maryland-Pennsylvania Survey Party established the location of the Twenty-Five (25) Mile Post and set that marker on 21 May 1751. The location of this marker was referenced by the chimney of a house that sat 500 feet directly north of the marker. This house belonged to Daniel Melson I. Today this location is in a field at the intersection of Peppermill Road in Delaware/Rum Ridge Road in Maryland and MD/DE Highway #54, at a point three miles east of where Hwy 54 crosses US13 at Delmar, MD/DE. This location placed Daniel I's residence in what became Sussex County, DE, when the survey determining the boundary between Delaware and Maryland was approved in 1773 and adjusted in 1776.

Daniel Melson I was born in Accomack County, Virginia, c1700-1707. He married Mary Cary, a daughter of Solomon Cary. Solomon Cary was a son of Jeremiah Cary and a grandson of the John and Elizabeth Cary who settled in 1664 on tract A100, see page 2-2, a portion of this tract later becoming the home of John Melson Jr. and his wife Mary Smith. Daniel I and Mary Cary Melson had three children, all born in Accomack County, Virginia. These were; Daniel Melson II, born c1725, John Melson, born c1728, and Mary Melson, born c1731.

In addition to his 'old field', bought c1735, but not recorded in Somerset County, land records and his first patented property "GOOD HOPE", he continued buying additional tracts over the years. Some of these falling into what became the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE after the WEST LINE which had been surveyed in 1751 was approved as the permanent boundary between the two colonies. The remainder of his lands remained in the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. Along with many others from Maryland whose lands fell into Delaware, he had to repatent his lands with the Penn Family. These petitions for repatenting were processed and awarded during the days of unrest created by the agitation of the American colonists during days when the American Colonies started the Revolutionary War.
The final approval of the WEST LINE as the boundary between Maryland and Delaware was made by King George III in 1773. "GOOD HOPE", the tract of Daniel I's that gave us the information about the location of his lands, became one of the parcels requiring repatenting. By the time this was required, Daniel I had deeded the land to his son, Daniel II. The Delaware Patent has never been located in the records, but the one for an adjacent tract mentions it.

"Whereas Daniel Melson Jr. of the County of Sussex requests we allow him to take 100 acres of land on the north side of the land called "GOOD HOPE" that Daniel Melson Sr. took up in Worcester County, Maryland and now in Little Creek Hundred in the County of Sussex, provided it does not interfere with our Manor of Wormergurst or any other of our manors in which he agrees to pay. July 4, 1776.

Signed JOHN PENN" (Ref. 4)

Daniel I and Mary Cary Melson moved from their original home that fell into Sussex County, Delaware and settled on one of their tracts in Maryland. This region was remote from the county seats of Somerset and Worcester Counties. Princess Ann, the county seat for Somerset, and Snow Hill, the county seat for Worcester were both more than thirty miles south of their home. The tiny hamlet of Salisbury was closer, but little legal business was transacted there. It took a day's travel each way for them to reach Snow Hill. This distance helps explain why the records about the residents along the northern boundary of the county are scanty. It also helps explain why little is found about them in church records. The Anglican religion was the official one for Maryland. Four parishes had been laid out in the 1690's for the then Somerset County. Stepney Parish, in which Daniel Melson I's lands fell, had its home church at Quantico, which was miles west of Salisbury. It is doubtful if he or his family ever attended it. The vestry records for Stepney Parish are badly fragmented, existing only in part. The only notation in them for any Melson lists the birth of a William Cooper Melson, son of Benjamin and Eby Melson of Somerset County, Oct. 1, 1803 (Ref. 5).

It is highly likely Daniel Melson and his family were, during the 1730-1790 period, members of a local "non-conformist" sect, such as Baptist, Presbyterian or Quaker. Membership in any of these was, then, a prime consideration for "transportation," from England in colonial times. If this surmise is correct, it explains why they are not found in Anglican records. We know Daniel Melson and his family became fervent adherents of Bishop Francis Asbury, a Methodist Missionary to the colonies, and, later, the founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During his early years in North America, Asbury devoted his attention mainly to followers living on the eastern shore between the Delaware River and the Chesapeake Bay. Bishop Asbury was a good friend of the Melsons and was their guest many times on his rounds. When the American revolution severed the traditional ties between the American Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain, Bishop Asbury, in the interest of his religious tenets and principles and in an attempt to remain aloof from the political and military fervor that swept the country, announced he would, to keep the embryonic Methodist congregations neutral, refrain from endorsing either Great Britain or the newly formed United States of America government and urged all his followers to do the same. This request placed almost all of his followers, especially those living in Maryland, in an untenable position. The State of Maryland had enacted a law requiring all citizens to take an Oath of Allegiance to the newly formed American Congress. It addition to this, it stipulated all non-residents within
its boundaries also had to take and sign an Oath of Allegiance. Those refusing were summarily incarcerated for treason. Asbury, after proclaiming his neutrality, fled to Delaware, where taking an oath of allegiance was not a requirement. This left his adherents in Maryland open to the rancor of the proponents of the Oath. More about this aspect later. Asbury sat comfortably in Sussex County, Delaware, while in Maryland his followers were subjected to the vituperations brought on by their attempted following of Asbury's scheme. He smugly sat out the war years, sneaking back into Maryland now and then to further compromise his parishioners. Disdaining John Wesley's instructions not to organize any church separate from the Anglican, Asbury created the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Daniel Melson I and his family became charter members. Many Melsons since have retained this affiliation.

Over the years during which he lived in the Delaware and Maryland region, Daniel Melson I amassed substantial holdings of property. The Tax Lists for Worcester County are incomplete, but his name appears on many of those that survived: (Ref. 6):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tract</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Present County and State</th>
<th>Year Acquired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1745</td>
<td>GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Sussex County, Delaware</td>
<td>1743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1757</td>
<td>MIDDLE PLANTATION</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Sussex County, Delaware</td>
<td>1753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>GLAD(E)Y GROUND</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td>1754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>ADD.TO GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Sussex County, Delaware</td>
<td>1764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>STEPHENS SECURITY</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td>1766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>PHILLIPS DESIRE</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Sussex County, Delaware</td>
<td>1771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>MELSONS ADDITION</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td>1773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>MELSONS L0T(T)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td>1773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>HOG RANGE</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760</td>
<td>PETERS CHOICE</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wicomico County, Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lists for property for the early years of Worcester County no longer exist, but it is known he held at least two properties, GOOD HOPE and the "old plot" mentioned in the GOOD HOPE Patent. Later records provide more information, the listing below was extracted from Patents, Warrants, Deeds, and Certificates:

In general, all tracts were adjacent to or close to GOOD HOPE, which we know abutted the 25 Mile Post of the West Line. Middle Plantation was an exception. It lay in the Broad Creek Hundred of Sussex County near present day Lowes Crossroads. Chapter 11-11 is taken from the official map prepared by Jere Dixon showing the exact boundary lines for separating Maryland and Delaware; it is possible the two houses shown near the 25 Mile Post were those for both Daniel Melson I and his son Daniel Melson II.

For convenience of administration, the counties of Delaware and Maryland were subdivided into "Hundreds." These districts had their own Justices of the Peace and Constables to permit easy access to County officials. On page 11-10, the Hundreds for Delaware are shown. Although not indicated on any map, the Wicomico Hundred of Worcester County, in which all the Daniel Melson tracts were located occupies the portion of Wicomico County, as shown on page 11-9 east of Salisbury.
Middle Plantation was purchased by Daniel Melson I from James Hardy and wife, Susanna, this transaction was recorded in Worcester County Lands Records Liber C folio 68, 15 August 1753. The tract contained 118 acres originally granted John Hudson of Dorchester County, Maryland lying in the Forest of Pocomoke near Sandy Ridge. Daniel Melson I willed it to his son, Daniel Melson II. The heirs of John Melson, Daniel Melson I's oldest son, challenged this bequest. The next reference to this property is found in Worcester County Lands Records Liber R folio 1 (Ref. 7).

"Know all men by these presents that we JOHN DORMAN for HANNAH his wife, and ACHESEY MELSON of Worcester County and the State of Maryland as Representatives of Daniel Melson, late of this County aforesaid, deceased, do hereby Nominate, Constitute and appoint our sister ELIZABETH MELSON of the same place our Lawful Attorney in our Name and for our use to act for Law and demand all Debts due whatever either in Law or Equity that may have the right or Letter unto in Sussex County and State of Delaware but more especially of and concerning a Tract or parcel of Land called and Known by the name of Middle Plantation Containing by Estimation the Quantity of one Hundred and Eighteen Acres of Land be the same More or Less being the same Land that the aforesaid DANIEL MELSON deeded the said ELIZABETH MELSON our said Attorney for our use and in behalf to Sign Seal and deliver any Act or Deed for the Conveyance of our Right and Title of the aforesaid Lands to all Intents and purposes as if we were personally present and for our use to receive act for and Demand all Sums of Money for the sale thereof and if it may Require we authorize our said Attorney to appoint one or more Attorney or Attorneys in her Place and plan to execute the premises and compleated the business above mentioned to all Intents and Purposes whereunto our said use as aforesaid Ratifying and Confirming what our said Attorney or Attorneys shall do as aforesaid Concerning all and Singular the above premises. In Testimony whereof we the said JOHN DORMAN, in behalf of my wife HANNAH aforesaid and ACHESEY MELSON have hereunto Set our Hand and Seal affixed the fifteenthe Day of July in the Year one Thousand and Seven Hundred and Ninety Six.

Signed Sealed and Delivered
In the Presence of
THOMAS DIXON
JOHN CUTLER

Maryland )
Worcester County) to wit THOMAS DIXON & JOHN CUTLER

the within Subscribing witnesses personally appeared before me the Subscriber one of the State's Justices of the Peace for Worcester County, aforesaid and they make all on the Holy Evangels of Almighty god that they saw JOHN DORMAN and ACHESEY MELSON Sign Seal and Deliver the within written Power of Attorney as their Act and Deed for the use and purpose thereon mentioned to the best of their Knowledge.

Sworn before PHILIP QUINTON

The fifteenth Day of July Anno Domini one Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Six."

The final decision of this suit is not known, but Middle Plantation was sold two years later as recorded in Sussex County, Delaware Liber #21 folio 446 dated 17 Nov. 1798.
"DANIEL MELSON of Sussex County and wife, LOVEY, to JACOB JONES, other grantors being JOHN DORMAN and HANNAH his wife of Worcester County, Maryland, ACHSHAH MELSON of Worcester County, ELIZABETH MELSON of Worcester County, and WILLIAM MELSON of Somerset County, Maryland, JOSEPH MELSON of Bourbon County, Kentucky. All for 118 pounds good and lawful money sell certain land situated in Sussex County, Delaware originally surveyed for a certain JOHN HUDSON of Dorchester County, Maryland, patented 19 June 1734 by the name MIDDLE PLANTATION now in Sussex County, Delaware beginning at a gum standing in the Forrest of Pocomoke by the edge of a little swamp at the north end of a high ridge called Sandy Ridge containing 118 acres."

Another tract owned by Daniel Melson I was:

"By virtue of a common warrant unto SAMUEL CROPPER of Worcester County, Maryland for 45 acres under the date of 1763, now assigned to DANIEL MELSON of Worcester County, Maryland called "ADDITION TO GOOD HOPE" situate and being in Worcester County bounded by an Oak on the north side of a pond and on the south side by the said MELSON DWELLING PLANTATION." (Ref.8).

All of Daniel Melson I's properties were difficult to trace, in addition to acquiring many, he sold some and transferred others to his children. The best listing for his holdings was found in the "ASSESSMENT RETURNS FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND FOR 1783," (Ref.9):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEPHENS SECURITY</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>132.7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETERS CHOICE</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELSONS ADDITION</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD TO GOOD HOPE</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOG RANGE</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value lands</strong></td>
<td>132.7.6</td>
<td>506.7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is interesting to note GOOD HOPE is assessed for only 87 acres, this implies the other 13 acres had fallen in Sussex County, Delaware, as a later transfer of the tract in 1796 reconfirmed the 100 acre area.

In the 1790 Reconstructed Census of the United States for Worcester County, Maryland, we find:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Male 16</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MELSON, Daniel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The "under 16 Male" living with Daniel Melson I might have been Achshah Melson the minor son of John Melson, who had died in 1785, or Joseph Wharton, the minor son of Mary Melson Wharton, who had also passed away. The John Melson listed was the son of Daniel Melson II. The Jonathan Melsons were the son and nephew of Smith Melson, Sr. of Accomack County, VA. (Ref.10). This Reconstructed Census of 1790 for Worcester County, Maryland gave the population as 11,630 including slaves.
Daniel Melson Sr(I) died in 1791 in Worcester County, Maryland. His will:

"In the name of God Amen this 27th day of September in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty and five I DANIEL MELSON SENR of the county of Worcester in the State of Maryland being at this time in low state of health but in perfect mind and memory through the mercy of God I do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in the manner and form as followeth that is to say first of all I recommend my Sole to God who gave it to me and my body to the Earth after such decent manner as my Executors hereafter named shall think fitting. ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grandson DANIEL MELSON all that land I now stand possessed of which lies on the South side of the East and West Line which is adjoining my plantation whereon I now live to him and his heirs forever ITEM I give and bequeath to my son DANIEL a tract of land called GLADEY GROUND to him and his heirs forever ITEM I give and bequeath unto my grandson WILLIAM MELSON one negro boy called BATT and to him and his heirs forever ITEM I give and bequeath unto my five grandchildren of my son JOHN MELSON named as followeth MARY MELSON, HANNAH MELSON, ELIZABETH MELSON, ACH-SHAH MELSON and TABITHA MELSON 15 pounds of specie each to be raised and levied out of my estate ITEM I give and bequeath unto the three children of JOSEPH WHARTON viz MARY WHARTON, ELIZABETH WHARTON and JOSEPH WHARTON 20 pounds each to be raised out of my estate to be paid each of my grandchildren in specie or the value thereof by my Executors mentioned hereafter ITEM I give and bequeath to my son DANIEL 83 acres of land being a part of a tract called STEPHENS SECURITY also 50 acres of land called MELSONS ADD to him and his heirs forever ITEM I give and bequeath the remainder of my estate not yet devised between my Dearly beloved wife MARY MELSON and my son DANIEL MELSON equal also I do constitute and app't my son DANIEL my only and sole Exec of this my last Will and Testament ratifying and confirming this to be my last Will and testament in Witness thereof I have thereto set my hand and Seal the day and year above written Signed Sealed and Published by the said DANIEL MELSON in the presence of us

viz JEHU MORRIS  
NEAHMIAH MORRIS  
SAMUEL HEARN  

Worcester County the 20th day of Aprill Anno Dominy 1791 - Then came DANIEL MELSON and made Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God that the foregoing instrument of writing is the true and whole Will & Testament of DANIEL MELSON late of Worcester County dec that hath come to his hands & he doth know of no other, 20 April 1791 Then came JEHU MORRIS and SAMUEL HEARN two of the subscribing witnesses of the will etc"(Ref.11)

On 17 June 1791, WILLIAM MORRIS and WILLIAM GORDY stood as sureties for DANIEL MELSON as Executor of his father's accounts.(Ref.12)

Daniel Melson II had been named Executor of his father's estate. Before it was settled, Daniel Melson II died, leaving the submission of the Final Balance of Accounts to be filed by the Executor of his own estate, his son Joseph Melson. Daniel Melson II died seven years after his father, the delay in closing the estate was due to the legal entanglement previously cited concerning MIDDLE PLANTATION. Joseph Melson submitted to the Courts his final accounting of his grandfather's estate on 5 March 1799(Ref.13)
Joseph Melson, a son of Daniel Melson II, was barely 21, when he was not only called to be the Executor of his father's will, but also assume the executorship of Daniel Melson I's estate. His final report of his grandfather's estate shows the settlement of suit over Middle Plantation went against his father, who had been Daniel I's executor. This forced the sale of Middle Plantation, but permitted Joseph to close the estate.

"The account of JOSEPH MELSON, Administrator de bonis non, of all and singular the goods and chattels of DANIEL MELSON SR of Worcester County, deed with a copy of the will annexed. The accountant chargeth himself with the Balance of a former acct. exhibited by DANIEL MELSON, Exec, 26 Oct. 1792, amounting to 562 pounds, 17 shillings, 2½ pence.

For money pd. ASHA MELSON as per copy of judgement 19-13-11
For money pd JNO.C.HANDY as per receipt for a judgement obtained in the county court agt. the late Exec, and by him pd. to ELIZA MELSON, WM, MELSON and JOHN DORMAN and HANNAH, his wife as per copy of judgement 60-12-09
For money paid JOSEPH WHARTON as per his Power of Atty 20-0-0
For money pd THOS. PRETTYMAN and MARY his wife, per receipt 20-0-0
For money pd WARREN PRETTYMAN, who married ELIZA WHARTON 20-0-0
Balance 419-1-13"

Attached to this Final Balance Of Accounts was the Deed from Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware dated 17 Nov. 1798 signed by Daniel Melson and Lovey, his wife, selling Middle Plantation. (It might be noted this sale occurred less than a month before Daniel Melson II's death).

Mary Cary Melson, the widow of Daniel Melson I, was alive at the time of his death. She enjoyed her share of the estate, but no records have been found telling of her death or how her possessions were distributed.

Daniel Melson Jr (II) was the longest surviving child of Daniel Sr (I) and Mary Cary Melson. The families of his brother, John, and sister, Mary, are followed on pages 7-84 and 7-86. Daniel Melson Jr (II) was born c.1725 in Accomack County, VA. His first wife's name is not known. Their son was Daniel Melson III (Ref. 23). In c.1758, Daniel II married Lovey Cannon, born c.1737, daughter of Elijah and Tabitha Wingate Cannon, Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Daniel II and Lovey Cannon Melson lived in Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. The names of nine are known: Elijah, Sally, John, Tabitha, Pollie Love, Joseph and Benjamin (twins), Elizabeth, and Nancy. The exact order of their births is not known other than Joseph and Benjamin, the twins, were the seventh and eighth. Elizabeth and Nancy were minors when their father died.

During the early days of the Revolution, Daniel II, as a Methodist under Bishop Francis Asbury, attempted to refrain from the political uprisings. Somehow he became involved in a disturbance in Salisbury with the following result. The Records in the Archives of the State of Maryland tell what happened.

975.2061 FROM THE RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE STATE
AR2 MARYLAND
v16

"Saturday, March 1st, 1777
Council met as on yesterday.
In Council of Safety, Annapolis, February 28th, 1777
The Council of Safety on Obedience to the request of the Honourable The General Assembly have considered the cause of such of the Insurgents from Somerset and Worcester Counties, as have been brought before them, and beg leave to report their opinion as follows: That Doctor Andre Francis Cheney and Jesse Gray, as also Daniel Melson from Sussex County are not bailable."

MHR Box 2 Folder 168 PETITION OF JESSE GRAY AND OTHERS,1777,March 13.

"Annapolis, March 13th, 1777

The humble Petition of Jesse Gray, Boaz Walton, Daniel Fooks, John Parsons, Jonathan Fooks, Daniel Melson, Samuel Williams and Jerman Bethard.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety Humbly Showeth - That you poor Petitioners hath been even joined the seventeenth day of last Most February confined in the Main Guard House in the City of Annapolis and that upon Examination before the Council of Safety, there is nothing found against us only that we were among the Number of those that were deemed Enemies to their Country. Therefore Most Honourable Gentlemen as We ever have hitherto obtained the Cause, and is still willing to maintain it, and to affirm the Reverse of some ill-provisioned Persons as the Honourable House has been pleased to pass an Act for the Releasement of all those willing to take an Oath of Allegiance, We are willing to comply with the Honourable House's Rules and take the Oath of Allegiance, in one Obedience thereto shew that we are Men for Liberty than Slavery.

Therefore, Most Honourable and considerate Gentlemen, hopes therefrom that you will take the above Matter into you Honours most serious Consideration, and weigh Matters most deliberately, and grant us a Releasement from our present Emergencies as We never have been prejudicial to the present State of Affairs Your granting us, most honourable Gentlemen, another answer in Favour of the Foregoing, your poor Petitioners shall ever be in Duty bound to pray.

Signed by the Whole of the Petitioners

To God bless the Congress and direct our General."

(The above Petition is the original. Entry 610, CALENDAR OF MARYLAND STATE PAPERS, #5, EXECUTIVE MISCELLANA, 1958 is an ambiguous abridgement).

975.3 CALENDAR OF MARYLAND STATE PAPERS, #5, EXECUTIVE MISCELLANA, MHR, 1958

"March 28, 1777

The petition of Daniel Melson praying for a discharge from his confinement was read and rejected. The Council of Safety having reports to the General Assembly that the offense, which he stands charged is not bailable by law"

975.3 IBID

"April 3, 1777

The Petitions of Whitley Turpin, Angelo Atkinson, Levi Longford, Daniel Melson, Stoughton Maddox, and Josephus Beale, Insurgents from Somerset and Worcester Counties praying for discharge from their confinement, were referred by the General Assembly to the Governor and Council, with full power to take such action therein, as they think proper."
Worcester County July 18th.1777

Sir/ The Barer John Hall wishes to see if it is possible to Bail Daniel Melson of the Delaware State who you have under Guard. I am convinced that Jno.Hall is Good Security for Two or three hundred pounds and as Daniel Melson was always till this Insurrection a quiet member of Society I would if at Annapolis Willingly Be his Security myself. Under the Present Distressed Situation of his family his wife Nears Laying in and no one to take care of her but Six Little Children and one Negro woman-Nothing New heare, I wrote you Seven days ago by Capt.Dashiell our Success in Making up our first class of Militia to which I refer.

I am your Very Obt.Sevr.
Joseph Dashiell"

"Thursday 2nd October 1777

The Sheriff of Ann Arundell County is hereby required to receive, into his Custody the bodies of Jesse Gray, Hambleton Calliho and Daniel Melson, charged with Treason against the state and committed to a Guard and them safely kept in the Common Jail till Lawfully discharged."

"Worcester County Decr.3rd 1777

May it please your Excellancy,
I am informed that Capt.Jesse Gray is Discharged upon giving Security which Encourages the Distressed Wife of Daniel Melson to Make appeal for him and has requested me to Certify to Your Excellancy and Council that Peter Gordy the Barer is Good Security for One Thousand pounds & a resident of this County. I can assure you upon my Honour that Daniel Melson has always Bin a good sort of Man till this unhappy affair & his wife is much Distressed, that Bin Lately delivered of Twins-

I am with Due Regard & Esteem your MOS
Joseph Dashiell"

"January 1,1778

Daniel Melson has written that he could come out on good bail: the Barer, Daniel Fooks is good security for 1000 pounds.

I am with Due Regard & Esteem your MOS
Joseph Dashiell"
Know all Men by these presents that We Daniel Melson and Daniel Fooks are held and firmly bound to the State of Maryland in the Sum of one thousand pounds Current Money to be paid to the said State to which payment will and truly to be made we bind ourselves and each of us our own and each of our heirs Executors and Administrators in and for the whole jointly and severally firmly by these presents with our Seals and Dated this fifth Day of January 1778.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound Daniel Melson do and shall make his personal appearance at the next General Court to be held on the Eastern Shore of this State or any Special Court appointed or to be appointed for the trial of persons charged with having committed any or all of the Crimes or Offenses mentioned in the Act of Assembly of this State entitled "An Act to enable the Governor to issue Commissions of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery in certain cases" in Somerset and Worcester Counties or other of them if such special Court shall sit before the said General Court and shall demean himself as a true and faithful Subject of this State then the above Obligation to be held also in full Force.

Sealed and Delivered)

in the presence of )

T. JOHNSON  
DANIEL MELSON (SEAL)
DANIEL FOOKS (SEAL)

(note- T.Johnson was the first Governor of Maryland)
To all Men by these presents, Hair. We, Daniel and James, on the one thousand pound bond set up to the use of the same in the sum of one thousand pounds, and being duly and firmly bound to the use of the above sum as a penalty, to the end that the same shall be paid to us, the said John, or his executors and administrators, and the whole, jointly and severally, by these presents sealed with our seals and dated the 1st day of January 1778.

The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bond, Daniel and James, do and shall make his personal appearance at any General Court to be held in the Eastern Town of this State, or any court appointed to be appointed for the trial of persons charged with having committed any of the crimes or offenses as aforesaid, the Governor to issue commissions of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Duty in certain cases in Somerset and Windsor Counties or either of them, if such court shall sit before General Court, and if in the mean time be of good behavior and shall in all things demean himself as a true and faithful subject of the State, then above obligation to be void to remain in full force.

Said and Delivered
in the presence of

[Signature]

Daniel Milton

[Signature]

Daniel Foster

1014
THOMAS JOHNSON

Governor of Maryland 1777-1779
Daniel Melson II returned home and lived another twenty years. The letter from Joseph Dashiel of December 3, 1777 mentioned the birth of the twins, Joseph and Benjamin. As they already had six children, Joseph and Benjamin were the seventh and eighth in the family.

As Daniel voluntarily took an Oath of Fidelity and Support to the State of Maryland, Mrs. Marian Melson Strack, Locust, New Jersey, petitioned the Daughters of the American Revolution to certify him as having been on "Patriotic Service." This petition was accepted and descendents of Daniel Melson II are eligible. The certification of this was shown on page 462, DAR PATRIOTS INDEX, 1966. The entry read: "Melson, Daniel, b. c1724 d. p Oct. 2, 1797, m. Love, PS, MD."

This honor to his memory is highly regarded. It may be used as proof of eligibility to join the DAR society. The discrepancies in the listing regarding his wife's name and the state or residence are puzzling as those facts could have been easily verified through various state archives. The Delaware Hall of Records holds a copy of his will which would have helped make the entry more valid. Regardless of these minor discrepancies, the certification was a triumph for Mrs. Strack, and she is to be commended for submitting the petition and having it accepted.

Throughout the ordeal Daniel faced during the long months at Annapolis, the faith of Lovey, his wife, never wavered. She worked long and hard for his release. Her success is a credit to her memory. The Joseph Dashiell, who wrote the letters to the Governor of the State of Maryland and the General Assembly, that assisted in obtaining his release, was the foremost citizen of Worcester County, Maryland during those days and served as the Secretary for the County Council of Safety. Lovey's ability in convincing him of Daniel's faith in America was an outstanding achievement.

The unabridged letters between Joseph Dashiell and the State authorities together with the complete text of the petitions submitted by the prisoners in Annapolis have been quoted in full. Copies of abridged extracts are found in many libraries and archives. These were not correctly abridged and reading them could lead to an incorrect understanding of the events occurring. In addition, Joseph Dashiell's letters tell us about their six children prior to his confinement and the birth of twins in 1777. One of the twins, Benjamin, became the head of our branch of the family.

The lands held by Daniel Melson II straddled the boundary between the States of Maryland and Delaware. Some of his tracts have been mentioned. A few of the Deeds for these lands are in the archives of the states and are available for reference.

DHR LAND RECORDS M(l) No. 51 (Sussex County, DE. Warrants C folio 618 (Resurvey).

The Proprieties of Pennsylvania on 6 June 1776 permitted Daniel Melson Junior to take up 100 acres on the North Side of land called "Good Hope" that Daniel Melson Senior took up in Worcester County, Maryland, now in Little Creek Hundred in the county of Sussex provided the same land does not interfere with our manor of Wormerhurst and he agrees to pay Five pounds sterling or value thereof in Current Money of this Province for each One Hundred Acres.
The survey for this tract, which was designated as "Melsons Contrivance" is described in the following record.

DHR LAND RECORDS M(3) No.38 (Sussex County, DE. Warrants C folio 368)

"By Virtue of the Proprietors Warrant dated at Philadelphia the 6th. Day of March 1776 Granted Daniel Melson Junior of the County of Sussex for 100 acres on the North Side of land called good Hope that Daniel Melson Sen took up in Worcester County, Maryland now in Little Creek Hundred in Sussex county called "Melson's Contrivance" bounded as followeth viz Beginning at a Marked R.Oak standing about 2 1/2 p from a W.Oak the first Bounder of a Tract of Land called Glady Ground Thence Due West 28p(oles) to a post in the Field Thence S66E 74 p to a post S5E 27 p to a post Near the West Line afsd. Thence N82E 22 p to a post N25E 20 p to a post N19W 188 p to a post Thence a Direct Line or S44W 54 p Home to the first Bounder, containing and Laid out for 100 acres 30 p 17/100 of Land with the allowance of the Court.

Survey the 23rd. Day of April AD 1776

Rhodes Shankland
D S Sussex County

This area is a tract of land called "Glady Ground"

Assumed position of the West Line

-- Delaware --

-- Maryland --

This area is a tract of land called "Good Hope"
Among the other parcels of land owned by Daniel Melson II are these listed below.

**MHR WARRANTS LIBER WS#16 folio 70, Nov.9,1771**

"Warrant granted unto Daniel Melson Jr. of Worcester County for 21 acres of land he having paid the Sum of one Shilling Sterling caution for the same. 10 acres to apply to Melson's Lott"

**SUSSEX COUNTY, GEORGETOWN, DEL. LIBER L#18 folio 151**

"By virtue of a land warrant from the Recorder of the County of Sussex, at Georgetown, the 5th. day of Dec. 1793, authorizing me to survey a parcel of vacant land to Daniel Melson situated lying and being in Broad Creek Hundred in the county afsd beginning at a marked Black Gum the first bounder of Melson's land called Middle Plantation, surveyed 11th. day April 1794.

**RHODES SHANKLAND**

by Saml. Hearn, D. Surveyor

**SUSSEX COUNTY, GEORGETOWN, DEL. 5 Oct. 1797**

"Daniel Melson of Sussex County, Del. -- to resurvey a tract of Melson's Addition originally granted unto Daniel Melson on 28 Sept. 1763 for 50 acres now added 26 acres in all 76 acres, Melson's Addition Enlarged, in Worcester County, formerly surveyed for Stephen Phillips (surveyor).

Josiah Mitchell"

**MHR WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND LIBER S folio 414, Microfilm WK11-712**

"9 May 1798

Deed from William Gordy to Daniel Melson, Sussex County, Delaware, for the consideration of 10 pounds the sale of "Peters Choas Inlarged," 17 acres, in Worcester County.

Acknowledged before

JOHN CATHELL

JOHN COTTINGHAM Justices of the Peace

Recorded

30 July 1798

John C. Handy, Clk."

The next land transaction is significant in establishing the relationship between Daniel I, Daniel II and Daniel III. The circumstances surrounding this Deed is found on page 7-7 where the information known about Daniel Melson III is reviewed.

**MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LIBER R folio 412 & 413, Microfilm WK711-12.**

"This Indenture made this tenth day of October one Thousand seven hundred and ninety six between Daniel Melson Junior of Worcester County State of Maryland of the one part and Daniel Melson Senior of the other part for and in Consideration of the Sum of One hundred and thirty five pounds lawful money of the State aforesaid to him in hand paid before the Signing and Sealing of these presents the receipt whereof he doth thereby confess and acknowledge and thereof doth acquit Exonorate and discharge the said Daniel Melson Senr his heirs and assigns forever by these presents hath granted bargained and
sold and by these presents doth grant bargain and sell unto the said Daniel Melson Senr his heirs and assigns forever all of the two tracts of land which was left to me by my Grandfather Daniel Melson deceased and Situated in Worcester County and State of Maryland aforesaid one called and known by the name Good Hope containing One hundred Acres of Land as per patent, the other called and known by the name of Addition to Good Hope containing forty-five Acres of Land as per patent, the farm more or less together with all its rights privileges properties appurtenances thereto appertaining or in any manner belonging to have and to hold the aforesaid bargained premises with the appurtenances thereto belonging to him the said Daniel Melson Junr his heirs and assigns forever and to no other purpose or intent whatsoever and the aforesaid Daniel Melson Junr for himself his heirs Executors and Admns the aforesaid bargained premises with the appurtenances aforesaid unto him the Said Daniel Melson his heirs and assigns forever from all persons claiming the farm in by from or under him or them will warrant and forever defend by these presents - In Witness thereof the said Daniel Melson Junr hath hereto set his hand and affixed his Seal the day and year above written.

Signed Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of
PURNELL JOHNSON
BOAZ WALSTON

Be it remembered that on the day and year Just within the deed written personally appeared before us two of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid the within named Daniel Melson Junr and acknowledged all the Lands and premises in the within deed contained to be the right title Intent and Estate of the within mentioned Daniel Melson Junr agreeable to the true intent and the meaning of the within deed and agreeable to the Act of Assembly in such cases made and provided.

Taken and acknowledged before

PURNELL JOHNSON
BOAZ WALSTON

Dec.9th, One thousand seven hundred and ninety-six -Then was delvd unto me the Subscriber the foregoing deed in Order to be enrolled among the Records of Worcester County which said deed together with the acknowledgement thereon Indorsed are accordingly recorded among the same Records in Liber R folios 412 & 413.

JOHN C.HANDY, Clk."

Other forms of property conveyances were also found among the records, such as:

MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LIBER 0 folio 229, Microfilm WK709-10

"Know all men by these presents that I Daniel Melson of Sussex County in the State of Delaware are for and in consideration of the sum of five pounds Currency money of Maryland to me in hand paid by William Gordy of Worcester County in the State of Maryland for one negro girl named "Kesiah" ----

1 October 1791

DANIEL MELSON (SEAL).

Witness: PURNELL JOHNSON
Daniel Melson II died seven years after his father. His will was filed for probate in Sussex County, Delaware Dec. 4, 1798, and in Worcester County, Maryland, Mar. 5, 1799. This will, which is on file at the Delaware Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware reads:

"In the name of God amen The Second Day of September in the year of our Lord one Thousand and Seven Hundred & Ninety Seven I Daniel Melson Farmer of Sussex County & State of Delaware Being in Reasonable Health thanks be to God Therefore Calling to mind the mortality of my Body and Knowing that it is appointed For all men once to Die Do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament that is to say principally and First of all I Give and recommend my Soul to the hands of All mighty God that gave it and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be Buried in Decent Christian manner at the Discretion of my Executors Nothing Doubting But at the General Resurrection I shall Receive the same again by the mighty power of God that gave it and as Touching Such Worldly Estate Wherewith it hath Been pleased God to Bless me with in this Life I give Devise Dispose with it in the Following manner and form viz:

Item I give and Bequeath unto my Well Beloved Wife Love one third part of all my lands and moveable Estate During her natural Life & Widowhood.

Item I give and Bequeath unto my son Elijah Melson part of a tract of land Called STEPHENS SECURITY Lying and Being in Worcester County & State of Maryland Eighty three acres and also Fifty acres of Land in County & State aforesaid called MELSON'S ADDITION and also Sixty one acres of Land in County & State aforesaid called HOGGRANGE all to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Son Joseph Melson all the Land that I hold in Sussex County & State of Delaware and Eighteen acres in Worcester County & State of Maryland Called MELSON'S LOTT all to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and Bequeath unto my son Benjamin Melson all the Land that I hold in Worcester County & State of Maryland that is not Devised and also thirty Pounds to be Levied and Raised out of my Estate all to him & his heirs & assigns for Ever.

Item I give and Bequeath unto my Son John Melson Thirty seven pounds ten shillings to be Raised out of my Estate to him & his heirs & assigns for Ever.

Item I give & Bequeath unto my three Daughters Tabitha, Elizabeth & Nance Eighty Pounds Each in Goods at the appraisement, to them & their heirs & assigns for Ever.

Item I Give and Bequeath all the remainder of my Estate to be Equally Divided Between these Eight Children Viz: Elijah, Joseph, Benjamin, Sally, Tabitha, Elizabeth & Nancy and Love.

Also I appoint my Son Joseph Melson my whole and Sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament and I do hereby Utterly Disannul Disallow and Revoke all Former Wills Legacies & Bequests By me heretofore made in Witness Whereof I have herewith set my hand and Seal the Day and year
above written.

Signed Sealed and pronounced By
the said Daniel Melson as his
Last Will and Testament in the
Presence of

DANIEL MELSON (SEAL)

JOHN WILLIAMS
her
SUSANNAH PARREMORE
mark
THOMAS RECORDS

Filed for Probate Dec.4,1798." (Ref.19).

Joseph Melson, his son, accepted his assignment as Executor of his
Father's estate and proceeded with the settlement. In addition to this
task, Joseph was also assigned the responsibility of settling his grand-
father Daniel Melson I's estate for which his father had been the execu-
tor. He completed settling his grandfather's estate promptly, but that of his
father took several years. He filed his first report on the status of his
Stewardship one year after his appointment as Executor, Dec.4, 1799, and the
final closing account on Feb. 9, 1802. The will was probated in Sussex
County, Delaware and Worcester County, Maryland. No record of accountancy for
the estate has been located in the Maryland records other than the fact it
was under probate. (Ref.15). The lack of such records in Worcester County
might be attributed to the fact that the Worcester County authorities were
satisfied with the accountancy for the estate in the Sussex County, Delaware
Courts, or that these records were among those destroyed when the Worcester
County Courthouse burned in 1834. Joseph's accounts for his father's estate
as shown in the Delaware Archives read:

DHR ARCHIVES VOLUME A88 DANIEL MELSON OF SUSSEX COUNTY ESTATE, ACCOUNTS OF
JOSEPH MELSON, DEC. 4, 1799, PAGE 42.

The accounts of Joseph Melson, Executor of the Testament and Last Will of
Daniel Melson, late of Sussex County, decd., as well as such and so much of the
Goods, Chattels & Credits which were of the said deceased as came to his hands
or Possn as also his Payments and Disbursements of the Same.

The Said Accountant charges himself
with all and Singular the Goods and
Chattels of the said Deceased afsd
Inventory amounting to 668-7-5% also
with Sundry articles.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Addl Inventory</th>
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Amount Disbursements
Bal to be divided as follows
1/8 to Elijah Melson, same to Joseph, Sally Atkins, Tabitha
Melson, Elizabeth Smith, Nancy Melson, Love Hearn, Benjamin Melson

| Amount | 537 | 6 | 2 |

total 187 4 2

The said Accountant craves and Allowance of his Payments and disbursements out of the same viz

- Paid for Letters Testamentary
- Witnesses Proving Will
- Funeral Expenses
- Appraisers Fees

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name &amp; Account</th>
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<td>Samuel Williams, p acct prvd &amp; Recd</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wm. Huffington &amp; Vaughn, p acct prvd Recd</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Gordy, Hearn &amp; ditto &amp; do.</td>
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<td>Lyngby &amp; Welch &amp; do.</td>
<td>1 17 4 3/4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ebenezer Cannon pd &amp; do.</td>
<td>0 14 9</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sarah Bradley pd &amp; do.</td>
<td>0 6 1½</td>
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<td>Benj. Melson &amp; &amp; 15 15 6</td>
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<td>Jackson Gordy &amp; &amp; 0 13 5</td>
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<td>Mitchel Kershaw &amp; &amp; 1 13 11½</td>
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<td>Jonah Smith &amp; &amp; 0 8 0</td>
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<td>James English, witness in trial Negro</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Levin Handy Regr Wor. Cty MD for fees</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Admin De Bonis on Estate of Danl Melson</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>John Handy Clk for 2 searches &amp; 2 certificates of Judgements agst Danl Melson</td>
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</table>
Also to a Cash legacy devised to Benjamin Melson 30 0 0
Also a Cash Legacy devised to John Melson p rcpt 37 10 0
Also to a Legacy devised to Tabitha Melson p rcpt 80 0 0
Also to a Legacy devised to Elizabeth Melson & Retained by this Accountant as her Guardian 80 0 0
Also to a Legacy devised to Nancy Melson and retained by this Accountant as her Guardian 80 0 0
Total 462 2 8 3/4

Also to a Cash Legacy devised to Joseph Melson 30 0 0

Paid for drawing this Account 0 15 0
Paid fees at Passing ditto Searches, Commission on 280.5.2½ pounds account of Receipts & Disbursements at 7½%.
Commission on 240 pounds Amount of Legacies, Delv. over on Goods at the Apportionment at 2½% per an
Commission on Residue of the Estate 15 19 9½
Total 537 1 10 3/4

The Above Account was Exhibited to the Register Dec. 4th, 1799 on Oath by
Joseph Melson

Additional Acct Feb. 9th, 1802

Elijah Melson 22 16 9½
Joseph Melson " " "
Sally Atkins " " "
Tabitha Melson " " "
Elizabeth Smith " " "
Nancy Melson " " "
Love Hearn " " "
Benjamin Melson " " "

These submittals by Joseph Melson in accounting for his father's estate have been included as they are excellent examples of the times in which Daniel Melson II and his family lived. As complete as they are, they fail to reveal how much was willed to Lovey Cannon Melson, Daniel's widow. The Will stated she was to receive one-third of the real and moveable estate during her natural life and widowhood. The failure to mention her might indicate she had also died before the accounting was made; that she had remarried; or that widow shares were not required to be included in the Final Accounting of an Estate. Many other wills of this period of time were reviewed and almost all of them exhibited a similar flaw which lends credence to assuming a widow's share was taken for granted and not required to be reported.

Other than the lands bequeathed to Elijah and the mention of one specific tract for Joseph in Worcester County, MD., the accounting is quiet as to the names of the tracts and amounts of land bequeathed to Joseph and Benjamin. The inclusion of these would have been helpful.

The odd bequest to John Melson of 37-10-0 pounds was puzzling. "Why the ten shillings." All other bequests were for rounded amounts. Did this mean John had already been granted a portion of his father's estate. It is puzzling John did not receive land like his brothers, Elijah, Joseph and Benjamin.
John Melson emigrated to Hancock County, GA. with his brother, Daniel III. His wife's name is believed to have been Hannah. He died there before Oct. 1808 when his will was filed for probate (Ref. 24).

Daniel Melson II did not mention his son, Daniel Melson III, in his will. It is probable this was deliberate as Daniel III had most likely received his share of his father's property before leaving for Georgia. Daniel Melson III and his descendants will be traced in Chapter Seven.

One major problem facing researchers along the Eastern Shore has to do with the poor quality of the native limestone that was used during the earlier days for gravestones and markers. The stones weathered rapidly and few remain that date much before the 1820's. In the 1920's and 1930's, Millard Hudson attempted to collect and preserve the information available from all cemeteries and burial plots in Sussex County, DE, Worcester County, Maryland. In his books, he explained the need for collecting this data as the stones were rapidly deteriorating and becoming lost. His efforts are on file at the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland. Later, a survey by John Jacob, Salisbury, Maryland, added information for Wicomico County, MD. This survey may be read at the Wicomico County Public Library, Salisbury, MD. Unfortunately, none of these surveys revealed where the Daniel Melson Burial Plots were located.

The oldest Melson burial plots existing are those for Joseph Melson, born Mar. 3, 1787, died Jul. 30, 1826, in Sussex County, DE, as listed in Hudson, and that for Samuel Melson, born Sep. 1, 1785, died Apr. 12, 1849, and his wife, Grace Maddox Melson, born Nov. 11, 1780, died Dec. 26, 1861, at Melson, MD.

Daniel Melson II and his wife, Lovey Cannon Melson, lived just north of the MD-DE boundary near Mile Post 25. The lives of their children except for that of Benjamin Melson and his line will be followed in Chapter Seven. Benjamin Melson was a twin brother of Joseph Melson; they were born Aug. 13, 1777, at their parent's home in the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. When Daniel II's estate was divided after his father's death, Benjamin inherited tracts not otherwise bequeathed. These tracts included GOOD HOPE, ADDITION TO GOOD HOPE, HEARNS ADDITION, and PETERS CHOAS ENLARGED. Benjamin was already married. He married Amelia (Milley) Gordy, a daughter of John and Hannah Jackson Gordy of the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. They were married Apr. 1, 1796 (Ref. 16). Benjamin had, like his brother Joseph, gone to school and was well educated for that region and period of time. He followed his father in farming. He purchased his first property from William Gordy.

MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER T FOLIO 202, 16th. Mar. 1799.

"William Gordy of Worcester County sells to Benjamin Melson of the same county a tract of land for 75 pounds called "Addition to Peter's Lott, beginning with a Red Oak on the Brow of a Hill near a small stream called "green horn stream" on the south side of the plantation formerly belonging to Daniel Melson and on the North East side of Rum Ridge thence N 80 poles thence N 75 W 90 poles thence with a right line to the first Bounder, 50 acres."

Signed, Sealed and delivered
WILLIAM GORDY (SEAL)
BOAZ WALSTON
JOHN CATHELL

Recorded Mar. 19th 1799
JOHN C. HANDY Clk.

Benjamin, or Benjamine as his name was sometimes found, farmed for forty years in the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. Amelia (Milley) Gordy was
a daughter of John and Hannah Jackson Gordy. They settled in the Wicomico County Hundred, Worcester County, Maryland. Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson had a family of 12 children:

- Lovey Cannon Melson, b. Nov. 22, 1798
- Hannah Jackson Melson, b. Jun. 16, 1800
- Pollie Gordy Melson, b. Oct. 15, 1803
- George Armstrong Melson, b. Nov. 13, 1805
- Sallie Melson, b. Nov. 15, 1807
- John Melson, b. Feb. 1, 1810
- Jane Melson, b. Jun., 1812
- Milley G. Melson, b. after 1816
- Sampson Davis Melson, b. Oct. 26, 1817
- Elijah Melson, b. c. 1820
- Benjamin Nathan Melson, b. Jan. 6, 1823
- Minus Melson, b. after 1824

Benjamin continued to acquire property, in addition to the lands his father willed him and the tract he'd purchased from William Gordy, he bought a tract from his brother, Joseph, (Ref. 17):

"Joseph Melson of Sussex County, Delaware sells to Benjamin Melson of Worcester County, Maryland for 20 pounds a tract "MELSON'S LOT" in Maryland starting at the first bounder of "MOUNT MISERY" formerly owned by Neahmiah Hearn standing in the Wicomico Forest on the South Side of the West Line then N 17 poles thence West 19 poles thence S 28 W 36 perches thence S 39 E 68 poles thence N 28 E 72 poles thence with a straight line to the first bounder, 18 acres.

Signed Sealed and delivered
ISAAC HEARN
JOHN DASHIELL
Recorded Aug. 13th, 1804
JOSEPH MELSON
JOHN C. HANDY Clk.

In addition to the entries in the John Gordy Bible that included listing Milley Gordy as a daughter of John and Hannah Jackson Gordy, and the marriage of Milley and Benjamin Melson, an additional piece of evidence confirms her family association. This supplements her being mentioned in her father's will.

"MHR WORCESTER COUNTY DEED BOOK V, PAGE 357, OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND AT SNOW HILL.

A true and exact list of negroes imported into this state by the subscriber from Sussex County in the State of Delaware on this 23rd day of December last viz one negro woman Case aged fourteen years 23rd day March next-and negro boy William aged nine years the 6th. of Nov. next title to which negroes accrued to the subscriber by a devise of the same in the last Will and Testament of John Gordy late of Sussex County in the State of Delaware deceased dated the 28th. day of February Anno Domini 1801 _____ in the said County of Sussex in Delaware rovided and Recorded Returned to me in pursuance with an act of the Assembly in such cases provided this 7th day of February Anno Domini 1803.

(signed) BENJAMIN MELSON
MILLY MELSON"
When the United States became entangled with Great Britain in the War of 1812, Benjamin Melson was elected CAPTAIN of a Company of the 37th. Regiment, Maryland Militia. The regiment, as far as it known was never called into actual combat but served within Worcester County, Maryland during the hostilities. One record of this service is found in a small scrap of paper that has survived and is now in the possession of Al V. Melson, Ocean City, Maryland.

A few years after his service in the Maryland Militia, Benjamin was appointed Constable for Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, Maryland in 1820. The Bond filed to attest to his financial responsibility read:

"Know All Men by These Presents that we Benjamin Melson, Elijah Hearn, Stephen Roach and William Holland of Worcester County and State of Maryland aforesaid are firmly bound unto the State of Maryland in the full and Just sum of $800 current money of the United States to be paid unto the State of Maryland to which payment will and truly be made and done we bind ourselves heirs Executors and administrators in and for the whole Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this third day of April 1820 whereas the above bonded Benjamin Melson hath been appointed by the Levy Court for Worcester County Constable for Wicomico Hundred in the said county Now the condition for the obligation which that if the said Benjamin Melson the said Constable shall well and faithfully execute the same office in all things placed in his hands for collection and shall also well and truly pay all sums of money received by him thru the above obligation to be Void and to be sure the same effect otherwise be and remain in full force and Virtue.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us

BENJAMIN MELSON
ELIJAH HEARN
STEPHEN ROACH
WILLIAM HOLLAND

WILLIAM MCGREGOR
ROBT. HARNIE
April the third day anno domini 1820, then was delivered unto me the subscriber the foregoing Bond in order to be Enrolled among the Records of Worcester County Which said Bond is accordingly Recorded among the said Records in Liber AK folio 265.

JOHN C HANDY Clk"

Benjamin did not serve many years as Constable. A property deed dated 25 Dec. 1824 transferring lands from a Jacob A. Jones to Samuel Melson was signed in the presence of Benjamin Melson, whose name appeared as a Justice of the Peace (Ref. 18). The date of his initial appointment as a Justice of the Peace for the Wicomico Hundred was not recorded. His commission to act officially in this office was issued a month later. The Deed bearing his signature as an authenticating witness was concerned with the sale of two tracts of land, "Security Enlarged" and "Come By Chance." The Jacob A. Jones who sold the land to Samuel Melson, who was Benjamin's nephew, was not the Jacob Jones who married Lovey Cannon Melson, Benjamin's daughter.

His commission as Justice of the Peace was issued combined with a number of others appointed to the same office.

MHR WORCESTER COUNTY RECORDS LIBER AQ FOLIO 409

"The State of Maryland to Benjamin Melson, Nathan Gordy, Samuel Melson, Elijah Hearn and George Maddox: Gentlemen greetings BE IT KNOWN THAT reposing great trust and confidence in your Knowledge, Integrity and Love of Justice, you and each of you are jointly and severally appointed and assigned as Justices of the Peace of Worcester County to give equal right and justice according to the Law of the State, in every case in which you shall act as Justices of the Peace, freely without sale, fully without any denial and speedily to execute the same office, justly, honestly and faithfully according to the Law until you are duly discharged from your office. Given under the Seal of the State of Maryland this Sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five - Witness the Honorable Theodorick Bland Esquire Chancellor on May the twelfth day anno domini one thousand eight hundred twenty five. Then was delivered unto me the subscriber the foregoing Commission in order to be Enrolled among the Records of Worcester County. Which said Commission is accordingly recorded among the same records in Liber AQ folio 409.

JOHN C. HANDY Clk."

How long he served as a Justice of the Peace is not known, this appointment explains the use of "ESQ" after his name in the 1830 Census for Worcester County, Maryland.

Benjamin and Milley's names appeared three times together in the surviving records of Worcester County. The first was in connection with the transfer of the bequest from her father's estate in 1803. The second was when they witnessed Elijah Melson's will on Jan. 17, 1816 (Ref. 19). The last was the deed they executed when they sold their lands before departing for Shelby County, Missouri in 1837.

Other documents of this and earlier periods in Worcester County, Maryland must have existed but were lost in a fire that destroyed the Worcester County Courthouse November 24, 1834. In this fire at Snow Hill, MD. records dating back into the days when the county was a part of Somerset County, all marriage records before 1795, probate records and many other valuable documents. These losses and similar ones at other courthouses prompted the State of Maryland to insist all
all county records be copied and these copies sent for safekeeping in the Mary­
land Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Many of these copies on file at the Hall
of Records were used in pursuing the research into the early days of our family.

It is not known why Benjamin and Milley Melson suddenly decided to sell their
lands in Worcester County, Maryland and embark on a new career on the newly open­
ed prairies of Missouri. Benjamin was a substantial farmer, he was prominent in
the affairs of the Wicomico Hundred, was a Justice of the Peace and sixty years
old. One of the probable reasons for the decision to move must have been glowing
reports from their daughter, Jane Melson who had married James Parker. They'd em­
igrated to Shelby County, Missouri in 1835. Jane and James had been married in
Sussex County, Dec. 31, 1830. (Ref. 20). In addition, their oldest son, George Arm­
strong Melson, had gone west probably to check on the lands. Tragically, George
drowned in the Ohio River near Cincinnati in 1836. (Ref. 21). Whatever it was that
decided them to make this momentous move, it must have been very persuasive as
they sold their lands and possessions in the spring of 1837 and along with other
members of the family and friends left Maryland for the beckoning virgin lands
of the midwest. When Benjamin and his party sailed from Salisbury that chilly
April day in 1837, they left behind a heritage of more than 150 years on the East­
ern Shore. Another century would pass before the next descendent of Benjmin's
would see the Eastern Shore and the Atlantic Ocean.

The Deed by which Benjamin and Milley sold their lands and severed connec­
tions with their old homeland was a lengthy one. As no copy of the deed is found
in the Delaware Hall of Records, this implies all their properties were in Mary­
land. Many of the names of the tracts listed, mention for the last time, those with
which we recognized as property of Daniel Melson I and II, going back to the earli­
est days in Worcester County. The document in which they sold their lands is
found in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland as reference 22.

As abstracted it reads:

"This Indenture made this twenty first day of March 1837 between Benajmine and
Emilia Melson of Worcester County, State of Maryland of the one part and John
Cordrey of Sussex County, State of Delaware of the other part for the amount of
$1249.00

The parcels of land included in this transfer are:
ADDITON TO GOOD HOPE
HEARNS ADDITION, SECOND PART
LAST HOPE
GOOD HOPE, PART
ADDITION TO PETER'S LOTT, PART
ADDITION TO GARDEN SPOT, PART
PETERS CHOICE ENLARGED, PART
PLUS ALL THE REST

Beginning at the Five Mile Stone standing on the West Line so called near where
Benjamine Melson lives dividing, the States of Maryland and Delaware north 87
west 106 1/2 perches thence leaving such line South 8 1/2 West 11 1/2 perches to a post
the beginning of a deed from William Gordy to Daniel Melson — to a marked pine
standing on the line of the said tract called Peters Choice enlarged — through
several other courses — then along several more lines to a division line between
the sixth corner of the said tract called Addition to Garden Spot — then along
more courses to the sixth corner of Addition to Good Hope — to the division line
bounding the adjacent fields of John Hearn and John Morris — thence to the begin­
ing. Total Land described is 168 acres.
The inclusion of the phrase "Five Mile Stone standing on the West Line" verifies the location of Benjamin's lands. This refers to the Twenty-Five Mile stone set by the 1751 survey party at the intersection of Rum Ridge Road and Hwy #54. This is also 1.75 miles west of the intersection of Melson Church Road and Hwy. #54. Melson Church Road meets Melson Road in the center of Melson, MD. one-mile mile south of the state line.

Benjamin's name was found in the records spelled either Benjamin or Benjamine. Milley Gordy Melson's first name appeared as Amelia, Emelia, Milley or Milly. Interestingly, in the deed selling their lands to John Cordrey, her name was written as Amelia and as Milley. No challenge was ever made for this variation.

In the party that left Salisbury for Shelbyville, Shelby County, Missouri, accompanying Benjamin and Milley were their son John Melson, his wife and family; Milley G. Melson, their daughter; their sons Sampson Davis Melson, Elijah Melson, Benjamin Nathan Melson, Henry Brewington, his wife Sallie Melson and their children, Leonard Gordy and his wife. Possibly others as well whose names were not recorded. Their two oldest daughters, Lovey Cannon Melson Jones, and Hannah Jackson Melson Downing remained behind. The thoughts of these emigrants must have varied as the ship warped away from the pier at Salisbury for its voyage down the Wicomico River. They knew they were leaving their relatives and friends behind while they wondered what the future held for them in that far off land.
References to CHAPTER THREE

4. DHR Sussex County Liber "Rounds C," Folio 618, 1776.
6. MHR Worcester County Tax Lists.
7. MHR Worcester County Land Records Liber R Folio 1, 1796.
8. DHR Sussex County Liber "Rounds C" Folio 109, March 12, 1764.
9. MHR Worcester County Assessment Returns 1783, Microfilm M872.
11. MHR Worcester County Probate Records Liber JW18 Folio 25, 1791.
12. MHR Worcester County Estate Dockets, 1742-1821, Microfilm CR8972.
13. MHR Worcester County Balance of Final Payments, 5 Mar 1799 - Joseph Melson Admin, DBN.
15. MHR Worcester County Estate Dockets, 1742-1821.
18. MHR Worcester County Land Records, Liber AQ Folio 274.
19. MHR Probate Records Liber MH27 Folio 82, 1824.
20. DHR Sussex County Marriages, Vol. 43, Page 24.
23. MHS Layton Genealogical Collection, Library No. G 5077, Baltimore, MD.
24. Old Joseph Habersham DAR Collection - Will of John Melson, Hancock County, GA. & Records of Mrs. Julia Harris, Spring Hill, FL.
25. MHR Somerset County, MD. 1735 Tax List, Wicomico Hundred. MDHR 02397-9.
I spent three weeks in Missouri this month and managed to devote a few half days to searching the Shelby County Court House. Most interesting though, I found one of the sons of Benjamin N. Melson had a diary written by Elijah Melson, brother of Benjamin N. Melson, in 1837 telling of their trip to Missouri.

This diary is a small (about 3 by 6 inches) thin-leather bound book of 28 pages. It was written in what appears to be ink (quill pen, I suppose). It is faded but most legible and with more time to study, it could almost be deciphered. There is some repetition and later phrases not pertaining to the trip dated as late as 1844. It contains Elijah's and Samson's signatures made in that year. The diary is brief and, basically, consists of a statement made on most days of the trip telling of the miles covered and where they stayed (usually a Tavern) that night.

The trip account starts:
"ELIJAH MELSON's Journal to Missouri this 12th day of April 1837 starting from Worcester County state of Maryland..."

A passage written later:
"We started from Salisbury Wednesday the 12th 1837."

Evidentially they took a boat or ferry up the Chesapeake Bay:
"...passed Annapolis and had a very strong gale and all got sick but Henry and Samson."

This was probably Henry Brewington. They sailed through Baltimore and:
"Sunday the 16th we started to Wheeling passed all the mills and went under the railroad we saw the steam car going out up at Whaling Tavern. Later on Thursday the 20th, they traveled 19 miles and put up at Mrs. Broash's Tavern. A late entry:
Leonard Gordy's wife was taken sick Thursday the 20th. and we left them at Mrs. Broash's Tavern."

On Saturday the 22nd, they arrived at Cumberland and on Sunday it snowed. Other entries.
"Friday the 5th we got to Louisville about ½ past 10."

"Monday the 8th we got into the Mississippi about midnight."

"Wednesday the 10th within 40 or 43 miles of St. Louis. They broke the cupling (sic) and they had to go on one wheel to St. Louis and we got there Wednesday the 10 about 8 O'clock in the evening."

"Friday the 12th passed Seaord about ½ past 9 O'clock which was within
7 miles of hannabol(sic)."

"Sunday the 14th we started about 8 O'clock and about 2 O'clock I left the wagon and traveled 30 miles and put up at Mr. Eaton's."

"Monday the 15th. traveled 5 miles and got to James Parker's about 8 O'clock."

A late entry written in 1844:

"PATRICK HENRY was the name of the boat we went from Wheeling to Louisville and then got on another by the name of AVALANCHE."

So they started their trip April 12, 1837 and arrived at James Parker's (at least Elijah did) on May 15. Their route was Salisbury to Baltimore by boat, to Wheeling, and then by boat to Hannibal. Note that James and Jane Parker were already there and owned the land that later was to be called "the old Melson Place." The first recorded land transaction in Shelby County involving a Melson was the sale by James and Jane Parker of 160 acres to Benjamin Melson for $350 on June 1, 1837. That was the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 57, Range 12 (Shelby County Land Transactions, Book A, page 87). Note the price per acre was about $2.00."

This letter from Dr. H. Robert Glahn, Falls Church, Virginia reporting his research at Shelbyville, Shelby County, Missouri and his discovery of the old diary of Elijah Melson helped fill a large void in our knowledge about the family travels. The terse entries vividly depicted their various experiences as they were encountered along their route: the rough pitching boat on the Chesapeake Bay; the first Baltimore and Ohio railroad train which then only ran from Baltimore to Ellicott City, MD.; the concern about having to leave Leonard Gordy and his wife at a mountain tavern; the broken paddlewheel coupling on AVALANCHE and its slow struggle against the Mississippi current to reach St. Louis; and Elijah's eagerness to race ahead of the family wagon and tell his sister of their arrival. His diary may be read in its entirety on pages 11-16 through 11-28.

Supplementing these exciting pages from Elijah's diary, Dr. Glahn forwarded pertinent pages from an interesting old book, "HISTORY OF MONROE AND SHELBY COUNTIES, MISSOURI." The section of the book recounting the history of Clay Township, Shelby County, Missouri, mentioned James Parker as one of the earliest settlers in the township on Section 8-57-11, although it did not place him there before 1839, which was manifestly incorrect. CAPT. Melson was listed as living three or four miles west of the Parkers in 1839. The narrative again was incorrect when it referred to him as a Kentuckian. This was most likely due to there being so many Kentuckians settling there in those early days. These were minor errors and the writer evened the score somewhat two paragraphs later when he wrote about the establishment of the First Class of the Methodist Church in Shelby County. This class was formed at the residence of John B. Lewis, who lived on the Northwest Quarter of Section 8-57-11, in the fall of 1837. Among the first members were "the widow Parker and Mrs. Jane Parker, the wife of James Parker. The "widow Parker" might have been James Parker's mother.

Judge Elwood Melson, when asked by Florence Bessac about the migration, replied all he knew was a vague tale about some wild cousin who tossed over everything and moved west never to be heard of again.
Once settled in Shelby County, Benjamin's eyes must have been pleased with the loamy soils of the unbroken prairies. The region in which he and his party had settled was initially called the Salt River Township. Later, the portion in which they farmed became in 1845, the Clay Township. Shelby County's politics at that time were Whig and the newly created township was named for Henry Clay, whom his adherents knew as "gallant Henry of the West." These lands lay southwest of Shelbyville, near Clarence, Missouri.

Elijah in his diary failed to list all those in their party that sailed out of Salisbury on the way to Missouri. Florence Wilson Bessac's records of what her grandmother, Matilda Melson Wilson told her, said all the Benjamin Melson children went with their parents. Later information showed Great-aunt Tilly must have meant all the children who didn't remain behind went to Missouri. Both of Benjamin and Milley's two oldest daughters remained behind, Lovey Melson Jones and Hannah J. Downing. In addition, George Armstrong Melson had drowned the year previous, Polly Gordy Melson Smith and Minos had died earlier, and Jane was already in Missouri with her husband, James Parker. Henry Brewington went along with his wife, Sallie Melson, and their family, John Melson and his family were also in the party. John R. Coard, who married Amelia (Milley) G. Melson later was most likely in the party as was William Coard, who might have been either his cousin or an uncle.

The 1840 Census of the United States for Shelby County, Missouri listed these former residents of the Eastern Shore as being there.

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Males</th>
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<td>William Coard</td>
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<td>John R. Coard</td>
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<td>John Melson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Melson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Brewington</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Parker</td>
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The population for Shelby County at the time its first census was taken was 3056.

The exact relationship of William and John R. Coard is not known. They may have been uncle and nephew, or they could have been cousins. John R. Cord married Amelia G. Melson, and they returned to live in Worcester County, MD as will be recounted in Chapter Seven. The name presents some confusion as to its spelling. It is found in the records spelled "Cord," "Coard," "Coarde." In later years, the family preferred the "Cord" spelling and that was used more consistently than either of the other ways.

The 10-19 year old girl in the Benjamin Melson household may have been some child they had taken in after her parents had died. More of this will be found in the 1850 census.

Benjamin Melson purchased several tracts of Shelby County land and a lot inside Shelbyville, possibly with the idea of building a town house on it. His old title "CAPTAIN" followed him westwards and suggests he retained it to continue being active in the political affairs of his community. Unfortunately Benjamin never lived long enough to enjoy a town home, he passed away shortly after New Years Day, 1842. His will was filed at the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Missouri and read:
"The Last Will and Testament of Benjamin Melson, of the Township of Salt River, in the County of Shelby and State of Missouri.

I, Benjamin Melson, considering the uncertainty of his mortal life, and being of sound mind and memory (Blessed be Almighty God for the same) do make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner and form following, viz:

Item 1. I give and bequeath to my son John forty acres of Land to be taken from the half of the west Eighty on my farm and which joins his farm.--

Item 2. I give and bequeath Samson D. Melson the forty acres I lately purchased from James Parker near Henry Brewington's provided he lets his mother have her thirds in the said forty, and the Two forties I lately purchased for him, if called for. — also a feather bed with the necessary bedding — also the mare and saddle he now has — also Two hundred and fifty Pounds Pork. —

Item 3. I give my son Elijah the Farm known as the Townsend Place, containing an Eighty and a fractional forty acres of Land, also the Lot I now own in Shelbyville — also a horse, saddle and bridle, worth sixty dollars. also a plough, with necessary harness — also the Hogs, sheep and bees known as his, also a feather bed with the necessary bedding. —

Item 4. I give to my son Benjamin N. the farm on which I now live, except for the forty acres given to John. Also a horse, saddle and bridle with sixty dollars, and Plough with necessary harness — also the heifer, Hogs and bees known as his. —

Item 5. I give to my daughter Milley G., the wife of John R. Cord of Worcester County, Md. Thirty dollars. —

Item 6. I leave all my Carpenter and Joiners tools I own to be divided equally between my sons Samson D., Elijah and Benjamin N. Melson.

Item 7. I wish my son Elijah to continue on the home farm and work it on shares with Benjamin and his mother, until Benjamin becomes of age. I also leave them thirty bushels of wheat. —

Item 8. The balance of my Estate if any after paying all charges upon it, to be equally divided between all my children. —

Item 9. I hereby appoint my son Elijah sole executor of this my last will and testament: hereby revoking all former wills made by me. —

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this thirty first day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one.

BENJAMIN MELSON (SEAL)

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of us.

REBECCA SCOTT LEMONS
HENRY BREWINGTON
WM. STRACHAN

Filed for record the 22nd. Jan. A.D. 1842" (Ref. 3).
Benjamin Melson was sixty-four years old when he died in January 1842. He had spent an active four years establishing himself in Shelby County, MO. Milley was mentioned in his will only by indirection, as the "mother" of Samson D. and Benjamin N. Only in the item referring to the bequest to Samson D. was any mention made of her rights in his estate. Additionally, Milley G. Melson Coard was the only one of his daughters mentioned by name, yet two other daughter Sallie Melson Brewington and Jane Melson Parker were living nearby.

The fact that Milley Gordy Melson was his wife in Missouri was verified in a land transfer dated a few months before his death. The deed written 9 December 1840 and recorded 25 September 1841 described the sale of 80 acres by Benjamin and Milley Melson to John Monroe for the sum of $180. (Ref. 4). Milley Gordy Melson survived her husband by many years. She remained on their farm, which became her son Benjamin N. Melson's until her death Jan. 17, 1858. (Ref. 5).

Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson had twelve children, all born in Worcester County, Maryland. The lives and the descendants of those who survived and married; Lovey Cannon Melson, Hannah Jackson Melson, Polly Gordy Melson, Sallie Melson, John Melson, Jane Melson, Milley G. Melson, and Benjamin Nathan Melson plus a brief review of Elijah Melson's shortened life will be related in Chapter Seven beginning on page 7-33.

The sons and daughters of Benjamin and Milley Melson who had gone to Shelby County, MO. with their parents remained quietly on their farms, although each succeeding census revealed many changes. John and his wife, Elinor Elliott, died before the 1850 census was taken. Elijah Melson drowned. Henry and Sallie Melson Brewington also died before the 1850 census was taken. One of their sons was listed as living with the Samson Melsons. James and Jane Melson Parker disappeared from the census records between 1850 and 1860. One of the sons who did survive was Sam(p)son Davis Melson, the ninth child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson.

Sam(p)son Davis Melson was born in Worcester County, MD., Oct. 26, 1817. He was nineteen when he accompanied his parents to Shelby County, MO. Three years after settling there, Sam(p)son married Juliann Elizabeth Catherine Jones, born Nov. 6, 1824 in Kentucky, a daughter of Major Hex and Minerva Wilcoxen Jones. (Ref. 1). They were married in the Shelbyville Methodist Church, Shelbyville, MO. by the Rev. James V. Potts, Jan. 28, 1841. (Ref. 15). The 80 acres of land bequeathed to Sam(p)son by his father might have been a wedding present to them. Samson (I'll drop the (p) from his name as he seems to have used the abbreviated version as an adult) farmed in Shelby County for twenty-three years. Samson appears to have gradually changed his occupation away from farming, he was shown as a Farmer in the 1850 Census, but the 1860 Census described him as a Carpenter. (Ref. 17). Certainly the carpenter and joiner tools left to him by his father were put to good use. As noted above, the 1850 Census listed Benjamin S. Brewington as living with Samson and Juliann Melson as a member of the household. His parents had died before the census was taken. Benjamin S. Brewington was listed as being a Farmer.

Samson Davis and Julian E.C. Jones Melson had eleven children. Ten were born in Shelby County, MO. (Ref. 5).

William Henry Melson, the oldest child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Apr. 8, 1841, died May 20, 1842.

James Asbury Melson, the second child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Jul. 3, 1843, died Mar. 18, 1906, married Mary Amanda Gibson, born Oct. 31, 1865, died Aug. 20, 1940, on Jul. 22, 1879. (Refs. 10 & 18).

Minerva Jane Melson was the third child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Sep. 14, 1845, died Oct. 14, 1928, married John Henderson Wilson.
Matilda Frances Melson, the fourth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Feb. 2, 1848, died Dec. 8, 1926 (Ref. 1). She married Thomas Howard Wilson, Sept. 23, 1866 (.Ref.29).

Mary Susan Melson, the fifth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Mar. 22, 1851, died Jul. 30, 1902. She married Thomas Luther Davidson, Jun. 6, 1869.

America Melson, the sixth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born May 19, 1854, died Sep. 14, 1854.

Sarah Emma Melson, the seventh child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Nov. 10, 1855, died May 26, 1924. She married Lucian B. Plants.

Martha Josephine Melson, the eighth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was Apr. 9, 1858, died Nov. 2, 1952. She married Samuel Park Garrigues, born 1849, died May 24, 1919, on Jun. 6, 1877.

Ella Belle Melson, the ninth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Oct. 30, 1860, died Nov. 2, 1936. She married Frank D. McDowell, born Aug. 6, 1855, died Apr. 3, 1889, on Dec. 29, 1881.

Benjamin O. Melson, the tenth child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Feb. 16, 1864, died c1930, never married.

Albert Jason Melson, the eleventh child of Samson and Juliann Melson, was born Jan. 24, 1870, died Aug. 31, 1870 in Salem, Oregon (Ref. 5).

James Asbury Melson, or Asbury as he liked to be called, the oldest son of Samson and Juliann Melson, left Shelby County, MO. for Oregon in 1861. His enthusiastic report about Oregon convinced his parents to move west. In the spring of 1864, Samson sold his lands, packed a covered wagon for the long, difficult trip. He was then 47 years old and Juliann was 40. She had just given birth to their son, Benjamin O. Melson, she had to carry him in her arms over the jolting trails on the back of a mule.

A major regret of mine is that none of us, other than Florence Wilson Bessac, ever wrote down our great-aunts' childhood experiences. What little we know about the emigration comes from Florence's notes from her grandmother, Matilda, and what I recall from my great-aunts talking when I was a child. When Samson and Juliann decided to make the trip, they were deeply concerned about the health of their oldest daughter, Minerva Jane. Great-aunt "Nervy" had chronic asthma, they doubted if she'd survive the trip. Samson loaded enough planks into their wagon to make a coffin for her if that became necessary. Great-aunt Nervy used to love to relate this story, laughing with delight as she told it, coughing all the time. She lived to a ripe old age, always plagued with the asthma, but never becoming a victim of it. After their arrival in Salem, OR., Samson made a table from the planks. Otto Wilson, JR., Great-aunt Nervy's grandson, claims he still has this table made of pine. Patty Kent Smaya, Great-aunt Sarah's great-granddaughter, believes, however, the planks were oak and the table she has was made from the planks.

Samson could not have picked a worse year for crossing the plains than 1864. The U.S. Cavalry had been withdrawn from guarding the Oregon Trail during the Civil War. The Plains Indians had tacitly permitted the wagon trains to travel the trail as long as their camps and tepees were respected. By the spring of 1864, the unpatrolled plains swarmed with roughnecks and ruffians who raided the Indian camps without fear of reprisal causing resentment that flared into open warfare. The border from Fort Leavenworth to the Pacific Coast erupted with conflict. Almost all commercial traffic over the Oregon and Smokey Hill Trails were halted. The major stagecoach lines ceased operations in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. Later in the year, the unprovoked attack on the Smokey Hill Cheyennes by the bigoted Rev. Chivington and his savage Colorado militia drove the restless and resentful Plains Indians into
open rebellion. The fighting continued although the U.S. Government disavowed the attack. The strife continued another twenty-five years.

These were the conditions faced by Samson Melson and his family as they plodded their way across the plains, Samson driving the wagon and Juliann carrying her infant son on her mule. If they were like the other emigrants, they took at least one cow along to provide milk, and an extra span of horses. The wagon would have been piled high with household furniture, food and clothing. They selected special items for use during the long trek, my sister, Evelyn Melson Franz, of Keizer, Oregon has Juliann's camp rocking chair, an ingenious device that could be folded into a small package for storing in the wagon during the daytime, but brought out and opened for her use every night. Their trail most likely led from Shelby County westwards to Atchison, Kansas, then along an improved stagecoach road to Nebraska City, Nebraska. From this rendezvous site on the Missouri River, the trail continued westward passing the site of present day Lincoln, Nebraska, intersecting the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska. The wagon trains usually remained on the south side of the river until Julesburg, Colorado was reached. There, the trail crossed the South Platte and went northwest to meet the North Platte at Scotts Bluff. Continuing westward, the trail clung to the North Platte until the Sweetwater River was reached. Along the Sweetwater, the trail passed Independence Rock then onto South Pass, crossing the summit of the Rockies. Once across the summit, the trail led to Bear Lake, Soda Springs, Idaho and onto the boiling Snake River, which was followed with many fordings to the Oregon border. Here the trail led up the Grande Ronde Valley to the Blue Mountains before the weary emigrants could descend to the Columbia River. Its south bank was followed to The Dalles, Oregon. Here they faced a decision, they could put everything on a primitive railroad at high costs to avoid Columbia River Rapids, or elect to attempt the dangerous Barlow Pass that skirted Mt. Hood to reach the Willamette Valley.

Although the exact route Samson followed is not known, it was close to that described. Two stories about their crossing of the plains remain a part of our family lore. Somewhere along the Platte River, Sarah Emma, age nine, wandered away from camp and became stuck in the river quicksands. She was hauled to safety by a passing Indian, who snatched her from the clinging sands that held her tightly (Ref. 1).

Later, when the advance riders of the party reached Oregon that autumn, they told of some family that had gotten separated from the train in Idaho when they took a wrong turn. James Asbury Melson was listening to their news and asked for a fuller description of the family. When he heard them described, he exclaimed 'They sound like my folks.' With that he hurried off to find them and led them safely onto Salem (Ref. 1).

Samson and Juliann with their five daughters and baby son survived the long journey arriving at their destination, Salem, Oregon. Samson immediately took a job with J.L. Parrish managing his farm southeast of Salem in the Waldo Hills. Later, they moved into Salem, building a home on the Northeast corner of State and N. Thirteenth Streets. Samson farmed and worked as a Carpenter. He was always proud of helping to build the First Methodist Episcopal Church, of which they were members.

The 1870 Census for Marion County, Oregon (Ref. 21) lists Samson and his family, and the increasing families of their daughters. Samson's father-in-law, Major Hex Jones, followed his daughter to Salem a few years later. The members of the Melson family and their relatives made them prominent residents of that growing city (Ref. 21).
Samson Davis and his sister, Jane, were the first in the family to have their portraits preserved by photography. Samson's picture, taken apparently in the late 1880's, shows him to have been a well featured man of medium build. His hairline was full, and his hair white. In the custom of the day, he wore a complete set of chin whiskers. Jane's photograph, taken at an unknown date but assumed to be about the same time, retains the essence of a very sweet faced lady. The picture of Juliann E. C. Jones Melson was also taken then and revealed a small but intensely active lady. If her daughters were like her, Juliann was small, about 5 feet 2 inches tall, slightly stout when middle-aged but bursting with energy. Her ability to have ridden a mule half the breadth of the North American continent carrying a baby while still looking after all her other children en route was a credit to her determination. Juliann was born in Kentucky. Major Hex Jones was her father. His name was not a military title but a proper name. This unusual name, Major, hints his parents might have lived in Maryland. In the 1790 Census for Worcester County, a Major Jones was enumerated as a landowner and taxpayer. His picture taken in those early days of photography shows him with a wild set of whiskers. The pictures of Samson, Jane, Juliann and Major Jones may be seen in Chapter Eleven. The Jones family is traced starting on page 7-45.

Samson and Juliann lived in Salem, Oregon raising their family while he worked both at farming and carpentering. Juliann suffered a severe stroke in the 1880's and never regained her ability to walk or talk. Her daughter, Matilda Melson Wilson, assumed the burden of caring for her mother. Samson Davis Melson died before his wife on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 1894. (Ref. 22). Juliann died the following year on Nov. 4, 1895. (Ref. 23). Both Samson and Juliann were buried in the Melson Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Hoyt and S. Commercial Streets, Salem, Oregon.

James Asbury Melson, the second child and oldest surviving son of Samson and Juliann Melson grew up in Shelby County, MO. He left home as a young man in 1861 crossing the continent to Oregon where he began a long career in many fields of endeavor, he farmed, raised stock, was a horse trader, and a shopkeeper throughout his life. He met and married Mary Amanda Gibson when he was 34 years old. He was working as a stockman at the time on a ranch southeast of Heppner, Oregon.

Asbury, as he preferred being called, and Mary Amanda (Molly) Gibson, were
the parents of five children, all born in or near Heppner, Oregon:

Edith Josephine Melson, the oldest child of Asbury and Molly Melson, was born Jun. 22, 1880, died Jul. 22, 1880. (Ref. 5).

Byron Asbury Melson, the second child of Asbury and Molly Melson, was born Sep. 3, 1881, died Nov. 4, 1882. (Ref. 5).

Elbra Emma Melson, the third child of Asbury and Molly Melson, was born Nov. 10, 1882, died Feb. 6, 1883. (Ref. 5).


Etta Mae Melson, the fifth child of Asbury and Molly Melson, was born Apr. 15, 1887, died Aug. 7, 1960. She married George Earl Eyre, c1911.

Their first three children died as infants from the epidemics that raged through the ranching country during those early days. My father, Samson LeRoy Melson and his younger sister were able to survive.

Asbury and Molly Melson were the first names to be listed on the 1880 Census for Heppner, Oregon. (Ref. 27). This census was taken during the early weeks of June 1880 and along with Asbury and Molly was listed Asbury's mother, Juliann Melson. She had gone to Heppner to be with them when their first child was born. Then she returned to Salem in time to also be enumerated as a resident of Salem, Oregon.

Asbury moved his family from Heppner to Salem, Oregon in 1889 where they lived in a small house on the corner of N. 17th. and Center Streets. They remained there except for one brief period when he worked in Walla Walla, Wash., for the Spokane-Portland and Seattle Railroad. There was no housing available for them and they had to live in a tent. My father recalled this uncomfortable period saying it was bitterly cold and about all they had to eat was cabbage.

In Salem, Asbury supported his family with his horse trading, carpentry and general work until his unexpected death from a stroke, Mar. 16, 1906. He had always been a vigorous and active man until this occurred. (Ref. 5).

Molly (Mary Amanda) Melson survived her husband for many years. After his death, she and her two children remained in their home until Etta married George E. Eyre, a successful farmer near Salem. Molly then lived with Etta and George. After George's death, she continued living with her daughter until her death, Aug. 20, 1940. (Ref. 29).

Grandmother Molly Melson was a short, plump lady with boundless energy. She was a neat housekeeper with decided opinions. Dad used to laugh about the continued battle between his parents over Asbury's love for cigars. Grandmother disliked their smell and always insisted Asbury smoke them outside.

We failed to have Grandmother write down her experiences. We know a little about her parents and her early life. She was fond of telling of the friendship between her parents and a young lawyer in Petersburg, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln. She treasured a photograph of himself that Abraham had given her parents as he was leaving for Washington to assume the Presidency of the United States. We are not certain exactly how she and her brother, Joseph Lincoln Gibson, traveled from Springfield, IL to Heppner, OR. in 1887 when they were sent to live with their aunt, Mary Marsh Cason. The Union Pacific RR had not completed the Oregon Short Line RR at the time, nor had the Southern Pacific RR completed its lines from San Francisco northwards into the Willamette Valley. Possibly they went by train westwards as far as Rawlins or Laramie, WY, then the remainder of the journey by stagecoach.

Nothing is known about Grandmother's brothers and sisters who remained in Illinois. A review of her younger brother's life will be found on page 7-55.
Harvey A. Nelson, to the said O. M. Myers, and wife, A. Nelson, wife of O. M. Myers and of the County of Multnomah, State of Oregon, for and in consideration of $120.00 one hundred and twenty dollars and ten cents, has sold, bargained, sold and conveyed the following described parcel of real estate, to wit, the east half of the south east quarter of the northeast quarter of section 20, township 15 north, range 15 east of the 4th principal meridian of Oregon, together with the improvements, the Adjustments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all other estate rights, titles and interest at law and equity, and easements or liens thereon, and all claims of dower.

So have and will to the same to the said O. M. Myers and his heirs and assigns forever and we do covenant with the said O. M. Myers and his legal representatives forever that the said real estate is free from all encumbrances, and that we will will all our heirs, executors and administrators of all manner claims and demand of all persons whatsoever.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 24th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1879.

To, in consideration of the sum of One hundred fifty dollars, to me paid by J. A. Nelson, his heirs and assigns forever, I, J. S. Hall, herewith assign to J. A. Nelson, his heirs and assigns forever, the following described parcel of real estate, to wit: our undivided interest in and to the north one third in Block No. two in the town of Jefferson in the County of Multnomah, State of Oregon.

Together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances...belonging or in any wise appertaining thereto, and also all our estate, right, title, and interest at law and equity therein or thereto, including dower and claim of dower.

And I hereby agree to the said J. A. Nelson, his heirs and assigns forever, and to his donees and transferees, that the said real estate is free from all encumbrances and that we will and our heirs, executors and administrators shall forever and irrevocably assign to the said J. A. Nelson, his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claim and demand of all persons whatsoever.

Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, this 14th day of April A.D. 1899.

[Signature]

Notary Public

[Notary Public's Seal]
Reference to CHAPTER FOUR

3. "SHELBY COUNTY, MISSOURI RECORDER'S OFFICE "BOOK B" PAGES 497-498.
5. "SAMPSON DAVIS MELSON BIBLE" IN POSSESSION OF LEWIS B. MELSON SR.
6. "JONES FAMILY BIBLE," MRS. PAULINE JONES MILLS, BOC 42, CHANCE, MD.
7. "DONNING FAMILY RECORDS," MRS. T. MOORE HOLCOMBE IV, MILFORD, DE.
8. MHS MARRIAGE LICENCES FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MD, 1795-1865.
9. DHR "ISSAC SULLIVAN’S DIARY," PAGE 8, DOVER, DE.
10. DHR BIRTH AND DEATH LISTS.
12. "MRS. JANE ROSS OBITUARY, LAKEPORT, CA., FEB. 8, 1892," FLORENCE W. BESSAC.
15. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER P FOLIO 90, FEB. 10, 1794, "JONATHAN MELSON OF WORCESTER COUNTY TO SMITH MELSON OF ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA. FOR 80-12-9 POUNDS OF MONEY FOR HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND CATTLE."
16. NATIONAL ARCHIVES,WASH.D.C."CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1850, WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND."
17. NAT.Arch., Wash.DC."CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, SHELBY COUNTY, NO.1840." 
26. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY ESTATE DOCKETS #4, 1866-1923, MICROFILM CR931.
27. NAT.Arch.WASH.DC."CENSUS OF THE US, UMATILLA COUNTY, OR. 1880."
CHAPTER FIVE
FATHER AND MOTHER

Samson LeRoy Melson, the oldest surviving child of James Asbury and Mary Amanda Gibson Melson, was born on a ranch 21 miles southeast of Heppner, Oregon, December 19, 1883. His two older sisters and a brother failed to survive the ravages of the typhoid and cholera epidemics that swept the early frontiers. Samson, along with his younger sister, Etta Mae, passed their early childhood in Heppner, Oregon, where his father worked for his brother-in-law, S. Park Garrigues, the husband of his sister, Martha Josephine.

In 1889, Asbury moved his family from Heppner to Salem, Oregon. During this period of time, they also lived for awhile in Walla Walla, Washington. All this delayed Dad's entry into school, he didn't enter the First Grade until 1891 when he was over seven years old. Although he had been named for his grandfather, Samson Davis Melson, he was called "Roy" as he grew up. Later he rearranged his names, becoming Roy S. Melson, dropping the Samson altogether and keeping only the "S" as his middle initial. He was known throughout his adult life as Roy S. Melson.

Dad's elementary schooling ended with the Ninth Grade. That was as far as the schools in Salem, Oregon went in 1901. He was then almost 18 years old. He plunged into a number of various jobs seeking one that would determine his later life. He worked for the Colbath Grocery Store, which was located across the street from their home. He drove a horse-drawn streetcar from the downtown area to the top of Pringle Hill on South Twelfth Street, finally, he accepted the position as a messenger for the Capital National Bank. He advanced in the bank, first becoming a Teller and later the Asst. Cashier.

Dad never became a large man, he was 5'10" tall and weighed 155 pounds. He was athletic and played semi-professional baseball and football. He injured his left knee in a football game in 1903, acquiring what was then known as a "joint mouse." This occurred when a piece of the kneecap was separated and floated around between the kneecap and the knee bones. Today, modern surgery corrects this problem simply, but then any operation on the knee meant a stiff joint for the rest of your life. This "joint mouse" bothered Dad constantly. Whenever the bone fragment would wedge into between the kneecap and a knee bone, his leg would stiffen and the joint swell. He had to keep it bandaged to relieve the stresses on it and soak the knee in hot water hoping the fragment would work free and permit him to use the leg again without pain.

When his father died unexpectedly in 1906, Dad assumed the support of his Mother and Sister until Etta married George Earl Eyre. Then he was free to resume his education. He entered the Willamette University Law School in 1910 and graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Law under Prof. Charles McNary. Prof. McNary later became a Senator to Congress for Oregon and was the Vice-Presidential Candidate in 1940 on the Republican Party slate with Wendel Wilkie.

Dad retained his connection with the Capital National Bank during his years at Willamette University. After his graduation, rather than becoming a practicing lawyer, he decided to remain in the banking business. Dad used to joke that when he graduated from law school, he had ten dollars in his bank account, he had to make a decision to either spend the ten dollars to take the Bar Examination or use it to get a marriage licence. He chose the latter. Mother would sniff whenever he told this tale, but Dad was more fascinated with the challenges of banking than those of the bar.
On Jun. 25, 1913, Roy S. Melson married Hattie Etta Welch, a daughter of Noah and Alverda Hare Welch. Mother was born Apr. 30, 1889 in Glasco, Kansas. Her father was the Postmaster for Glasco. A year later, Grandfather resigned his post and moved his family to Salem, Oregon. Mother grew up at their home on Center Street Extended. She attended the Salem schools, graduating from Salem High School in the Class of 1907. A classmate of hers was Etta Mae Melson, Dad's sister. Mother attended the Capital Business College training as a Secretary. She worked several years for the Spalding Logging Company in Independence, Oregon, a small town fifteen miles up the Willamette River from Salem.

Dad built a home at 675 Statesman Street for them, and the Capital National Bank as a wedding present, raised his salary from $60 to $75 a month. Dad was serving as an Alderman for the city when they were married. The home on Statesman Street, which was north of Center St. and bordered Mill Creek, was a typical type house for that period with a parlor, dining room and kitchen along one side and three bedrooms on the other. Three of their children were born there: Lewis Byron Melson, Mar. 1, 1914; Ruth Lucille Melson, Apr. 20, 1916, and Evelyn Josephine Melson, Nov. 30, 1919.

World War I began the year I was born. The demand for more food to feed Europe and the allied troops made farm prices soar. Uncle George Eyre became interested in Canadian farmland and invested heavily in virgin prairie lands near Lumsden, Saskatchewan, Canada. He moved his family there and convinced Dad about the potential of the prairie farms, where the price of wheat soared from $1.50 a bushel in 1914 to $3.50 a bushel in 1917.

The consequence was Dad laid aside his banking role and moved to Canada to help raise wheat. He purchased a half a section in the early spring of 1918. This land had been partially broken and laid some sixteen miles from the hamlet of Bethune on the shores of Buffalo Pond Lake. In May 1918, a month later, Mother, Ruth and I joined Dad on the rolling prairies.

For two years, Dad broke sod, wrestled rocks, and worked feverishly to create new lands for raising wheat. There was a primitive house on the farm, a raw, unpainted two story box that shivered in the fierce blasts of the bitter northerly winds that howled out of the Arctic. A huge coal burning stove sat in the center of the tiny sitting room doing a yeoman's duty on the winter nights when the raging gales buffeted the houses with temperatures as low as -65°F. We lived there two years before Dad decided with the end of WWI that the prospects of continued prosperity in wheat were no longer promising. His analysis was excellent. It took the buyer of the farm more than ten years to pay off the purchase price.

With this decision made, we returned to Salem where Dad resumed his banking career, as the Asst. Cashier for the Capital National Bank. We resumed living in our home on N. Statesman Street and our sister, Evelyn Josephine, joined us that autumn. Shortly after her arrival, Dad and Mother decided they needed a larger house and purchased one that sat just south of Hoyt Street on S. 12th, just outside of the city limits. They moved in 1921, which was the same year, Dad joined Billy Evans in a partnership to buy the Commercial Book Store. Dad resigned from the bank to devote his full time to the book store, whose business grew with the onrushing years. Our brother, David LeRoy Melson, joined the family Jan. 14, 1925.

Dad enjoyed the role of a businessman, he was methodical by nature, precise in his handwriting, and capable of visualizing series of numbers in his mind doing the required mental arithmetic effortlessly. He had an outgoing manner than wore well with the customers. Like all businessmen of that era, he was a "joiner." He belonged to the local business and fraternal clubs that helped his business and whose activities he personally enjoyed. He was a member of Pacific Lodge AF&AM No. 50 Masons, the BPOE, The Woodmen of the
World, the Kiwanis Club and the Cherrians. This last was the local service and booster club for the promotion of Willamette Valley products. Cherries were one of the famed crops grown around Salem then, hence the name "Cherrians."

Soon after David's birth, Dad and Mother faced a serious decision about what to do to end my repeated bouts with chronic bronchitis. This complaint is easily controlled today, but during the 1920's, it was a serious illness for young children. Doctors has advised them I would not recover unless I was taken to another climate. Dad decided to join forces with a friend, Jimmie Marr, in promoting the sale of a process for duplicating which they called the "stencil." They formed the West Duplicating Company with offices in San Francisco, CA. Dad sold his interests in the Commercial Book Store and we moved to Palo Alto, CA. in the spring of 1925.

Dad drove to Palo Alto from Salem in his 1925 Buick sedan with myself as an agog passenger. Today, this drive would be a simple one during a single day. Not so in 1925; the roads were more primitive. Our first day's drive on US99 took us as far as Ashland, OR., the second crossing the Siskiyou Mts. and down the Sacramento River Canyon found us at Red Bluff, CA. while we reached Palo Alto at the end of the third day.

Although we had never been there before, we felt immediately at home, so many of our Wilson cousins lived there. One of Dad's aunts, Matilda Melson Wilson, and her three sons, Arthur, who was a printer; Herbert and Ernest. Ernest was the founder and President of the Wilson Candy Co. and Herbert was its Vice-President.

We settled in a comfortable house at 176 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA. Mother brought Ruth, Evelyn and David to Palo Alto by train. We began to enjoy living on the San Francisco Peninsula with its mild climate. At first the West Duplicating Company prospered. Then the larger business supply companies decided the time had come to force the small upstart company out. They began wilful infringement upon the stencil patent and laughed when Dad and Jimmy remonstrated. The West Duplicating Company did not have the financial resources needed to fight every infringement battle through the courts. Recognizing the futility of any such attempt, Dad and Jimmy sold their interests for a pittance. Dad decided to return to Salem as the time we'd lived in Palo Alto had controlled the bronchial problem I'd faced.

Dad had no sooner returned to Salem, than Ernest Wilson asked him to return to California and manage the Wilson Candy Company's restaurant in Stockton, CA. Leaving Mother and the other children in Salem, Dad took me with him and moved to Stockton where we lived for six months in the Edison Hotel. Once the problems of managing the store had been solved, Dad and I returned to Salem. Dad resumed his partnership with A.A. Gueffroy, who had previously purchased Billy Evans share of the Commercial Book Store. Dad and A.A. opened a new book store on State Street, the Atlas Book Store. It was successful from the start. To help handle the sales, Dad invited Jessie Davidson, the wife of his cousin, Leon Davidson, to clerk. Jessie enjoyed clerking and remained with the store for more than thirty years before retiring. Her place was taken by her daughter, Leone Davidson Osterman, who carried on this tradition.

Dad had not forgotten his fascination with the banking business, in 1927, in a complicated transaction, he exchanged his book store holdings for holdings in the American Fidelity Investment Company and began its Vice-President and Loan Officer under an old friend, Elmo White.

When we returned from Stockton, Dad rented a house on Mission and S. 11th Sts. In another transaction, Dad acquired a 35 acre farm in the Keizer community two miles north of the Salem City Limits at the intersection of the N. River Road and Cherry Avenue. In the spring of 1928, we moved to this farm,
which became his home until his death. The farm had a number of addresses
during our life there. It started on a Rural Free Route, first Rural Route
Two, then RFD8 Box 48 plus several other box numbers from time to time,
eventually a permanent address was assigned, 4400 N River Road. The farm was
planted mainly in Italian Prune trees when Dad purchased it. These trees had
been frozen during the bitter winter of 1919-20 and had never fully regained
their production. Dad decided to remove more than half of the trees and re­
place them with English Walnuts and Barcelona Filberts. That winter, Dad and
I planted more than 3000 trees. He had anticipated retiring when the trees
came into full production. As it took fifteen years for this to happen, the
annual income he received from the farm was cut in half by the removal of
the prune trees.

These plans never materialized, the 1929 recession badly hurt the Ameri­
can Fidelity Investment Company. Their borrowers couldn't repay their debts
and the company quietly succumbed, a victim of the general financial crisis
that had blanketed the nation.

Dad, for something to do, purchased the Peter Pan Restaurant, which occupied
the street corner of the Oregon Building at the Southwest corner of State
and High Sts. Although he worked day and night to make this successful,
again the depression hurt as business slowed. In 1932, Dad sold the restau­
rant and ran for County Commissioner for Marion County on the Republican
Ticket. He won this seat and occupied it for the next eight years. When he
retired from the Commissionership in 1940, he looked back with pride at the
more than two hundred miles of paved roads his efforts had achieved.

After leaving the county post, Dad embarked into a career as a lumber
and timber broker. Busy at first, brokering became less important as WW II
wore on, almost all materials were then either directed into the government
service or under ration. That was all right with him, he was ready for re­
tirement. By 1943, David, the last of his children had left home. With the
large farmhouse emptied, Dad and Mother could relax. He'd counted on the wal­
nut and filbert crops to begin to reach full production. Unfortunately, a
virus struck the walnuts and they never produced any quantity of nuts and a
filbert weevil decimated the filbert crop.

When WW II ended in 1945 and the family came straggling back to Salem,
Dad decided the fiction of waiting for the nut trees to provide him with an
income was too much to depend upon. Salem, also, has started leapfrogging
the quiet farmland surrounding Dad's farm indicating the only profitable
crop remaining for the farm was subdividing and selling its beautiful acres
for the building of homes. Dad made the decision with due deliberateness, he
and all of us disliked seeing the fertile land with its more than forty feet
of topsoil being subdivided, but there was no other alternative. Dad platted
the farm and started selling land at the rate of twelve lots a year. He took
pleasure in personally selecting the buyers, his skill in this became appar­
ent as the pleasing appearing houses were built. They stood out in sharp
contrast to the other subdivisions nearby.

Dad, also, found by then, he was plagued with high blood pressure, and had
to ease up as much as possible. He and Mother undertook more travel than
usual. They spent Christmas with us in La Jolla, CA, in 1948. Dad enjoyed
seeing and being escorted through the huge aircraft carriers and other war­
ships at San Diego, where I was stationed. Four years later, they flew to
Boston and spent three weeks with us. He was fascinated with New England. It
thrilled him to see the historic sights of Lexington and Concord, but he had
a hard time reconciling himself to the harsh fact the "Boston Baked Beans"
could only be found in the city for which they were named in cans in the
grocery stores. En route home, he and Mother visited Washington, DC to see the
National Capitol.
Dad's blood pressure problems began to seriously affect him during the late 1940's. He had to reduce his activities, he and Mother moved out of the large house into the smaller former tenant's house. He became interested in regaining contact with his eastern Oregon cousins. Years before, he had received from Florence Cason Spurlock a copy of her grandmother's experiences in the Whitman Massacre. He later located the address of his cousin, Ada Cason Templeton. They had hoped to have arranged a meeting, but time and his health intervened and they never met. The last trip, Dad made to his old home of Heppner was in 1950. A few of his notes about this trip survive:

"Sept. 27, 1950 - Thurs. Arrived Heppner 5:00PM. Long, hard trip from Redmond. Saw Mr. Roberts and Lew Matlock at Hotel Heppner. Learned that Mrs. Spurlock (Florence Cason, dau. of Mary Marsh Cason) had died. Got information re: Nina (Nina Garrigues Snyder), and several others. Was very tired, went to bed at 7:00PM.

Mrs. Bertha Dinges, Lexington.
Mrs. Ada Cason - Mrs. John Cason
Sadee Garrigues Riggs, two children, Pendleton.
See Frank Turner, Real Estate, across the street from the hotel.
William Ball, 72nd and E. Powell.
Mrs. Charles Cason - Caroline Cason crowned Queen at Fossil Celebration.
Walter Cason's daughter, Mrs. John Vaughn, Olds & King, Dry Goods and Bedding.
Jess Turner - Atty.
Pat Screitmeier - daughter of Ada Cason
J. L. Morrow, Portland, may know about our graves."

Dad never transcribed these notes into a more complete form. This set of notes and the one letter he received from Ada Cason Templeton were the only bits of written information he left about his family. Dad was in error about Florence Cason Spurlock in his notes, she was Mary Marsh Cason's granddaughter not daughter. Nevertheless, these notes did provide hints of information that were used in expanding our knowledge of the Cason family. Using them and the 1880 Census for Heppner, it appears the children of Mary Marsh Cason were: John, Isabella, James Franklin, Charles, Walter and Ada. (Ref. 1).

Nina Garrigues Snyder and Sadee Garrigues Riggs might have been the widow and step-daughter of Parker Garrigues, the son of S. Park and Josephine Melson Garrigues. Parker was known to have married a widow with a daughter. He died in 1933 leaving no children of his own.

We do not know if he saw the Frank Turner, William Ball, Jess Turner and J. L. Morrow he had listed in his notes. It is possible he hoped to find through Mr. Morrow, where the graves of his sisters and brother were located.

Regrettfully Dad never returned again to Heppner. He had always enjoyed this small town nestled in the folds of the Willow Creek valley. He had returned to it time and time again during his youth and early manhood. In 1903, Heppner was devastated by a cloudburst that drove the slumbering stream raging out of its banks. Dad hurried to Heppner to assist in the rescue efforts. Dad never told us much about his childhood, especially about the ugly war that raged through the rough frontier during the 1890's and the 1900's. This struggle was known as the Sheep and Cattle War and was fought between two rival camps for the control of the grazing lands. Sheep grazed the rich prairie bunch grass to the roots killing the grass and cattle refused to eat on any range previously grazed by sheep. The cattlemen attempted to keep the sheep away from the ranges. The struggle between the two groups was brutal with little mercy shown by either side. Frontier justice
was equally as abrupt and one explanation for Dad's decision to study law might have come from an incident that happened during his youth in his Morrow County days.

While I was growing up, if Dad ever went to Portland, Oregon, which was only 40 miles from Salem, regardless as to whether we stayed one hour, one day or any other period of time, he always stopped at the Portland Hotel, the best in the city, and registered for a room. I always thought this was unnecessary and hardly worth the effort as our home in Salem was less than one hour's drive away. On one occasion as he began to register, I protested. Dad merely smiled saying, "Why not, the Portland Hotel always has a room ready for me at no cost." After we got to the room, he told me that one day in Heppner when he was a young man, two men got into an argument and settled it with a gunfight in the center of the main street. When the smoke had cleared, one of the fighters was dead. Following local convention, a Coroner's Jury was immediately convened, almost before the smoke from the shooting had dissipated. The victor of the argument asked Dad to represent him as his advocate. Dad must have been exceptionally eloquent as the jury, after a short consultation, found the survivor Not Guilty and freed him. If he'd been judged Guilty, he would have been hanged from the nearest Cottonwood tree as soon as the rope could have been strung. Many years later, the victor, Phil Metscham, became the owner of the Portland Hotel. In rememberance for Dad's help that day in Heppner, Phil told Dad there would always be a room kept for him at the hotel whenever Dad wanted to use it.

Throughout life, Dad had enjoyed music. He loved to bang out tunes on the piano, and he sang in several glee clubs during his younger days. This musical trait was shared with Mother and all their children except me. Dad liked public service. He served as an Alderman for the City of Salem about 1905-6, as a Commissioner for Marion County, and a Member of the Keizer School District besides being active in many local service clubs.

The day came when the problems associated with uncontrollable high blood pressure got the better of him. He suffered a major brain hemorrhage May 20, 1955. He lingered until July 25, 1955, passing away just before we arrived on route from Washington, DC to Kodiak, Alaska. Dad lies with his parents and grandparents in the Melson Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.

Mother, Hattie Etta Welch Melson, devoted her time after marriage to managing the household. She always remained close to her family. She was of medium height, fair complexioned, with brown eyes and hair. She was disappointed none of her children had this combination and offered a $5.00 reward for any grandchild that had them. Chris, Lew's son, finally won her offer.

We enjoyed visiting her parent's home. Grandmother Welch kept a filled jar of cookies for the eager grandchildren. Mother enjoyed her circle of friends at the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Salem. Unlike Dad, who was a rock-ribbed Republican, Mother was a fervent Democrat, following her father's footsteps. For years she was the only registered Democrat in our precinct. This helped as the Election Board had to have representatives of both parties; she was reappointed year after year resolving what could have been a difficult election board situation.

After Dad's death, Mother remained for awhile in their small house on the farm. Later, through the efforts of her daughter Evelyn's husband, whose father was a Mennonite Minister, she found a pleasant home in the well kept Dallas Rest Home of the Mennonite Church. She was content to remain there until her death May 24, 1973. She now lies with Dad in the Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.
References to CHAPTER FIVE

1. NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASH, D.C., '1880 CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, LOWER WILLOW CREEK, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, PAGE 4, SHEET 69, MICROFILM T-9 1084.

2. 'ROY S. MELSON OBITUARY,' OREGON STATESMAN, SALEM, OREGON, JULY 28, 1955.

CHAPTER SIX

THE PRESENT GENERATION

The four children of Roy S. and Etta Welch Melson are:

Lewis Byron Melson, born 1 March 1914.
Ruth Lucille Melson, born 20 April 1916.
Evelyn Josephine Melson, born 30 November 1919.
David LeRoy Melson, born 12 January 1925.

Lewis, Ruth and Evelyn were born at their parents home, 675 N. Statesman St., Salem, Oregon. David was born at their house at S. 12th. and Hoyt Streets, Salem, Oregon.

My first job after graduation from Salem High School in June 1932, was as a Pilot Car Driver for the Oregon State Highway Department on a construction project for paving US101 between Florence and Newport, Oregon. When this was completed, I enrolled at the Polytechnic School of Engineering, Oakland, California, which I attended on and off for four years, interspersing the academics with assignments with the Oregon State Highway Department. These varied widely. In 1933, I began as a Laborer with Oiling Crew #3, then transferred in June to the Survey Crew of Gene Booth, at the Big Camas Ranger Station, twenty-five north of Diamond Lake, OR. In 1934, I was assigned at Timekeeper, Paving Crew #6. The following year as Timekeeper, Paving Crew #5. Then back to Paving Crew #6 in 1936 as a Street Foreman. In 1937, I was sent to Oiling Crew #3 again, this time as the Timekeeper. In July, I was transferred to being the Inspector for highway construction between Coquille and Bandon, OR.

That fall, I transferred to Oregon State University (then College) to major in Civil Engineering. My summer assignments from then on were with construction projects as Transitman, and later Chief of Party. I received my BS in Civil Engineering in 1940 and my MS in Mechanical Engineering in 1941.

I had also received a commission as an Ensign, US Naval Reserve. Between the time of my graduation and being called onto active duty with the U.S. Navy, I was the Asst. Bridge Engineer for all bridges on the Wilson River Highway, which crossed the Coast Range between Tillamook and Forest Grove, OR.

On 7 July 1941, I reported to the Prof. of Naval Science, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia for training as a Naval Engineer. When this was completed, I was sent to the Charleston SC Navy Yard for six months as an apprentice in ship construction. This assignment was a familiarization with all aspects of ship construction and maintenance by working in every shop and design office. It preceded a year of theoretical instruction at the Post Graduate School, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. During this rigorous year, our group crammed into one school year the same courses as normally given to Naval Engineers at MIT in Cambridge, MA for a MS after three years less writing a thesis. We were designated as Naval Architects after completing the course. My orders were to return to the Charleston Navy Yard as a Ship Superintendent for ships assigned for overhaul. Almost all my assignments during this tour of duty were to rebuild battle-damaged cruisers of the US and British Navies.
Lieutenant(junior grade) USNR Mary Katherine Melton and I were married 13 June 1944 at the Thomson, Georgia Methodist Church. Katherine was a daughter of Mr. Joseph Samuel Melton and his wife, Mary Sue McFarland Melton, of Thomson, Georgia. Katherine was born in Henrietta, Rutherford County, North Carolina, where her father was in the lumber business. In 1915, the Meltons moved to Thomson, Georgia with her father continuing his career as a surveyor and field foreman in lumber. Joseph and Mary Sue McFarland Melton had four daughters:

Sarah Elizabeth Melton, born 1906, died 28 Feb. 1907.
Johnnie-Sue Melton, born 27 Nov. 1912, died 10 Aug. 1977
Mary Katherine Melton, born 27 Aug. 1914
Margaret Eva Melton, born 8 Dec. 1918

Katherine attended schools in Thomson and graduated from Thomson High School in 1932. She attended several colleges and graduated from the Georgia Southern University in 1940. She taught school in Warrenton, Swainsboro and at Thomson before receiving her commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1942. She was ordered to Smith College for her indoctrination, Northampton, Massachusetts. Upon completion of that course, she was assigned to the Charleston Navy Yard, Charleston, SC as a Communication Officer.

Both of us remained on active duty after our marriage at the Charleston Navy Yard. Katherine resigned her commission in March 1945. Lewis Byron Melson Junior was born at the Navy Yard Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina, 10 April 1945. We were living in an attic one bedroom apartment at 176 Sans Souci St., Charleston at this time. A bit more than a year later, my assignment to the shipyard was ended. During that last year, I was the Hull Repair Officer and the Drydocking Officer. Katherine and I had agreed we should remain with the U.S. Navy, and I had applied for and received a commission as Lieutenant-Commander, U.S. Navy. After being detached from the Charleston Navy Yard, we spent three months on leave with my parents in Salem, Oregon. I was then assigned to the staff, Fleet Air West Coast as Ships Maintenance Officer. This command was based at the Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, CA. We found a house at 5428 Beaumont Street, La Jolla, CA.

Our older daughter, Mary Sue Melson, was born at the NAS North Island Naval Hospital, 26 July 1947 (Ref. 1). My tour with Fleet Air West Coast ended in May 1949, and we were ordered to the Boston Reserve Fleet Group, Boston, MA, where I was the Material Officer. This was a challenging assignment, during the Korean War, my small staff of three returned to service four aircraft carriers and a major logistics support ship. Margaret Katherine Melson, our younger daughter was born 6 June 1950 at the Navy Hospital, Chelsea, MA.

Promoted to Commander in Sept. 1952, I was assigned to the Bureau of Ships, Washington, DC, in the Naval Science Division. I later became the Director of this Division with additional duty as Scientific Operations Officer, Joint Task Force 7.3, PROJECT WIGWAM, an underwater nuclear test in the Pacific Ocean. When this test was completed, we were ordered to Kodiak, Alaska as the Industrial Manager, 17th Naval District. There I handled all ship repairs and communications engineering. They were an interesting two year tour. After our return to the states in July 1957, I became a Group Repair Supt., Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA. Later, when promoted to CAPTAIN, 1 July 1960, I served at the Production Engineering Officer and the Quality Assurance Officer.
We left the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in July 1961 for Guam, where I became the CO of the Ship Repair Facility. We were at Pearl Harbor for a week. I was with the Naval Commands while Katherine and the family enjoyed Waikiki. We enjoyed the tropical life on Guam with the exception of having to endure six typhoons during our tour. One of these typhoons was KAREN, whose 208 mph winds devastated the island. My command was 98% destroyed and we had to completely rebuild. Then back to Washington, DC, this time as the Director, Naval Applications Division, Office of Naval Research and later as the Assistant Chief of Naval Research for Research. My final tour as an active duty officer with the U.S. Navy began in July 1967 as the Engineering Officer, Military Sea Transportation Service, Pacific at Oakland, California. I retired from active duty 31 August 1968 to accept the position of Vice-President of a company to manufacture ocean construction equipment in Cincinnati, Ohio. Unfortunately, a heart attack on 4 March 1969 convinced me to retire, we settled in La Mesa, California for a year to recuperate. Katherine previously had taught school in Anne Arundel County, MD. She was asked to return, so we did.

We had barely gotten settled again at Annapolis, when I was asked by the Navy to return in a Civil Service position as a Scientific Consultant for Naval Engineering assigned to the Navy Scientific and Technical Group, Europe. This small office was located in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. I began that assignment 30 April 1971. My assignments took me from Tromso, Norway to Istanbul, Turkey, and from the British Isles to Moscow, USSR. In July 1976, our office was combined with another at Munich, Germany, becoming the Navy Liaison Unit, Munich. We remained until my retirement on 30 June 1969. Katherine and I returned to live in Annapolis. My last association with the Navy was as Associate Professor for Naval Ship Engineering in 1982 at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Katherine was diagnosed in October 1994 with small cell lung cancer. After a valiant fight against this disease, she died peacefully at our home, 21 May 1996 and is buried in the National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Our son, Lewis Byron Melson, Jr., graduated from Father Duenas High School, Guam in 1963 and from the University of Oregon in 1969. Lewis Jr. married Katherine Deane Craddock of Pacific Palisades, CA. There 2 Sept. 1967. Kathy was also a student at the Univ. of Oregon, her parents were Dr. Charles G. and Mrs. Hilah White Craddock of Pacific Palisades, CA. Doctor Craddock was a Professor of Haematology, UCLA Medical School, Los Angeles, CA. Kathy was born 8 Nov. 1948. After graduating from the University of Oregon, Lew began a career in photography and movie production in Eugene, OR. Christopher Lewis Melson, their son, was born in Eugene, OR. 25 Feb. 1968. Kathy and Lew were divorced 25 Oct. 1969. Lew continued his movie and photographic work until his death from a massive heart attack in Eugene, 15 April 1983. He is buried in the Melson Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.

Kathy became ill shortly after the divorce, Lew then assumed looking after Chris and was responsible for raising him. To help him, we suggested Chris be sent to us in Frankfurt. We kept him for a year, then again later in Munich and Annapolis. He returned to live with Lew in 1982, but returned to stay with us after Lew's death. Chris graduated from Broadneck High School in 1986. In his senior year he was his school's Scholar-Athlete of the year. He played Defensive right end on the football team and defense in lacrosse. He attended Pennsylvania State Univ. for a year, then transferred to the University of Virginia, from which he graduated in Economics in May 1990. At the Univ. of Virginia, he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He is now concerned with wholesaling and retailing of specialty sports clothing.
Mary Sue Melson is the older daughter of Lewis B. and Katherine M. Melson. Mary graduated from the Annapolis, MD. Senior High School in June 1964. She attended the University of Maryland, where she belonged to the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She married Roland Stanton Adkins, a fellow student of the University of Maryland, on 8 August 1969 at the home of Roland (Sandy)'s sister near Salisbury, MD. Sandy was the son of E.R. and Elizabeth Adkins of Salisbury, MD. Sandy was born 28 July 1947 at Salisbury, MD. After their marriage, Sandy and Mary lived in the Roland Park section of Baltimore, MD. They had one son, Joshua Justin Adkins, born at Baltimore, MD, 7 Jun. 1973. Sandy became a Training Instructor for the State of Maryland, he was assigned to the Rosemead Hospital to work with disadvantaged children. Mary worked the State Welfare Agency for years. Mary and Sandy were divorced 31 Jul 1977. On 23 Nov. 1977, she married Arthur Samuel London. Arthur was born in Baltimore, 17 Feb. 1951. They live at 512 PARK St, Towson, MD 21204.

Arthur is associated with a brother, Perry London, in a brokerage business in Baltimore. Arthur and Mary have two children:


Margaret (Peggy) Katherine Melson, the younger daughter of Lewis B. and Katherine M. Melson, graduated from the Skyline High School, Oakland, California in June 1968. She also attended the University of Maryland and was also a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She graduated from the Univ. of MD. in June 1972. After her graduation, she worked for a year with the USNEWS & WORLDREPORT Magazine as an editorial writer in Washington, DC. She then spent a year with us in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. After she returned to the United States, she married James Franklin Parsons, Jr. on 6 June 1976. Jim was a son of James Franklin Parsons and Elizabeth Elliott of Mardela Springs, MD. James was born at Mardela Springs, MD, 14 June 1947. For several years, James was the Manager of the Maryland Home for the Handicapped, a Lutheran Church charity in Baltimore, Maryland. He also attended the University of Baltimore, graduating with a BS in Business Administration in 1984. In 1985, James accepted an appointment as the State of Maryland Communicable Disease Officer for St. Marys, Calvert and Charles Counties. Peggy trained to become a Nurse at the Maryland General Hospital graduating with the highest scholastic honors in 1980. She remained on the staff of the Maryland General Hospital for three years. She then joined the Anne Arundel General Hospital at Annapolis, MD where she remained for four years. She is now a Supervisor for the American Red Cross in Anne Arundel County, MD. Peggy and Jim have two children, they are:

Matthew Melson Parsons, born 19 Oct. 1981, Annapolis, MD.
Elliott Elizabeth Parsons, born 6 Dec. 1982, Annapolis, MD.

Jim and Peggy live at 1935 Reynolds Street, Crofton, MD. This is a residential community on the western side of Anne Arundel County, MD. convenient to Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, DC.
Ruth Lucille Melson was the second child of Roy S. and Etta Welch Melson. She graduated from Salem Senior High School in 1934, then attended Oregon State College for two years. She was a member of the Sigma Kappa Sorority while at Oregon State College. She worked for many years as a Secretary with the Secretary of State's Office, State of Oregon at Salem, Oregon. Later she transferred to the Office of the Governor of the State of Oregon. On 6 April 1942, Ruth married Thomas Peyton Hill III. Tom was then serving as a Private with the Wyoming National Guard, which had been called onto active duty with the U.S. Army and stationed in Oregon. Tom was born at Buffalo, Wyoming, 22 Aug. 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Peyton Hill II. His father was the Postmaster for Buffalo, Wyoming. His grandfather, Thomas Peyton Hill I had been a rancher near Buffalo and was that state's first Senator to the U.S. Congress when Wyoming became a state. Tom had been attending the University of Wyoming when called onto active duty. Ruth and Tom had met when his company was stationed at Salem, OR. Later, Tom was transferred to the 509th Composite Squadron and assigned to the U.S. Army Air Corps Wendover, Utah Base where he was an Armorer Sergeant. This was the squadron that was ordered to drop the first atomic bombs over Japan. After World War II ended and he was released from active duty, he returned to Salem, Oregon and became the Deputy Purchasing Agent for the State of Oregon. Tom died from bone cancer 6 Apr. 1975. Tom and Ruth had two children:

Theresa Phyllis Hill, born 10 Jul. 1944, Salem, Oregon.
Steven Melson Hill, born 26 Jun. 1947, Salem, Oregon

After Tom's death, Ruth worked for years as the Legal Secretary in the County Clerk's Office, Marion County, Oregon at Salem. On 2 Sep. 1977, she married Courtney Duncanson, born 4 Jul. 1916 at Tonganoxie, Kansas in Salem, Oregon. They lived at 608 Greenwood Drive NE, Keizer, Oregon. Ruth died 19 May 1992 of intestinal cancer. She is buried with Tom in the Hill Plot, Willow Grove Cemetery, Buffalo, WY.

Theresa Phyllis Hill graduated from North Salem High School in 1962. She married Larry Martin Weissbeck, 2 June 1962, they had two children:

  Scott Martin Weissbeck, born 8 Jul. 1964, Salem, Oregon.
  Jill Ann Weissbeck, born 5 Jul. 1965, Salem, Oregon


Steven Melson Hill graduated from N. Salem High School, Salem, OR in 1965. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving mainly as a Radar Operator at stations in Alaska. After completing his enlistment, he married Marilyn Jean Caouette of Arlington, MA. 14 Feb. 1970. Steven is a Power System Technician with the New England Telephone Company. Their children are:

  Steven Thomas Hill, born 6 Aug. 1975, Arlington, MA.
  Kelly Linnae Hill, born 29 Jul 1979, Arlington, MA.
Evelyn Josephine Melson, the third child of Roy and Etta Melson, graduated from Salem High School in 1938. She attended the Capital Business School and worked as a secretary. She was active in sports, playing on the Lind-Pomeroy National Championship Softball team. She was an avid horsewoman. She married Ewald David Franz, 24 May 1940, at the First M.E. Church, Salem, OR. Ewald (Ozz) was born 19 Mar 1914 and grew up on his father's farm east of Salem. He graduated from Salem High School in 1932, and from Willamette Univ. in 1936. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed at Camp Roberts, Paso Robles, CA, Nov. 1942 to Feb. 1943. After the war, he joined the State Board of Parole and Probation, retiring in 1977 as its Executive Assistant. He became a Consultant in Sociology. Ewald died of cancer 19 Jul. 1988. He was buried in the Melson Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.

Evelyn remains at their residence at 693 Linda Ave, Keizer, OR 97303. She is active in community affairs including the DAR and has been the Salem Chapter Regent.

Ewald and Evelyn had three children:


Allan David Franz, their second child, was born 9 Jun. 1944. He graduated from N. Salem High School and attended Willamette Univ. From 22 Apr. 1972, he married Margaret Lewis, born 22 Jul. 1947. Their daughter is Katie-Marie Franz, born 6 Sep. 1974. She attends Pacific Univ, Forest Grove, OR. Margaret and Katie are accomplished horsewomen and participate in national meets. Allan is the District Supervisor, OR. Social Services Dept, Salem, OR. They live at 464 63rd. St, Salem, OR 97301.


David Leroy Melson, the fourth child of Roy and Etta Melson, was born 14 Jan 1925, Salem, OR. He graduated from North Salem High School in 1941 and attended Willamette Univ. until entering the Army Air Corps in 1942. After his release from the Air Corps in 1945, he returned to Willamette where he received a BS in Education, then a MS in Education from Oregon State Univ. He taught school at Coquille, OR and the Fairview Home, Salem, OR. He then became a Parole Officer for the State of Oregon at Grants Pass, OR. There, he married Dorothy Brickley, 18 Mar. 1961, she was born 5 Apr 1948. He later joined the Calif. Parole System in Los Angeles and then at Monterey. David and Dorothy were divorced in 1966. David later joined the Parole System for New Mexico and was assigned to Albuquerque, Roswell and Santa Fe. He was the State Parole Officer for a year. He married Mrs. Muriel Batho Nash in Roswell, 30 Oct 1971. They moved to Durango, CO where they live at 2401 Delwood Ave. David remains active in real estate. Muriel helps her daughter, Heidi and her husband, Ed Murray with their children, Heidi teaches elementary school in Durango.
References to CHAPTER SIX

1. 'MELSON FAMILY RECORDS, 'LEWIS B. MELSON, 1928 PENDENNIS DRIVE, ANNAPOLIS, MD, 21401.'

2. DAVID L. MELSON TELEGRAM TO LEWIS B. MELSON, 18 MARCH 1961.

3. 'THOMAS PEYTON HILL III OBITUARY, ' OREGON STATESMAN, SALEM, OREGON, APRIL 8, 1975.
John and Elizabeth Painter (Penter) arrived in Virginia during the 1664-1670 period, both transported in that colony by John Renny, as described in Chapter Two. Renny, whose name is also found spelled as Reny, Renney and Renne, made several voyages to England to recruit help for his American properties. In addition to his lands in Accomack County, VA., he obtained lands in Somerset County, MD. In 1671, he sailed with his wife, son, John Melson, Elizabeth Painter, Henry Allen and Warren Day, and filed for Head Rights of 50 acres each on six persons, transported into the colony (Ref. 1). While they were in Somerset County, MD, John and Elizabeth apparently completed their periods of service to Renny. They published their banns, 9 Jan. 1671/2 in the Somerset County Judicials, Liber #AZ folio 43. Their marriage was recorded in Somerset County Liber IKL Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1600-1720 (Ref. 2). "John Melson and Elizabeth Painter were married by Mr. Robert Maddox, Clarke ye ffourth day of April Annoq Dominy one thousand six hundred seventy & two."

Renny's claim for his grant of 300 acres was not filed, for some reason, until 12 June 1672. This is the date found in Skordas's "Early Settlers of Maryland (Ref. 1)." Other references, though, have verified John and Elizabeth Painter Melson were in America many years before the Skordas entry. Once they had completed their obligated service as transportees to Renny, John and Elizabeth returned to Accomack County, VA and established their permanent residence. John Melson acquired land and these were reported in the Tax Lists starting with those of 1675 (see 11-2). His names is shown through 1687 spelled various ways.

John and Elizabeth Painter Melson had three sons; Samuel, born c1673, John Jr., born c1675, and Joseph, born c1677. They grew up in Accomack County, VA. Samuel left home when he was either twenty or twenty-one to settle on the tract his father had purchased in the Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, MD. This tract is shown in the Calvert Papers Rent Rolls 1639-1725 for Somerset County, Microfilm M393 #885 Rent Rolls 1663-1725. "Nanticoke Hundred, 200 acres, Rent 0-4-0, 'The Gore', surveyed Jan. 6, 1685 for John Mellsom, possessor, by Robert Walton.

Samuel Melson's first wife was Margaret Taylor, born c1673, died after 1719. She was a daughter of James Sr. and Elizabeth Taylor of Guilford Creek, Accomack County, VA. They most likely were married c1693. They had five known children: Joseph Melson, Samuel Melson, Benjamin Melson, Ann Melson and William Melson.

Samuel Melson acquired additional tracts of land in Nanticoke Hundred. Two of these featured prominently for generations in his will and in those of his descendants. After the agreement between the Calverts and the Penns that established the WEST LINE and the MASON DIXON LINE, these properties fell into Sussex County, Delaware. The first tract was PARTNERS CHOICE, Purchased from William Robinson, 250 acres, 13 July 1719 (Ref. 3). His second tract was POPLAR RIDGE granted to him on a Common Warrant issued 10 Oct. 1728, 150 acres (Ref. 4). After the death of his first wife, Samuel remarried. His second wife was Isabel Long, born c1678 in Somerset County, MD.
Samuel Melson’s will was filed for probate 26 Feb. 1739/40 with the Somerset County, MD Court. In this will be bequeathed:

- to wife Isabel
- eldest son Joseph, personal and POPULAR RIDGE
- son Benjamin Melson, land on Poplar Ridge
- son Samuel Melson, land called PARTNERS CHOICE
- dau Ann Melson, land on Poplar Ridge & personal
- granddau Elisabeth, dau of Benjamin Melson, 50 shillings

WM BROWN
SUSANNA BROWN
JOHN CARMICHAEL signed on 23rd day of June 1738

SAMUEL MELSON

Joseph Melson, the oldest son of Samuel and Margaret Taylor Melson was born c1698. He was a planter like his father in the Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, MD. His first wife was Ann Mary Ayres Onions, they were married c1720, she was born c1700 and died before 1765. (Ref. 65). Ann Ayres Melson was mentioned in a deed.

"Ann Melson, Thomas Gibings, Tabitha Gibings, his wife sold to Thomas Robins for 170 Pounds "THOMPSONS PURCHASE" in Worcester County and on the Sea board side of the County between Blacke water Creek and Vineses Creek, which said land was given Christopher Thomson of Accomack County, Colleny of Virginia by his Last Will and testament unto Admond Ayres and Ann his wife for Life and after their decease to be divided equally between Tabitha, the now wife of Thomas Gibings, Parties to this deed and Ann Mary to wit: 240 acres it being Tabitha's part of the said land.

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of us

her
JOHN PURNELL
ANN MELSON
DAVID JOHNSON mark

THOMAS GIBINGS
TABITHA GIBINGS
NEAHMIAH KING, Dpty.Cmsr. (Ref. 31)

Recorded Dec. 23, 1751

This tract continued to be involved in Court actions. Worcester County Land Records Liber D folio 462, 31 Aug. 1759 reported “John Onions, Planter, sold to Joseph Melson for 10 Pounds 100 acres, land near Melson’s house and near a Shingle Landing adjoining Thomas Robins close to the mouth of Herring Gut. All being part of “THOMPSONS PURCHASE” granted unto John Onions by resurvey.

SS&D
JOHN DERICKSON
JOHN DAGSWORTHY Recorded 9 Nov. 1759"

Worcester County Land Records Liber D folio 463, 31 Aug. 1759
"John Onions sold to Abner Lamb, 18 acres of "THOMPSONS PURCHASE"
SS&D
JOHN DERICKSON
JOHN DAGSWORTHY"
Worcester Land Records Liber D folio 464, 31 Aug. 1759

"John Onions sold to Benjamin Derickson 21 acres of "THOMPSONS PURCHASE"

SS&D JOHNSON
JOHN DERICKSON
JOHN DAGSWORTHY

Recorded 9 Nov. 1759"

Joseph Melson died c1747, he left no will. An Inventory of his estate (see page 12-11) was filed with the Somerset County Court 23 Nov. 1749. The value of his estate was set at 14-19-2 3/4 Pounds. His tract POPULAR RIDGE went to his brother, Benjamin Melson. The inventory listed as his nearest relatives his brother, Samuel Melson, and his brother-in-law, Henry Graham (Ref. 5).

Joseph Melson left four children: Ann Mary Melson, born c1723, married c1737 to William Aydelott, born c1713, died c1775. Her second husband was named Johnson; they were married c1776, her third husband was a Rickards. Elizabeth Melson was the second child of Joseph and Ann Mary Melson; she was born c1732, married c1750, Samuel Aydelotte, born c1717, died 1804. Sarah Melson was the third child of Joseph and Ann Mary Melson; she was born c1734, married c1751 to ___ Derickson, born c1730. Susannah Melson, the fourth child, was born c1736 and married a Hopkins.

Ann Mary Melson and William Aydelott. He was a son of John and Winifred Aydelott, born c1713, died c1775 in Somerset County, MD. Their children were:

- Esther Aydelott, married a Clark.
- Mary Aydelott, born c1740, married Lazarus Maddox c1760, in Sussex County, DE.
- Susannah Aydelott, married a West.
- Elizabeth Aydelott, married a Dagsworthy.
- Dorothy Dagsworthy Aydelott, born c1746.

Elizabeth Melson, the second child of Joseph and Ann Mary Melson, born c1732, married c1750, Samuel Aydelott, son of John and Winifred Aydelott, born c1717, died 1804. They had four children: (Ref. 65)

- Isaac Aydelott, born c1758, died after 1800.
- James Aydelott
- John Aydelott, born 1763, died 1836, married Milley Woodcraft, later Mary Harney.
- Aaron Aydelott, born 21 Jun 1770, died 2 May 1825, married Arcadah Lockwood, daughter of William and Susanna Lockwood.

Benjamin Melson, the second son of Samuel and Margaret Taylor Melson, was born c1704, died c1771 in Worcester County, MD. He was a planter. He married Hannah (Hammer), born c1732. Their children were:

- Esabel Melson, died before 1775.
- Joseph Melson
- William Melson
- Benjamin Melson
- Robinson Melson
- Thomas Melson
- Jesse Melson
- Eby Melson
- Hannah Melson

Benjamin Melson died 20 Jun 1771. In his will (Ref. 6), he bequeathed to:
to son Jessy Melson, part of POPLAR RIDGE
son Joseph Melson, part of POPLAR RIDGE
son William Melson, part of POPLAR RIDGE
dau Eby Johnson, one Shilling sterling
dau Hannah Dolby, one Shilling sterling
wife Hannah, all moveable estate and her third
Excrs: wife and son Joseph
Wit: his
ROBERT HOPKINS
ROBT. HOPKINS mark
ROBERT PARSONS
Probated June 20th, 1771 ROBERT HOPKINS and ROBERT PARSONS subscribing
Witnesses
BENTON HARRIS, Dpty Cmsr. of Worcester County
Sir this comes to Satisfie you that it is out of my powers to Administer
on my husbands estate so I have given the hole of it to my son Joseph
Melson to do this so this is given from my hand this 19 of May 1771.
her
HAMMER MELSON mark"

Joseph Melson, the son and Executor of his father's estate, filed his
report two years later. He reported the value to be 55-12-3\(\frac{1}{2}\) Pounds, see
page 12-13 for the Inventory. The report was filed as (Ref. 7) in the
Worcester County, MD records.

Esabel Melson, the oldest child of Benjamin and Hannah Melson, was
born c1724 and died before 1771 in Worcester County, MD.

Joseph Melson, the second child of Benjamin and Hannah Melson, was
born c1727, died p5 Dec. 1809. He married c1746, Elizabeth Creighton,
a daughter of John and Elizabeth Creighton, she was appointed Administrator
of her father estate, 27 April 1784 (Ref. 15). Joseph was a prominent
planter and miller, with his mills along Broad Creek in Sussex County,
DE. His wife had passed away before his will was drawn, 22 Jul. 1808, and
filed bequeathing various properties to his descendents. Abridged
it read (Ref. 16):

to son John 4 tracts "CRUELTY", "SAFETY", "MELSON'S FOLLY", 
"SAVANNAH SWAMP", until 4 grandchildren: Daniel,
John, William and Benjamin are 21.
grandson Joseph one-half of gristmill
dau Priscilla Pusey sawmill and land
dau Polly Rodney
3 grandsons John, George, Daniel Rodney
dau Lovey Harris
dau Hannah Russel 50 acres
grandson Stephen Melson
grandson Joseph Pusey
nephew John Melson of Jesse
----- Ann Byram who lives with me

The Inventory and Account Settlement of his estate listed the following
heirs:
John Melson, the only son of Joseph and Elizabeth Melson named in his will, was born c1748, died 3 Jan. 1822. He married c1780, Sarah Phillips, a daughter of John Sr. and Sarah Brother Phillips of Dagsborough Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He was a planter and millwright. His will was drawn 19 Dec. 1820 and filed for probate in 1822. He willed:

- son Joseph Melson - land
- wife not named
- son John Melson - ½ gristmill, ½ sawmill
- son Daniel Melson - "POPLAR RIDGE", "MELSONS FOLLY"
- grandson John, son of Daniel
- son William Melson - "JOHNSONS CHOICE" formerly of Josiah Johnson
- son Benjamin Melson - "THIRD CHOICE", where I formerly lived, part of "GIBRALTAR"
- son Stephen Melson - part of "THIRD CHOICE" and "GIBRALTAR"
- granddau Sally, dau of Stephen
- dau Hannah Betts - land
- grandson John Truitt, son of John Truitt - a negro
- dau Priscilla Hall
- four children John, William, Benjamin and Holland (wife of John Truitt)

Excsrs: sons John and William (Ref.17).

Joseph Melson, the oldest son of John and Sarah Phillips Melson was born 13 Mar 1787 (Ref.18), died 30 Jul 1826 (Ref.18). He was a farmer and married Elizabeth Cannon, a daughter of James Cannon. He left no surviving children. In his will, he bequeathed:

- to wife Betty and in her favor land in Broad Creek Hundred between Laurel and Indian River until nephew Elisha Truitt is 21.
Daniel Melson was the second son of John Sr. and Sarah Phillips Mel-son. He was born c1790 in the Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE and died 23 Mar 1830. He had been left two tracts of land by his father, "Pope-Lae Ridge" and "Melson's Folly." This latter tract had been split into two pieces by Joseph Melson in his will to the sons of John Sr. John Sr. reassembled this tract by purchasing its portions from his sons. One of the deeds resulting from this action as found in Delaware Records reads: "On 2 May 1816, Daniel Melson and Nellie, his wife, of Broad Creek Hundred sold for $170 to John Melson Sr., 53½ acres called "Melson's Folly", devised to Daniel Melson and his brother, decd." Daniel Melson married Eleanor (Nellie) Truitt, born c1795 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE (Ref. 14). They had six children:

Nancy Melson, born 1814, died after 1850, married George Mitchell, c1833. He was born 1803 in Maryland, died after 1850. He was a farmer. Their children, all born in Sussex County, DE:
- Elisha Mitchell, born 1834
- Lavinia Mitchell, born 1836
- Benjamin Mitchell, born 1839
- Phebe Mitchell, born 1841
- Charlotte Mitchell, born 1845
- Mary Mitchell, born 1847

John Melson was the second child of Daniel and Nellie Melson. He was born 20 Mar 1820, in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, and died 30 Mar 1896 in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He was a farmer and married 3 May 1854, Elizabeth Jane Pusey, born 2 Feb. 1834 in Sussex County, DE, died 14 Nov 1910 in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Their children were:
- William N. Melson, born 1855, died 1945 in Ocean View, DE. He married c1875, Emma Burton, born c1855 in Sussex County, DE. Their children were:
  - Asher Melson, born c1877, married Davis.
  - Nettie Melson, born c1879, married c1899, Thomas Hickman. Their son was Thomas Edwin Hickman Jr.
  - Miranda Melson, born c1881, married J. Lynch, c1900.
  - William N. Melson, born c1883, died before 1945, Ocean View, DE.
  - Timothy E. Melson, born c1885, died 1942 in Ocean View, DE. He married c1900 Effie V. Mitchell.


Lavenia Elizabeth Melson, daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, born 1858, died 1941, married (1) c1878, Jesse Vickers, born c1855. Their children:
- George Vickers, born c1880
- Estella Vickers, born c1882
- Ethel Vickers, born 1884
- Eva Vickers, born c1886

Her second husband was Charles Hall, they married c1887, their children:
- Linda Hall, born c1889
- Myrtle Hall, born c1891
- Bertha Hall, born c1893

Her third husband was Fred Dukes, born c1860, they were married c1900,
Sally Melson, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, was born c1860, she married Washington Evans, c1879.

Anna Melson, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, was born c1861, in Sussex County, DE. She married c1880, Joshua Evans, he was born c1860. Their daughter was Jennie Evans, born c1883. She married a Baird.

Ellen Melson, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, was born c1862, she married an Evans.

John Oscar Melson, a son of John and Elizabeth Melson, was born c1864, he married 6 Jul 1890, Arabella Elizabeth Dukes, born 23 Jul 1868 in Sussex County, DE, died 24 Apr 1911 in Sussex County, DE. Their children were: (Ref.13)

- Henry Melson, born c1889, in Sussex County, DE.
- Frank Melson, born c1891, in Sussex County, DE.
- Oscar Melson, born c1893, in Sussex County, DE.
- Elizabeth Melson, born c1895, in Sussex County, DE.

John Oscar Melson's second wife was Margaret Bunting, they married c1913. Their children were: (Ref.13)

- William Melson, born c1914 in Sussex County, DE. His wife's name was Louise. Their children were:
  - William Melson, born c1914. His three children are:
    - John Theodore Melson
    - Gail Melson
    - Kathy Melson
- Kathryn Melson, born c1916, married Floyd Lodge Moore, their children are:
  - Margaret Lillian Moore
  - Claudia Moore
- Joseph Bunting Melson Sr, born c1918, married Claudia
  - Their son is Joseph Bunting Melson Jr. and his wife, Judy, have two sons:
    - Brett Melson, born 1976
- Joseph B. Melson Jr is a Judge in Sussex County, DE (Ref.13)

Harvey J. Melson, a son of John and Elizabeth Melson, was born c1866, died 1912 in Sussex County, DE. He married 15 Mar 1891, Allie Bertha Brasure, born c1865, in Sussex County, DE (Ref.65). Their children:

- Ethel May Melson, married a Long.
- Anna Brasure Melson, born Mar 1894 in Roxana, DE.

Lyda Melson, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, born 1870, married c1888, Phillips Walls of Sussex County, DE. (Ref.14)

Alice Mae Melson, daughter of John and Elizabeth Melson, born 15 May 1877, married c1898, Walter Wise Phillips, born c1875. Their children:

- Emmons Blaine Phillips, born c1898, married Mae Townsend, c1940.
- Margaret Maxine Phillips, born c1905, died 1986, married E. Arthur Simpler, 15 May 1937. They lived near Millsboro, Sussex County, DE. Maxine was an ardent genealogist and provided most of the material about the Samuel Melson line.

James Melson, son of Daniel and Nellie Melson, born 29 Sep 1821, died 24 Dec. occupation farmer, married c1841, Elizabeth c1841. She was born c1820, died after 1860. Their children were (Ref.65)
Hetty Melson, born 1842
Hiram Melson, born 1859
Rhoda Melson, daughter of Daniel and Nellie Melson, born cl825 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married cl845, Steve Evans.
Hannah Melson, daughter of Daniel and Nellie Melson, born 1827, married 23 Apr. 1848, James Mitchell, born 1825 (Ref. 65), occupation farmer. Their son was Lauder Mitchell, born 1848.
Elizabeth Melson, daughter of Daniel and Nellie Melson, born cl827, married cl842, Burton Mitchell, occupation farmer, their children:
Hetty Mitchell, born 1842
John Mitchell, born 1843
Hiram Mitchell, born 1845 (Ref. 65)
Priscilla Melson, daughter of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born cl792, married Hall.
Hannah Melson, daughter of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born cl795, married Betts, born cl795. Their son was John Betts, born in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE.
John Melson Jr., son of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born 1798, Broad Creek Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, occupation farmer, married cl813, Levenia Johnson, daughter of Thomas Johnson, Sussex County, DE. Children:
Josiah Hamilton Melson, born 21 Apr. 1813, died 27 Jan. 1894 at Georgetown, DE. He was buried in the Melson Cemetery, 4 miles east of Laurel on the Laurel-Sycamore Road. (Ref. 10). He was a farmer and married 10 Dec. 1834, Sarah Nichols Phillips, born 14 Dec. 1814, died 17 Jul. 1882. Their children were:
Eliza Melson, born 1838, married cl856, Jackson Simpler, born cl829, died 1907 at Piney Neck, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He was a farmer. Their children were:
Mary Elizabeth Simpler, born 1860, died 28 Nov. 1949, Dagsboro, DE. Married William Salmons, cl877.
Greensbury Melson, born 1856.
Sarah Nichols Phillips Melson and son, James Hamilton Melson, are also buried in the Melson Cemetery with Josiah H. Melson.
Nathaniel T. Melson, a son of John Jr. and Levenia Melson, born 1822, died after 1860, occupation farmer, married 18 Nov. 1841, (1) Sarah J. Short, born 1821. (Ref. 21) Their children:
Isaac Walter Melson, born 12 Feb. 1844, died 7 Sep. 1900 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married (1) 29 Nov. 1866 Sarah J. Wharton, born cl845. Their children (Ref. 22)
Sarah Love Melson, born 12 Jul. 1869. Her first husband was James Sanders, cl889. Her second husband was John T. Shiles. (Ref. 23)
William Charlton Melson, born 1 Sep. 1871, died 11 Mar. 1939, married 6 Jan. 1897, Elizabeth Jane Strickler, born cl875 in Fairmount, West Virginia. Their children:
  - Marilyn Jane Melson, born c1932
  - Helen Marie Melson, born c1935

  - Phyllis Jane Gomer, born c1933
  - Helen Marie Gomer, born c1935

Caroline Isabel Melson, daughter of Isaac W. and Sarah J. Melson, born 14 Nov. 1874 in Sussex County, DE.

Walter Howard Melson, son of Isaac W. and Sarah J. Melson, born 15 Apr 1877, married c1902, Mary Supiot, born c1880. Their children:
  - Rudolph Supiot Melson, born c1904, married c1925, Josephine Norris, born c1905. Their daughter, Laura Jo Melson, born 1930, married Al McQuiston, 16 Jun 1956. (Ref. 24)

Walter Francis Melson, born c1906.

Isaac Walter Melson's second wife was Sarah Sproul, they were married c1879, she was born c1850 in Sussex County, DE, children:
  - Jane Taylor Melson, born 12 Jul 1880, Sussex County, DE.
  - James Edward Melson, born 31 Oct 1882, Sussex County, DE
  - Emma Sproul Melson, born 31 Oct 1882, Sussex County, DE.
  - Mary Elizabeth Melson, born 25 Dec 1885, Sussex County, DE

John Paint Melson, son of Nathaniel T. and Sarah S. Melson, born 1846 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, died 1901, married c1867.
  - Hettie Ann , born 20 Mar 1847, died 22 Oct 1920 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Their daughter was Catherine C. Melson, born c1869, married a Downs.

Sarah Elizabeth Melson, a daughter of John Jr and Levinia Melson, born 1823, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

Joseph Walter Melson, son of John Jr and Levenia Melson, born 1826, married 6 Feb. 1849, Sarah Jane Short, born 28 Nov. 1829, died 9 Feb. 1897. Their daughter was Sarah Melson, born 1850 in Sussex County, DE.

Eleanor Melson, daughter of John Jr and Levenia Melson, born 1828, Sussex County, DE (Ref. 65).

Stephen Melson, a son of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born c1800, died after 1822, the name of his wife is not known. Their children:
  - Sallie Melson, born in the Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. (Ref. 65), Stephen Melson, son of Stephen and ????? Melson, born 12 Apr. 1825, died 18 Dec. 1896 in Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Stephen and other members of his family are buried in the St. George's ME Cemetery, Clarksville, DE. (Ref. 9). He married c1846, Nancy Timmons in Sussex County, DE. She was born 30 May 1824, died 8 Jul. 1903. Their children:
    - James C. Melson, born 6 Mar. 1848, died 1930, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He married 14 Dec. 1872 Mary E. Carey, born c1850, died 1930. Their children:
      - George B. Melson, born c1875, in Frankford, DE.
      - Eliza E. Melson, born c1878, in Frankford, DE.
      - Martha Melson, born c1880, in Frankford, DE. Married a Murray.
      - Joseph Melson, born c1882, in Frankford, DE.
      - John Oscar Melson, born c1884, in Frankford, DE.
      - Hazel Melson, born c1886, in Frankford, DE.

Lulu M Melson, born 7 Oct. 1888, died 25 Mar. 1904 (Ref. 9).
Elias Melson, son of Stephen & Nancy Melson, born 14 Mar 1851, died 26 Sep 1864, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

George B. Melson, son of Stephen and Nancy Melson, born 9 Nov 1852, died 1931, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married c1876, Sarah E., born 1862, died 1926, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

Their children: (Ref. 65)

Ira Melson,
- Mamie Melson, born c1880, Sussex County, DE
- Charles R. Melson, born c1882, married c1900, Hannah ______

Clayton Melson, born c1883, Sussex County, DE
- Lily M. B. Melson, born 1884, died 1890, Frankford, DE
- Stella Melson, born c1886, married a Futch.
- Viola Melson, born c1888, married George Carey, c1910.
- Elva Kate Melson, born 29 Jun 1892, died 1984.

Edward B. Melson, son of Stephen and Nancy Melson, born 11 Aug 1854, died 20 Aug 1939, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married c1886, Lillie B. Wilson, born 30 Nov 1865, died 28 Jul 1914 in Frankford, DE. Children:

Lee V. Melson, born 21 Nov 1887, died 31 Jul 1888.
- Roy Edmund Melson, born 13 Sep 1889, died 3 Oct 1964 Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married Bessie Calhoun, born 20 May 1894, died 28 Dec 1968 in Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE, children:
  - Howard Edmund Melson, born 11 Oct 1918, married Jeanette Elliott on 6 Jan 1945 (Ref. 65)
  - Marie Elizabeth Melson, born 25 Nov 1928, married c1946, Allen Evans in Sussex County, DE.

"Unknown child" Melson, born 10 Apr 1858.

William T. Melson, born 22 Apr 1859, died 6 Jul 1937 in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married c1885, Emma S. ______, born 26 Mar 1867, died 18 Feb 1922. They are buried in the St. George ME Cemetery, Clarksville, DE. Their children:

Viola Melson, born 4 Jan 1887, died 31 Jul 1888
- Grace Melson, born 1897, died 1980, in Clarksville, DE, married Edward Cress, born 1887, died 1971 in Frankford, DE. Children
  - Eldred Cress
  - Edwin Cress, born Jun 1929, died 1959, Stockley, DE.

Ollie Melson, born c1860, Frankford, DE.

Lutheny Melson, born 4 Mar 1861, died Aug 1877.

Mary Catherine Melson, born 16 Aug 1864, died 5 Aug 1877 in Sussex County, DE (Ref. 65).

Daniel Melson, son of Stephen and ??? Melson, born 1842, married c1863
- Martha Bennett, born 1843 Sussex County, DE.

Children:
- John William Melson, born 10 Jan 1866, died 20 Apr 1938, Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married c1890, Sarah M. Turner, born 29 May 1871, died 1 Jun 1923 in Sussex County, DE. Children:
  - Elisha E. Melson, born 1889, died 1957 in Millville, DE, married 24 Feb 1912 Ella R. Daisey, born 1896, died 1954 in Millville, DE. Children:
    - Willie Victor Melson, born 1 Dec 1912, died 19 Feb 1913.
    - Alvin Edward Melson, born 24 Nov 1915.
    - Viola Maye Melson, born 24 Nov 1915.
Harry Reginald Melson, son of Elisha E & Ella R. Melson, born 22 Feb 1922, Millville, DE.
Wallace Ambrose Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 3 Mar 1923, Millville, DE.
Donald Daisey Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 22 May 1924, in Millville, DE.
Richard Simon Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 31 Aug 1925, in Millville, DE.
Kendall Lindburgh Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 29 Nov 1926, in Millville, DE.
Esta Ellen Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 26 Jan 1929, in Millville, DE.
Carlton Norman Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 16 Jun 1930, in Millville, DE.
Marguerette May Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 12 Aug 1931, in Millville, DE.
Georgetta Ann Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 22 Jul 1933, in Millville, DE.
Ernest Andrilla Melson, son of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 22 Jul 1934, in Millville, DE.
Katherine Elizabeth Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 13 Jun 1936, died 12 Feb 1974, married a Steele.
Rachel Josephine Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 30 Dec 1942, in Millville, DE.
Norma Virginia Melson, dau of Elisha E. and Ella R. Melson, born 4 Mar 1942.
Elizabeth K. Melson, dau of John W. and Sarah M. Melson, born c1894, married George Bunting.
Dellia Maye Melson, dau of John Wm. and Sarah M. Melson, born c1899, married John Mitchell, c1920.
Asher L. Melson, son of John Wm. and Sarah M. Melson, born 15 Nov 1899, died 22 Oct 1900, buried in St. George's ME Cemetery, Clarksville, DE.
Edward James Melson, son of John Wm. and Sarah M. Melson, born 8 Oct 1902, in Sussex County, DE, married c1936 Nellie Maye Steel, born 7 Apr 1917, died 1969. Children:
   Harvey G. Melson, born 27 Jun 1938, Sussex County, DE, married c1962 Ruth A. _____.
   Ward Melson, born c1940, Dagsboro, DE
   Ralph Melson, born c1942, Dagsboro, DE
   Michael Melson, born c1944, Dagsboro, DE.
Sarah Melson, daughter of Daniel and Martha Melson, born c1868, Sussex County, DE, married c1886 James Kent, Sussex County, DE
Holland Melson, daughter of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born c1802, in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, married c1820 (1) John Truitt, born c1800, died before 1838, children:
   John Truitt Jr, born c1830, Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE.
   Elisha Truitt, born c1825, Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE
William Melson, son of John Sr. and Sarah P. Melson, born 1806, died 1 Jun 1831, occupation farmer, married 14 Sep 1826, Nancy Lecates.
Benjamin P. Melson, the ninth child of John and Sarah P. Melson, was born 19 in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE, and died 25 1857. He was married 25 Oct 1826 (1) Maria Creigh, born c1810, died before 1850. They had no children. His second wife was Mary Ann Pepper, born 20 Apr 1811, died 12 Jun 1870, on 29 1832, their children were: (Ref. 20), Sarah Ellen Melson, born 14 Oct 1 Apr 1871, married c1853 George Wesley Boyce, born c1830, their children: Fannie Boyce, born Dygen Boyce, born c1857 George Boyce, born c1859 (Ref. 65) Rhoda Carolina Melson, the second child of Benjamin and Mary Ann Pepper Melson, born 29 Jul 1835, died 22 Oct 1862.

Ann Mariah Melson, the third child of Benj. P. and Mary Ann Melson, born 5 Mar 1837, died 15 1871, married Robert L. Rodney.

Mary White Melson, the fourth child of Benj. P. and Mary Ann Melson, born 1 Mar 1840, died 5 Jul 1869.

David Pepper Melson, the fifth child of Benj. P. and Mary Ann Melson, born 4 Aug. 1842, died Jun 1882, buried at Georgetown, DE.

George Mifflin Melson, the sixth child of Benj. P. and Mary 15 Sep. 1844, died 2 May 1862.

Benjamin Green Melson, the seventh child of Benj. P. and Mary Ann Melson, born 23 May 1847, died 1 Mar 1909, married 1 Dec. 1874, Fernettie Mitchell, born 17 Sep 1846, died 15 May 1917, their children:

Annie May Melson, the first child of Benj. Green and Fernettie Melson, born 4 Oct 1878, died 7 Sep 1934, married 13 May 1917, Littleton Bowie Guthrie, born c1875, their daughter:


John Eli Melson, the eighth child of Benj. P. and Mary Ann Melson, born 12 died 14 Mar 65 (Ref. 65).

William Melson, the second child of Joseph and Elizabeth Creighton Melson, was born c1749. He married Jean Aiyelotte (Ayelet) 2 Feb. 1770 at the Presbyterian Church. Lewes, DE. Their families are traced beginning Page 9-1. (186).

Priscilla Melson, the third child of Joseph and Elizabeth Creighton Melson, born c1750, married c1772, Puah Pusey, Sr. in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Puah was born c1748, died 11 Dec. 1821, Broad Creek Hundred, DE. Their children were:
Joseph Pusey, born c1782
Puah Pusey Jr, born c1784
Nellie Pusey, born c1786
Elizabeth Pusey, born c1788
Polly Pusey, born c1790 ef.65

Polly Melson, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth C. Melson, born c1762 in Sussex County, DE, married c1780 (1) William Sharp, born c1760, died c1790 in Sussex County, DE. Children:
  John Sharp, born c1784.
  Lovey Sharp, born c1786.
  Nancy Sharp, born c1788.
  Elizabeth Sharp, born c1789.
Polly's second husband was William Rodney, born c1760, they were married c1791, children:
  Polly Rodney, born c1793.
  John Rodney, born c1795.
  George Rodney
  Daniel Rodney (Ref.65)

Hannah Melson, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth C. Melson, was born c1764 in Sussex County, DE, her first husband was ______ Cannon. Their daughter was Nancy Cannon. Her second husband was Joseph Russell, they were married c1790. (Ref.17)

Lovey Melson, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth C. Melson, born c1768, married c1790 (1) Abraham Harris Jr, son of Abraham Harris Sr and Director Derickson, born c1765, died 1808 in Sussex County, DE (Ref.65) Their children were:
  Joseph Harris, born c1792.
  Priscilla Harris, born c1794.
  Elizabeth Harris, born c1796, died after 1860, married c1822, Peter Torbert, son of John Torbert and Tabitha Pepper. He was born 16 Oct 1790. Their children (Ref.65):
    Joseph Herbert Torbert, born c1826 in Sussex County, DE, died 11 Oct 1882 in Kansas. His wife was Elizabeth ______.
    Charles Polk Torbert, born Apr. 1827 in Georgetown, DE, died 25 Aug 1902 in DeWitt County, IL, married 28 Mar 1849, Susannah Fair Fenner in Union County, OH. She was born 15 Nov 1830 in Liverpool, OH, died 22 Mar 1883 in DeWitt County, OH. Their son was William Peter Torbert (Ref.65).
    Emaline Torbert, born c1831.
    Mary Torbert, born c1832, married c1850, Jeremiah Woods.
    Jane Torbert, born c1838.
    Elizabeth Priscilla Torbert, born c1840, in Madison, Champaign County, IL, married c1858, Samuel Myers.
  Katherine Harris, daughter of Lovey Melson and Abraham Harris Jr, born in Sussex County, DE. (Ref.65).
  Lovey Melson's second husband was Peter Waples Sr, they were married c1809, he was born c1770 in Sussex County, DE. (Ref.65).
  William Melson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Melson, was born c1751 in the Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, MD. His wife's name is not known. They had three children:
    Benjamin Melson, born c1751 in Sussex County, DE, his wife's name was Isabel ______.
    Robinson Melson, born c1755, married _______. Their son was James Melson, born c1797. He married 4 Oct 1820, Susanna Poulson, a daughter
of Molly Poulson in Accomack County, VA. Robinson's second wife was Susanna Bunting, they were married 30 Jul 1810 in Accomack County, VA. She was born c1790. (Ref. 65).

Hannah Nelson, born c1760 in Sussex County, DE married Levin Bradley, 6 Jul 1804 (Ref. 65).

Benjamin Nelson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, born in Somerset County, MD, died before 1771. (Ref. 65).

Robinson Nelson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, born in Somerset County, died before 1771.

Eby Nelson, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, born after 1724, died after 1771, married c1774, Bartholomew Johnson, Somerset County, DE.

Hannah Nelson, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, born c1724 in Somerset County, DE, married c1745, Peter Dolby (Dolbee) Sr., born c1725, children (Ref. 13):
  - Peter Dolby Jr, born c1745.
  - Benjamin Dolby, born c1750, died after 1800, married c1772.
  - Betsy Dolby, born c1752. The records hint she married a Nelson.
  - Sarah Dolby, born c1754.
  - Selah Dolby, born c1756.
  - Tabitha Dolby, born c1758.

Thomas Nelson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, one son, Thomas Nelson, born c1745, died 29 Mar 1787, married c1764, Eunice Huffington, daughter of John Huffington, born c1745 in Somerset County, MD, died before 1810, children (Ref. 65)
  - Sarah Nelson, born c1765, Rewastico District, Somerset County, MD.
  - Joseph Nelson, born c1767 in Rewastico District, Somerset County, MD.
  - Mary Nelson, born c1770, Rewastico District, Somerset County, MD.

One deed (Ref. 26) on file concerns Thomas Nelson. "Oct 6, 1757, Thomas Nelson to John Huffman "PARTNERS CHOICE" formerly owned by Samuel Nelson, grandfather of Thomas Nelson." The sale of land by Thomas Nelson was for 80 acres of the original 250 acre patent. Another portion of "PARTNERS CHOICE" was sold by Joseph Nelson, Jul. 2, 1774. A third sale of 80 acres to Benjamin Venables, with the remainder of the tract, less 10 acres previously sold to John Hust. Joseph's wife agreed to this sale of dower land (Ref. 27). The 130 acres sold by Thomas Nelson had been from the 1/3 of the land Samuel Nelson had willed to his wife (Ref. 28).

Jesse Nelson, son of Benjamin and Hannah Nelson, born c1755, died after 1810, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He was a farmer. The name of his wife is unknown, their son was John Nelson.

John Nelson was born 1787, died after 1850 in the Eleventh Subdivision, Sussex County, DE., married c1815, Mary Truitt, daughter of Josiah and Lavenia Phillips Truitt, born c1795, children (Ref. 8),

William Saulsbury Nelson, born 23 Sep 1816, died 16 Dec 1896, at Laurel, DE. He was a farmer in the Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He married 9 Aug 1842, Elizabeth C. Short, a daughter of John and Levania Short. Their children were:

Philip Henry Nelson, born 21 Aug 1844, died 27 Feb 1882, married Minnie Juniette Cave 3 Jan 1875 (Ref. 10).
John Short Melson, son of William S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 11 Feb. 1846, died 14 Nov 1896, married 14 Feb 1871, Sarah E. Holloway, born 3 Aug 1847, died 23 Oct 1924, their daughter was Mary Levenia Melson, born 17 Feb. 1872 in Sussex County, DE.


Julia Ann Melson, daughter of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 13 Jan 1852, died 4 Jul 1851, Dagsboro Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

Mary Lavena Melson, daughter of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 26 Jun 1852, died 19 Apr 1862.

Sarah Elizabeth Melson, daughter of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 13 Apr 1855, married 12 Apr 1875, John McGinnis

Alfred Burton Melson, son of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 4 Sep, 1857, died 1940, married 13 Jan 1885, Laura Webb, born c1858, Sussex County, DE.

Charles Melson, born c1880.

William Melson, born c1882.

Phillip Melson, born c1885, died 1918, Sussex County, DE.

married c1905, Cora T., Lewes, DE. born c1886,

Clayton Henry Melson, born 1910, died 1972, married c1930, Mary Page, Lewes, DE., born c1910. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters. These included:

Charles Henry Melson Jr., born 1931, lives in Bryn Mawr, PA. Married twice, three sons with first wife, one son, Drew, born c1973, with second wife.

(Ref. 9).

Alvan Douglas Melson.

Page Melson.

Scott Melson.


Children:

Charles T. Melson Jr.

Edith Pierce Melson, born c1937, married c1958, Daniel Thomas, Sussex County, DE.

Evra Laura Melson, born c1938, married Smith.

George Anderson Melson, son of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 1 Nov 1860, died 10 Dec 1939. He was associated with the Pennsylvania Railroad in Sussex County, DE. Married 23 Jul 1885, Mary Elizabeth Dutton, Milton, DE. She was born c1865 in Milton, DE, died after 1939, Georgetown, DE.

Children:

Ralph Melson, born c1887, died 1919, Georgetown, DE.

George Anderson Melson Jr., born c1890, died 19 Jun 1973, Delmar, DE, married c1915, Violet M., children:

George William Melson, c1925, Delmar, DE, married c1945, Nadine Bradley, Sussex County, DE, children:

Carol Ann Melson, born c1947, married c1969, Charles Easton, Sussex County, DE.
Patricia Melson, daughter of G.A. Jr. and Mary D. Melson, born c1949, married a Clark.

Deborah Kaye Melson, daughter of G.A. Jr. and Mary D. Melson, born c1951, in Sussex County, DE.

Gove Saulsbury Melson, son of Wm. S. and Elizabeth C. Melson, born 1 May 1863, died 15 Jul 1946, married 25 Sep 1895, Maggie M. Cromis. (Ref. 10)


Elenor Melson, daughter of John and Mary Truitt Melson, born 1828, in Sussex County, DE. (Ref. 65)

Sarah Melson, daughter of John and Mary Truitt Melson, born 1831, Sussex County, DE. (Ref. 65)

Jane Melson, daughter of John and Mary T. Melson, born 1833, Sussex County, DE. (Ref. 65)

Mary Ann Melson, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Taylor Melson, born c1705, died c1775, Somerset County, MD, married (1) John Paramore, son of John Parramore Sr., born c1705, Somerset County, MD, died c1750. Their son was Jehu Paramore, born c1740, in Somerset County, MD. Her second husband, married c1752, was Henry Graham.

William Melson, son of Samuel and Margaret Taylor Melson, born c1710, died 1764, married c1735, Nanny Wharton, daughter of Daniel and Frances Wharton, born c1715 in Somerset County, MD, died after 1787, children: Wharton Melson, born c1736, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD.

Hannah Melson, born c1738, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD, died after 1790, married c1767, Asa Coe, son of Daniel Coe and Lydia Hudson, born c1748, died c1787, children: (Ref. 65)

Ansley Coe, born c1762, married c1780, Thomas Collins, Worcester County, MD.

Suffiah Coe, born c1780, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD.

Elizabeth Coe, born c1766, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD.

William Coe, born c1776, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD.

Elizabeth Melson, born c1739, died after 1788, Buckingham Hundred, Worcester County, MD.

Luke Coe, born c1742, died 1783.

William Melson apparently left no will. An Inventory of his estate was filed "An Inventory of all and Singular the Goods and Chattels Rights and Credits of William Melson late of Worcester County Deceased taken by the subscribers Sworn Appraisers and Appraised in Current Money of Maryland this 27th Day of December Anno Domini 1764 as followeth Viz:

A True and perfect Inventory take by us
Principal Creditors  Nearest Kin  Appraisers
JOSEPH MELSON   WILLIAM AYDELOTT  DANIEL CORD
WILLIAM PURKINS  SAMUEL AYDELOTT  A. SHOWLES

March 8th 1764 came Nanny Melson and made Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God that the foregoing Inventory is a just and perfect Inventory of All and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of William Melson late of Worcester County deceased so far as come into her hands or possession at the time of this making hereof and that she knows of no concealment or any part or parcel thereof by any person whatsoever but that she will acquaint the Commissary General for the time being or his
Deputy with such concealment or the cause or suspicion that it may be Inquired into and that she give a Just and true acct of all and every of the deceased personal Estate that hereafter come into her hands or possession into the best of her knowledge.

Sworn before
BENTON HARRIS, Dpty Cmsr
of Worcester County (Ref 24)

One year later, Nanny as Administrator for her husband's estate filed two reports, which differed slightly between themselves:

MHR WORCESTER COUNTY INVENTORY LIBER 83 FOLIO 70-71-72
Account submitted Mar 29, 1765

BENTON HARRIS, Dpty Cmsr.
of Worcester County"

MHR WORCESTER COUNTY FINAL BALANCE BOOK LIBER 4 FOLIO 88, 29 March 1765
"Nanny Melson Administrator of William Melson — 50/3/10. Sureties: JOHN EVANS JUN, JOHN EVANS SEN."

On 15 May 1788, Elizabeth (Betty) Melson purchased from her sister, Hannah Melson Coe, three tracts of land 'RETIREMENT,' 'HICKMAN'S VENTURE,' and 'GOOD INTENT,' 50 acres for 50 Pounds. Richard Hickman had sold the first two tracts to William Melson, their father. 'GOOD INTENT' had been purchased by William Melson Jul 4, 1757. Hannah claimed one half of this tract by the death of their brother, Luke Melson. Wharton Melson was not mentioned and must be presumed to have died earlier (Ref. 25).

John Melson II was the second son of John I and Elizabeth Painter Melson, he was born in Accomack County, VA. c1676, died 1737, Accomack County, Va. He married Mary Smith, the daughter of Joshua and Margaret Smith, born c1695 in Accomack County, VA, died 28 Feb 1742. Their children were: (Ref. 44),
- John Melson III, born c1696 in Accomack County, VA, died 1758, Accomack County, VA. He married Tabitha Onions, a daughter of Thomas and Tabitha Ayres Onions, c1728. Tabitha was born c1705, died 27 May 1783, Accomack County, VA.
- Edmund Melson, born c1730 in Accomack County, VA, died after 1787, Accomack County, VA.
- Shadrack Melson, born c1732, in Accomack County, VA., died c1797, Accomack County, VA.
- Elizabeth Melson, born c1734, Accomack County, VA., died after 1771, Accomack County, VA.
- Ayres Melson, born c1736 in Accomack County, VA, died before 1771, Accomack County, VA.

John III was the oldest child of John II and Mary Smith Melson, he received from Thomas and Tabitha Ayres a tract of 60 acres devised to Tabitha by her grandfather Edmund Ayres which was sold to Jacob Dunston in 1731 (Ref. 45). John III died intestate, his estate was administered by Robert Tarnall, who filed his final report 28 Nov 1758 (Ref. 46). His lands were awarded to his son, Solomon Melson.

Solomon Melson, the oldest son of John III and Tabitha Melson, born c1726, died p31 May 1774, married c1729, died 1774 in Accomack County, VA. He married Elizabeth Hickman, daughter of Christian Hickman, c1745, she was
born c1729, Accomack County, VA, died after 1768, children:
Joyce Melson, born c1750, died after 1799, married c1799, Solomon Russell.
Daniel Melson, born c1753 in Accomack County, died after 1800, married(1)
Amey Drummond 24 Dec. 1785, she was born c1760, Accomack County, VA, died after 1790, their daughter was Betsy Melson, born c1787, Accomack County, VA, died c1812, married 27 Aug 1806, George H. Ewell, born c1785, one son; George P. Ewell, born c1809, Accomack County, VA, died 15 Jan. 1859 in Parksley, Accomack County, VA, married Elizabeth Wessels, 1829, in Parksley, VA (Ref. 60).

Daniel Melson's second wife was Tabitha Ayres, daughter of Jacob and Ann Ayres, 2 Jul 1794, she was born c1760, died 1804. His third wife was Molly ?.

Ann Melson was the third child of Solomon and Elizabeth Hickman Melson, she was born c1767, married c1799, James Rooks (Ref. 60).

Euphany Melson, a daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth Hickman Melson, born c1770, died after 1799, married c1799, Phillip Miles (Ref. 60).

Isaac Melson, a son of Solomon and Elizabeth Hickman Melson, born c1755, married Ann _____ (Ref. 60), in his will drawn 5 Jun 1784, proved 1 Jun 1785, he willed to his wife, not named, his lands during her widowhood so she could raise their four youngest children. He named as heirs: Levin, Nancy, Betty, Caty and Polly. The witnesses to this will included a Pegg Melson and an Anne Melson (Ref. 49). A later petition (Ref. 50) listed Isaac's wife as a Rachel.

Levin Melson was the oldest son of Isaac Melson, he married Nanny _____ and died 29 Jan 1795. Betty Melson died as an infant, Caty and Polly Melson died in 1788 without issue, two daughters not named in their father's will, were Peggy Melson, married a Wyatt, and Susannah Melson, married a Smith (Ref. 48).

Elizabeth Melson, the second child of John II and Mary Smith Melson, born c1698, Accomack County, VA, died 1739, Accomack County, VA, married c1716, John Lewis III, son of John Lewis II and Elizabeth Rodolphus, children: John Lewis IV, born c1718, married ???, children: (Ref. 60)

  John Lewis V
  Daniel Lewis
  Catherine Lewis, born c1720, died 1758, married c1738, Henry Grinalds, Accomack County, VA.

  Elizabeth Lewis, born c1722, married c1740, Arthur Barnes, Accomack County, VA.
  Abigail Lewis, born c1724, married c1744, Milby Russell, Accomack County, VA.

Mary Melson, daughter of John II and Mary Smith Melson, born c1699, married c1725, Robert Elliott, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).

Daniel Melson I, see Chapter Three for his line.

Frances Melson, born c1701, Accomack County, VA.

Adra (Adah) Melson, born 1703, died Jun 1783, married c1725, Joseph Gunter, born c1703, married c1725, Joseph Gunter. Their children were:

  Joseph Gunter Jr., born c1734, in Tract A90, Accomack County, VA, He had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin and a daughter, Sarah. (Ref. 57).

  Edward Gunter, born c1736, Tract A90, Accomack County, VA, died 1793, married ???, their son was Labin Gunter, born c1758, died c1824.

In her will, filed 30 Jul 1783, Adra bequeathed:

  to Grandson Joseph Gunter, under 21
  " Benjamin Gunter
  Granddau Sarah Gunter
  Sister Abigail Melson
  Nieces Mary and Frances Melson
Joshua Melson, a son of John II and Mary Smith Melson, was born c1707, in Accomack County, VA, died c1745, married Mary ___, c1730 (Ref. 60).

Tabitha Melson, daughter of John II and Mary Smith Melson, born c1709, married James Cary (Ref. 60).

Smith Melson Sr, son of John II and Mary Smith Melson, born c1715, died 27 June 1796, married c1740, Betty ___, born c1720, died 27 February 1805 in Accomack County, VA. Smith Melson Sr, like his father, was a planter in Accomack County, VA. In his will, he bequeathed (Ref. 59),

"To wife Betty whole estate during her widowhood and at her death or marriage to my son Smith Melson 100 acres where I now live adjacent to the lands of Sophia Drummond, Daniel Melson and Levin White and Thomas Bayly. And the remaining part of my land adjacent to the above I leave to my son Jonathan Melson during his natural life, reversion to my grandson, Smith Melson, son of Jonathan. Four daughters, Abigail Prewit, Frances Melson, Mary Lewis, and Tabitha Middleton, residual legatees. Wife and son Smith Melson. Exors. Wills: William Drummond, Edmund Only, Nancy Lewis."

Smith Melson Jr, the oldest son of Smith Sr and Betty Melson, was born c1741, died 1815, in Accomack County, VA, married (1) c1767 Scarborough Drummond, born c1742, died before 1782, their children:

Solomon Melson, born c1770, died after 1792, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60)
Betsey Melson, born c1774, died after 1792, married George Nelson, 8 November 1798, Accomack County, VA.

Smith Melson Jr married again c1784 (2) Sarah Bonewell Russell, born c1745, died c1803, daughter of Joachim Michael and Margaret Bonewell. Children:

Lorenzo S. Melson, born c1785 in Accomack County, VA, married 23 December 1826 Polly Bell, daughter of Edward Bell. They were divorced 13 March 1830 in Accomack County, VA. (Ref. 60)
Scarborough Melson, born c1794, in Accomack County, VA, married 29 February 1812, Accomack County, VA to Thomas Turnall (Ref. 60).

Smith Melson Jr married again 4 February 1804, Esther Rodgers Bell, daughter of Robert and Martha Rodgers, in Northampton County, VA. (Ref. 60).

Abigail Melson, daughter of Smith Sr and Betty Melson, born c1744, Accomack County, VA, died after 1796, married c1765 (1) William Pruitt, son of Benjamin Pruitt and Rachel Russell, Accomack County, VA, born c1740, died 1795, children:

John Pruitt, born c1765, died 1804, married c1790, Molly Parker (Ref. 60)
Catherine Pruitt, born c1767, married 1784, John Holston (Ref. 60)
Benjamin Pruitt
Margaret Pruitt, born c1771, married c1790, ____ Wessells, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).
Nancy Pruitt, born c1773, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).
William Pruitt Jr., born c1775, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).
Rachel Pruitt, born c1777, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).
Agnes Pruitt, born c1779, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).
Betty Smith Pruitt, born c1783, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).

Abigail's second husband, married c1797, Smith Turner born c1740 in Accomack County, VA.

Frances Melson, daughter of Smith Sr. and Betty Melson, born c1746, associated with an unknown man, her son was Joseph Melson, born c1785, in Accomack County, VA, died after 1810, in Accomack County, VA, married 6 January 1809, Nancy Colony (Ref. 60). Frances married Stephen Taylor, 27 May 1800, he was born c1745 (Ref. 60).
Jonathan Melson, son of Smith Sr. and Betty Melson, born c1748, died c1809, in Accomack County, VA, married c1765 (1) Leah _____, children

Jonathan Melson Jr, born c1767, died after 1790 in Worcester County, MD. He married and was shown with 5 children in the 1790 Census for Worcester County, MD.

Both Jonathan Sr. and Jonathan Melson Jr. left Accomack County, VA for Worcester County, MD sometime before 1790. Jonathan Melson Sr did not remain in Worcester County, MD too long. Worcester County Land Records Liber 0 Folio 90, for 10 Feb. 1794, records-

Jonathan Melson of Worcester County, Maryland sells to Smith Melson of Accomack County, Virginia for 180-12-9 pounds, household goods, implements and furniture: to wit:

- 3 horse
- 4 feather beds and furniture
- 150 bu corn
- 900 pounds hog meat
- 1 loom
- all my seller
- all the flax with plate and Earthen wares
- 1 last
- 2 plows
- 2 harrows
- all house and kitchen furniture

SS&D
his
ELI TARR
mark
JOHN HOLLAND

his
JONATHAN MELSON
mark

Recorded 10 Feb 1794

JAMES B. MORRIS, CLk.

Jonathan Melson Jr. remained in Worcester County, MD until his death.

Smith Melson, son of Jonathan Melson, Sr, born 20 Nov 1796, died 31 Jan 1854, Hunting Creek, Accomack County, VA, married 1 Feb 1816, Anna R. Willett, daughter of William Willett Sr and Gertrude Taylor, Hunting Creek, Accomack County, VA, born 1 Nov 1798, died 5 Oct 1872, in Accomack County, VA. Their daughter was Mary Ann Melson, born 27 Aug 1834, died 4 Mar 1908, she is buried in the Marino Cemetery, Accomack County, VA, along with her mother, Annie R. Willett Melson, see page 7-28 (Ref. 62). Smith Melson is buried in the Willett Burial Ground, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 62) see page 7-28.

Leah Melson, daughter of Jonathan and Leah Melson, born c1799, died after 1833, married 6 Nov 1833, James Colone. (Ref. 60).

Polly Melson, married a Lewis.

Smith Melson Jr's second wife was Seymour _____, they married 11 Jun 1803, Accomack County, VA, she died after 1813. (Ref. 60).

Mary Melson, daughter of Smith SR and Betty Melson, born c1750, died after 1796, married c1772, M. Lewis, born c1745, their daughter was Elizabeth Lewis, born c1775, Accomack County, VA.

Tabitha Melson, daughter of Smith Sr. and Betty Melson, born c1752, died after 1796, married c1773, Middleton, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).

William Melson, son of Smith Sr. and Betty Melson, born c1754, died 1782, married Adah _____, c1773, Accomack County, VA.
Joseph Melson, born cl677, died cl740, was the third son of John I and Elizabeth Painter Melson. He was born in the Hunting Creek section of Accomack County, VA, and lived there all his life. He was a planter, and married cl701, Elizabeth Middleton, the daughter of George Middleton and Bridget MackWilliams of the Hunting Creek region, Accomack County, VA. Bridget's parents were Finla and Mary MackWilliams.

Finla MackWilliams was born in Britain about cl620, died pNov.16,1687 (Ref.69). He emigrated to Virginia during the 1660's, in 1673, he patented a tract of 400 acres in A102 of the Hunting Creek area. His wife was Mary _______. They had eight children, of which Bridget was the seventh. She was born cl656, died cl686. She and George Middleton were married cl673. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was born cl680. Joseph and Elizabeth Middleton Melson had two children: (Ref.70).

Middleton Melson, born cl704, died after 1744.
Joseph Middleton Melson, born cl708, died 1751.

George Middleton, the husband of Bridget MackWilliams, arrived in Accomack County, Virginia as a Transported Servant along with William Willett in 1671. They were transported by CAPT. Richard Hill (Ref.69). In 1671, George Middleton and William Willett went into partnership and purchased 400 acres of land in A101 from Teague and Nollo Anderson on Hunting Creek, on which they built a grist mill. In 1699, George bought 188 acres from the John and Abigail Ayres part of A98, which he later gave to his daughter and her husband, Joseph Melson. In the deed for this gift, he stipulated the land was to go to their oldest son, see Chapter Two for more details. Middleton Melson later sold this tract to his brother Joseph Middleton Melson.

Joseph Middleton Melson in his will drawn 10 Apr 1747, partly proved 28 May 1751, further proved 28 Feb. 1754, bequeathed:


Joseph Middleton Melson's first wife was Elizabeth _______, born cl710, died cl750. Their children were: (Ref.60)

George Melson, born cl730, died cl781, married an unknown woman.

Their son was Caleb Melson, born cl765, died by 1800, married 2 May 1789, Tabitha West, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth West, born cl765. Their children:

Thomas Melson, born cl787, Accomack County, VA.

Elizabeth Melson, born cl789, Accomack County, VA.

Nancy Melson, born cl791, Accomack County, VA.

Tabitha Melson, born cl793, Accomack County, VA.

Isaac Melson, born cl731, died 1785, Accomack County, VA, married cl754. Rachel Wyatt, born cl732. Their children:

Levin Melson, born cl756, died p29 Jun 1795, Accomack County, VA.

married cl776, Nanny Milliner, born cl756, died cl831, daughter of James and Nancy Milliner, their children:

Noah Wyatt Milliner Melson, born cl777, died cl823, married 20 Mar 1806, Martha Lumber, daughter of William and Patience Lumber, Accomack County, VA., their children
William Henr, Melson, born c1807, died 4 May 1887 in Northampton County, VA, buried at Occohannock, VA (Ref. 60), married, c1827, (1) Mary Handy, born c1807, died c1830, remarried (2) Bridget Bull, born c1810, daughter of Southy Bull, 23 Dec 1834, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60). Their son was Samuel Melson, born 1838, died 7 Mar 1857, Accomack County, VA. remarried (3) c1840, Margaret Foulson, born c1815, died 1 Jan 1889, Exmore Station, Northampton County, VA, buried at Onancock VA, their children: Lewis Melson, born 1845, Northampton County, VA.


Lewis S. Gladson, born 1872, died 1954, Northampton County.

Edward Milton Gladson, born 27 Dec 1875, died 3 Mar 1961, Northampton County, VA.

Annie T. Gladson, born c1876, Northampton County, VA.

Franklin T. Gladson, born 23 Jun 1879, died 30 Dec 1900, Northampton County, VA.

Mae Theresa Melson, born c1883, Northampton County, VA.

Benard Tankard Melson, born 15 Jun 1885, died 18 Aug 1886, Northampton County, VA.

William Isma Melson, son of Samuel and Margaret Melson, born 25 Dec 1851, died 1 Nov 1920, Northampton County, VA married 1880 (1) Lois Eugenia Drummond, born 9 Dec 1862, died 9 Jul 1885, Northampton County, VA, children:

Andrew Broadus Melson, born 1882, died 1942, Nassawadox VA, he was in the grocery business, married 1907 Mary Etta Hanley, born 1889, died 1978 in Northampton County, VA, children:


Mary Etta Melson, born c1911.

Dorothy Melson, born c1913.

Jack Melson, born c1915.


Children:

Lewis Bonniwell, born c1905, Keller, VA, died Mar 1898, Baltimore, MD.

Nelson Bonniwell.

Charles Bonniwell, born c1911, Keller, VA, died Feb 1973, Pottersville, PA.

William Isma Melson's second wife was Maggie Sarah Miles, daughter of John William Miles and Julia Ann Hopkins, on 8 Feb 1893, Northampton County, VA, she was born 3 Nov 1878, Accomack County, VA, their children:

Pearl Lee Melson, born 26 Mar 1894, Johnson, Northampton County, VA, died 17 Apr 1894, same county.
Alice Lee Melson, daughter of Wm. I. Melson and Maggie Miles, born 14 May 1896, Bridgetown, Northampton County, VA, died 27 Sep 1981, Nassawadox, VA, married 30 Dec 1913, William James Mason, born 24 May 1884, died 17 Nov 1946, Belle Haven, Accomack County, VA. Children: (Ref. 65)

Margaret Charlette Mason, born 29 Jun 1915, married 20 Sep 1934, Vernon Carson Bull, Painter, VA, he was born c1913, died 3 Jan 1987, Nassawadox, VA.

William James Mason Jr, born 14 Nov 1919, Davis Wharf, Accomack County, VA, married 10 Jun 1939, Alice Marie Campbell, Princess Ann, MD.

John Lee (Jack) Mason, born 29 Aug 1923, Davis Wharf, Accomack County, VA, married 25 Mar 1944, Marian Adah Clark, Norfolk, VA, born 1 Apr, 1921, Cambridge, MA.

Lynwood Lewis Melson, son of Wm. I. Melson and Maggie Miles, born 9 Jul 1904, Bridgetown, Northampton County, VA, died 20 Aug 1981, Chesapeake, VA, married 10 Jan 1926, Ethel Lingo, Northampton County, VA, born c1905, died 15 Oct 1934, Quinby, VA, children:


  Dixie Lee Ward
  Diane Melson Ward
  Deborah Lynn Ward
  Wesley Thomas Ward Jr.


  James Cabell Irving III, born 12 Dec 1952, Portsmouth, VA.

Michael Lewis Irving, born 5 Apr 1955, Portsmouth, VA.

Lynwood L. Melson's second wife was Lella Elizabeth Kellam, daughter of John and Helen Kellam, Pocomoke City, MD, born 24 Aug 1918 on 29 Aug 1936, their son is

William Lewis Melson, born 28 Apr 1937, Nassawadox, VA, married 5 Sep 1967, Anita A. Gautier, Elizabeth City, NC, born 16 Dec 1936, Winston Salem, NC, children:

  Susan Patricia Melson, born 29 Mar 1958, Portsmouth, VA.
  Suzanne Helene Melson, born 26 Aug 1962, Winston Salem, NC.

Walter Edward Melson Sr, son of Wm. I. Melson and Maggie Miles, born 20 Dec 1916, Bridgetown, VA, died 21 Dec 1985, married 29 Aug 1936, Margaret Elizabeth Drummond, daughter of William Lee Drummond and Sallie Lavenia Parker, born 21 Nov 1917, Craddocksville, VA, children: (Ref. 65)


  Michael Edward Melson, born 29 Jun 1961, Charlottesville, VA, married 21 May 1988, Autumn Rose Long, Parksville, VA. (Ref. 65)
  Kevin Brant Melson, born 21 Jan 1944, West Palm Beach, FL. (Ref. 65).

Cassey Melson, daughter of Noah Wyatt Milliner Melson, born c1809, Accomack County, VA, married 30 May 1825, Thomas Pettit, Accomack County, VA.

Samuel Melson, born c1813, Accomack County, VA.

James Thomas Melson, born c1820, Accomack County, VA, died after 1887,
James Milliner Melson, son of Levin and Nanny Milliner Melson, born c1780, died after 1832 in Accomack County, VA, married 28 Dec 1829, Scarborough Snead, born c1790, died after 1832, Accomack County, VA. Children: (Ref.60)

- John Melson, born c1831, Accomack County, VA, married 29 Dec 1859, Susan Bunting.
- Nancy Melson, born c1833, married 1858, Thomas Ayres, Accomack County, VA.

Amey Melson, daughter of Levin and Nanny Melson, born c1783, died before 1830, married James White, born c1780, Accomack County, VA. Their daughter was Nancy White, born c1819, Accomack County, VA.

Rachel Melson, daughter of Levin and Nanny Melson, born c1786, died before 1831, Accomack County, VA.

Bridget Melson, daughter of Levin and Nanny Melson, married a Lewis.

Nancy Melson, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wyatt Melson, born c1759, in Accomack County, VA, died 1813, Accomack County, VA, married an unknown man. Children: (Ref.60)

- Jane Melson, born c1798, Accomack County, VA.
- Anna Melson, born c1800, she had three husbands, James East, c1818, Thomas Gray, 19 Feb. 1846, and ___ Russe, Accomack County, VA.
- Elizabeth Melson, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wyatt Melson, born c1764, died c1788, Accomack County, VA.
- Mary Melson, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wyatt Melson, born c1771, died c1788, Accomack County, VA.
- Peggy Melson, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wyatt Melson, born c1773, married a Wyatt, Accomack County, VA.
- Susannah Melson, daughter of Isaac and Rachel Wyatt Melson, born c1775, married a Smith, Accomack County, VA.

Caleb Melson, son of George Melson, grandson of Joseph Middleton Melson, born c1765, died 26 Feb 1798 (Ref.78), married 2 May 1789, Tabitha West, daughter of Benjamin and Eliza West, Tabitha was mentioned in her mother’s will proved 27 Feb 1797 (Ref.80) The executors of Eliza West’s will were Parker West, possibly a son, and Babel Melson. This Babel Melson has not been identified.

Arcadia Melson, daughter of Joseph Middleton and Elizabeth Middleton Melson, born c1731, Accomack County, VA, married c1749, Tobias Bull Jr, son of Tobias Sr. and Frances Bull, Accomack County, VA, born 1725, died 1761, children:

- John Bull, born c1750, died 1788, Accomack County, VA.

Daniel Bull, born c1752, Accomack County, VA.

Elizabeth Melson, daughter of Joseph M. and Elizabeth M. Melson, born c1732, died c1757, Accomack County, VA, marriedArthur Barns, son of John and Esther Barns, born c1720, died 1757, their son was John Barns. (Ref.60).

Edmund Melson, son of Joseph M. and Elizabeth M. Melson, born c1733, died 1766, Accomack County, VA (Ref.60).

William Middleton Melson, son of Joseph M. and Elizabeth M. Melson, born b1735, died p27 Nov 1781, Accomack County, VA, married c1755, Susanna Pratt, daughter of Baly and Ann Pratt (Ref.74), born c1736, children:

- Bridget Melson, born c1758, married Southey Satchell, Accomack County, VA, Accomack County, VA.
- Esther Melson, born c1760, Accomack County, VA.
- Sarah Melson, born c1762, Accomack County, VA.
- Shady Melson, born c1763, Accomack County, VA.
- George Melson, born 1764, Accomack County, VA.
Joseph Melson, son of Joseph Middleton Melson and Elizabeth Middleton, born c1738, died c1775, Accomack County, VA, married c1758, Elizabeth ______, children:

David Melson, born c1759, died c1799, Accomack County, VA, married (1) 1791, Nancy Fitzgerald, born c1765, died 1814, Accomack County, VA.

children:

Susanna Melson, born c1792, married 10 Nov 1813, George West, son of John West, Accomack County, VA.

Hessy Melson, born 1794, married (?), Nathaniel Stockley, one child, 'first name unknown' Stockley, born 1816.

Married Jacob Carmin, 22 Dec 1824, Accomack County, VA. He was born 1803, Accomack County, VA.

Anne Melson, born c1797, died 15 Jul 1871, Accomack County, VA, married 20 Dec 1842, Stephen Hopkins, Worcester County, MD.

Jane Melson, born 2 Oct 1799, died 15 Mar 1836, Accomack County, VA, married 15 Dec 1819, Stephen Hopkins, born 17 Dec 1792, died 17 Aug 1870, buried at Onancock, VA, children: (Ref. 60)

Margaret Ann Hopkins, born 6 Apr 1822, died 5 Jun 1903, Onancock, VA, married 28 Dec 1837, Accomack County, VA, Nehemiah Fitzgerald, born c1815, died 1863, Hampton, VA, children:

Nehemiah Fitzgerald, born c1838, died in California.

Martha Fitzgerald, born c1840, married 1858, Thomas Chandler.

Margaret Jane Fitzgerald, born 29 Oct 1843, Hampton, VA, died 2 May 1902, Onancock, VA, married 2 Nov 1869.

George W. Johnson, born 11 Aug 1847, Onancock, VA, died 17 Dec 1882, Onancock, VA.

Hezekiah Fitzgerald, born 1845, died 1910, Accomack County, VA, married c1868, Annie Lewis, Accomack County, VA.

Jane Fitzgerald, born c1846, married a David.

Rose Fitzgerald, born c1848, Accomack County, VA.

Susan Fitzgerald, born c1850, Accomack County, VA.

Sarah Fitzgerald, born c1852, Accomack County, VA.

Charlie Fitzgerald, born c1854, Accomack County, VA.

Thomas J. Fitzgerald, born 1857, died 1936, Accomack County, VA, married 1881, Cornelia Lewis.

William Henry Allen Hopkins, son of Anne Melson and Stephen Hopkins, born 12 Aug 1824, died 15 May 1884, Onancock, VA, married c1851 (1) Keturah Evans, born 1833, died 11 Feb 1866, children: (Ref. 60)

Susan Hopkins, born c1852, Onancock, VA, married a James.

Edward W. Hopkins, born 14 Jul 1854, died 12 Dec 1903, Onancock, VA, married c1855, Bessie W. Lilliston.

Virginia Hopkins, born c1856, married c1874, William Joyce, Accomack County, VA.

Ella K. Hopkins, born 1858, died 1925, Onancock, VA, married c1876, William Pitts, Onancock, VA.

Robert Lee Hopkins, born 1860, died 1922, Onancock, VA, married c1880, Susie Nottingham, Onancock, VA.

Henry Hopkins, born c1864, Onancock, VA.

William married a second time, c1870, Mary Johnson Fedde-
man, born 22 Oct 1843, died 3 Dec 1926, Onancock, VA, a daughter, Grace Eloise Hopkins, born 1 Nov 1871, died 17 Dec 1930, Charleston, SC, married c1890.

William B. Pitts, Onancock, VA.
Sarah Hopkins, daughter of Jane Melson and Stephen Hopkins, Accomack County, VA, born 9 Sep 1826, died 19 Apr 1899, married 10 Mar 1847, Edward T. Ames (Ref. 60).  
Ellen Marie Hopkins, daughter of Jane Melson and Stephen Hopkins, born 20 May 1828, died 9 Dec 1860, married John M. Parker, Accomack County, VA. (Ref. 60).  
John Parker Lee Hopkins, son of Jane Melson and Stephen Hopkins, born 6 Apr 1830, died 2 Dec 1913, married c1850, (1) Susan Finney, born 3 Jul 1832, died 8 Dec 1880, Accomack County, VA; children:  
Sarah J. Hopkins, born c1856, Parksley, VA, married a Corbin.  
John H. Hopkins, born 23 Sep 1858, died 4 Oct 1939, Parksley, VA, married c1876, Ursula T. Lewis, Parksley, VA.  
John Hopkins second wife was Evelyn Roberts, c1882, in Onancock, VA. She was born 13 Oct 1866, died 29 Jan 1950, Onancock, VA.  
Catherine Jane Hopkins, daughter of Jane Melson and Stephen Hopkins, born 29 Jan 1832, died 19 Oct 1838, Accomack County, VA.  
Stephen H. Hopkins, son of Jane Melson and Stephen Hopkins, born 5 Jan 1836, died 14 Feb 1888, in England, married 16 Mar 1871, Alicia West, born c1840, died c1897, Accomack County, VA; children:  
Stephen Upshur Hopkins  
Albert Augustus Hopkins (Ref. 60).  
Ann Melson, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Melson, born c1761, in Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
Euplanna Melson, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Melson, born c1763, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
Lewis Ayres Melson, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Melson, born c1765, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
Middleton Melson, son of Joseph Middleton Melson and Elizabeth Middleton, born c1739, died 1766, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
John Melson, son of Joseph Middleton and Elizabeth Middleton, born c1745, died c1785, Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
Joseph Middleton Melson remarried after Elizabeth's death, his second wife was Ann _____, she was born c1722, in Accomack County, VA (Ref. 60).  
In addition to these members of the Melson family who lived in Virginia and whose lines have been traced are:  
Kendall Melson, will proved 29 Jan 1796 (Ref. 81). Eleanor Lilliston in her will of 16 Oct 1794 bequeathed to Kendle Melson and his son, George Melson (Ref. 82).  
Laney Melson, a daughter of Amei Milliner, was mentioned in her mother's will, drawn 25 Oct 1798, proved 1 Jul 1799 (Ref. 83).  
John Melson on 27 Jan 1800 left to brother George Middleton Melson, sister Elizabeth Melson, Frances Melson residual legatee and Exec.  
Daniel and Tabitha Melson gave a Bill of Sale to Edmund Ayres in 1795 (Ref. 84).  
Peter Melson was a witness to the will of Peter Turlington, 28 Sep 1783 (Ref. 78).  
Ritter Melson was a witness to the will of Peter Powell, 28 Sep 1793, (Ref. 78).
In the Mark Lewis notes are these additional marriages recorded in Accomack County Records:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Jan. 1805</td>
<td>Daniel Melson Sr.</td>
<td>Molly Pruitt, widow of John Pruitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Feb. 1801</td>
<td>Daniel Melson</td>
<td>Betty Wise</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 May 1805</td>
<td>George Melson</td>
<td>Sarah Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May 1800</td>
<td>Frances Melson</td>
<td>Stephen Taylor of Jonathan Melson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Feb. 1799</td>
<td>Nancy Melson</td>
<td>Mathias Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Mar. 1806</td>
<td>Noah Melson</td>
<td>Patsy Lumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Jan. 1809</td>
<td>Joseph Melson</td>
<td>Nancy Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Jul. 1810</td>
<td>Robinson Melson</td>
<td>Susanna Bunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Feb. 1812</td>
<td>Scarborough Melson</td>
<td>Thomas Turnall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Nov. 1813</td>
<td>Sukey Melson</td>
<td>George West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Dec. 1813</td>
<td>Mrs. Seymour Melson</td>
<td>William Willett, widow of Jonathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Mar. 1815</td>
<td>Laney Melson</td>
<td>Littleton Chandler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb. 1816</td>
<td>Smith Melson</td>
<td>Anna Willett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Aug. 1817</td>
<td>Jeremiah Melson</td>
<td>Tabitha Gladding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 May 1817</td>
<td>Sally Melson</td>
<td>Thomas Birch of Wm. (Bagwell's dau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Dec. 1819</td>
<td>Jane Melson</td>
<td>Stephen Hopkins (David's dau)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Dec. 1817</td>
<td>Bridget Melson</td>
<td>John Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Apr. 1820</td>
<td>James Melson</td>
<td>Susanna Poulson of Mary (Robinson's son)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Apr. 1822</td>
<td>Ann Melson of James</td>
<td>Henry Watson of James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Dec. 1824</td>
<td>Hesse Melson of David</td>
<td>Jackson Carmine</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Apr. 1827</td>
<td>George Melson</td>
<td>Susan Mehollons of Benj. Floyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Dec. 1829</td>
<td>James Melson Sr.</td>
<td>Scarborough Snead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Nov. 1830</td>
<td>George Melson</td>
<td>Mahala Kellam (dau of Thomas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Aug. 1830</td>
<td>Elizabeth Melson</td>
<td>Parker Grinnalds (James's dau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Aug. 1831</td>
<td>Patsy Melson</td>
<td>James White (widow of Noah)</td>
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<td>5 Apr. 1832</td>
<td>Elijah Melson</td>
<td>Elizabeth Gray of Thomas</td>
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<td>8 Feb. 1832</td>
<td>James Melson</td>
<td>Elizabeth Milliner (Snow Hill licence)</td>
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<td>6 Nov. 1833</td>
<td>Leah Melson</td>
<td>James Coloney (dau of Jonathan)</td>
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<td>13 Nov. 1834</td>
<td>Scarborough Melson</td>
<td>Parker Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Dec. 1834</td>
<td>William Henry Melson</td>
<td>Bridget Bull of Southey</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Jun. 1837</td>
<td>CAPT. James Melson</td>
<td>Margaret Taylor (Worcester Licence)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Feb. 1839</td>
<td>Margaret Melson</td>
<td>Custis Bull</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Dec. 1842</td>
<td>Ann Melson</td>
<td>Stephens Hopkins (widower)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Mar. 1842</td>
<td>Nancy Melson</td>
<td>James H. East</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Jun. 1840</td>
<td>Sarah Melson</td>
<td>Robert Mears</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Jan. 1844</td>
<td>James Thomas Melson</td>
<td>Sophia Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Jan. 1846</td>
<td>Eliza Melson</td>
<td>Levin Walker (widow of James Melson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Mar. 1848</td>
<td>John D. Melson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Death Records


7 Mar. 1857 Samuel Melson, age 19, son of Henry and Bridget Melson, died of typhoid.
In a survey of the cemeteries in Accomack County, VA. (Ref. 62), these graves were recorded:

**Edgehill Cemetery**


Benjamin T., 1851-1932.

Elizabeth S., wife of Benjamin T., 7 Nov. 1852-20 Sep. 1884.

Marceline F., wife of Benjamin T., 1870-1958.


Elizabeth S., 1895-1962.

George Columbus, 1879-1942.

Alice Lee, 1876-1961.


Katherine H., wife of George T., no dates.


Mamie Pearl, dau. of Samuel C. and Ida Virginia, 1888-14 Oct. 1890.

J. Bratcher, 1907-1974.

Nabel P., wife of J. Bratcher, 1912-no date.

James C., 2 Feb. 1880-13 May 1927.


James T., 1 Nov. 1818-28 Apr. 1891.


John B., 1811-3 Jun. 1868.

Margaret A., wife of John B., 1815-3 Apr. 1877.

John R., 14 May 1816-22 Apr. 1899.


Kenneth, 1919-1944.

L. Thorogood, 1855-1954.

Levin J., 1847-1925.

Sarah J., wife of Levin J., 1848-1934.


Sallie A., wife of Levin T., 5 Nov. 1852-29 Aug. 1948.


Ralph W., 1917-no date.


Samuel S., 1876-1961.


Thomas H., 1858-1942.


Thomas W., 1884-1963.


Werner, Margaret Melson, wife of Henry, 1891-1929.  
Clover Hill Cemetery  
Melson, George W., 1883-1952  
Mary (Mamie, Margaret), wife of George W., 1886-1963  
infant son of George W. and Mamie S., born and died 1917.  
Fairview Lane Cemetery  
Melson, George Columbus, 5 Feb. 1914-17 May 1977.  
Beulah Wessels (RN), wife of George Columbus, 24 May 1914-14 Jul. 1971.  
John H., 1876-1956.  
Lewis Burial Ground  
Melson, CAPT. Edward, 1840-5 May 1882.  
son of Edward and Mary S., b&d 3 May 1879.  
Liberty Cemetery  
Melson, Claude F., 1907-1973  
Carrie E., wife of Claude F., 1911 - no date.  
Edward T., 1874-1938.  
Margaret A., wife of Edward T., 1875-1950.  
Marino Cemetery  
Mt. Holly Cemetery  
Melson, Henry E., 1873-1936.  
Henry W., 1836-1874.  
Louisa C., wife of Henry W., 1841-1918.  
Annie R., wife of John H. Jr. (see Fairview Cemetery), 19 Jun. 1868-16 Jul. 1944  
Onancock Cemetery  
Parks Burial Ground  
Melson, Amanda E., dau. of Levin J. and Sarah J. (see Edgehill Cemetery), 8 Apr. 1880-13 Jun. 1880.  
Willett Burial Ground  
Daniel Melson II, the son of Daniel Melson I, who had left Accomack County, VA about the time of his father, John Melson II's death, and established his home in the Wicomico Hundred of Somerset (Worcester) County, MD, was born c1725, in Accomack County, VA. He married about 1744, the name of his first wife is not known (Ref. 178), their son was Daniel Melson III, see 7-40a, born 1745. This first wife died sometime after Daniel III's birth. Daniel Melson II remarried, his second wife was a daughter of Elijah and Tabitha Wingate Cannon, of Broad Creek Hundred, Delaware. Her family has been traced to Edward and Ann Cannon, the first Cannons. They along with three children, were transported to Lower Norfolk County, Virginia by Edward Hall in 1646 (Ref. 86). Their children were Ann, born 1639. Stephen, born 1641, and Thomas, born c1644. In 1659, Ann married James Dashiell, Sr., Gentleman, in Northumberland County, VA. James and Ann Dashiell, their son, and a niece, Elizabeth Dashiell, then nine years old, left Virginia and settled on Wetipquin Creek, Somerset County, MD (Ref. 87). Edward and Ann Cannon, with their second son, Thomas, left Northampton County, VA, sometime after James and Ann and settled in Dorchester County, MD. Thomas Cannon was remembered in the Will of Bartholomew Ennals, Dorchester County, MD, drawn 28 Mar 1688, filed for probate 20 Jun 1688 (Ref. 88), "to Thomas Cannon, son of Edward Cannon, land by Patent."

Edward and Ann Cannon's older son, Stephen, apparently entered an Apprenticeship with John Pate, Gloucester County, VA. Something happened and he fled to Kent Island, MD, where he was apprehended by William Nodin at Francis Barnes, being 'entertained' by Barnes. The Hon. Philip Calvert, Maryland Provincial Court, took exception to this and issued an order upon Francis Barnes to arrest Stephen Cannon on 26 Oct 1664. This was never done. Stephen Cannon disappeared for several years. On 13 Jan 1674, a Thomas Davis, Carpenter, appeared before the Somerset County Court and filed a petition acknowledging his true name was Stephen Cannon, and he wanted to resume his true name agreeing to pay all debts accrued as Thomas Davis. Apparently the Statue of Limitations against runaway apprentices and servants had expired. During the years as Thomas Davis, he married Judith Bloyce, a daughter of Thomas Bloyce of Somerset County, MD. They had a daughter, Frances Davis, born c1666. Stephen Cannon later became a substantial planter along Wetipquin Creek, near his brother-in-law, James Dashiell Sr. His will was filed for probate c1700, his heirs were three daughters. Frances Davis Cannon married Peter Doughty (Body); Mary Cannon married William Wainwright; Alice Cannon left no record (Ref. 87). Stephen and Judith must have had a son, as a Samuel Cannon was noted in Somerset County Testamentary Proceedings for 1702 as appearing in court as a witness.

Thomas Cannon, the second son of Edward and Ann Cannon, left no record. James Cannon, the third son of Edward and Ann Cannon, was born c1650. His will was filed for probate in Dorchester County, Mar, 1723, he willed to:

"wife Mary 2 cows and calves, one feather bed and bolster, all silver and gold plus one-third of estate.
son James CANNON'S CHOICE and best suit of clothes.
son Thomas TEFORD
sons John, Matthew, Henry equal shares of CANNON'S INCREASE and NOBLE QUARTER.
son Matthew dwelling plantation
daughter Sarah Wattson steer and heifer
- John Woodgate heifer
John Cannon, the third son of James Sr. and Mary Cannon, was born in Dorchester County, MD, c1681. His wife was Sarah Pritchett. She was the granddaughter of John and Abigail Pritchett of Dorchester County, MD, and a daughter of Zebulon Pritchett of the same county. John inherited two tracts from his father. He later added others, including one in what became the Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. The tract, Maryland Warrants Liber EI#3 Folio 228 was awarded to John Caldwell, April 17, 1730, 100 acres, "in Somerset County back in the woods from the branches of Broad Creek on the south side of the Easternmost Branch by the old path to Indian River. Transferred to John Cannon of Dorchester County to be called "CANNONS DISCOVERY."

John Cannon deeded this tract to his sons, Joseph and Elijah (Ref. 89) "On 2 Aug. 1749 John Cannons sold to Joseph Cannon of Worcester County, 49 acres and to Elijah Cannon, 51 acres."

John Cannon remained in Dorchester County. His will was filed for probate there on 30 Jun. 1766.

Elijah Cannon, born c1725, died 1799, moved to the portion of Somerset County that later became Sussex County, DE and patented "CANNONS DELIGHT", 134 acres in 1749. He also bought from James Brown, 1 Jul. 1757, "BROWN'S HOG RANGE." He married Tabitha Wingate, daughter of Phillip Wingate and Sarah Cannon Minors. Tabitha was born c1728/30, Somerset County, MD. Phillip was born c1700, died 8 Mar. 1759, was a son of William Wingate, born c1645 and his wife, Elizabeth. Sarah Cannon Minors, c1700-1762 was Phillip's second wife. She was a widow. Her parents were Thomas Cannon, born c1677, d 1748, a son of James and Mary Cannon, and a brother of John Cannon, Elijah Cannon's father. Thomas's wife was Catherine Clarkson, born c1680, in Dorchester County, MD. She was a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Clarkson of Dorchester County, MD (Ref. 185).

Elijah and Tabitha Wingate Cannon had two children, Lovey Cannon, born c1737-1741, died after 1798, and Wingate Cannon (Ref. 178).

Lovey Cannon and Daniel Melson II, were married c1760. She was his second wife. They lived on his dwelling plantation in the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. Their oldest child, Elijah Melson born 1763.

Elijah Melson settled on the family lands in Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. His first wife was a Polly ____, died c1785 (Ref. 90).

Their son was Samuel Melson, born Sep. 1, 1785, died Apr. 12, 1849. Samuel grew up in Melson, Maryland, where he was a versatile individual, he farmed, was an ordained Methodist Minister, a Physician and a Justice of the Peace. (Ref. 91) He married Grace Maddox, born Nov. 11, 1780, died Dec. 26, 1861, in 1806. Samuel and Grace had nine known children. They are buried in the Parker-Melson Cemetery, 1 mile south-west of the Melson Methodist Church, Melson, Maryland on the Melson-Parkersburg Road.

Sarah Melson, born c1806 was the oldest child of Samuel and Grace Melson, she married Mar. 5, 1827, Joseph Hearn.

Phebe Melson was the second child of Samuel and Grace Melson, she was born c1807, married Dec. 16, 1834, to Ezekiel Jones.

Eliza Melson was the third child of Samuel and Grace Melson, she was born c1809 and married Benjamin G. Hearn.

Benjamin Sharp Melson was the fourth child of Samuel and Grace Melson. He was born Nov. 30, 1810, died May 25, 1898. He was married Jan. 14, 1833 to Elizabeth
Fookes, born Aug. 16, 1811, died Sep. 18, 1892. She was a daughter of James and Betsy Hearne Fookes (Ref. 92). Their children were:

- Mary E. Melson, b. Sep. 5, 1840.
- Benjamin F. Melson, b. Mar. 26, 1847, d. 1922.
- Priscilla (Elia) M. Melson, b. May 18, 1853.
- Daniel H. Melson, b. Aug. 5, 1856, d. 1943.

Benjamin Sharp Melson was born at Melson, Maryland. After his marriage to Elizabeth Fookes, he farmed and was a brick mason in the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. In 1854, Benjamin and Elizabeth Fookes Melson moved to Horsey's Crossroads near Atlanta, Sussex County, DE, where he farmed 600 acres.

Jonathan James Melson was the oldest son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Fookes Melson. He became a minister, but died young and was never married. (Ref. 92)

Samuel H. Melson, the second son of Benjamin S. and Elizabeth Melson married Charlotte C. Kinder, a daughter of Jacob Kinder and Mary Cannon, born May 20, 1834, died Jun. 7, 1820 on Dec. 22, 1858 (Ref. 92). He was a farmer and a miller in Sussex County, DE, and Caroline County, MD. He was also the County Surveyor for Caroline County. After retiring from this post, he resumed farming in the Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, DE. He bought his father-in-law's farm and made it his permanent home. He continued surveying as a sideline. In 1862, he served in Company I, Sixth Regiment, Delaware Volunteer Infantry. Samuel H. and Charlotte Kinder Melson had five children.

- James P. Melson was the first child of Samuel H. and Charlotte K. Melson, he was born Jan. 22, 1859, died Jun. 6, 1860. (Ref. 93)
- Mary E. Melson was the second child of Samuel H. and Charlotte K. Melson, she was born Jan. 22, 1861, died Apr. 1, 1876. (Ref. 93)
- Daniel F. Melson was the third child of Samuel H. and Charlotte K. Melson, he was born Jun. 14, 1863, died Jun. 14, 1863. (Ref. 93)
- John F. Melson was the fourth child of Samuel H. and Charlotte K. Melson, he was born May 23, 1864, died Aug. 26, 1948. He married Willie Sullivan Butler, born May 29, 1866, died Jul. 10, 1961, on Dec. 1, 1886. Their children were: (Ref. 96)
  - Charles Harrison Melson, born Nov. 18, 1888, died Jan. 12, 1959. He married Emma Gray, born Dec. 8, 1895, on Jun. 29, 1914. Their children were:

Their children are:

  - Dorothy Smith, born Apr. 20, 1938. They have:
    - Randy Smith Melson, born Jun. 16, 1955, married Nanette Young.
      - Their son is Randall Smith Melson, born Dec. 2, 1976.
    - Terry Eileen Melson, born Jul. 11, 1956, married Blaine Breeding.

S. Elmer Melson, the second child of John F. and Willie Butler Melson, was born Jun. 27, 1896, died Aug. 23, 1976, married Dec. 24, 1917 to Helen Benson, born Feb. 21, 1895. Their children were:

Benson Waller Melson, born Apr. 29, 1919, died Oct. 29, 1928.

Franklin Elmer Melson, born Jun. 11, 1922, married Sep. 5, 1943, Beatrice Closson. Their children are:

Franklin Elmer Melson, Jr., born Mar. 20, 1944, married Apr. 11, 1965, Diane Hopkins. Their children are:


Richard Cecil Melson, born Apr. 23, 1945, married Jun. 13, 1969, Janice Warrington. Their children are:


Louise Marie Melson, born Oct. 12, 1918, died Oct. 17, 1974, married Nov. 2, 1938, Howard Wayne Lloyd Speicher. Their children:


Gregory Brent Melson, born Mar. 8, 1956.


Marie Elizabeth Melson was the fifth child of Samuel H. and Charlotte K. Melson was born Jan. 9, 1872, died Aug. 13, 1872 (Ref. 90).

Mary E. Melson, the third child of Benjamin Sharp and Elizabeth Fookes Melson, was born May 25, 1849 (Ref. 92). She married Jun. 27, 1866, Benjamin J. Downing. They lived in Wilmington, Delaware.

Maria M. Melson, the fourth child of Benjamin S. and Elizabeth Melson, was born Jun. 19, 1843. She married Dec. 19, 1860, John H. Kinder, born Jan. 25, 1839. (Ref. 92).

Eliza G. Melson, the fifth child of Benjamin S. and Elizabeth Melson, was born Jul. 13, 1845. She married Sep. 29, 1864, Joseph J. Masten. (Ref. 92).

Benjamin Frank Melson, the sixth child of Benj. S. and Eliz. Melson, was born Mar. 26, 1847. He married Sallie R. Wright. He farmed his father's lands in Delaware.
Sara Ann Melson, the seventh child of Benj. S. and Eliza. Melson, was born May 25, 1849. She married Oremus Duriel Hill on May 5, 1870 (Ref. 92). They lived in the Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

Ebeneezer Handy Melson, the eighth child of Benj. S. and Eliza. Melson, was born Aug. 31, 1851, died Jan. 20, 1926. He married Ida M. Clark, born Jun. 27, 1858 in Conn., died Feb. 6, 1915. Their children were:
- Rose M. Melson, born Dec. 11, 1885.
- Herbert S. Melson, born Feb. 22, 1887, died Aug. 6, 1887.

Priscilla Edith M. Melson, the ninth child of Benj. S. and Eliza. Melson, was born May 18, 1853. She married Enos B. Wright, born Sep. 1856 on Jan. 10, 1878 (Ref. 92). They lived in the Northwest Fork Hundred, Sussex County, DE.

Daniel H. Melson, the tenth child of Benj. S. and Eliza. Melson, was born Aug. 5, 1856, died in 1922. He married Maggie Williams, born Dec. 32, 1866 on Mar. 15, 1887. They had four children: (Ref. 92)
- Oliver N. Melson, born Mar. 14, 1888, died in 1977, was the first child of Daniel H. and Maggie Melson. His son, Robert Lane Melson lives at 102 Darwin Drive, Newark, DE. 19711. He contributed a majority of the information about the Benjamin Sharp Melson family.
- Edna F. Melson, the second child of Daniel H. and Maggie Melson, was born Jun. 19, 1892. (Ref. 92).
- Claude Melson was the third child of Daniel H. and Maggie Melson.
- Aileen Eloise Melson was the fourth child of Daniel H. and Maggie Melson.

Benjamin Sharp and Elizabeth Fookes Melson with these children of their son Samuel P. Melson; James P. Melson, Mary E. Melson, Daniel F. Melson, and Marie E. Melson are buried in the Atlanta Cemetery, Sussex County, DE. Samuel H. and his wife, Charlotte K. Melson, Benjamin Frank Melson, Ebeneezer Handy Melson and his wife, Ida Melson, and their son, Herbert S. Melson are buried in the Bridgeville Cemetery, Sussex County, DE. (Ref. 93).

Returning to the Samuel and Grace Maddox Melson family,
- Mary Melson was their fifth child, she married Joseph Hayman, Dec. 12, 1831.
- Maria Melson was the sixth child of Samuel and Grace Melson, she was born Nov. 7, 1816, died Jul. 11, 1897. She married Purnell Short, Feb. 14, 1832.
- Priscilla Melson, the seventh child of Samuel and Grace Melson, was born c1817. She married Gillie Short. (Ref. 90).

Daniel Fookes Melson, the eighth child of Samuel and Grace Melson, was born Dec. 8, 1818, died Sep. 19, 1882. His first wife was Betty Jones Parker, born Aug. 11, 1824, died 1854. They had two children:
- John E. Melson, born Aug. 21, 1843.
- Purnell Benjamin Melson, born Oct. 2, 1847, married Loving, c1872.

Daniel Fookes Melson's second wife was Sarah Ellen White, born Feb. 27, 1823, died Feb. 19, 1881. Their children were: (Ref. 65).
- Matilda Elizabeth Melson, born Sep. 7, 1854.
- Thomas Allen Melson, born Mar. 28, 1855, married Ella A. Catlin. Their children were Marian Melson, Bliss Melson, Beulah Melson, born and died 1885.
- James Sharp Melson, born Nov. 22, 1858.
- Daniel Webster Melson, born Mar. 4, 1861, died Apr. 11, 1946.

Matilda Melson, the ninth child of Samuel and Grace Melson, was born c1821. She married Daniel B. Short, Dec. 12, 1843. (Ref. 94).
Elijah Melson Sr's, the first child of Daniel II and Lovey Cannon Melson, first wife, Polly _____, died shortly after the birth of their son, Samuel. Elijah remarried a few years later. His second wife was Mrs. Nancy Short. Nothing is known about her. Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson had five children.

Elizabeth Melson was the oldest child of Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson. She was born c1790, and died after 1845. Elizabeth married William Gory, born c1778, died Jan. 13, 1845. William was a farmer, miller and a Methodist Minister in Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. The remains of his mills may still be seen on Gory Drive, which is a mile south of Highway #54, which follows the Boundary between the States of Maryland and Delaware eastwards from Delmar between Rum Ridge Road and State Coach Road. Their seven children were:

John Collins Gory, born Aug. 5, 1809. He married Frances Hearn, Jan. 14, 1830. He was given a farm by his father, but preferred the field of medicine, although self-taught, he practiced this profession throughout his adult life. In 1836, he went to Louisiana for a visit with his uncle, Michael Gory. Deciding to settle there, he brought his family from Maryland and settled in Franklin, LA. John was also an ardent Mason and devoted many years to advancing this order. John and Frances Hearn Gory had seven children: (Ref. 95)

- Elizabeth Caroline Gory, born Oct. 8, 1839, married Jessie Collins.
- Michael Benjamin Gory, born Apr. 19, 1841, married Charlotte Johnson.
- William Gory
- Mattie Moriah Gory, born Sep. 5, 1852, married Matthew Bell.
- Frances Louise Gory, married Wilson McKerdel Jr.

William Gory Jr. was the second child of William and Eliz. Melson Gory. He was born c1810, married Aug. 18, 1830, Elizabeth Hastings.

Polly Gory, the third child of William and Eliz. Melson Gory, born c1811, married c1830 Benjamin Elliott.

Mahala Gory, the fourth child of William and Eliz. Melson Gory, was born Apr. 6, 1814, died Nov. 25, 1844, married Sep. 16, 1835, Samuel I. White, born Sep. 18, 1814, died Apr. 30, 1887.


Sarah Caroline Gory, the seventh child of William and Eliz. Melson Gory, was born Sep. 1, 1838, died Sep. 25, 1867, married Mar. 2, 1852, William Garretson Gory, born Nov. 30, 1831, died Jun. 9, 1890.

Sally Melson was the second child of Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson. She married an unknown, possibly a Short. (Ref. 90).

Polly Melson, the third child of Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson, married Dec. 24, 1812, Elijah Williams. (Ref. 90).

Nancy Melson, the fourth child of Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson, married Joseph Truitt. (Ref. 90).

Elijah Melson Jr., the fifth child of Elijah Sr. and Nancy Melson, was born Apr. 15, 1800, died Nov. 2, 1868. He married Oct. 11, 1821, Eliza Hasting, born Oct. 10, 1803, died Jun. 7, 1865. She was a daughter of William and Hannah Hasting, of the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Elijah Jr. lived and farmed at Melson, MD. Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson were instrumental in building the Melsons Methodist Church in Melson, MD. They had ten children. (Ref. 65)
William Hasting Melson, born 20 Jan, 1823, died Sep. 4, 1878, was the first child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza (Lizzie) Hasting Melson. He grew up on his parents farm at Melson, MD. He married Mahala Maddux, born 23 Dec. 1817, a daughter of Wilson and Rhoda Maddux. 31 Jan. 1846 (Ref. 65). She died after 1860. Children: Elijah Wilson Maddox Melson, born 25 Nov. 1846, died c1847.

George Thomas Beverly Melson, born 6 Apr. 1849. He married Ella Adkins, 16 Nov. 1897 in Salisbury, MD. (Ref. 65).

James Melson, born c1849, died c1852, Melson, MD.

Sarah Elizabeth Melson, born 5 Sep. 1850, died c1922, married James White, born 1842, died 1905.

John Burton Melson, born April 15, 1853, died Jul. 1920, married Sarah M. Campbell, born Sep. Sep. 14, 1856, died 1948. Their children were:

Isaac William Melson, born 1875, died 1877.

Alice May Melson, born 1878, died 1924, married Harry F. Hickman, born 1874, died 1932.

Levin Alfred Melson, born 1881, died 1937, married Elizabeth Richards Hudson, born 1883, died 1945. Their children were:

Clarence Alfred Melson, born 1905, died 1967, married Grace Bernice Lynch, born 1915. Their children are:

Alfred Vaughan Melson, born 1942. He married Sarah Elizabeth McCabe, born 1946. Their children are:

Heather Elizabeth Melson, born 1970.


Alfred V. Melson graduated from LSU and is a prominent farmer and insurance broker in Ocean City, MD. He is an active genealogist, and a major contributor to this account of the Melson Family History.

Ida Virginia Melson, born 1914, married Burbage Harrison.

Sarah Elizabeth Melson, born 1921, married Rubin Toomey, Jr.


Ida Ellen Melson, born 1887, married Daniel M. Collins.

John Burton Melson Jr., b. 1889, died 1950, married Mildred Bunting.

Jennie Florence Melson, born 1890, married Luther Washington Long.

Rhoda Melson the fifth child of Wm. and Mahala Melson, died as an infant.

William Melson also spent many years as a seaman. During the Civil War, he was a member of the Union Navy. A letter written by him is preserved as a portion of naval history.


Report of Flag Officer Lardner, USN, transmitting report of capture of the commanding officer and boat's crew from US Schooner BEAUREGARD.

Flagship SAN JACINTO
Key West, Jul. 21, 1862

Sir: It is with regret I have to forward the report of Master's Mate W. H. Melson stating the circumstances under which Acting Master David Stearns, commanding the schooner BEAUREGARD, was with a boat's crew, lost or captured at the mouth of Crystal River.

0202038
It is the opinion of Lieutenant Commanding English of the SOMERSET that they were captured by the rebels.
I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant.

J.L. Lardner
Flag-Officer Cmdg.
Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron.

Hon. Gideon Welles
Secretary of the Navy

U.S. Schooner BEAUREGARD
Cedar Keys, July 2, 1862

Sir: I am under the painful necessity of making the following report: On the morning of 29th ultimo, whilst cruising off Crystal River, sighted a sloop-rigged vessel standing about the mouth of the river.

The captain (David Stearns) with an armed crew of 7 men manned a boat and started in pursuit.

Soon after I discovered another sloop-rigged vessel making out from one of the adjacent keys. About 3 o'clock p.m., a squall coming up obscured them from sight.

Evening coming on, and the captain not returning, hoisted a lantern from the main. Next morning, sent an armed boat and made a thorough search (firing a musket at intervals) for six hours, but without success. Same evening got underway and shifted my position.

The next morning, Jul. 1, at 10 o'clock, got underway and stood for Cedar Keys. At 6 o'clock, came to anchor. The following morning, got underway and reached the Keys at 10:30 am.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. Melson
Acting Master's Mate

Flag-Officer James L. Lardner
Commanding Eastern Gulf Squadron.

Elenor Short Melson was the second child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Hasting Melson. She was born Jun. 7, 1824, died Apr. 1876. She married on Dec. 8, 1847, John West. Their children were:

Matilda Jane West
Elijah William West
Ebenezer West
(E)zekiel West
Levin Thomas West
James West

Matilda, Ebenezer, Levin, and James died as children. Elijah William was known to have been alive in 1911. There is no information about Ezekiel West.

Burton Cannon Melson, the third child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson, was born Sept. 26, 1826, died Aug. 7, 1919. Burton married Priscilla Farlow, born Nov. 7, 1829, died Jul. 23, 1919. She was a daughter of George and Abigail Fooks Farlow, of Melson, MD. on Nov. 21, 1850. They had three children:

William Handy Cloyd Melson, the first child of Burton and Priscilla Melson, born Sep. 12, 1851, died Oct. 4, 1942, married (1) Hester Collins, born 1851, died 1887, on Jun. 2, 1880. She died of tuberculosis. (2) Mary Martha Dukes, born Sep. 5, 1857, died Mar. 20, 1939. Their son was:
Elwood Franklin Melson, born Nov. 2, 1890, died Nov. 23, 1980. His first wife was Laura Montgomery Buckson, born Dec. 14, 1890, died Aug. 3, 1960. Their children were:

William Franklin Melson, born Jan. 15, 1909, died Feb. 8, 1995, married Catherine Louise Radish, born Sep. 8, 1912. Their son is William Lloyd Melson, born May 6, 1946. He married Margaret Smith, born Nov. 28, 1947. Their children are: Phillip Franklin Melson, born Jul. 6, 1976 and Laura Whitemarsh Melson, born Mar. 15, 1978 (Ref. 100). William F. Melson was born in Wilmington, DE, and became a Dentist. He was a member of the Delaware National Guard and served in the Southwest Pacific during WWII. His regiment was a part of the Base BOBCAT expedition to Bora Bora in Jan. 1942. Later they served in other combat areas. He is retired and lives at 19 Stockely Street, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.


Elwood Franklin Melson, Jr., born Mar. 12, 1914.

Donald H. Melson, born May 29, 1916, died Feb. 5, 1921.

Mary Eileen Melson, born Sep. 5, 1923, never married.

Elwood Melson's second wife was Eva Enkmeier, who died in 1976. His third wife was Elizabeth V. Elwood F. Melson studied law and became a Judge on the Delaware State Court, serving many years as a Juvenile Judge. After retiring from the Delaware bench, he settled in Florida (Ref. 100). Along with his first wife, Elwood Melson is buried at the Barrett Chapel, Delaware. His parents, William Handy Cloyd and Mary Martha Dukes Melson are also buried there.

Mary Elizabeth Melson was the fourth child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson. She was born Apr. 3, 1829, died Aug. 2, 1900 (Ref. 97). She married Nathan G. West, a son of William West and Mary Gordy, of Worcester County, MD. They were married cDec. 14, 1846. Their children were:

Ann Elizabeth West, married Peter Vincent.

Martha Ellen West, married John Tom Layfield.

Mary Jane West, died as a child.

Minerva C. West, married Elijah Mills.

Charles S. West, married Florence Boston.

Eddie West, married Emma Tull (Ref. 97).

Thomas Asbury Melson was the fifth child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson. He was born Feb. 5, 1831, died Oct. 3, 1913, married Sep. 14, 1852, Nancy Parsons, born May 11, 1833, died Oct. 6, 1914. Their children were:

Sallie Elizabeth Melson, born 1854, married James Stevens, died 1918. Their children were: Lulu Stevens, married Marden Hearn. They had one daughter, Margie Hearn of Delmar, MD. Their second child was Elise Stevens, married Earl Chapman (Ref. 97).

Elijah John Spicer Melson, born 1856, died 1931, married Amelia Anne Elliott. Their children were:

Maud Melson, married Herbert Gipple of Laurel, DE.

Hollie Thomas Melson, married Minnie Hastings, their son was Elton Melson.

Katherine May Melson, married Howard Hastings, their children were: Lewis Hastings and Jeanette Hastings.

Ettie Melson, married Floyd Garris (Ref. 97).

Ulysses Grant Melson was the third child of Thomas Asbury and Nancy Melson. He married Eliza Hanna Carmine, a daughter of Benjamin and Annie Cordrey.
They had a daughter, Edna May Melson, born c1887. She married Roscoe Allison Powers, about 1910. Their son, Millard Melson Powers, was born in 1912 (Ref. 97).

Laird Thomas Melson was the fourth child of Thomas and Nancy Melson, born Apr. 10, 1868, died Oct. 27, 1896 (Ref. 101). He married Margaret Townsend. Their four children were:

- Laird T. Melson, Jr., died as a child.
- Henry Walter Melson, died as a child.
- Levin Frank Melson, no other information.
- Earl Melson, married Myrtle Lynch of Havre de Grace, MD.

Laird Thomas Melson was the fourth child of Thomas and Nancy Melson, born Apr. 10, 1868, died Oct. 27, 1896 (Ref. 101). He married Margaret Townsend. Their four children were:

- Laird T. Melson, Jr., died as a child.
- Henry Walter Melson, died as a child.
- Levin Frank Melson, no other information.
- Earl Melson, married Myrtle Lynch of Havre de Grace, MD.

Helen Rebecca Melson, their daughter, died as a child. (Ref. 97)

Josephus Humphries Melson was the sixth child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson. He was born Mar. 30, 1833, died Oct. 21, 1861 (Ref. 98). He married Julia Farlow, a daughter of Billy and Sarah Fooks Farlow, on Dec. 12, 1855 (Ref. 102). Their two children were:

- John Handy Melson, born Sep. 18, 1857, died Mar. 21, 1945 (Ref. 103). His first wife was Rebecca Parsons, born Jun. 24, 1862, died Aug. 10, 1892, they were married c1880. Their three children were:
  - Elizabeth Melson, born Aug. 26, 1881, married Irving Littleton (Ref. 103).
  - Lloyd Melson, born Aug. 11, 1885, married Bessie (Ref. 103).
  - John G. Melson, born May 25, 1888, died Aug. 22, 1948, married Ronnie Riggin, born Oct. 30, 1882, died Jan. 14, 1943, on Mar. 4, 1908. They lived at Salisbury, Md., and had one daughter, Maude Melson, born Aug. 2, 1913. Maude married Raymond Miller, born Aug. 2, 1912. Their son is Raymond Miller, Jr., born 1943. John G. and Ronnie Riggin Melson were divorced. His second wife was Minnie Wimbrow, born May 18, 1883, they were married Aug. 18, 1928. This information about the John G. Melson family was provided by Mrs. Maude Melson Miller of Salisbury, MD.

- After Rebecca Parsons Melson's death, John Handy Melson remarried. His second wife was Laura Alice Workman, born Aug. 13, 1875, died Oct. 19, 1936. They had six children (Ref. 103).

Mae Melson was the first child of John H. and Laura Melson, born Jul. 1, 1897. She married Willie Downes, born Oct. 27, 1897 (Ref. 103).

Gertrude Melson, the second child, was born Jan. 8, 1900, married Virgil Hudson, Dec. 10, 1919 (Ref. 103). Edna Melson, the third child, was born Jul. 2, 1903, married Walter Downes, born Sep. 17, 1901 (Ref. 103).

Julia Beatrice Melson, the fourth child, was born Sep. 17, 1906, married Walter Webb (Ref. 103).

Frank Alfred Melson, the fifth child, was born Jul. 3, 1910, married Wilse Baker Grovenor, born May 22, 1916. Their three children are:

- Marshall Melson, born Mar. 28, 1936
- Charles Melson, born Oct. 6, 1937
- Phyllis Melson, born Jun. 15, 1944 (Ref. 103).

Josephus and Julia Farlow Melson's second child was Joe Annie Melson, born Jan. 28, 1861, died Aug. 9, 1948, married Lorenzo Brittingham, born Jan. 28, 1861, died Jun. 16, 1928 (Ref. 103).

Levin Spicer Melson was the seventh child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson. He was born May 18, 1835, died Jan. 5, 1911 (Ref. 97). He married Mary C. Duke, born Sep. 30, 1833, died Jun. 16, 1913 (Ref. 97), in 1866 (Ref. 104).

John Wesley Melson, the eighth child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson, was born Nov. 23, 1837 (Ref. 97), died Jan. 12, 1904 (Ref. 104). He married Lovey Ellen Sherman, (Ref. 97) born Jul. 18, 1842, died Nov. 18, 1910 (Ref. 101), on Dec. 14, 1859. They had
five children.

Annie Melson was the oldest child of John and Ellen Melson, born 1863. (Ref. 90). She married William J. Downing. Their two children were John Downing, and William Downing who married a Dodd of Millsboro, DE. (Ref. 97). William J. and Annie Melson Downing lived in Wilmington, DE.

William Spicer Melson, the second child of John and Ellen Melson was born 1865. His first wife was Annie Lewis and his second was May Kirk of Delmar, DE. born 1870. Their children were: (Ref. 60)

Mattie Melson, born 1887, married Harvey Kirk.
Lewis Melson, born 1888, married Blanche Long.
John Wesley Melson, born 1890.

Levin Alfred Melson, the third child of John and Ellen Melson, was born 1866. The name of his wife is not known. They had one son, John Alfred Melson.

Ida Melson, born 1868, was the fourth child of John and Ellen Melson, she married Jackson Ellis, born 1862. Their children were:

Mae Ellis born 1882, in Creason, PA., married Boyd Frennie, born 1882, and
J. Paul Ellis, born 1882, died at the age of 21, married Mary, born 1882. (Ref. 60).

Henrietta Melson, born 1869, was the fifth child of John and Ellen Melson, married Samuel Smith, born 1865, a hardware merchant at Laurel, DE. Their children were:

Charles Smith, born 1883, died 1904.
Walter Smith, born 1885, married Bessie Hasting, born 1889. (Ref. 60).

Ezekiel Alfred Melson was the ninth child of Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson. He was born Oct. 5, 1840, died Mar. 17, 1911 (Ref. 98). He married Rebecca Ann Parker, born May 12, 1845, died Aug. 17, 1917, on Oct. 19, 1866. (Ref. 99). She was a daughter of John and Mahala Wesley Jones Parker, of Melson, MD. After their marriage, Ezekiel moved with his brothers to Bishopville, Maryland where he became a farmer and a sawmill operator. Their children were:

Ettie Melson, the first child of Ezekiel and Mahala Melson, was born Sep. 23, 1867, died Jan. 20, 1883 (Ref. 98).
C. Alfred Thomas Melson, the second child of Ezekiel and Mahala Melson, was born Nov. 22, 1869, died Jun. 1, 1876 (Ref. 98).
Levin Franklin Melson, the third child of Ezekiel and Mahala Melson, was born Jun. 7, 1872, died Apr. 26, 1932 (Ref. 90). He married Annie Estelle Fox, Jul. 14, 1897. She was born Aug. 5, 1875, died Aug. 3, 1955. Levin was born at Bishopville, MD. He became a lawyer in Wilmington, DE. During his travels around the communities on the Eastern Shore, he became interested in the background of the Melson family, and searched the records in the courthouses for information about the family. Much of our first knowledge of Daniel Melson Sr. (I) and Daniel Melson Jr. (II) and their families came from his efforts. Levin and Annie had three children:

Marian Estelle Melson, was the first child of Levin and Annie Melson, she was born Apr. 6, 1898, died Apr. 22, 1974. She married Walter H. K. Stommel, born May 16, 1893, died May, 1952, on May 16, 1918. They had two children:

He became one of the world's foremost oceanographers. He was the Professor of Oceanography at Harvard Univ. and Mass. Inst. of Technology and a Senior Fellow, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. He retired from teaching in the 1970's to devote his time to more research at the WHOI on ocean dynamics. His early studies of water circulation resulted in the discovery of the massive counter currents underlying the Gulf
Stream being named the "Stommel Current" in his honor. Henry married Elizabeth Huntington Brown Dec. 6, 1950. They had three children.

Matthew Brown Stommel, born May 23, 1952
Elijah Wentworth Stommel, born Mar. 2, 1954

Anne Melson Stommel, the second child of Walter H.K. and Marian Stommel, was born Aug. 5, 1923. She never married. She became a Technical Editor for the United States Army Research and Development Command, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. She retired from this assignment shortly after her mother's death, and is now a private consultant in publication preparation. For many years, Anne worked with her mother in researching the Melson family. Both were active in National, State and DAR activities. She now resides in Red Bank, New Jersey.

John Alfred Melson was the second child of Levin and Annie Melson. He was born Aug. 16, 1904, died Mar. 24, 1906. (Ref. 90).

Rebecca Cordelia Melson was the third child of Levin and Annie Melson, she was born Jul. 10, 1908, died Mar. 13, 1971. She married Reah deB. Robinson, Aug. 19, 1924. They had one daughter, Marian Melson Robinson, born May 24, 1925. Marian married Thomas Oran Moore, Jun. 6, 1945. Their children are: (Ref. 90)

Thomas Oran Moore, Jr., born May 24, 1952.

Rebecca and her husband separated, she remarried, on Dec. 19, 1938, Lester L. Danley. Mahala Elita Melson was the fourth child of Ezekiel and Rebecca Melson. She was born May 30, 1875, died Jul. 30, 1875 (Ref. 98).

Margaret Ann Melson, the fifth child of Ezekiel and Rebecca Melson, was born Aug. 19, 1878, died Sep. 25, 1878. (Ref. 98).

Edith May Melson, the sixth child of Ezekiel and Rebecca Melson, was born Aug. 13, 1884. She married Edward Whaley, Oct. 7, 1903. (Ref. 98).

Henrietta M. Melson, Elijah Jr. and Eliza Melson's tenth child, was born Mar. 17, 1844, died Sept. 11, 1878 (Ref. 104). She married George W. Parsons. They lived at Parsonsburg, MD. Their children were: Charles Webb Parsons, married Nora Hasting Simpson; Henrietta Parsons, married George Riggin, their children were Howard Riggin, Harris Riggin, Gertrude Riggin; Birdie L. Parsons, born 1865, married Arthur King Parsons, their children were, Marie Parsons, Kathleen Elizabeth Parsons.
Daniel Melson III, the oldest son of Daniel Melson II, was born c1745 in the Little Creek Hundred, Suffolk County, Delaware. His first wife was Leah Wingate, a daughter of Daniel Wingate and Elizabeth Irvine. She was born c1748 and died c1792. They had two known children, Leah Melson, born c1768 who married a Daniel Wingate, and Mary Melson, born c1770, died c1818 (Ref. 178). Mr. Robert Bittikofer, Westlake, Ohio obtained this information about the Daniel Melson III family from the Layton Collection, Maryland State Historical Society, Baltimore, MD. "Daniel Wingate married Leah Melson, a daughter of Daniel Melson, who went to Georgia. Daniel Wingate was born c1745. Daniel Wingate, 1720-1789, married Elizabeth Irvine, daughter of James Irvine and Lovey Cannon. They had Leah Wingate who married Daniel Melson. Their daughter, Polly (Mary) Melson, 1770-1818, married Isaac Hall, 1765-1813. Their son, James Hall, married Leah Wingate, 1801-1880. Cannon Wingate was a brother of Leah Wingate Melson."

Mary Melson, as noted, married Isaac Hall (Ref. 177) possibly in c1793, before they emigrated to Hancock County.

After Leah's death, Daniel Melson III married Mary Grace, born c1766, died after 1850. Mary was a daughter of Thomas Grace and has wife, Sally. Daniel III and Mary Grace were married c1794.

Daniel Melson III had been farming lands for his father, then those willed to him by his grandfather, Daniel Melson I, in Sussex County, DE and Worcester County, MD. In the 1790's, the United States in payment for service to the Revolutionary Armies and Militia script entitling those veterans to tracts of lands in newly opened regions such as the Northwest Territories of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and in the states of Georgia, and Alabama. Daniel Melson III was either awarded such script or purchased some. He and his family, along with many others from the Eastern Shore including the Graces, Parkers, Gordys, Halls went south to settle. The Atlanta Historical Society, Vol. I, 1895, "Memories of Georgia, page 1080, Heard County" reported Daniel and Mary Grace Melson migrated by the way of ox carts from Maryland and settled in Hancock County, Georgia. This went on to say "He served with some distinction as a Soldier in the Patriot Army during the Revolutionary War."

Upon his arrival in Hancock County, GA, Daniel III filed at the Hancock County Courthouse (Hancock County Deed Book AB, pages 524-525) a Power of Attorney drawn by his father, Daniel Melson II on April 25, 1795. This Power of Attorney stated Daniel Melson II appointed his son, Daniel Melson III, of the County of Sussex, State of Delaware, to act for him in all matters that he would have done if he (Daniel Melson II) were there. This Power of Attorney was witnessed by Isaac Hall and Peter Gordy, see 13-11. A year later, 1796, Daniel Melson III returned to Maryland and sold to his father the lands bequeathed to him by his grandfather, Daniel Melson I. (see page 7-41).

Daniel Melson III purchased from Archibald Smith (Hancock County Deed Book C, page 332, 4 Feb. 1799) 110 acres on Sogdam Creek, $214.50. On the same day, Daniel Melson III sold 10 acres of this tract (Hancock County, GA Deed Book F page 5) 10 acres to Miles Greene for $20.00.

The Thomas Grace family accompanied the Melsons south. Hancock County Will Book C 1803-1806, page 79 records the Will of Thomas Grace. He mentioned his wife - Sally; sons - James, Joshua, Thomas, Silas, Jephtha; daughters - Polly Melson, Patsey Atkinson, Betsy Whaley, Tabitha Alford, Dolly, Peggy and Comfort.
"This Indenture made this tenth day of October one Thousand seven hundred and ninety six between Daniel Melson Junior of Worcester County State of Maryland of the one part and Daniel Melson Senior his father of the other part for and in Consideration of the Sum of One hundred and thirty five pounds lawful money of the State aforesaid to him in hand paid before the Signing and Sealing of these presents the receipt whereof he doth hereby confess and acknowledge and thereof doth acquit Exonerate and discharge the said Daniel Melson Senr his heirs and assigns forever by these presents hath granted bargained and sold and by these presents doth give grant bargain and sell unto the said Daniel Melson Senr his heirs and assigns forever all of the two tracts of land left me by my Grandfather Daniel Melson decd lying and Situated in Worcester County and State of Maryland aforesaid one called and known by the name of Good Hope containing One hundred Acres of land per patent, the other called and known by the name of Addition to Good Hope containing forty-five Acres of Land as per patent, the farme more or less together with all its rights privileges properties appurtenances thereto appertaining or in any manner belonging To have and to hold the aforesaid bargained premises with the appurtenances thereto belonging to him the said Daniel Melson Junr his heirs and assigns forever and to no other or purpose or intent whatsoever and the aforesaid Daniel Melson Junr for himself his heirs Executors and Adms doth further warrant promise and agree to and with the said Daniel Melson Senr his heirs Excrs Adms the aforesaid bargained premises with the appurtenances aforesaid unto him the Said Daniel Melson his heirs and assigns forever from all persons claiming the farme in by from or under him or them will warrant and forever defend by these presents- In Witness whereof the said Daniel Melson Junr hath hereto set his hand and affixed his Seal the day and year above written.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of
Purnell Johnson
Boaz Walston

Be it remembered that on the day and year Just within the deed written personally appeared before us two of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid the within named Daniel Melson Junr and acknowledged all the Lands and premises in the within deed contained to be the right title Intent and Estate of the within mentioned Daniel Melson Junr agreeable to the true intent and the meaning of the within deed and agreeable to the Act of Assembly in such cases made and provided.

Taken and acknowledged before
PURNELL JOHNSON
BOAZ WALSTON

Dec.9th,One thousand seven hundred and ninety-six - Then was delvd unto me the Subscriber the foregoing deed in Order to be enrolled among the Records of Worcester County which said deed together with the acknowledgment thereon Indorsed are accordingly recorded among the same Records in Liber R folios 412 & 413.

JOHN C.HANDY CLK."
Once he had sold his lands in Maryland, Daniel (III) and his family lost no time returning to Georgia. However, they remained in Hancock County until sometime after the birth of their second child, Appleton White Melson, in 1801. Then they moved on to Coweta County, Georgia along the western side of the state. Later, Daniel (III) moved again, the 1820 Census showed him living in Jones County, where he apparently died. His widow, Mary Melson was shown in the 1830 census for that county as a Head of Household with children. By 1850 though, she had returned to Coweta County and was listed as living with a sister, Comfort Mattox Grace Simms, and her brother-in-law, John Simms. Comfort Mattox Grace Simms was a younger sister of Mary Grace Melson. (Ref.106).

Daniel (III) and Mary Grace Melson had five known children:
- William P. Melson, born Jul. 30, 1795, Sussex County, DE.
- Appleton (Abelton) White Melson, born c.1801, Coweta County, GA.
- Elizabeth Melson, born 1807, Coweta County, GA, m. George Harrison.
- Sarah Melson, born c.1811, Coweta County, GA.
- Mary D. Melson, born c.1816, Coweta County, GA.

William P. Melson, the oldest child of Daniel (III) and Mary Grace Melson, became a planter. In the Georgia Land Lottery of 1827, he won land in Morgan County, GA. (Ref. 107). He is also shown as living in Monroe County, GA in the 1830, 1840, 1850 Censuses for Georgia. The Census Returns for 1860 and 1870 showed him as a resident of Talbot County, GA. In the 1880 Census, he and his wife, Daisy V. Snell, born in South Carolina, c.1802, are shown as living with a son, William A. Melson. William P. and Daisy V. Melson had eight children. William P. Melson died there Jul. 10, 1883, and Dolly V. Melson died there Dec. 19, 1884. Both are buried in the Jonesboro City Cemetery, GA. (Ref. 106).

William A. Melson was the first child of William P. and Daisy V. Melson. He was born Feb. 14, 1821 and became a farmer. He married Emaline S. A. C. Dawson, a daughter of Davis Williams and Pheriba Alexander Dawson of Upson County, GA. on Nov. 21, 1848. Emaline was born Sep. 30, 1827, died Aug. 15, 1884. They had five children.

Lavonia Victoria Melson was the first child of William A. and Emaline Melson. She was born April 1850 at Culloden, GA. She married William Edward Carnes, Mar. 13, 1879 in Atlanta, GA. He was born Dec. 13, 1848, a son of Stephen and Sarah McKown Carnes. William was a merchant and general contractor. Lavonia was his second wife. His first wife was Cate Morrow, born 1848, died 1878. William and Lavonia were married in Jonesboro, GA. They had six children. William died Jul. 12, 1912. Leonidas James Melson was a witness to his will which was dated Jul. 3, 1912. Lavonia (Aunt Vonnie) Melson Carnes lived to be 102 years old. She died Jan. 5, 1952 and is buried with her husband in Section R, Jonesboro City Cemetery, GA. (Ref. 106).

Lula E. Melson was the second child of William A. and Emaline Melson. She was born in 1852 at Culloden, GA. She married W. J. Land, born Jan. 5, 1840, died Jun. 22, 1882. They were married Oct. 2, 1872. She and her husband are buried in Section R, Jonesboro City Cemetery, Jonesboro, GA. (Ref. 106).

Davis Parsons Melson, the third child of William A. and Emaline Melson, was born Sep. 1856 at Culloden, GA. His first wife was Mary Elizabeth Corley, born Jan. 20, 1868, Covington, Newton County, GA. Davis and Mary had seven children. He was a farmer and a general contractor. Mary Corley Melson died May 11, 1911. His second wife was Jessie Fuller, born in 1873, died Jun. 16, 1965. Davis Parsons Melson died Jun. 13, 1933. He and his first wife are buried in Section R, Jonesboro City Cemetery, Jonesboro, GA. (Ref. 106).

Raymond Corley Melson the first child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson born May 16, 1890, died Jun. 10, 1982 and buried at Jonesboro, GA. (Ref. 106).
David Percival Melson, the second child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson, was born Aug. 3, 1892. His second wife was Carrie Walling, they were married in Tokyo, Japan, Mar. 25, 1940. He died Nov. 30, 1977 at LaGrange, GA. and is buried there in the Shadow Lawn Cemetery. (Ref. 106).

Winton Reginald Melson, the third child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson, was born in Dec. 1894, at Jonesboro, GA. He married Annie Irene Benefield, Aug. 17, 1916, at Jonesboro, GA. He died Feb. 4, 1959 at Marietta, GA. (Ref. 106).

William Corley Melson, the fourth child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson. He was born Aug. 25, 1897. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War I. He married Neteth Nash in 1938 at South Bend, Indiana. He died Jan. 8, 1979 at Miami, FL. (Ref. 106).

Mary Elizabeth Melson, the fifth child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson, was born Dec. 24, 1900. She married Earl Willis Butler Nov. 1922. (Ref. 106).

Wenona Mildred Melson, the sixth child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson, was born Aug. 29, 1905. She married Robert Samuel Campbell at Alpharetta, GA. (Ref. 106).

Olive Myrl Melson, the seventh child of Davis P. and Mary C. Melson, was born Sep. 21, 1905. She married Robert Samuel Campbell at Alpharetta, GA. (Ref. 106).

Leonidas James Melson, the fourth child of William A. and Emaline Melson, was born Sep. 19, 1886 at Culloden, GA. He married Annie Sara Dent, a daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth Steagall Dent, Oct. 7, 1886. She was born Feb. 11, 1864. They were married in the First Methodist Church, Newnan, GA. They had four children. Leonidas James Melson died Aug. 6, 1919 and Annie Dent Melson on Jun. 19, 1904. They were buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, GA. (Ref. 106). During their lives, they lived at Athens and Atlanta, GA. All their children were born in the "Old Nest" as her parents home on College Street in Newnan, GA. was called.

Elizabeth Dent Melson, the first child of Leonidas and Annie Melson, was born Jan. 27, 1889. She never married and died Mar. 24, 1936 at Asheville, NC. She is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, GA. (Ref. 106).

Annie Dent Melson, the second child of Leonidas and Annie Dent Melson, was born Feb. 1, 1891. She married James Ives Barton, Jun. 29, 1911 at the Park Street Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA. He was a son of Daniel P. Barton and Margaret Weatherly of Baltimore, MD., where he was born Feb. 3, 1884. He was associated with the Maryland Casualty Company as an insurance executive from 1900 to 1949. During this period, he was assigned to Baltimore, MD.; Jacksonville, FL.; Detroit, MI.; New York, NY; and Kansas City, MO. When he retired, they settled in Arcadia, CA. James and Annie Barton had two sons. He died Dec. 12, 1971, and she on Jun. 14, 1972, both at Alhambra, CA. They were buried in the Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, CA. (Ref. 106).

James Ives Barton, Jr. was the first son of James Ives and Annie Melson Barton. He was born Jul. 11, 1915 at Jacksonville, FL. He never married. (Ref. 106).

Robert Melson Barton, the second son of James Ives and Annie Barton, was born Apr. 22, 1922 at Jacksonville, FL. He married Helen Kathleen Dyer, born Dec. 6, 1920 at Sparks, NV. on Feb. 19, 1949. She is a daughter of John Nelson Dyer and Anne Helen Scott. Robert M. Barton is a lawyer. They live at Newport Beach, CA. Their sons are Robert Melson Barton, Jr. born Oct. 8, 1950, and Lawrence Scott Barton, born May 8, 1952, both at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles, CA. (Ref. 106).

Emily Christine Melson, the third child of Leonidas and Annie Melson, was born Jan. 10, 1893. She married Robert Erle Wynn, Nov. 3, 1915 at the Park Street Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA. Their daughter, Elizabeth Melson Wynn, was born Apr. 24, 1918 at Atlanta, GA. Emily died Dec. 19, 1984 at Tequesta, FL. and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, GA (Ref. 106).

Appleton (Abelton) White Melson, Daniel III and Mary Grace Melson's second son, was born 1801 in Hancock County, GA., died 1876 in Coweta County, GA. about six months after the birth of his son, Appleton White Melson, Jr. He is buried in the Simms Cemetery, Coweta County, GA. He married (1) Penelope Simms, born Dec. 25, 1807, Hancock County, GA. a daughter of John and Mary Connell Simms. They were married Jan. 27, 1824, Hancock County, GA. Appleton was a farmer. He served in the Seminole War under Major-General Andrew Jackson. Their children were:

Appleton, born Feb. 4, 1827, Coweta County, GA., died Oct. 11, 1915, Hopkins County, TX. He married, 1849, Martha Ransom, a daughter of COL. Samuel Ransom, Heard County, GA. She was born Apr. 12, 1830, died Jun. 27, 1909. In 1855, Aladron, his family, his father, Crogan Ransom (Martha's brother), and others moved to Hopkins County, TX., forming a community called Bethel. He became a cotton planter. He also served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Their children alive in 1902 were (Ref.108).

William Crogan Melson, born in Hopkins County, TX, Aug. 22, 1856, died Dec. 11, 1920, at Pickton, TX. He married (1) Amanda Formby, born Feb. 7, 1857, Waldo, Arkansas, died Dec. 21, 1881, Pickton, TX. One day, William went to a sawmill for lumber. On his return, he found his wife dead, lying in front of the fireplace to protect their children from the fire. Their children were: (Ref.108)

Lola Melson, born Sep. 1, 1879, Bethel Community, TX., died May 11, 1960, Sulphur Springs, TX. She married Allie Frederick Payne, born Dec. 19, 1872, Pine Forest Community, TX., died Sep. 13, 1950, Dallas, TX. He was a son of John Gilman and Mary Elizabeth Spence Payne. He became a Doctor and practiced in Sulphur Springs, TX. Their children were: (Ref.108)


James Gordon Payne, born Nov. 18, 1946, married Jody Kay Massey.

Lela Melson, second child of William and Amanda Melson, married Sam Minter.


After Amanda's death, William married Dudley E. Formby, a double first cousin of his first wife. She was born Mar. 3, 1862, died Sep. 5, 1952. Their children were:

Lilllian Melson, married James McGlammery.


Willie Lou Melson, married Jess Passmore.

Carrie Melson, died Aug. 1965, married Clovis Mays.


Allie B. Melson, married Clifton Gillespie, died in 1960's.

Floy Melson married Grady Kessler
Amanda Melson married a Nelson, died also in 1978.
Alexander Melson, the second son of Aladron and Martha Ransom Melson married a Willy (Ref. 108)
Mary B. Melson, the third child of Aldron and Martha Melson married William Tyser (Ref. 108).

William Henry Melson, the second son of Appleton White and Penelope Simms Melson, was born May 22, 1829 in Coweta County, GA. He also served in the Confederate Army. He married Martha Holland, born Oct. 17, 1838, died Jun. 4, 1919, a daughter of Thomas and Nancy Maine Holland of Heard County, GA. William farmed and became a Justice of the Peace for Heard County, GA. He and Martha had 7 or 8 children, the names of four are known (Ref. 108).

Louisa Melson married a Pendergrass.
Nancy Melson married a Ware.
Carrie Melson married Dr. James C. Jackson, Jul., 2, 1902, their son was living in Barnsville, GA. in 1977 (Ref. 109).

John Holland Melson, born May 20, 1870, died Mar. 13, 1952, married Penelope Stevens, born Oct. 24, 1879, died Apr. 20, 1969 on Jul. 8, 1900. He was an Educator and helped found West Georgia College, Carrollton, GA. in 1907. Later he served as the Troup County School Superintendent for 16 years. John and Penelope had three children:

Holland R. Melson, born Mar. 11, 1901, married Louise Hannah, born Feb. 16, 1905, on Jul. 23, 1927. Their children were:

Holland R. Melson, Jr., born Feb. 8, 1930.
He married Carole Heffner, born Dec. 11, 1933 on Dec. 6, 1959. Frank became a social worker in Marietta, GA. He and Carole bought the former Brumby Rocker Company. The day they reopened, he died of a heart attack. Carole continued the operations, producing the famed red oak rocker until 1989, when she had to suspend the business due to the lack of red oak. They had three children:

Alex Jeffrey Melson, born Jan. 13, 1967 (Ref. 110).

Martha Melson, the second child of John Holland and Penelope Stevens Melson, was born Oct. 5, 1907, married Robert Ware, born May 28, 1907, on Dec. 29, 1932. Their children were:

Holland W. Ware
Virginia Ware

Frank Baker Melson, the third child of John and Penelope Melson, was born Mar. 2, 1914, died Jul. 18, 1973. He graduated from Georgia Tech. He married Josephine McDaniel, Dec. 27, 1938. He worked in the Bureau of Ships, Navy Dept. during WWII. After the war, he became a Consulting Engineer. He provided me, in 1960, with the first information I received about the Daniel Melson III line. Daniel and Josephine had three children (Ref. 111).
Katherine Melson, born 1940
Frank Baker Melson, Jr., born 1946, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1969.

The third child of Appleton White and Penelope Simms Melson was Penelope Melson. She was born c1835 and married a Houston. They lived in Coweta County, GA. The only other bit of information about her was according to an old lady there who told Mrs. Bruce Melson (Ruby) in a conversation in the late 1970's, that she had known Penelope Melson who had recalled her father as a big, fat man. (Ref. 108).

Appleton White Melson's first wife, Penelope Simms descended from a family that had its roots in the early colonial days of Virginia. Virginia records show a Grant of 250 acres was awarded Robert Sims in Nansemond County, VA, in 1694. In the same year, a Robert Sims, possibly the son of the first Robert Sims, also received a grant of land. This second Robert Sims married either in 1719 or 1720, Mrs. Phyllis Fort Fiveash, a daughter of George and Elizabeth Fort, Isle of Wight County, VA. She and her first husband had one son. She married Robert Sims, who also had been previously married. They had at least one son, Robert Sims, Jr., born c1717. Robert Sims died in 1729 in Bertie County, NC, listing four sons, and other unnamed children in his will. His named sons were Thomas, James, Joseph and Robert Jr. Phyllis is believed to have married again, her third husband being Rowland Williams. She died c1760 in Edgecomb County, NC. (Ref. 112).

Robert Sims Jr. was most likely born in Nansemond County, VA. He married Mary Barnes, a daughter of Edward and Sarah Pope Barnes, Edgecomb County, NC, well before 1760. They lived in Wayne County, NC where he was an official in the Quaker Church, and held several county positions. He was commissioned a Major for his services. Robert died in 1791. (Ref. 112). Robert Jr. and Mary Sims had eleven children; Britton, James, Keziah, Mary, Penelope, Susannah, Barnes, Abraham, Benjamin, Patience, and Robert III. Robert Sims III married Sarah Dickinson. About 1784, they moved to Hancock County, GA, then, later, onto Coweta County, GA. Robert Simms III where he died, Mar. 25, 1815, Sarah died Jun. 25, 1850. They had nine children. At this point, it must be added that the Simms family after settling in Georgia adopted "Simms" as the preferred spelling for their name. All members discussed from here on will be written with the name spelled "Simms."

John Simms, the first child of Robert III and Sarah Simms, was born Jun. 9, 1782, died Dec. 1, 1863. His first wife was Mary Connell. Their children were:
Penelope Simms, born Dec. 25, 1807, died Sep. 16, 1837, married Appleton White Melson.
Brittain Simms, the second child of John and Sarah Simms, was born Mar. 27, 1809, died Sep. 16, 1871, never married.
William M. Simms, the third child of John and Sarah Simms, was born Dec. 29, 1811. He married Mary D. Melson, a daughter of Daniel III and Mary Grace Melson, in Coweta County, GA, Sep. 14, 1834. (Ref. 106).
Robert Sims, the fourth child of John and Sarah Simms, first married Marcella Ransom, later Beatrice Longmire.
Jesse Sims married Jane White.

John Simms married again after the death of his wife, Penelope. His second wife was Comfort Mattox Grace, born Feb. 26, 1798 in Hancock County, GA. She was the youngest sister of Mary Grace Melson, the wife of Daniel Melson III. Comfort Grace Simms died Jul. 18, 1880. Their children were:
Benjamin Thomas Sims, born Aug. 8, 1817, died Oct. 26, 1888. His first wife was Nancy Edwards. They had one son. After her death, he married Elizabeth Dickinson, born Nov. 7, 1837, a daughter of Joel Putnam and Martha Askew Dickinson. They had six children.
Mary Steagall, a daughter of William Washington Steagall and Ann Wood, was born May 26, 1836 in Heard County, GA. She died Nov. 26, 1859 in childbirth. They were living in Louisiana at this time. James and Mary Steagall Melson’s daughter was named Mary F. Melson, she was born Nov. 26, 1859. She married Joseph H. Lane Sr. They must have had at least one son, Joseph H. Lane, Jr. Mary Melson Lane died in Georgia and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, GA. James W. K. Melson was a son of Cannon Melson and Elizabeth Collinsworth. Years after the death of his first wife, he married again. His second wife was Susan A. Ray. They were married Mar. 7, 1871. James W. K. Melson died in Coweta County, GA, Apr. 25, 1884 and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, GA. (Ref. 106).

Cannon Melson was most likely a son of Daniel Melson III’s brother, John Melson, who joined him in Hancock County, GA, about 1799. This was the year he received a bequest of 37 pounds, 10 shillings from his father’s estate, see page 3-17. John’s will was filed in Hancock County, GA, in 1808 (Ref. 177). The name “Cannon” indicated a relationship with Daniel Melson II and his wife, Lovey Cannon Melson. His being in Coweta County, GA, at the same time Daniel Melson III and his family were, assures a close tie. Cannon Melson could have been born about cl794 or so, making him the right age to have been James W. K. Melson’s father. Additional research is needed to continue tracing the Cannon and James W. K. Melson family to bring this line up to the present date.

Returning to the Daniel (II) and Lovey Cannon Melson family, Elijah Melson was the oldest, followed by John and Sarah (Sally) with the twins, Benjamin and Joseph as Daniel’s seventh and eighth. Daniel’s will indicates Elizabeth and Nancy were minors at his death.

Sarah (Sally) was the oldest daughter and born cl768. Sally married Joseph Adkins in 1791. This date is confirmed by a wedding gift from her grandfather, Daniel Melson (I) that year.

Sarah (Sally) Melson was the second child of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson. She was born cl768. She married Joseph Adkins, cl791. This date is logical as shown by the following property transfer filed that year.

**MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER N FOLIO 423**

“To all people to whom these presents shall concern I Daniel Melson Sen. of Worcester County State of Maryland do send Greetings Know ye that I the said Daniel Melson of this County and State aforesaid for and in consideration I have and bear for my loving Granddaughter Sarah Adkins wife of Joseph Adkins of this County and State aforesaid have granted unto the said Sarah Adkins and heirs and to her heirs forever one Negro Girl named Tompy about five years old of which I before signing these presents I have delivered to the said Sarah Adkins with my own hand To have and to hold without any manner of consideration. In Witness whereof I have here unto put my hand Seal this Seventh Day of January in the year one Thousand Seven Hundred and ninety one in the Fifteenth year of Indepandence.

Signed Sealed and delivered

Daniel Melson

Purnell Johnson (Ref. 21)

There is no other information available about Sarah Melson Adkins other than she was alive in 1802 when the final settlement of her father’s estate was made and she received her bequest (Ref. 43).
John Melson, the second son of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson was born c1764. He married Hannah Parsons, born 9 Jul, 1764, daughter of William (1 Aug, 1733-1793) and Hannah Hearne, married 6 Jul 1757. John and his family emigrated to Hancock County, GA in 1795. John's will was filed for probate before Oct. 1808 in Hancock County, GA, but is now lost. His Inventory is on file there.

Tabitha Melson was the fifth child of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson, was born c1773. She married Elijah Gordy, born Jun 4, 1776 (Ref. 114).

Pollie Love Melson, the sixth child of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson, was born c1775; she married a Hearn (Ref. 43).

Joseph and Benjamin Melson were twins, the seventh and eighth children of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson. They were born Aug. 13, 1777. Joseph was well educated for his time and place. His father selected him to be the Executor of his will, even though Joseph was only 21 years old. Joseph inherited, from his father, lands in Delaware, and as Executor of Daniel (II)'s will was also appointed Guardian for his two sisters, Elizabeth and Nancy, who were still minors when Daniel (II) died. Pages 7-50 and 7-51 are extracts from Joseph Melson's reports to the Sussex County Court for his Guardianship of Nancy Melson. She married James Isaiah Smith while still a minor, but was not released from her Guardianship until her father's estate was finally settled, Feb. 9, 1802. When his father died in 1798, the estate of his grandfather, Daniel Melson (I), had not been closed. Joseph was appointed Executor Pro Bonis Non by the courts for closing Daniel Melson (I) estate. Joseph married ______. Their children were: Polly, born c1800; Samuel W., born c1801, and Benjamin, born c1803. At his death, Aug. 9, 1808, Benjamin was appointed their guardians (Ref. 187).

Benjamin Melson, Joseph's twin brother's branch was traced in Chapter Three.

Elizabeth Melson, the ninth child of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson, was born c1779. She was living in 1802 when her father's estate was settled. She married a ______ Smith (Ref. 43).

Nancy Melson, the youngest child of Daniel (II) and Lovey Melson, was born 9 Feb. 1781. Under the guardianship of her brother, Joseph, she grew up at her parents home in the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. It is interesting to note in her brother's report on his Guardianship of her, that in 1800, she was vaccinated for smallpox. That showed medicine as practiced in 1800 on the eastern shore was as up-to-date as anywhere else in the world. Nancy married James Isaiah Smith in 1801 as shown on the receipt signed by her new husband on Sep. 29, 1801. The only information about Nancy Melson Smith is found in a Bill of Sale filed in the Worcester County Clerk's Office on Mar. 31, 1807 by a Sampson Wright. He sold to Nancy Smith for the sum of $200 six beds and furniture, one young mare, one desk, one chest, four heads of hogs, and two cows (Ref. 115).

Amelia (Emelia or Milley) Gordy, the wife of Benjamin Melson, was a daughter of John and Hannah Jackson Gordy of Sussex County, Delaware. The Gordy family on the Eastern Shore began when an Adrian Gardey landed in Maryland (Ref. 114) in 1675. His name is first found in the will of Michael Disharoom of Somerset County, MD, who bequeathed cattle of his daughter Mary Gardey in 1690. In Disharoom's will, the name is spelled as Gordon. No will for Adrian Gardey (Gordy) is to be found in the records, but an Inventory of his estate submitted in 1715 exists. In this Inventory his name is shown as Adrian Gordy, alias Bryan Gordon (Ref. 114). Adrian Gardey is shown to have been transported into Maryland arriving Jun. 8, 1675 by William Brereton (Ref. 114).

The Rev. Steven Behr in his tracing of the Gordy Family (Ref. 114) ascribes to Adrian Gordy a son, William Gordy, whose records are found in Charles County, MD. This William Gordy married a Margaret Brooks. Whether William Gordy was a son of Adrian Gordy and the father of Peter Gordy is debatable.
The Account of Joseph Nelson Guardian to the child Daniel Nelson, late of Duplin County deceased, as executor of his estate, to his minor or orphans as also of his partnership.

The said Accountant charges himself with the said minors' distributive share of the Debentures, Personal Estate, and Settlement Amount — £22 16s.

Interest on rent from Dec 4, 1799 — July 9, 1801 2 19d

Interest on rent from March 11, 1800 — Feb 9, 1801 0 17s 3d

With one year's interest, rent due March 11, 1801 — 7 10s 0d

Interest on rent due Feb 9, 1802 — 0 83

With 11 months' rent of Dido due Nov 11, 1802 when he is to be delivered to the minor

Amount of Debentures Dued to the minor

£48 0s 7d

£12 18s 4d

The above account was exhibited to the Register July 9, 1802.
Receipt signed by James Isaiah Smith, newly married husband of Nancy Melson, acknowledging he had received from Joseph Melson, Guardian of Nancy Melson, the sum of 9.0.0 Pounds, being a part of Nancy's estate bequeathed her by her father, Daniel Melson. Ref. - Delaware Hall of Records Sussex County Guardian Accounts.

Received Sept. 27th 1801 of Joseph Melson Esq. of Daniel Melson late of Sussex County dec'd the sum of Nine Pounds being Money that fell to my wife Nancy Melson by the Will of her father Daniel Melson.

Signed:  [Signature]

James Smith
Mark
Adrian Gordy's wife, Mary Disharoone, died possibly c1697. His second wife's first name, as shown when the Inventory for his estate was filed in 1715, was Rosemon(d). Robert Torbert (Ref.125) believes her last name was Crouch. Whether she was the mother of Moses Sr. Gordy and Peter Gordy Sr. is not known. The inventory of Adrian Gordy's estate is shown on page 12-6.

Peter Gordy Sr. was born c1710, place not known. He is shown as a substantial planter and paid taxes to Somerset County for 100 acres in 1733. His lands were shown in the Wicomico Hundred. Peter Sr.'s first wife was Hannah Christopher, a daughter of John Jr. and Hannah Christopher, and a granddaughter of John Christopher Sr. John Christopher Sr. was transported into Maryland in 1662 by Francis Billingsley of Calvert County, MD (Ref.170). When released from servitude 8 Jun. 1680, he was awarded a grant of 50 acres (Ref.171). He became a landowner in Somerset County, MD when he purchased the tract BATTLEFIELD" (Ref.172) in Wicomico Hundred. John Christopher is shown as a signatory of a petition addressed to the King and Queen of Great Britain signed by many residents of Somerset County Nov. 28th. 1689 during the protracted struggle between the then Royal Proprietor and those demanding Maryland become a Royal Province. This petition is found on pages 349 & 350 of "OLD SOMERSET ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND," Clayton Torrance, Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD. reprint 1966. John Christopher's date of death is not known, he left no will. However, he is shown as having paid taxes in Wicomico Hundred, Somerset County, MD in 1733 on 150 acres. The 1733 Tax Lists also show John Christopher Jr., and that of his son, Clement. The lists indicate John Jr. held 150 acres of land and Clement was living in his household. The will for John Christopher Jr. was filed for probate 29 Jan. 1749/50 (Ref.173). In this will, he bequeathed to daughters Hannah Gordy, Grace Morry, Sarah Paris, and grandson, William.

Peter Gordy Sr. is shown to have patented these tracts:

1735 Gordy's Choice 100 acres Wicomico Hundred Ref.119.
1746 Hog Yard 50 acres " " Ref.120.
1750 Brandy Ridge 50 acres " " Ref.121.
173 Peters Choice 190 acres " " Ref.122.
1773 Add.to Gordy's Choice 25 acres " " Ref.123.
1773 White Oak Swamp 50 acres " " Ref.124.

Sometime before 1763, Peter joined others in signing a petition requesting a charter be given for the establishment of Salisbury, MD (Ref.114).

After Hannah's death, he remarried, his second wife was Catherine ___. His will, filed for probate Jul. 15, 1775, the same day as that of Moses, his brother, WORCESTER COUNTY WILLS LIBER JW#4 FOLIOS 291-293 read:

"In the name of god amen, the twenty second day of June in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy two, I Peter Gordy sen. of Worcester County and province of Maryland planter being in good health at present and in perfect mind and memory thanks be to god for the same therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my son John Gordy one negro fellow named Major to him his heirs and assigns forever.

I give and bequeath to my son Peter Gordy one hundred acres of land called Gordy's Choice lying and being in Somerset County otherwise called Worcester County to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Peter Gordy all the tract of land called Addition to Gordy's Choice provided he never claim anything of a sum
money out of my Estate for what he gave Daniel Melson on account of my part I bought a land warrant of Peter Callaway for said land and if he does then the said land to be his brother John Gordy's if not I give it to Peter Gordy aforesaid his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Peter Gordy twenty five acres of land, part of a tract called Brandy Ride to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my son John Gordy two tracts of land lying and being in Worcester County --- the one named Hog Yard and the other named Parker's Mistake each tract containing Fifty acres as patents will more plainly appear. The aforesaid tracts of land I give to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Levinah now wife of Isaac Wootten one Large cupboard markt L.G. and a garnished Trunk one pair of Silver Sleev buttons.

Item I give and bequeath to my son John Gordy twenty five acres of land part of a tract called Brandy Ridge containing fifty acres of land lying and being in Worcester County the aforesaid twenty five acres to be laid out for him next to his now dwelling plantation the aforesaid twenty five acres I give to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Peter Gordy twenty five acres of land part of a tract called High Ridge to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Catherine one third of my Estate after the above legacies are paid.

Item I give and bequeath the remainder of my personal Estate to be Equally divided amongst my children hereafter named (viz) Moses Gordy, Peter Gordy, John Gordy, my daughter Mary Crouch, Sarah wife to John Parker, Eunice wife to James Methvillian and, Levinah wife to Isaac Wootten.

Item I do hereby constitute and ordain my son Peter Gordy to be my only and sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do hereby utterly disannull all other wills legacies & bequests by me heretofore made ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written. Signed sealed published and pronounced by the said Peter Gordy as his last will and testament in the sight of us.

JOHN WILLIAMS SR
JOHN WILLIAMS JR
MARY WILLIAMS

July 15, 1775 then came John Williams junr and Mary Williams the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing will and made oath on the holy evangelgs of almighty god they saw Peter Gordy the testator sign seal and heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his last will and testament and that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehension of a sound disposing mind and memory and understanding and that they subscribed their names as witnesses to be the said will in the presence of the testator and at his request."

Peter Gordy Jr. (II) was the oldest child of Peter and Hannah Gordy, he was born c1735, died c1788. He married Elinor (Nellie) c1750, m1760. They lived in Worcester County, MD. He was a planter like his father. They had these children: (Ref. 125).

Leonard Gordy Sr., born c1765, married Elizabeth Parker, c1785. They moved to Hancock County, GA, where he died 1807.

William Gordy, born c1766, married Elinor _____, c1788. They also went to Hancock County, GA.
Elinor Gordy, the third child, married Elisha Parker.
Polly Gordy, the fourth child, married William Hearn.
Betty Gordy, the fifth child, married Elyah Moore.
Peter Gordy III, born 1776, died 1844, in Muscogee County, GA., married Ruth (Wilson?).

John Gordy, the second child of Peter I and Hannah Gordy, was born Nov. 25, 1740 (Ref. 117), died Nov. 15, 1802. He married Hannah Jackson, born Oct. 3, 1740, died Nov. 24, 1813 (Ref. 117). John was a planter with most of his lands in the Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. His will read:

DHR HALL OF RECORDS ARCHIVES VOLUME A72, FOLIO 198, 1801.

In the name of God amen, the twenty eighth day of February in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and one. I John Gordy, planter of Sussex County and State of Delaware Being very weak and low in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will & testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in decent Christian manner at the Discretion of my Executors, Nothing doubting but that at the General resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God & as touching such worldly estate where with it hath pleased God to bless me with in this Life I give Devise and Dispose of in the following manner and form viz.

First I give and bequeath unto my son Nathan one Negro boy called London to him & his heirs & assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Jackson Gordy one still with cap and worm & one Negro man called Major, & all my wearing apparel to him & his heirs & assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Milley one Negro girl called Case also one Negro boy called Bill all to her and her heirs & assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Hannah one Negro boy called Jacob after my wife’s decease and one Negro girl call Grace and one bed & furniture & one Cow & Calf all to her & her assigns.

Item I give & Bequeath unto my well beloved Wife Hannah my houses & plantation & all the land I now possess and all my moveable estate that is not Willd away & a Negro boy Jacob all to her During her natural Life and one Negro Woman calld Leah to Dispose of as she pleaseth and all the remainder of my moveable Estate I Define to be Equally Divided Between my Four Children Nathan & Jackson and Milley and Hannah all to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

Also I give & Bequeath unto my son Elijah Gordy all the Land that I Now possess after my wife’s death to Him and his heirs and assigns forever.

Also I appoint my Wife Hannah my Whole and Sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament Ratifying and & confirming this my Last Will and testament and I do hereby utterly Disannull Disallow & Revoke all other Former Wills and Legacies and Bequests by me heretofore made In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the day & year above written.

Signed Seald published and pronounced by the Said John Gordy as his Last Will and testament in the presence of John Williams, Thomas Freey, Peter Freey (signed) John Gordy.
Sussex County memo this 14th day of December Anno Domini 1802 Before me Phillip Kollock Register appointed for the probate of Wills and Granting letters of Administration for the County aforesaid appeared Thomas Freeny and John Williams two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Will who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God did dispose and say that they were present hearing the testator John Gordy did sign seal publish pronounce declare the same to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was in a sound disposing mind memory and judgment & that they together with Peter Freeny signed the same as witnessed in the presence of the Testator and with his regard, Phillip Kollock Reg."

The Sussex County Tax Assessments for the Years 1803-1804 list Hannah Gordy as possessing a plantation of 284 acres in the Little Creek Hundred.

Nathan Gordy, oldest child of John and Hannah Gordy, born Feb. 1, 1761, died Jul. 1, 1851, married Lavenia, d Apr. 8, 1852. They lived in Salisbury, MD. They had two known children (Ref. 114):

Mary Gordy, born Feb. 7, 1798, died Oct. 20, 1871, married William S. West, born Apr. 3, 1794, died Dec. 8, 1862. Their children were (Ref. 178):


Lavenia S. West, born Nov. 25, 1825, died Apr. 9, 1901, married Nov. 22, 1849, Joseph Greensbury White, born Jan. 31, 1828, died Jan. 4, 1901.

John West, born 1827, married Eleanor Short Melson, dau. of Elijah II and Eliza Melson, born Jun. 7, 1829.

Nancy West, born Mar. 20, 1833, died Aug. 16, 1869, married Peter Blades, born Jan. 4, 1824, died Nov. 16, 1869.

Thomas West, married Jan. 9, 1855, Levinah Gordy.

Marie J. West, born Mar. 15, 1837, died Apr. 1, 1933, married Aug. 22, 1857, James E. Evans, born Mar. 4, 1835, died Sep. 8, 1892.

Margaret West, married Eli Gordy.

Hannah West, married Aug. 5, 1847, Benjamin Parker.

Sallie West, married May 18, 1847, Joshua Johnson.

Elizabeth West, married Jan. 12, 1842, Benjamin Riggin.

William T. West, married Lavenia B. Gordy, Jan. 9, 1855.

Spicer Gordy, the second child of Nathan and Lavenia, born 1804, married Apr. 1, 1828, Eleanor Hasting, born 1807, dau. of William and Hannah Hasting, sister of Eliza Hasting Melson. Their children were:

Eli W. Gordy, born 1829.

Benjamin H. Gordy, born 1832, married c Nov. 29, 1853, Charlotte E. Dennis.

Lewis Gordy, born 1834, married Annie __, born 1836 (Ref. 114).

Lavenia E. F. Gordy, born 1836, married Dec. 14, 1854, George W. Hearn (Ref. 102).

Isabella Gordy, born 1839 (Ref. 126).

Mary Gordy, born 1841, married Dec. 3, 1864, David S. Lewis (Ref. 127).

Margaret Gordy, born 1844 (Ref. 126).

Josiah B. Gordy, born 1849 (Ref. 126).

Hanson P. Gordy, born 1852, married Theodora, born 1852 (Ref. 127).

Thomas Gordy, the second child of John and Hannah Gordy, born Jan. 18, 1763, died Dec. 9, 1849, married Aug. 24, 1827, wife's name not known (Ref. 117).

Jackson Gordy, the third child of John and Hannah Gordy, born May 11, 1765, died Dec. 18, 1835, married Feb. 20, 1788, Nancy Wootton, born Feb. 2, 1770. They had twelve children, those named in Jackson's will were: Thomas J. Gordy, Lotty Gordy Matthew, Polly Gordy, Hetsey Gordy Cooper, Nancy Gordy, Seth Gordy, Isaac Gordy, Kendal Gordy, John Gordy (Ref. 114).
Polly Gordy, the fourth child of John and Hannah Gordy, born 8 Oct. 1774, died 14 Mar. 1841, never married (Ref. 117).

Elijah Gordy, the fifth child of John and Hannah Gordy, born 4 Jun. 1776, died 8 Nov. 1841, married Tabitha Melson, daughter of Daniel II and Lovey Melson, see Chapter Three (Ref. 117).

Emelia (Milly) Gordy, the sixth child of John and Hannah Gordy, born 10 Jun. 1780, died 17 Jan. 1858, married 1 Apr. 1798, Benjamin Melson, son of Daniel II and Lovey Melson, see Chapter Three (Ref. 117).

Hannah Gordy, the seventh child of John and Hannah Gordy, born 25 Mar. 1785, died 24 Nov. 1813, married 18 Jun. 1801, Jacob Morris (Ref. 117).

Moses Gordy, the third child of Peter Gordy I and Hannah Christopher Gordy, born c1741, his wife's name was Ann (Ref. 117).

Levinah Gordy, the fourth child of Peter Gordy I and Hannah Christopher Gordy, born c1742, died after 1775, married Isaac Wootten, also died after 1775 (Ref. 117).

Sarah Gordy, the fifth child of Peter I and Hannah Gordy, born 11 Oct. 1743, died 28 Sep. 1825 in Hancock County, GA. She married John Parker, born 25 Sep. 1740, died 3 Mar. 1793, on 30 Jun. 1760 in Sussex County, DE. He was a son of George and Sarah Parker of Sussex County, DE. Their children were: (Ref. 177)

Hannah Parker, born 21 Apr. 1761 in Sussex County, DE., died probably in Baldwin County, GA., married Levi King.

Jacob Parker, born 2 Aug. 1764 in Sussex County, DE., died in Greene County, GA., 17 Nov. 1812/3.

Friscilla Parker, born 12 Apr. 1767 in Sussex County, DE., died 2 Apr. 1845 in Hancock County, GA., married John Calloway, born 1766 in Sussex County, DE., died c1848 in Hancock County, GA. They migrated to Hancock County, c1792.

John Parker, born 22 Jun. 1769 in Sussex County, DE., died 28 Jun. 1818 in Hancock County, GA., married Patty Hogan.

Elizabeth Parker, born 28 Apr. 1772 in Sussex County, DE., died 8 Feb. 1866 in Hancock County, GA., married c1798, James C. Humphries, born c1770/1780, died before 1836 in Hancock County, GA. They migrated from Sussex County by 1796.

Mary Parker, born 20 Aug. 1774 in Dorchester County, MD., died 12 Dec. 1861 in Greene County, GA. She married her first cousin, Samuel Parker, a son of John Parker's brother, George, he was born 2 Jun. 1774 in Worcester County, MD., died 12 Dec. 1861 in Greene County, GA.


Peter Parker, born 20 Oct. 1780 in Dorchester County, MD., died 14 Apr. 1861 in Trinity County, Texas, married c1804 Ann Tool, born 24 Apr. 1784, in South Carolina, died c1875.

Elisha Parker, born 5 Dec. 1784 in Dorchester County, MD., died 2 Nov. 1820 in Baldwin County, GA., married 2 Nov. 1805, Nancy Baker, born 4 Aug. 1787 in Marietta, Cobb County, GA., died 9 Jul. 1820 in Baldwin County, GA.

John Parker descended from a family that was traced to Southampton, England (Ref. 177).

George Parker, born 1550, married Margery. A son was William Parker, born 1570. His second wife was Wilmott Rorgett, a son was John Parker, who married Marie. One of their sons was George Parker, married Florence Cade and emigrated to Accomack County, VA. One of their sons was George Parker Jr. who married Sarah. The John Parker who married Sarah Gordy was a son.
John Parker was a Revolutionary War veteran, he received a Land Grant for his war services from the Governor of Georgia on 10 Jul. 1784. He sold his Dorchester County, MD plantation 'SNOW HILL' to Nathan Gordy, 16 Jul. 1784 and migrated to Georgia where he accepted his land grant of 287½ acres in what became Hancock County on the Oconee River 23 Sep. 1784. The deed for his Dorchester, MD property was filed in Aug. 1789 (Ref. 177).

Mary Gordy, the sixth child of Peter I and Hannah Christopher Gordy, born c1754, married a Crouch (Ref. 117).

Eunice Gordy, the seventh child of Peter I and Hannah Christopher Gordy, born c1757, married James Methvillian.

Lovey Cannon Melson, the oldest child of Benjamin and Milly (Emelia) Gordy Melson, was born in Worcester County, MD as were all their children, 22 Nov. 1798, died 23 Jun. 1866, married 22 Dec. 1814, Jacob Jones, born 24 Sep. 1785, died 14 Jul. 1866. He was a son of the purchaser of Middle Plantation from the estate of Daniel II and Lovey Cannon Melson near Lowes Crossroads, Sussex County, DE. Jacob inherited this tract and lived on it all his life. They had 13 children (Ref. 130):

Nancy Summer Jones, born 5 Aug. 1816, died 23 May 1900, married 9 Aug. 1832, Josiah W. Collins, born 1810. They had seven children (Ref. 130).

Benjamin Reed Jones, born 7 Nov. 1817, died 22 Jan. 1835, never married (Ref. 130).

Nathaniel Wright Jones, born 27 Dec. 1819, died 10 Jan. 1847, married 10 Jan., 1846, Eliza Hearn (Ref. 130).

Joseph Sharp Jones, born 24 Jul. 1821, married 15 Jul. 1843, Eliza C. Burris. They had one son and two daughters (Ref. 130).

Mary Rodney Jones, born 28 Jun. 1823, died 16 Jan. 1908, married 1 Jun. 1848, Wingate Downs, born c1813. They had eleven children (Ref. 130).

Amelia Gordy Jones, born 14 Oct. 1824, married Joseph Collins. They had one daughter (Ref. 130).


Sally Melson Jones, born 19 Feb. 1828, married c1828 Uriah Short, born c1818. They had seven children (Ref. 130).

George Washington Jones, born 11 Dec. 1829, died 23 Dec. 1900, married c1855, Nancy Hester West, born 1 Mar. 1834, died 19 Apr. 1897. They had nine children (Ref. 130).
Rebecca McElwee Jones, born Mar. 6, 1832, died 1883, married Benjamin B. West, born 1828. They had six children. (Ref. 130).

Love Jane Jones, born Oct. 2, 1833, married c1853, George T. West, born c1834. They had two children.


Jacob Samuel Jones, born May 28, 1844, died Aug. 27, 1933, his first wife was Julia A. Magee Phillips, born Sep. 3, 1839, died Oct. 22, 1900. They were married Jan. 26, 1865. They had five children. His second wife was Sarah Eleanor James Harrington, born Nov. 26, 1865, died Dec. 9, 1951. They had two children: Mary Ruth Jones, born Jan. 28, 1906, and Ida Pauline Jones Mills, one of the authors of (Ref. 130).

Hannah Jackson Melson, the second child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born Jun. 16, 1900, died Jul. 26, 1879. She married William John Downing, Feb. 26, 1822 (Ref. 131). He was born Sep. 27, 1785, died Apr. 9, 1851. They lived in Sussex County, DE. They had fourteen children, the names of seven are known: J. Wesley Downing, born Feb. 12, 1824, died Jan. 23, 1899, married Sarah C., born May 22, 1830, died Nov. 20, 1915 (Ref. 10).

Jane Downing
George Downing
Burton Downing
Henrietta Downing

William Thomas Grove Downing, married Delia Catherine Wainwright. One son was Norris Burwick Downing, died 1969, married Susan Emily Priscilla Jackson, died 1956. Their children were:

Clarence Burwick Downing, died 1969, married Mildred Wright.
Fulton J. Downing, died 1971, married Anne C. Harrison.
Mary Catherine Downing, married Sept. 8, 1988, to T. Moore Holcombe IV. Catherine has been very active in genealogy and with public affairs for Milford, Sussex County, and the State of Delaware. (Ref. 131).

Margaret T. Downing, never married (Ref. 131).

Polly Gordy Melson, the third child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born Oct. 14, 1803, died Sep. 4, 1824, married William Smith, in Sussex County, DE, Aug. 6, 1824 (Ref. 132).

George Armstrong Melson, the fourth child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born Nov. 13, 1805, (Ref. 132). George drowned in the Ohio River near Cincinnati, Ohio in 1836. He never married.

Salley (Sarah) Melson, the fifth child of Benjamin and Milley Melson, was born Nov. 15, 1807, died in Jul. 1839. She married Henry Brewington, cFeb23, 1830 (Ref. 40). Henry was born before 1810 in the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. He was a farmer and accompanied Salley's parents to Shelby County, MO. Henry purchased land near Benjamin's tracts in Shelby County. He died in the Fall of 1844. They had five children:

Lovey Jane Brewington, born Jan. 1, 1831, died Jun. 17, 1899, married (1) Oct. 6, 1847 John Robinson, died c1848. Her second husband was George William Hall, born Feb. 7, 1829, died cFeb. 18, 1912. He was a son of James Hall, born c1806, died 1832, married Aug. 9, 1828, Louisa Grey, born c1810, died Mar. 3, 1891 (Ref. 40). Lovey Jane Brewington Robinson and George W. Hall were married Jun. 28, 1849. They had six children:

James H. Hall, born c1851.
Thomas B. Hall, born c1854, died Mar. 18, 1936, married c1880, Lillian Elizabeth Wilson, born c1856, died c1885 (Ref. 133).

Joseph B. Hall, born c1855 (Ref. 133).

William P. Hall, born c1859 (Ref. 133).


George M. Hall, born c1876, died c1914, never married (Ref. 133).

Louisa Grey Hall remarried after the death of her first husband, James Hall. Her second husband was William Webb of Worcester County, MD. The Webs emigrated from Worcester County, MD, first to Marion County, MO, and then onto Shelby County, MO. George William Hall was a farmer in Shelby County. He and Lovey had ten children, the names of the six known are listed above (Ref. 133). Their son, Thomas B. Hall, went west during the 1870s, he joined forces with his cousin, James Asbury Melson, at Heppner, Oregon in real estate ventures. Thomas Hall's grandson Thomas Hall and his wife, Celia, ranch near Bruneau, Idaho on lands settled by his father.

James Hall and his wife, Louisa Grey Hall also had a second son, Thomas P. Hall, born c1831, died c1854.

Benjamin S. Brewington, born 1833, was the second child of Henry and Sally Melson Brewington (Ref. 134).

Sampson S. Brewington, born 1835, married May 7, 1857, Elizabeth Wailes, born 1833 (Ref. 134).

Mary Jane (Polly) Brewington, born 1836, married Sep. 11, 1873, married George H. Boyce (Ref. 135).

Mary Jane Brewington, born c1836, married Sep. 11, 1873, married George H. Boyce, (Ref. 135).

Thomas George Brewington, born 1838 (Ref. 134).

After Sally's death, Henry declined to raise their children. Lovey went to live with her grandmother, Milley Gordy Melson at the home of her uncle Benjamin Nathan Melson; Benjamin S. Brewington lived with his uncle, Sampson D. Melson; Mary Jane Brewington was taken in by her aunt, Jane Melson Parker; Thomas George Brewington went to his uncle, William Brewington. Henry continued farming until his death in the Fall of 1844 (Ref. 134).

John Melson, the sixth child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born in Worcester County, MD, Feb. 1, 1810, died Fall of 1843 in Shelby County, MO. John married Elinor Elliott, born c1815, died before 1850, a daughter of Jacob B. and Sally E. Elliott, Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, Aug. 29, 1831 (Ref. 134). John and Elinor Elliot Melson went to Shelby County, Missouri with his parents in 1837, where he farmed near his parents. John and Elinor Melson had five children:

Sarah (Sally) Melson, born 1835 in Delaware, married James W. Christian (Ref. 136), May 22, 1851. For reasons not known, after the death of her grandfather, Benjamin Melson, Sally and her husband sued her brothers and sister, over the division of the property left their parents in Benjamin Melson's will. The case was not settled until Jun. 8, 1855, when the Shelby County Circuit Court awarded to Sally and James, the same amount of property she would have received as her share of her father's bequest from his father, Benjamin Melson. This suit must have been for legal purposes as it was not contested by her brothers and her sister. What it did was delay the closing of Benjamin Melson's estate until after this award was made by the Court.

In addition to this, Sally was the recipient along with her brothers and sister of a bequest from her maternal grandfather, Jacob Elliott. Her maternal grandfather had left his estate to his wife for life
tenancy, after her maternal grandmother's death, her uncle, Benjamin Elliott filed a petition in the Sussex County, DE. Orphans Court, File Plots F No. E-1, dated Mar. 25, 1877 requesting the Court settle his father's estate. In this petition, he said his father, Jacob Elliott, had died on or about Mar. 20, 1841, and his mother had recently passed away. Benjamin listed among the surviving heirs, Sally Melson and three brothers and sisters, names unknown, all the children of Elinor Elliott, wife of John Melson. The Court awarded to Sally and the three others their share of the estate. Obviously, Sally and her brothers and sisters had not kept in touch with their uncle, Benjamin, as there were five children.

Sally and James Christian's family, if any, is not known. Sally Melson Christian died in 1893.

Jacob B. Melson was the second child of John and Elinor Elliott Melson, born Jul. 9, 1837, married Eliza Adeline Blackford, Sep. 2, 1858. She was born in 1838, a daughter of Anthony Blackford of Shelby County, MO. Jacob farmed in the Clay Township, Shelby County, MO. They had five children. Eliza died Jan. 27, 1872.

Mary G. Melson, the oldest child of Jacob B. and Eliza Melson, was born in 1859. (Ref. 137).

Charles W. Melson, the second child of Jacob and Eliza Melson, was born at Sedalia, MO, 1860. After he grew up on his parents' farm, he went to Texas. There he married Mary Elizabeth Payne, c1887, she was born Nov. 4, 1866 at Lone Oak, TX, a daughter of William and Mary Frances Weatherly Payne. Their children were:

Charles Frank Melson, their first, was born Jan. 6, 1889 at Emory, TX. He attended Grayson College, then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps when World War I erupted. While stationed at Tiburon, CA, he married Pauline Elizabeth Anderson, born Jun. 2, 1890, died Apr. 25, 1976. She was a daughter of Edwin Oliver Olson and Elizabeth Ann Cordell, she had been adopted as a child by Harvey Anderson after her parents were divorced. Charles and Pauline had one son. Charles Frank Melson remained in the U.S. Marine Corps after WWI and died while a patient on USS REPOSE in San Diego Harbor, CA, Mar. 20, 1935.

William Harvey Melson was born Oct. 15, 1919 in San Francisco, CA. He also became a Marine in WWII. He married Janet Cecilia McClean, Apr. 12, 1947. She was born Jan. 11, 1921, a daughter of Donald Wynn and Jane Creighton McClean. They have six children.

Donald William Melson, the second child of William Harvey and Janet McClean Melson, born Apr. 10, 1950, married Sarah Tandy in 1970. They live in Novato, CA. (Ref. 137)

Gabriel Jane Pauline Melson, the third child of William and Janet Melson, born Nov. 19, 1955, married John Kosterman, Oct. 21, 1978, both are career U.S. Marines. (Ref. 137)

John Melson, the fourth child of William and Janet Melson, born 1957. Died at age six months. (Ref. 137)

Elisa Andrea Melson, the fifth child of William and Janet Melson, born Apr. 12, 1956. She is a respiratory Therapist in Greenbrae, CA.

Kristen James Melson, the sixth child of William and Janet Melson, born Jul. 6, 1960. (Ref. 137)

Addie Melson, the second child of Charles and Mary Payne Melson, born c1890, died c1970, never married (Ref. 137).

Mary Melson, the third child of Charles and Mary Payne Melson, born c1894 married a Carter (Ref. 137).

Nancy D. Melson was the third child of Jacob B. and Eliza Melson, born c1862, married Edwin R. Wailes, born 1858, in 1883. (Ref. 138).

Dora E. Melson, the fourth child of Jacob and Eliza Melson, born c1860, married Edward Gould. They moved to Seattle, WA., where her older brother Charles W. Melson visited them frequently. (Ref. 137).

Ernest L. Melson, was the fifth child of Jacob and Eliza Melson. There is no other information about him (Ref. 138).

Jacob B. Melson remarried after the death of his first wife. His second wife was Mrs. Clementine Blackford Anderson, a cousin of his first wife. They were married Jan. 17, 1875. (Ref. 138).

James H. Melson was the third child of John and Elinor Elliott Melson. He was born Jan. 16, 1839, died May 24, 1917. (Ref. 138).

William Garretson Melson, the fourth child of John and Elinor Melson, was born Apr. 19, 1841, died May 11, 1914. After the death of his parents, he grew up in the home of Sampson Davis Melson, his uncle. After Sampson Davis Melson and his family emigrated to Oregon in 1864, William remained in Missouri. He married Emily A. Pierce, a daughter of John C. and Pauline Pierce of Macon County, MO. Sep. 27, 1866. Their children were:

John William Melson, born c1868. After he grew up, he moved to Ellenberg, WA., where he married Allie Nervesta Wheelis, born Mar. 16, 1870 at Stockton, CA. on Jan. 31, 1889. He was a Painting Contractor at this time. After their marriage, they moved to Bellingham, WA for ten years, then they moved to Minden, Nebr. to be near his father in 1899 staying until 1903. They returned to Spokane, WA. where they remained the rest of their lives. Their children were:

Ray Oren Melson, born Oct. 20, 1889, Bellingham, WA., died Apr. 20, 1890.

Willeta Emma Melson, born Sep. 13, 1892, Bellingham, WA., married Jul. 30, 1913, James Lawrence Connors, born Nov. 1, 1889. Their children were:

Donald Melson Connors, born Jul. 13, 1914, Spokane, WA.

James Melson Connors, born Jun. 7, 1920, Spokane, WA.

Cecil Howard Melson, born Aug. 20, 1894, Bellingham, WA., married in 1914, Gertrude Dorothy Burns, born Aug. 18, 1896. They had one son, John William Melson, born Mar. 3, 1915, Spokane, WA.

Lloyd Alton Melson, born Oct. 20, 1898, Bellingham, WA, married Jul. 1922
Bessie June McEwen at Spokane, WA. In 1933, they moved to Seattle, WA.
Their sons were:
Mark Alton Melson, born Jan. 16, 1924.
Jack Melson, born Feb. 16, 1928.
Paloma Blanch Melson, born Apr. 13, 1901, Minden, NE, married Feb 11, 1928,
Luchias B. Hampton, in Seattle. Their daughter was Dolores Paloma Hampton, born Apr. 18, 1930.
Mona Teressa Melson, born 26 Feb. 1903, Minden NE, married 18 Aug. 1925,
Kenneth William Mace, Spokane, WA. Their daughter was Dortha Mona Mace, born 18 Apr, 1930.
Earl Howard Melson, born 24 Aug, 1905, Spokane, WA., married 6 Sep. 1925,
Gertrude Ethel Melson, born 23 Mar. 1909, Spokane, WA., married 1 Nov 1930,
Lawrence Anton Held, born 21 Dec. 1900. Their son was Lawrence Anton Held Jr., born 14 May 1932, Spokane, WA. Ref. 139 applies to all of the members of the John William Melson family.
Paulina (Ella) Melson was the second child of William Garretson and Emily Pierce Melson, she was born in 1869 and married a Dennis. (Ref. 140).
Mary Alice Melson, the third child of William and Emily Melson, was born Dec. 5, 1871, died Sep. 28, 1958, she married John Logan Hodgin, Nov. 9, 1890. They had three children: (Ref. 140)
Basil Hodgin, born Nov. 5, 1898, died Nov. 5, 1898.
Floyd Melson Hodgin, born Jul. 10, 1909, died 1986. He became a Forester with the U.S. Forest Service, retiring as the Forest Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest, Arizona. He married Wilma Boltz on Oct. 15, 1933. They had one son:
Gilbert Wayne Hodgin, born Apr. 26, 1938. He married Tusnelda Marie York, Aug. 24, 1960. Their children are:
Floyd served in the U.S. Army during WWII as a Lt. Col. After retiring from the U.S. Forest Service, he and Wilma alternated between William and Mesa, Arizona. After his death, she moved to Visalia, CA, where their son and his family live.
Daisy W. Melson was the fourth child of William and Emily Melson, she was born in 1877 and married a Hocking. They lived in Portland Oregon.
William Garretson Melson, after the death of his first wife, Emily Pierce, left Missouri in 1883 and moved to Minden, Nebraska, leaving his children behind with relatives. He became a stock rancher, general contractor and school teacher. He was the City Marshall of Minden during the 1880's, later a Deputy Sheriff. He knew Bill Cody and worked with him many summers hunting buffalo to feed the laborers on the Union Pacific. He married Miss Louise Ann David of Hunley, NE, Mar. 11, 1885. They had three children, their first two dying as infants. Their third child was Martha Melson, who married a Porter.
Milly G. Melson, the fifth child of John and Elinor Melson, was born Dec. 17, 1842, died Nov. 24, 1917. Milly's first husband was Major Taylor, the first settler in Clay Township, Shelby County, MO. They were married Dec. 17, 1863 (Ref. 141). After his death, she remarried. Her second husband was James Harvey Carothers, born 1825, died 1892. They had at least one son, Frank Carothers, who also had at least one son, Victor Carothers, whose wife's name was Helen. Milly Melson Carothers was living with her husband in Clarence, MO. in 1914 as she was mentioned in her brother, William's obituary (Ref. 140).

Jane Melson, the seventh child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born June 1812 in Worcester County, MD., died at Lakeport, CA., Feb. 8, 1892. Jane married James Parker, born 1812, Dec. 31, 1830 in Sussex County, DE (Ref. 21). Jane and her husband emigrated to Shelby County, MO. at least one year before her parents moved west. The exact date is not known as the "History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, MO. 1884" is vague about when they first arrived. This history stated the first settler in Clay Township, Shelby County was in 1835 when Major Taylor, who later married Milly Melson settled on Section 6-57-11. The history goes on to say that James and Jane Parker settled on Section 8-57-11 a mile or so from Taylor, and CAPT. Melson was three miles west of them in 1839. The history then goes on to reverse itself by telling about the formation of the first class of the Methodist Church in Shelby County in the Fall of 1837 and that Mrs. James Parker and the widow Parker were among the members of this class. The widow Parker could easily have been James Parker's mother. (Ref. 138). James and Jane Parker were listed in the 1850 Census for Shelby County, MO., as having these children:

- Minus Parker Laborer age 19 born in Delaware
- George B. Parker Farmer 15
- Henrietta C. Parker 12 " " Missouri
- Elisha J. Parker 5 " "
- John C. Parker 2 " "
- Martha W. Parker 1 " "

The 1840 Census listed a daughter in the 5-10 year old category for James and Jane. This daughter was not shown for the 1850 census and could have married although her name is not shown as having applied for a marriage licence in Shelby County.

James Parker and his brother-in-law Benjamin Nathan Melson are shown to have petitioned the Shelby County Court in 1844 to become Administrators for the estate of Elijah Melson, who had drowned.

James Parker died on an overland crossing c1851. Jane married William H. Moore in Bodega, Sonoma County, CA, 31 Oct. 1852. After his death, she married a third time to Guy Ross in Lakeport, CA. James and Jane's son, Minus Marion Parker, b. 1831, d. 1900 married Alice Scoville, b. 1844, d. 1891 on 2 Feb 1862 in Shelby County, MO. A daughter, Lottie Belle Parker, b. 1871, d. 1949, married Harry Edson Bell, b. 1862, d. 1941 in 1890 at Carlin, NV. Their daughter, Gladys Marion Bell, b. 1894, d. 1944, married George James Over, b. 1889, d. 1986 in California. (Ref. 184).

Milley G. Melson was the eighth child of Benjamin and Milley Melson. She was born in 1816/1817. She went with her parents to Missouri in 1837. Either she was already being courted by John K. Coard who accompanied them, or his family had also moved to Shelby County, as she and John Coard were married in Shelby County, MO. Apr. 28, 1839 (Ref. 143). After their marriage, John and Milley returned to Worcester County, MD. sometime in the latter part of 1840 as they were listed in the 1840 Census for Shelby County, MO. where they lived for the rest of their lives.
The Cord family was an early one in Worcester County, where the name was found spelled "Cord," "Coard," "Coarde." Once John and Milly had returned to Worcester County, they settled in Berlin where John became a Shoemaker. John's parents were John K. Sr. and Comfort Cord. John Sr. was listed in the 1850 Census as a prosperous farmer with one daughter, Jane C. Cord, living at home. John K. Cord in 1850 was shown in the census as being 31 years old, making him two years younger than Milly. They were shown with a family of five children:

- Mary I. Cord age 10 born 1840
- Laura A. Cord 9 1841
- Emma F. Cord 7 1843
- George F. Cord 5 1845
- James K. Cord 3 1847

Milly was the only daughter of Benjamin Melson to be remembered in his will. The will mentioned she was living in Worcester County, MD. The Cords lived in Worcester County, MD the rest of their lives. John's will was filed for probate Jul. 23, 1872 (Ref. 144). Milly was shown as the Executrix for her husband's estate. The date of her death and the history of her children is not known other than that Ella Melson McDowell visited the Cords' when she was in New York City studying music in the 1880's.

Sampson Davis Melson, the ninth child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, and his family were reviewed in Chapter Four.

Elijah Melson, the tenth child of Benjamin and Milley Melson, was born c1819-1820. He went west with his parents in 1837 and kept a diary of their travels. This diary is shown in Chapter Eleven pages 15-28. He helped his father farm and was designated by his father as the Executor of his will. Unfortunately, his life came to an early end in 1844 when he drowned. James Parker and Benjamin Nathan Melson petitioned the Shelby County Court to become the Administrators of his estate.

"SHELBY COUNTY, MISSOURI INVENTORY AND APPRAISAL LIST RECORD 1843 TO 1848, PAGE 40."

"Be it remembered that on this 1st day of July A.D.1844 personally appeared before me Thomas J. Bounds Clerk of the County Court with and for the County of Shelby & State of Missouri, James Parker & Benjamin N. Melson application of Letters of Administration on the estate of Elijah Melson deceased late of Shelby County and made oath that the said Elijah Melson left the following heirs: to wit, Lovy C. Jones of Susir County in the State of Delaware, Hannah J. Downing and Milly G. Coarde of Worcester County in the State of Maryland and James Parker, Sampson D. Melson of Shelby County, MO. that the deceased died without a will that they make a perfect inventory of and faithfully administer all of the Estate of the deceased and pay the debts as far as the assets will extend and the law direct and account for and pay all assets which shall come to his possession or knowledge.

Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and date written above.

Thomas J. Bounds, Clk.
James C. Agnew, D.C.

JAMES PARKER
BENJAMIN N. MELSON"

The circumstances of Elijah's death are not known, he was unmarried at the time of his death.
Benjamin Nathan Melson, the eleventh child of Benjamin and Milley Gordy Melson, was born in Worcester County, MD, Jan. 6, 1823 (Ref. 135). He went to Shelby County, MO. with his parents in 1837. He was bequeathed his father's home farm where he lived the remainder of his life. After his father's death, his mother, Milley Gordy Melson, lived with him and his family until her death, Jan. 17, 1858 (Ref. 145). Benjamin N. Melson married Mary Jane Carman, born Nov. 6, 1825, died Apr. 17, 1899, a daughter of William Carman of Harrison County, Kentucky. William Carman had moved to Palmyra, Marion County, MO. Benjamin N. and Mary Jane Melson were married Feb. 2, 1846. Their children were:

- John W. Melson, born Aug. 1, 1847, died Aug. 9, 1869, never married (Ref. 146).
- Nancy J. Melson, born Dec. 9, 1854, died Nov. 8, 1859 (Ref. 146).
- Elizabeth A. Melson, born Feb. 24, 1856, died Mar. 4, 1882, married John F. Smith (Ref. 146).
- Emily A. Melson, born Apr. 3, 1858, died Aug. 5, 1938, married William M. Taylor (Ref. 146).
- Mary J. Melson, born Aug. 6, 1862, died Nov. 22, 1919, married David G. Gray (Ref. 146).
- Charles G. Melson, born Apr. 25, 1865, died May 29, 1942, married Mary Rebecca Wallace, born Apr. 16, 1869, died Apr. 27, 1956 (Ref. 146).
- George N. Melson, born Feb. 15, 1868, died Sep. 3, 1931, married (1) Nora Alma Gunby, (2) Louisa Vallinger (Ref. 146).

John W. Melson, the first child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson never married.

Nancy J. Melson, the second child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson died as a child.

Elizabeth A. Melson, the third child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson, married John F. Smith. There is no other information about them.

Emily A. Melson, the fourth child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson, married William Taylor, Mar. 22, 1877 (Ref. 146). They had three daughters.

- Mary S. Taylor, born Jan. 16, 1878.
- Ula and Jewel Taylor, twins, born Oct. 27, 1889, died Oct. 27, 1889.

James Henry Melson, the fifth child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson, and Amanda Jane Livingston were married Jan. 6, 1887 (Ref. 147). They lived in Lentner, Shelby County, MO. where he farmed and was the Secretary to the Board of Directors for the Bank of Lentner. He was killed while crossing the highway. Their children were:

- Harry Lewis Melson, born Jun. 11, 1888, died Apr. 14, 1889 (Ref. 147).
- May Pearl Melson, born Nov. 2, 1889, died Oct. 29, 1866, married Fred Boling (Ref. 147).
- Claude Merlin Melson, born Nov. 9, 1894, married Violet Bonham, (Ref. 146).

"Baby Daughter", born Feb. 1900, died shortly afterwards (Ref. 147).

Pauline Melson born Jun. 9, 1902, married Raymond Asbury Glahn (Ref. 147).
Theodore Eldon Melson, born Sep., 1906, married Hortense Smith later Dorothy Tixia (Ref. 146).

Mark Meredith Melson, born Jul. 17, 1908, married Helen Hoefling. (Ref. 146).


Mae Pearl Melson married Fred Boling, Apr. 23, 1919. Their daughter is Marjorie Boling, born Mar. 20, 1927. Marjorie lives in Lentner, MO, and was the Vice-President of the Selbina Mercantile Bank. (Ref. 148).

Beulah Melson married Harry Richison Glahn, Nov. 27, 1919, the only child of Christian Solomon and Nancy Elizabeth Richison Glahn. They farmed the land his grandfather opened in 1868. They had one son, Harry Robert Glahn, born Jul. 28, 1928. Harry Robert Glahn received his PhD in Meteorology from Penn State Univ. He married Anna Margaret Morgan, born Sep. 24, 1930. Robert is a Senior Meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Service in Washington, DC. They have two sons:
- Robert Gale Glahn, born Apr. 17, 1955

Charles Benjamin Melson, the seventh child of Benj. N. and Mary Melson, married Mary Rebecca Wallace, a daughter of Edward and Hannah Jane Harding Wallace, of Marion County, Missouri, Sep. 25, 1887. They had three sons: (Ref. 146)

The name of the first son is not known.

Beryl Melson was their second son, born Jun. 8, 1891, died Aug. 12, 1969. His first wife was Minnie Halstead, his second wife's first name was Mildred.

Vernon Marion Melson, the third son, was born May 25, 1894, married Ernestine Ethel Arkell, born Apr. 19, 1899, a daughter of Edwin and Ella Garnet Arkell of Colorado Springs, CO. Vernon and Ernestine had one daughter, Marion Melson, born Apr. 26, 1922. Marion married Robert James Wallace. She died in 1987, he died Dec. 1967. They had no children. Vernon and Ernestine were later divorced. On Mar. 3, 1933, he married Alma Mae Cooper, born Aug. 30, 1910, a daughter of Jefferson Davis and Luella Wariner Cooper of Oklahoma City, OK. They had one daughter, Patricia Melson, born Mar. 13, 1940, born in Sacramento, CA. Pat's first husband was Kenneth Martin, Jun. 11, 1960. After their divorce, she married Zane Eugene Bates, born May 28, 1933, son of Charles Rutherford and Susan Elizabeth Drennan Bates of Coolidge, AZ, on Jan. 30, 1965. Their children were Tammy Lynn Bates, born Oct. 5, 1964, and Marion Joy Bates, born Apr. 14, 1968. Patricia and Zane were divorced. Her third husband is Clyde Hoff. They live at 18110 Fair Oaks Drive, Penn Valley, CA. 95946.

George N. Melson, the eighth child of Benjamin Nathan and Mary Melson. His first wife was Nora Alma Gunby. After her death, he married Louisa Vallinger. (Ref. 146). His children were:


- Ledrue Melson lives in Shelby County, MO. Dr. Robert Glahn obtained from him Elijah Melson's diary, see pages 11-15 through 11-25.

The last child of Benjamin and Milley Gorny Melson was Minos Melson. Little is known about him other than that he died as an infant. It is likely he was born in Worcester County, MD, about 1826 and died shortly afterwards (Ref. 94).

Returning to the Sampson Davis Melson, the ninth child of Benjamin and Milley Melson's children, Sampson married Juliann Elizabeth Catherine Jones, at Shelbyville, MO. Jan. 28, 1841. They were married at the Shelbyville Methodist Church.
Juliann was the oldest daughter of Major Hex and Minerva Wilcoxen Jones. She was born in Kentucky. Her father, Major (his first name not a title) Jones was also born in Kentucky, May 3, 1805, died Dec. 4, 1880 at Salem, Oregon. It is possible he was related to the Major H. Jones listed in the 1790 Reconstructed Census for Maryland. Major Hex Jones was a farmer all his life. After he and Minerva were married in Bullitt County, Kentucky, Jul. 13, 1823 (Ref. 149), they farmed there until moving to Missouri in 1829. In 1840, they settled in Shelby County sometime after the 1840 Census was taken as they were not listed in it.

Minerva Wilcoxen was born in Kentucky, Nov. 11, 1805 (Ref. 150). She was a daughter of Thomas Wilcoxen III and Sarah Prather. Florence Wilson Bessac's records told of Sarah's parents coming to the United States from England. Juliann told her daughters that she remembered an old man who was her great-grandfather who always sat in a corner of the kitchen fireplace and spoke with a thick accent. The Wilcoxen family might have first settled in Maryland, where Wilcoxens were well established in colonial times in Frederick, Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties. The name is also found in the records as spelled "Wilcox", "Wilcoxon" as well as "Wilcoxen." Thomas Wilcoxen I was the first member of the family known to be in the United States, his son, Thomas Wilcoxen II and Phebe Osborne were the parents of Thomas Wilcoxen III (Ref. 150). Another source, (Ref. 151) listed a Thomas H. and Sarah Wilcoxen with a son, Ely Wilcoxen, born Feb. 15, 1800, and a daughter, Ruth Wilcoxen, born Jul. 31, 1801, in Maryland.

Thomas III Wilcoxen and Sarah Prather were married 20 Apr, 1798 in Montgomery County, MD. They moved to Fleming County, KY. Their children were:

- Sallie Wilcoxen, married Sam Summers. They had no children, she died of Cholera.
- Hamilton Wilcoxen, no information.
- Annie Wilcoxen, no information.
- Minerva Wilcoxen, Walter Wilcoxen, no information.
- Ruth Wilcoxen, married Washington Jones, brother of Major Hex Jones.
- William Wilcoxen, no information.
- Eleanor Wilcoxen, married a Fuquie.
- Wesley Wilcoxen, married Eliza Ann McKay.
- Benjamin Wilcoxen, married Sarah McKay.
- Elizabeth Wilcoxen, married a Rhodes.

The children of Washington and Ruth Wilcoxen Jones were:

- William Jones
- Thomas Jones
- Minerva Jones
- James Jones
- Allen Jones
- Franklin Jones
- John Jones.
- Gabrilla Jones (Ref. 150).

The children of Wesley and Eliza Ann Wilcoxen were:

- Henry Wilcoxen
- Eliza Jane Wilcoxen
- (died as a baby)
- Sarah Wilcoxen
- "Bud" Wilcoxen
- Ann Wilcoxen, died young
- "Mamy" Wilcoxen (Ref. 150).

The children of Benjamin and Sarah McKey Wilcoxen were:

- William Wilcoxen
- John Wilcoxen (Ref. 150).

Major H. Jones was shown in the 1850 Census for Shelby County, MO, as living in District 94, which included the Salt River and Clay Townships. Minerva Wilcoxen Jones had died Oct. 6, 1842, just a year after the marriage of her oldest daughter, Juliann E. C. Jones to Sampson Davis Melson. Major H. and Minerva had seven children: (Ref. 150).
Juliann Elizabeth Catherine Jones, born 6 Nov. 1824, died 4 Nov. 1895, married Sampson Davis Melson, see Chapter 4 page 5, 28 Jan. 1841.
Sarah Ann Jones, born 28 Dec. 1826, died 13 Sep. 1845 (Ref. 150).
Melvina Jane Jones, born 25 Sep. 1829, died 5 May 1889 (Ref. 150), there is a discrepancy here, the Pioneer Cemetery Records lists her date of death as 29 Apr. 1888 (Ref. 175). Her tombstone is missing in Plot #632, so it cannot be used to verify the correct date. She married William Harrison Brown, born 9 Nov. 1828, in Warren County, VA. (Ref. 153), died 17 Apr. 1916, he is buried in the Boon Plot, #632, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, OR. He moved to Missouri in the 1840's. He and Melvina were married in 1844. He served in Donophan's Brigade, Missouri Volunteers, in the War of 1848 serving at Santa Fe, New Mexico. They had two daughters, Sarah Ann Brown and Eldorado Brown. There is no record for them. William reenlisted in the Union Army for the Civil War. He was a Corporal, Second Missouri S.M. Cavalry, Company I. The Browns moved to Salem, OR after the Civil War to be near Melvina's father. My father remembered his Great-aunt Jane Brown.

Mary Ellen Jones, born 28 Dec. 1831, no further information (Ref. 150).
George Washington Jones, born 23 Jan. 1834, married Mary Kahill. He was a school teacher in Missouri (Ref. 150). They had at least one son, Wilbur Jones. Great-aunt Josepahine Melson Garrigues notes told about Wilbur visiting her and stayed so long she had to ask him to leave.
Thomas Allen Jones, born 8 Apr. 1836, died 20 Nov. 1904, at Salem, OR. He married Catherine, born 1837 in Salem, OR. She was from Illinois. They had two children: R.A. Jones, born 1876, died as a child; and Calvin Jones, died 12 Mar. 1913. Both are buried next to their father in Plot #632 (Ref. 175).
Frances H. Jones, born 16 Dec. 1840, died 4 Nov. 1842 (Ref. 150).
Major H. Jones married his second wife, Mrs. Emily J. Castleman, c3 Feb, 1849 (Ref. 143). Her maiden name was Glassock. Her first husband was John B. Castleman. They were married in Shelby County, MO. 23 Aug. 1842 (Ref. 143). Emily was born c1807. She and Major Jones had two children:
Duenna Jones, born 1840, died 20 May 1892, married Henry Daniel Boon, born in Ohio in 1839, died in Salem, OR. 1888. He went to Salem with his father, J.D. Boon in 1844. His father was the first State Treasurer of Oregon (Ref. 174). Henry farmed and had a book store in Salem. Their children were:
'Son', born 22 Nov. 1869, died 2 Mar. 1870 (Ref. 175).
Emmet (Emet) R. Boon, born 1872, no further information (Ref. 176).
Daisy Boon, born 1873, died 1893 (Ref. 175).
Cora Pansy Boon, born 18 Jun. 1875, died 1891 (Ref. 175).
'Son', born 18 Jun. 1877, died 25 Jul. 1877 (Ref. 175).
Shelby Boon, no information (Ref. 174).
Charles H. Jones, born c1852, died as a child (Ref. 150).
Emily Glasscock Castleman Jones died in Missouri c1856. Major Hex Jones married again. His third wife was Verlinda Shanks, a cousin of his first wife. She was born c1816. They were married c1860. Major Hex Jones, his wife Verlinda, and his son, Thomas, emigrated from Shelby County, MO. to Salem, Oregon before 1870. In the 1870 Census for North Salem, Oregon, he is listed as a farmer. Ernest Wilson fondly remembered his grandfather, who used to take him fishing. They once caught a baby rabbit that died as they were carrying it home, Ernest said they both cried.
Minerva Jane Melson was the oldest daughter of Sampson Davis and Juliann Jones Melson. She was born in Shelby County, Missouri Sep. 14, 1845, died Oct. 14, 1928. She married John Henderson Wilson, born 1826, on Jul. 18, 1867. Minerva (Aunt Nervy) suffered all her life from chronic asthma. When her parents decided to leave Shelby County, MO. and emigrate to Oregon in 1864 by covered wagon crossing the plains, they took along enough planks to make a coffin for Minerva if she failed to survive the trip. She not only survived, but I recall her loving to tell this story during the 1920's, laughing, wheezing and coughing all the time she was relating it. John Henderson Wilson, her husband, and his brother, Thomas Howard Wilson, were natives of Tennessee. They crossed the plains during the middle 1860's to settle in Salem, Oregon. John H. Wilson was a businessman and a farmer in and around Salem. John and Minerva had two sons:

Otto Jay Wilson, born 1869, died 1940. Otto married Ruth Ketchum in 1912. He was a successful businessman in Salem, first opening a bicycle shop then later becoming a Buick dealer in 1905. At the time of his death in 1940, Otto was the oldest Buick dealer in the United States. The Otto J. Wilson Buick Garage remained in his family until 1972. After his death, his nephew, Kenneth Wilson became President, later Otto J. Wilson, Jr. assumed this responsibility. Otto and my father were always very close friends. Otto J. and Ruth Wilson lived many years on State Street, in Salem, Oregon between 13th. and 14th. Their children were:

Margaret Wilson, born Aug. 24, 1914, died Sep. 1, 1957 (Ref. 156).


Charles Wilson, the second child of John and Minerva Melson Wilson, born c1875, married Gertrude Riddell. They lived in Eugene, Oregon where he was engaged in the timber and lumber business. After his death, Gertrude devoted many years to being "Housemother" for fraternities and sororities at the Univ. of Oregon. Their children were:

Kenneth Wilson, born c1902, died 1965.

Clifford Wilson, born c1905, married Darr ________. He was a businessman in Portland, OR, where he owned an aluminum fabrication company.

Hobart Wilson, born c1910. He graduated from the Univ. of Oregon Law School. He practices in Eugene where he has numerous business interests.

Donald Wilson, born 1914, died c1965 in Arizona (Ref. 150).

Matilda Frances Melson, was the fourth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson. She was born in Shelby County, MO. Feb. 8, 1848, died Dec. 6, 1926. She married Thomas Howard Wilson, born Jan. 9, 1837, on Sep. 23, 1866 (Ref. 155). Thomas was the brother of John H. Wilson who married Matilda's older sister, Minerva. He was a farmer and a businessman in Salem, Oregon. For many years they lived in a home on the corner of State and N. 14th Sts., in Salem, OR. Her parents after retirement lived with them. In 1917, they moved to Palo Alto, CA, where their three sons were living. Thomas died in the early 1920's. Matilda gave her granddaughter, Florence Wilson, the information about the
The Melson family. They took a large sheet of brown wrapping paper, laid it on the kitchen floor and started writing. Florence Wilson Bessac sent me a copy of the information she'd gotten from her grandmother when I became interested in tracing the Melson family. Everything Great-aunt Tilly told Florence was correct, I was able to verify everything she'd recalled. Florence later established contact with Marian Melson Strack. From their exchange of information that Marian had from the notes her father had left her and her own research, we owe our present knowledge of the family. Matilda and Thomas Howard Wilson had these children:

Arthur Wilson, born Nov. 17, 1867, in Salem, OR., died Jan. 24, 1933 in Palo Alto, CA. His first wife's name was Laura. They had one son, Howard, who died in infancy. His second wife was Mabel Mortimer, born Dec. 11, 1869, in Sidney, Australia, a daughter of Benjamin M. and Sarah H. Bates Mortimer. They were married in Helena, Montana, Mabel died in Long Beach, CA, Jun. 17, 1943. Arthur was a printer and worked for many years at many printing shops in the Pacific Northwest. He finally settled in Palo Alto, CA, where he operated a print shop of his own. Arthur and Mabel had three daughters(Ref. 150).

Alice Frances Wilson, born May 30, 1904, died Aug. 1, 1949. She married Dwight Hugh Fortine, born Nov. 13, 1904(Ref. 157), on Oct. 3, 1926 at the Stanford Univ. Chapel, he was a Petroleum Engineer. They had two sons:

Eugene Arthur Fortine, born Jun. 17, 1930, at Maracaibo, Venezuela. Gene graduated from Stanford Univ. in Engineering, and is now in the metal fabricating business in San Leandro, CA. He married Patricia Ann Jones, born Jun. 6, 1931, in Oakland, CA. She was born in Highland Park, IL. Patricia is a high school teacher in San Leandro, CA. Their children are:

- Alan David Fortine, born Aug. 12, 1956.
- Terri Louise Fortine, born Sep. 21, 1962.

Frederick Allen Fortine, the second son of Dwight and Alice Fortine, was born Mar. 29, 1935 in Compton, CA. He graduated from Stanford Univ. and lives in Seattle, WA. He married Sharon Flynn, born Jun. 13, 1938 on Apr. 26, 1961 in Korea. Their children are:


Alice died in Glendale, CA. Her husband died there two days later, Aug. 3, 1949.

Lucille Mortimer Wilson, the second child of Arthur and Mabel Wilson, was born May 18, 1905, died Feb. 15, 1975 in Riverside, CA. (Ref. 157). Her middle name was originally Ernestine, but she changed it to Mortimer. She was an excellent artist, in fact she even tried to impart some of her skills to me during summer classes in Palo Alto in 1926, with little success I regret to relate. She married Eric Lyman Waite, Jun. 15, 1927. He was born Dec. 12, 1902. They had no children. Eric also died in Riverside, CA, Dec. 2, 1970(Ref. 157).

Eleanor Carolyne Wilson, the third child of Arthur and Mabel Wilson, was born May 5, 1912, in Palo Alto, CA., died Nov. 20, 1974 in Oakland, CA. She married Ellison Frederick Ebey, Oct. 24, 1933, they were later divorced. Their children were:

Frederick Harold Ebey, born Sep. 30, 1936. His first wife was Linda Lorimer. They were married Aug. 1, 1959. He later married Charleen Corrigan, May 1, 1976. They have adopted Marilyn Ebey, born Dec. 17, 1969(Ref. 157).
Sue Ellen Ebey, born Jun 3, 1940, married Maylon Corlett O'Brien, born Jun 22, 1938. Their children are:

Herbert Wilson was the second child of Thomas and Matilda Melson Wilson. He was born Jul 17, 1870 in Salem, Oregon. He married Georgia Johnson, c. 1898. They lived for many years in Spokane, WA, before settling in Palo Alto, CA. Where he was associated with his brother, Ernest, in the Wilson Candy Company. Herbert and Georgia had three children:
Florence Frances Wilson, born 1 Jan 1900, died 7 Jan, 1978. She was born in Spokane, WA. She married Eugene Paul Bessac, born Jun 13, 1897, died Jun 10, 1958 in Palo Alto, CA on Feb. 16, 1921. They bought Riverbank News, Riverbank, CA. This was a weekly newspaper. After his death, Florence carried on as Publisher until her retirement in 1974. Florence became interested in the Melson family when she was young listening to her grandmother, Matilda, tell about her life in Missouri and crossing the plains with her parents in a covered wagon. After Florence got her grandmother to write down what she remembered about the Melson family, she continued to add to her knowledge. Every year, she sent my Mother an update. Later she redrew her charts and sent them to me when I began my research. Eugene and Florence had two daughters:
Marjorie Florence Bessac, born Sep. 9, 1923. She became Sister Marie de Loudres, a Dominican Nun.
Josephine (Anah) Bessac, born Jun 24, 1926. She married Richard Denny Landon, born Feb 2, 1926 in Modesto, CA. Richard served as a Naval Officer in World War II. They live in Riverbank, CA, where he has several apparel stores. Their children are:
Diana Lynn Jackson, born 1952. They have three children.
Stuart Eugene Landon, born Apr 18, 1958, married Stanlee Stanovich, c. 1981, they have two children.

Herbert Stuart Wilson, their second son, born & died 1904.

Thomas Herbert Wilson, the third child, born Nov. 9, 1906, married Esther Rouff born Jun. 6, 1910. Their daughter is Ellen Joane Wilson.

Ernest Wilson, the third son of Thomas and Matilda Wilson, was born in Salem, OR, Aug. 4, 1876, died Feb. 22, 1968, San Francisco, CA. He entered Stanford Univ. To earn his way, he worked as a candymaker. By the time he graduated, he owned his own store in Palo Alto. From this start, he built a chain of candy stores and restaurants throughout central California. The slogan for these was "Candy with a College Education." His first wife was Bertha Notemeier, born on Jun 14, 1871, died Apr 26, 1963 (Ref. 150). Their children were:
Ernest Howard Wilson, born Aug. 15, 1904, married Margaret Von Alt, born Jan. 30, 1907, on Jun. 6, 1926. Their children were:
Margaret Louise Wilson, born May 29, 1929, married Vern C. Olson.
Gerry Edward Wilson, born 1939, married Victoria Ann Carty, Nov. 8, 1968, divorced the same year (Ref. 158).
Ernest and Bertha's Wilson's other son was Carl Robert Wilson (Ref. 150). Ernest and Bertha were divorced in 1943, he moved to San Francisco while she remained in Palo Alto, CA until her death. Ernest remarried. His second wife was Marguerite C. Koughn. (Ref. 150).

Edna Wilson was the fourth child of Thomas and Matilda Melson Wilson. She was born c1870, died Nov. 8, 1954. She married Abner D. Downey, who taught Chemistry at the Fresno Senior High School, Fresno, CA. Additionally, A.D., as he was known, had grape farms near Selma, CA. They had one daughter, Margaret Downey, born Jul. 31, 1915 at Fresno, CA. Margaret married William S. Best, born May 27, 1909, died 1986, in 1940. He was in the petroleum business retiring as a Vice-President, Standard Oil Company of California.

Their children are:
- William S. Best, Jr., born Aug. 8, 1946.

After retiring, William and Margaret moved to 8049 Chardonnay St., San Jose, CA. William died in 1987.

Mary Susan Melson was the fifth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson. She was born in Shelby County, MO., Mar. 22, 1851, died Jul. 30, 1902 at Salem, Oregon. She married Thomas Luther Davidson, born in 1834 in Tennessee, at Salem, Oregon. Thomas and a brother had crossed the plains to Oregon in a buggy carrying $10,000 in silver pieces in a box under the seat of the buggy. In Salem, Thomas soon established himself as a prominent farmer. His Indian Hills Farm, just south of the Salem City Line along the banks of Mill Creek was a showplace. The house was built on a small hill overlooking a former camping spot of the Chemeketa Indians. As a young lad, I used to happily search this camp site for arrowheads and other abandoned trinkets where the village stood. Thomas Luther and Mary Susan Davidson had three children:
- Julia Davidson, born 1876, died Feb. 2, 1882 from diptheria.
- Lester Davidson, died as a child.
- Thomas Leon Davidson, born Jul. 14, 1882, died Jan. 11, 1943. He married Jul. 14, 1903, Jessie M. Riddell, born Jun. 13, 1884, died 1979. Their children were:
  - Leone Riddell Davidson, born May 11, 1911, married Lawrence Osterman, May 1, 1935. Lawrence was a Lawyer, practicing first in McMinnville, and later in Salem, Oregon. Their daughter is Larry Lou Osterman, born c1937. Larry-Lou's first husband was David McCloskey. They were married in 1958, divorced in 1972. Her second husband is Ira Dennison, they were married in 1972 and live in Bellevue, WA, where he is a general contractor. Larry-Lou has no children. (Ref. 160)
- Leone lives in Salem, Oregon.

America Melson was the sixth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson, she was born May 19, 1854, died Sep. 14, 1854. (Ref. 150).

Sarah Emma Melson was the seventh child of Sampson and Juliann Melson, born in Shelby County, MO. on Nov. 10, 1855, died at Salem, Oregon May 26, 1924. She married Lucian B. Plants, a merchant in Milton-Freewater, OR. They had two sons,
Herbert Kent, Mar. 31, 1934. He was a graduate of the Univ. of Calif. Optometry School and established his practice in Fresno. Herbert and Dorothy had one daughter, Patricia Kent, born 16 Jan. 1938. Patricia married Robert Smayda, 4 Jan. 1964. Robert is a Social Service Administrator for Contra Coast County, CA. They have two sons, Anthony Kent Smayda, born 13 Jan. 1967, and Alex Lucas Smayda, born 23 Dec. 1968. Robert and Patricia live at 19 Blade Way, Walnut Creek, CA (Ref. 161). After Patricia's birth, Dorothy began to develop symptoms of a mental illness and drifted away from her family. She and Herbert were ultimately divorced.

Paul Plants, the second son of Lucian B. and Sarah Emma Plants, was born c. 1888, died 1919, a victim of the flu epidemic that raged that year. He left one son, Melvin Plants, born 1918, who lives in Milton-Freewater, OR (Ref. 162).

Martha Josephine Melson, the eighth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson, was born in Shelby County, MO, 9 Apr. 1858, died 2 Nov. 1952 at Portland, OR. Josephine married Samuel Parker Garrigues, born 3 Jan 1849 in Delaware County, PA. He was a great-grandson of Samuel Parker and Sarah Garrigues, and a grandson of Samuel Parker Garrigues, born 28 Nov. 1793, died 18 Aug 1835, and Lacy Davis, born 13 Sep 1794, died 18 Aug 1866. She was a daughter of Benjamin and Frances Davis. Samuel's father was Benjamin D. Garrigues, born 12 Nov. 1817, died 10 Feb. 1858 and Sarah M. Peirce, born 8 Dec. 1823, died 28 Apr. 1903. Samuel left the home of an uncle who raised him after his father's death at Limaville, Stark County, OH and emigrated to Heppner, OR in 1872. He became a leading merchant and was the First County Clerk for Morrow County, OR. After his retirement for reasons of health, he and Josephine moved to Portland in 1915 where he died 24 May 1917 (Ref. 182). Their sons were:

Percival M. Garrigues, born 1878, died Apr. 17, 1933. Percy grew up in Heppner and learned the theater business working in his father's theater. Later he operated movie houses throughout the Pacific Northwest. He was survived by his wife and a step-daughter. (Ref. 162).

Walter Garrigues, born 1880, died as a child at Heppner, OR. (Ref. 162). Park Garrigues employed my grandfather, Asbury Melson, for many years both as a stockman and in his sawmill. When the Great Flood of Jun 14, 1903 struck Heppner, one story remaining from this experience is told in "Homesteads and Heritages, A History of Morrow County, Oregon," Giles French, Binford & Mort, Portland, OR. 1971. At the height of the flood, Park, who had been away from town struggled to the top of his Opera House and from there jumped into three feet of water and waded across the street to his house, where Great-aunt Jose was standing waiting for him with outstretched arms. After Park's death, Great-aunt Jose remained in her Portland home until her death. She left my sister, Evelyn, almost all of her possessions from her days in Heppner. Evelyn arranged with the Morrow County Museum for a Garrigues Display based on what Great-aunt Jose had left her.

Ella Belle Melson, the ninth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson, was born in Shelby County, MO, Oct. 30. 1860, died Nov. 2, 1936 at San Jose, CA. She married Frank D. McDowell, born Aug. 6, 1855, a son of early pioneers to Salem, on Dec. 29, 1881 (Ref. 155). Frank and Ella never had any children. He was a skilled jeweler and invented the gauge used by jewelers to measure the size of a ring. The first made out of silver is in the possession of my sister, Mrs. Ruth Melson Duncan, 608 Greenwood Drive NE, Salem, Oregon, 97303. Frank died Apr. 3, 1889. Ella, who had a marvelous voice, went to New York City after his death and studied music at the New York Conservatory of Music. During this period of time, she also visited her cousins, the children of her aunt, Milly Melson Cord. On her return to the west coast, she settled in San Jose, CA, where she devoted the remainder of her life teaching voice and music. (Ref. 162). She and her husband are buried in the McDowell Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.

Benjamin Melson was the tenth child of Sampson and Juliann Melson. He was born Feb. 16, 1864 and was carried across the country by his mother riding a
Bennie never married, he became a sailor and spent his life at sea, usually as a cook. He would return to Salem to visit his relatives. Whenever he came, he would bring exotic gifts from foreign countries. He gave Mother an exquisite tapa cloth from the Fiji Islands, which my sister, Ruth, treasures today. I recall some of his visits as he always brought candy for the small members of the family. He died at a hospital in Stockton, CA. in 1930. (Ref.162).

Albert Jason Melson, the eleventh child of Sampson and Juliann Melson, was the only child born at Salem, Oregon. He was born Jan. 24, 1870, died Aug. 31, 1870. He lies with his parents in the Melson Plot, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon. (Ref.162).

Mary Amanda Gibson, who married James Asbury Melson, the oldest living son of Sampson and Juliann Melson, was born Oct. 31, 1860, in Petersburg, Illinois. Her parents were Benjamin N. Gibson and Amanda Marsh. Benjamin N. Gibson was born in Virginia in 1818. Benjamin Gibson left Virginia and settled in Illinois, where he plied the trade of a Tinsmith and a Farmer. Benjamin married Amanda Marsh, born c1824, died c1869. She was a daughter of Walter and Louisa Marsh. Benjamin and Amanda Gibson had five children:

- Leila Gibson, born 1850.
- Elizabeth S. Gibson, born 1853.
- Benjamin M. Gibson, born 1859.
- Mary Amanda Gibson, born Oct. 31, 1860.
- Joseph Lincoln Gibson, born May 25, 1865.

Benjamin Gibson moved frequently around the Springfield-Petersburg, Illinois region. Just where they lived at any given time is not well documented. Grandmother once mentioned they lived for awhile on a houseboat on the Mississippi River. Amanda Marsh Gibson died a few years after the birth of their youngest child as she is not shown as being alive when the 1870 Census was taken. Benjamin died about 1877 as that is the year Mary Amanda and her brother Joseph Lincoln were sent west to live with their aunt, Mary Marsh Cason in Heppner, OR. (Ref.162).

Mary Amanda Gibson in recalling her memories of life in Illinois always spoke of the friendship between her parents and a budding lawyer in Petersburg, Illinois named Abraham Lincoln. She recalls how Abe Lincoln used to hold her on his knee when he visited them. She had an autographed photo of Abraham Lincoln, that Lincoln gave her parents when he left Petersburg to assume the presidency of the United States. After her father died, she and her younger brother were sent to live with her aunt in Heppner, OR. She was seventeen at the time and Joe was twelve. They probably took the train to Rock Springs, Wyoming, then a stage coach onto Heppner.

Mary Marsh Cason was a daughter of Walter and Louisa Marsh and a younger sister of Amanda Marsh Gibson. Her parents were natives of Vermont. Walter Marsh and his wife, Louisa, were born sometime between 1790 and 1800. They left Vermont sometime around 1830 to settle in the Springfield-Petersburg area of Illinois, where he farmed. Their children were:

- Marsh, born 1810/1820, married a Lyman, had one son, Alba, born c1840, died c1857. (Ref.163).
- Amanda Marsh, born c1824, died c1869, married Benjamin N. Gibson. (Ref.164).
- Lucius Marsh, born c1829, died c1849. (Ref.165).
- Mary E. Marsh, Oct. 8, 1836, died 1907, married James F. Cason. (Ref.165).

The story of Walter and Louisa Marsh and their daughter, Mary E. Marsh has tragic moments and is best told in Mary Marsh's personal recollections of her childhood.
MARY MARSH CASON'S STORY
OF THE
WHITMAN MASSACRE

'I was born in Springfield, Illinois (Sangamon County) in the year 1836 (October 8th). Soon after my birth, my father moved from Springfield and opened a farm in the big bend of the Sangamon River. We lived there until 1847 when there was a big rush for the Oregon Territory. My father sold out, so in April 1847—Father, Mother, Brother and I started for Oregon, overland, a journey of nearly 3000 miles. It would take about six months to make the trip. A person that has never made such a journey cannot imagine the trials and hardships that they had to endure. I, myself, cannot realize them for I was too young. It was more of a pleasure trip to me. I can't remember many of the different places we passed, although I do remember Independence Rock. It was a very large rock—nearly as large as one of the small hills we see here. I went upon it and saw a great number of names and dates carved upon it. One or two long drives were made, driving day and night to reach water. When the Snake River was reached, there was trouble crossing. The wagon beds had to be propped up high. One wagon and team got into deep water and floated down stream. My father would not let me stay in the wagon but took me on a horse with him across the river—guided by an Indian. Before we got to Bear River, my Dear Mother took sick and before we reached Soda Springs—just a short distance beyond, she died. We had to bury her there on the lonely plain, no coffin to lay her in, not even a rude box—just wrapped in her bed. It was awful and a great many others suffered the same fate. We journeyed on until we reached Dr. Whitman's Missionary Station in October. Father, being tired of travel, concluded to stop there until spring—then onto the Willamette Valley. He got employment from the Doctor.

It was the 29th of November, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon that the Indians broke out and murdered the Doctor and Mrs. Whitman and eight others. Six families were living in an adobe house not far from the Doctor's house. Father and I occupied an upper room where we cooked our meals and slept. He had just come in and had his dinner, his last dinner, and had gone to work—attending the grist mill. That was the last time I ever saw my poor dear father.

I was washing dishes when I heard the report of a gun. It was the gun that killed Gillion, the tailor. He was doing some sewing of some kind when an Indian stood in the door and shot him. At the same time the horrible work was going on outside. I and some others went upstairs where we could look from a window and see the conflict near the Doctor's house. Three or four men were butchering a beef there. I saw them engaged with quite a number of Indians. Mr. Kimball was dealing hard with several, he had an axe to fight with. He fought desperately for awhile but they killed him at last. I saw Mr. Hall chased by an Indian with an uplifted tomahawk (the Indian was on a horse), but Mr. Hall made his escape. Meanwhile Mrs. Whitman had barred the doors and windows to keep them out of the house—but they broke in anyway. I saw them break into the house, led by Joe Louis, the instigator of the trouble. There they finished their bloody work for that day. Mr. Sails and Beverley were sick and were not killed that day. A week later they were killed in their beds. Afterwards, I saw Beverley laying outside of the house with his head almost torn from his body. He laid there all night. All of the dead bodies were buried in one grave by four men who were not killed—Elam Young, his two sons, and Mr. Smith. When the Indians killed the two sick men, I was so frightened I ran to an Indian for protection—one who claimed to be friendly.
After the horrible work was done there were nearly 50 widows and orphans in
captivity - expecting anytime to share the same fate as the others, but we
were spared - only to endure the fear, suspense and cruel treatment that an
Indian is capable of inflicting. For one month the prisoners were kept well
guarded and made to work. One old fellow put me to knitting his a pair of
long legged socks. I got one nearly made when Governor Ogden, of the Hudson
Bay Co. came to our relief, and bought us from the heathens and took us away. We
went in wagons to Fort Wallula. The first day there we were put in batteaux
and started down the river. The batteaux were open boats with a canvas spread
over the top to keep the rain out. Whenever a head showed up the Governor
would holler 'duck that head.' I, for one, suffered with the cold and I suppose
the others did too, for we were scant of clothing.

When we reached The Dalles the Volunteers were there. My brother was one
of them as he had gone down the river to the Valley in the fall. We journeyed
don down the Columbia and up the Willamette to Oregon City. There were turned
loose, with thankful hearts that we had escaped the merciless foe. Most of the
children had their Mothers, but I was entirely alone among strangers, my
brother being with the volunteers, so I was left among perfect strangers. You
know how an orphan would fare, they are not wanted any longer. In 1849, my
brother went to California, but before he left he found me a home with Mrs. A. L.
Lovejoy, who was very careful on my welfare. There I remained until I was married
to James F. Cason, son of F. C. Cason, who crossed the plains in '43.

When we arrived in Oregon City a lady gave me a piece of bread and molasses.
I did enjoy it for bread was not plentiful those days. There was plenty
of salmon and sometimes boiled wheat for a change.

I do not know how many survivors of that massacre are living that are as
old as I am. I have a picture of Doctor Whitman's buildings and of the neglect-
ed grave, in which he and the others are buried.

Signed
Mrs. Mary E. Marsh Cason'

Note I do not know how old Grandmother was when she wrote this - believe it
was shortly before her death in 1907, at which time she was 71.

Signed
Florence Cason Spurlock.

Mrs. Spurlock wrote this letter to Roy S. Melson on 22 Oct. 1936.

Mary E. Marsh, the daughter of Walter and Louisa Marsh, was a maternal aunt
of Mary Amanda and Joseph Lincoln Gibson. Both were sent west in 1877 after
their parents had died to live with her. Mary Amanda Gibson met James Asbury
Melson while living with her aunt near Heppner, Oregon.

"WAILILATPU" the Whitman Mission was burned by the Indians that attacked
the settlement. The reasons for the attack vary according to the bias of the
writer. Economic, religious and fear of illnesses brought into the area by the
settlers to which the Indians had no immunity were among the reasons for the
massacre. Possibly despite these problems, the attack was made simply due to
the jealousy of the instigator, Joe Louis, and his desire for loot. Peter Skene
Ogden, the Factor of the Hudson Bay Company Post at Vancouver, raced to the
The Whitman Mission showing (1) Mill; (2) Mansion House; (3) Blacksmith Shop; (4) The Mission House. The mission house erected in 1836 was near the mouth of Mill Creek, and near the Walla Walla River.

This photograph of the Whitman Mission taken from an article in the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine for May 1967 shows the relative location of the buildings at the mission. Mary Marsh would have been in the house labeled as '2' in the photograph. Her father, Walter Marsh, had gone to the Grist Mill, shown as '1', when the Nez Perce attack began.
Indian camp to which the captives had been taken after the massacre and brilliantly negotiated for their release. Dividing the amount of ransom paid for each prisoner, we might say the Hudson Bay Company bought back Mary Marsh for four Hudson Bay blankets. When the Oregon Volunteers reached the site of the mission, little remained. The bones of the slain missionaries and helpers at the mission that had hurriedly been buried by the Youngs had been scratched up and dragged to the surface by wolves and other predators. The Volunteers of which Lucius Marsh had joined and whose name is listed in the muster rolls, re-buried the remains of the victims and returned home.

Lucius Marsh in 1849, after placing his sister with Mrs. A.L. Lovejoy, left for the gold fields of California and was never heard from again. He must have perished searching for gold.

Mary Marsh didn't mention his name in her narrative, but with her parents and brother on the wagon trip across the plains was a grandson of the Marshs. This was Alba Lyman, who had been orphaned in Illinois, Alba was also rescued by Gov. Ogden and taken to Oregon City, where he died in 1857. A reference to him is found in R.J. Hendrick's column, the OREGON STATESMAN, Salem, OR. 25 Dec. 1936.

Mrs. Elizabeth McGary Lovejoy and her husband, Asa Lawrence Lovejoy, who kindly agreed to care for Mary Marsh when her brother left for the California gold fields, were among the earliest settlers in Oregon City arriving in 1842. Asa Lawrence Lovejoy was born in Massachusetts, 14 March 1808. He was a graduate of Amherst College and was the first lawyer to practice in Oregon. Asa was elected to the Legislative Committee of the First Provisional Government of the Oregon Territory, 14 May 1844. He was chosen to become a member of the Legislature on 4 June 1845 for Clackamas County, of which Oregon City was the County Seat, he lost the election to become the First Governor of the Provisional Territory by 536 to 520 on 3 June 1847. He was elected 6 June 1849 to be a Representative for Clackamas County in the Territorial Government.

In 1844, along with William Overton, Asa filed a claim for land fronting along the Willamette River, down stream from Oregon City with excellent frontage for berthing ships. Overton soon sold his share of this claim to Francis Pettygrove. Lovejoy and Pettygrove cleared four streets and 16 blocks of land and platted it to begin a city. To chose a name for this new city, they flipped a coin to determine if it should be Boston as Lovejoy wanted or Portland which Pettygrove desired as he was from Maine. Pettygrove won and the city is now Portland, Oregon.

The Lovejoys remained residents of Oregon City throughout their lives. They had five children of their own. Asa died 11 Sep. 1882 and is buried in the Lone Fir Cemetery, SE 26th and Morrison Sts, Portland, Oregon.

The Lovejoys raised Mary Marsh. She met James P. Cason, a son of Fendal C. Cason. Fendal has emigrated to Oregon from Richmond, Virginia, settling near Oregon City in 1843. F.C. Cason married Rebecca R. Holiday, they had 8 children. He was the first State Treasurer of the Oregon Territorial Government.

When Mary Amanda Gibson and her brother went west to live with their aunt, Mary Marsh Cason, Mary arranged for Molly (Mary Gibson) to live for two years with the Lovejoys. It was during this period she and James Asbury Melson were married at Oregon City on 22 Jul. 1879.

The information about the Lovejoy family, who played such a prominent role in the lives of my paternal grandmother and her aunt, was excerpted from 'HISTORY OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY,' H.O. Lang, Himes and Lang, Portland, Oregon, 1885, and 'in search of WESTERN OREGON,' Ralph Friedman, The Caxton Printers Inc, Caldwell, Idaho, 1990.
The Whitman massacre was almost forgotten by the nation until the newly organized National Park Service designated it as a National Monument. A marker was erected, and a slab engraved with the names of the victims was placed over the common grave. Unfortunately at the time the slab was prepared, the Park Authority failed to trace Mary Marsh Cason and find out her father's first name. He was listed on the slab only as 'MARSH.' For many years after this omission was noticed, my father tried to get the Park Service to correct the mistake so it would read properly, 'Walter Marsh.' Despite the lip service he received from the authorities and historians together with sending them a copy of his great-aunt's story, all requests were ignored. A partial explanation might be found in a book 'SHALLOW GRAVE AT WAIALAPU,' Erwin N. Thompson, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, 1969. This book recounted the saga of the Sager family daughters at the massacre. It gave no credit or mention to Mary Marsh Cason. Thompson was for years with the National Park Service at Wailapu. His failure to acknowledge Mary Cason's story is incomprehensible. The book about the Sagers does contain a sketch of the location of the buildings mentioned by Mary Marsh Cason. This, alone, makes the book worthwhile reading, if for no other reason.

James Asbury and Mary Amanda Gibson Melson began their married life in the Heppner, Oregon region. They lived during those first years on ranches. Chapter Four lists their five children. Asbury was a stockman before they settled in Salem, OR. My father's career is sketched in Chapter Five. His sister, Etta May Melson grew up in Salem, OR. She graduated from Salem High School in the same class as my mother, 1907. She married George Earl Eyre in 1911. He was a prosperous farmer. George became interested in Canadian lands at the onset of World War I when farmers were encouraged to produce more grain for the British war effort. He purchased several tracts of unbroken prairie land near Lumsden, Saskatchewan, north-west of Regina. George moved his family to Lumsden in 1915. George and Etta's first son, Robert Earl Eyre was born in Salem, Oregon 3 July 1912 (Ref. 145). Their second son, Ralph Melson Eyre was born at Lumsden, Sask., 16 April 1916 (Ref. 145). After World War I ended, the newly broken grain lands of Canada lost their attractiveness. The Eyres returned to Salem, OR a few months after we did, 1919. Uncle George made frequent trips to Lumsden to settle his financial affairs there. He died tragically in a train accident in 1922. Aunt Etta and Grandmother, who had lived with her daughter constantly after the death of grandfather, lived in a home on N. 17th St., Salem, OR. until Grandmother died, 20 Aug. 1940 (Ref. 145). Years later, Etta married Charles Harris, the father of her son Robert's wife, Fern. Etta and Charles lived on S. Judson Street, Salem, OR. until their deaths. Etta on 7 Aug. 1960 (Ref. 145) and Charles in 1962.

Robert Earl Eyre, the first son of George and Etta Melson Eyre, graduated from Salem High School in June 1930 and attended Willamette University for two years. He married Fern Harris, 15 Dec. 1933 in Salem, OR. Bob entered the heavy construction business, first with the Henry Kaiser Corp. at the Grand Coulee Dam, Washington, then at the Mud Mountain Dam near Tacoma, WA. When World War II drew the United States into its maw, Bob was selected to help organize the Oregon Shipbuilding Co. at Portland, OR. When the shipyard opened, he was designated as the Master Rigger and worked in that capacity until the shipyard was closed after the end of WWII. He then spent awhile operating his own construction company before returning to heavy construction as a Supervisor for the Halverson Company constructing a water supply tunnel for Santa Barbara, CA. When this was completed, Bob and Fern decided to stay in Santa Barbara. He joined a local construction concern as its Planner-Estimator,
Later he became the Maintenance Engineer, Santa Barbara City College. He retired in 1985. Bob and Fern live at 775 Oak Grove Drive, Montecito, Santa Barbara, CA in a house they designed and built by themselves. Fern for the past several years has been active in the Republican Women's Club of Santa Barbara. Bob and Fern had two children:

Virginia Jeanne Eyre, born 1935, she graduated from the University of California-Santa Barbara in 1955. She married Robert McConville of Salem, OR. He was a Naval Aviator, then graduated from the Willamette University Law School. After practicing law in Salem, he was appointed a Judge of Marion County Circuit Court. Virginia taught school in Salem for many years before becoming a Professor of English at Chemeketa Community College. They have two children: Anne and James (Ref. 76).

George Earl Eyre, born in 1938. He was a superb athlete and drowned while practicing swimming in the pool at the Santa Barbara Swimming Club in 1955 (Ref. 76).

Bob died 3 May 1996 after a fatal stroke (Ref. 188).

Ralph Melson Eyre, the second child of George Earl and Etta Melson Eyre, born 16 April 1916, Lumsden, Sask, Canada, died 15 May 1992, Salem, OR. He grew up in Salem, and graduated from Salem High School in 1934. He joined the R L Elfstrom Co. It specialized in construction materials and became its President. In the 1940's, he bought the company and expanded it to include heavy construction in the western USA. He married Nellie Carter, a high school classmate. Upon his retirement in the 1970's, he bought and built many investment properties in Salem, which he managed until his death. They lived at 1095 Waller St S, Salem, OR 97302. Their three children were:

Roberta Eyre, born 1940, married David Eaton, a career naval officer. After retirement, he was a Communication Advisor. He died 28 Aug, 1992. She lives in Salem, Oregon.

Franklin Earl Eyre, born 1942, lives with his wife, Barbara, in Klamath Falls, OR, where they own a printing shop.

Ralph Melson Eyre, Jr., born 1944, was a partner with his father for years. He now is a rancher near Baker City, Oregon.

Mary Marsh Cason, the maternal aunt of Mary Amanda Gibson Melson, and her husband, James Pulliam Cason, born 1832, died c1910, married 24 Dec 1853, lived for many years on a wheat farm at Schulters Flats on Lower Willow Creek, downstream from Ione, OR. They had eight children: Eliza Cason, born c1855, died c1860; Charles Cason, born 25 Feb 1857, died 6 Aug 1931; married Caroline Hale born 16 Mar 1862, died 1958; Lettie Cason, born c1858, died c1860; Walter Cason, born Aug 1864, died 1932; John Benton Cason, born 28 Dec 1865, died 28 Jul 1932; married 18 Aug 1895; Ada Templeton, born 3 Jul 1867, died 22 Aug 1961; Isabella Cason, born 1871; James Franklin Cason, born 1877; Ada Mabel Cason, born 31 Oct 1880, died after 1951, married Aaron Templeton (Ref. 183).

Ada Cason Templeton corresponded with my father in 1951, but Dad was too ill to maintain correspondence with her. At that time she was living with her daughter Pat Templeton Scribner. A grandson was Dr. James T. Templeton, a graduate of Whitman College in 1950 and a Professor of Zoology, University of Montana. He died in May 1973 of cancer. (Ref. 169).
Florence Cason Spurlock, who sent a copy of her grandmother's story to my father, was a daughter of John Cason. She was born 22 Apr 1906, died 9 Oct 1945 (Ref. 183). She married Milton Spurlock, 12 May 1929. Milton Spurlock, at the time Florence sent Dad the copy of Mary Marsh Cason's story, was with the Oregon State Highway Department at Pilot Rock, Oregon.

Joseph Lincoln Gibson, the youngest child of Benjamin and Amanda Marsh Gibson, was sent west with his sister, Mary Amanda Gibson in 1877 to live with his maternal aunt, Mary Marsh Cason, at Heppner, Oregon. He became a barber and owned a shop in Lexington, Oregon, a few miles north of Heppner. He married Minnie Summers, a daughter of the owners of the Lexington Hotel Eli and Rhoda King Summers her parents objections. Their daughter, Bertha Summers Gibson, was born 31 Jan 1889 (Ref. 166). Within a month of the birth of her daughter, Minnie Summers Gibson died. Rhoda King Summers immediately claimed the infant and overrode all objections of Joseph Gibson to get his daughter back and raised Bertha as her own. Joseph eventually left Lexington and opened a barbershop in Portland, OR. He remarried. His second wife was Bertha Yount. They had two children: Nina Gibson, who married H.E. Roberts and settled in Arroyo Grande, CA., and Norman Gibson who died in the Philippines. In 1925, Joseph retired from work and moved to Arroyo Grande, CA. to live near their daughter. Bertha Yount Gibson died in 1929, and Joseph on 19 May, 1930 (Ref. 166).

Bertha Summers Gibson grew up in Lexington and married Harry Dinges, born 26 Aug. 1890 in Lorane, OR. on 5 Oct. 1913. Bertha and Harry Dinges lived sixty years in Lexington before moving to Grants Pass, OR. They had two children:

Dan Dinges who grew up in Lexington. After returning to Oregon after the end of WWII, he joined the United States National Bank in Portland, OR. and retired as its Executive Vice-President. He then became an investment advisor. He married Jessie Durston. They live in Beaverton, OR. with their children; Dan. Jr. who died in 1950, John, Nancy and Andrew (Ref. 166).

Ruth Dinges who married an Acklen. She and her husband moved from Lexington to Grants Pass, OR. Ruth still lives there (Ref. 166).

Harry and Bertha Gibson Dinges moved to Grants Pass to be near their daughter and her family. Harry Dinges died 16 Feb. 1962, and Bertha Dinges died 15 Jun. 1970. (Ref. 166).
Samuel Jackson believed to have been a native of Shellands, Suffolk, England, was first mentioned in Nugent's "Cavaliers and Pioneers, 1623-1666," as having landed in Northampton County, Virginia as an indentured servant to William Colebourne (Coulbourne) in 1660. Colebourne was, although never listed as one, friendly to the Quakers. After years of religious disagreements with the Colony of Virginia decided to emigrate to the then newly organized Somerset County, Maryland, where religious freedom was accepted. Maryland Land Records, Liber 6 folio 581 dated 16 Aug 1661 showed Colebourne was granted a Warrant to lay out a tract of four hundred acres, using his rights of 50 acres of land each for himself, his wife, Ann, son son, William, Sam Jackson and John Rensha. William Colebourne returned after filing this Warrant to Northampton County, VA, apparently leaving Sam Jackson in Somerset County, MD. Colebourne finally moved to Maryland sometime between October 1663 and 27 Jan 1663/4, when his son, Solomon, was born. The Colebourne tracts of 1400 acres were located on the south side of the Big Annamessex River between Jones Creek on the south and Colebourne Creek on the north, at the mouth of the river.

When his indenture to William Colebourne expired, c1665, Samuel Jackson went north and selected land in what was then known as the Nanticoke Hundred of Somerset County, MD. His first tract was LONG HILL. The Warrant for this (MD. Land Records, Liber 11 folio 462) was granted 22 July 1668 on Watapcuen (Wetipquin) Creek, which is a tributary of the Nanticoke River, for 200 acres. His second tract was RUNSELL on Tipkewan (Tyaskin) Creek and its branch, Jackson Creek, for 100 acres. His third tract was DANBURY, on Quantico Creek, for 300 acres (MD Land Records Liber 17 folio 445). For some reason, he did not use his right to 50 acres of free land until 1671 (Microfilm WK 22-23 Liber 16 folio 536, 2 Nov 1671, Somerset County—Samuel Jackson proved his right to fifty acres of land finishing his Services in this Province). In 1677, he purchased from Roger and Dorothy Phillips 100 acres of their Patent for ABERCAYVENY, also on the south side of Quantico Creek. This became his home plantation. All his tracts lay along navigable streams, so the tobacco and other products he produced for market could be loaded directly onto boats and barges for transportation along the Chesapeake Bay or onto Great Britain. Tobacco was the principal crop during this period of time for the planters of Maryland.

Samuel Jackson and Mrs. Ann Clarke were married c1674 by Robert Madock. ("Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, 1648-1725," F. Edward Wright, Family Line Publications, 1982). Samuel and Ann Clarke Jackson had several children, their daughter Susanna was born 28 Nov 1674 at Wicocomoco; Mary Jackson, 27 Jun, 1677; Jonathan Jackson, 11 Dec. 1679; Samuel Jackson, 22 Mar, 1681. Ann Clarke had one son at the time they were married. In his will drawn 11 Mar 1687 and filed for probate 20 Oct 1688, he willed:

- to oldest son Jonathan Jackson 100 acres ABERGANI, 100 acres SMALL LOTT ABERGANI during her widowhood, otherwise to Jonathan when 17 years, all land north of Chiccone Branch at age 17 years.
- 2 horses and one mare, share equally
- one cow Blossom and calf the first mare
- cow called London & her female calves
cow called Lovely and her female calves
- one heifer
Jonathan Jackson, the oldest son of Samuel and Ann Jackson, was born 11 Dec. 1679. Like his father, Samuel, he became a planter along Quantico Creek in Somerset County. He had been bequeathed two tracts ABERGANI or ABERGAVENY and SMALL LOTT by his father. Jonathan married Rachel Atkinson, a daughter of James and Patience Atkinson. Patience was a daughter of John and Margaret Higaman of Northampton County, VA. James had settled in Somerset County where he practiced the trade of Cooper. When James died, in his will drawn 20 April 1717 and filed for probate 21 Nov. 1721, he bequeathed:

- to wife Patience Extr. dwelling plantations during life, at her decease to pass 100 acres of COOPER'S PUNKIN to son Samuel and hrs. Personal estate absolutely excepting legacies as follows:
- sons John, Isaac (at age 21), Joshua, Angolow (when of age), and daus Rachel Jackson, Thamar and Backster (at age 10) personality.
- son Isaac and hrs 70 acres
- sons Joshua and Angolow and hrs 250 acres of PETER HALL, near plantation of Edward Jones.
- should wife marry, sons to be of age at 18, otherwise at age 21.

Test: Jeremiah Morris, Eleanor Morris, Dunnock Dennis.
Note: 22nd Nov. 1721, within named Patience Atkinson claims her thirds.

(A copy of the Inventory of James Atkinson's Estate is shown on page 12-25).

Jonathan Jackson's will was filed for probate 24 Dec. 1741, (Somerset County Wills Liber EB folios 219-220). In his will, he bequeathed:

- to son Joshua Jackson WARWICK 100 acres
- Lower part of WARINGTON, if no issue to be granted his brother, Samuel Jackson.
- son Samuel Jackson Upper part of WARINGTON including house and orchard, if no issue to revert to brother Joshua.

Joshua Jackson in his capacity as Executor for his father's estate, filed a Final Accounting (Somerset County Accounts Liber 19 folio 329, 1st Jan. 1742).

An extract from this submission reads:
"PAID Hannah Jackson in full for her part of her father's estate as by receipt in full appears 3 1 5/2. The Accounting continued, listing as the youngest children:
David
Isaac
James
Esther
Samuel"
Joshua Jackson, the oldest son of Jonathan and Rachel Jackson farmed the lands his father left him. He served as a soldier in the French and Indian War. His wife's name was Sarah. Joshua's will was drawn 14 Feb. 1764 and filed for probate 2 April 1764. He bequeathed:

- to daughter Rachel Donaho one negro boy Jacob and one shilling
- Brother Samuell Jackson negro girl Turthana and his equal part of the estate
- wife Sarah
- son John Jackson
- dau Surfiah Jackson
- sons George, Elihu, William
- Executrix wife Sarah

WARINGTON, the tract of Joshua Jackson's father, which was divided at Jonathan's death, between Joshua and Samuell, was sold 14 Jan. 1745 along with WARWICK, 100 acres, to John Leatherbury, shipwright of Accomack County, VA. (Somerset County, MD Land Records Liber X#1 folio 183).

The Inventory of Joshua Jackson's estate is found in Somerset County Records and are shown on pages 12-23 and 12-24.

Thomas Jackson, the second son of Jonathan and Rachel Jackson, born c1710, had been given before his father's death a tract named CHANCE. This land was deeded to him in exchange for 5 shillings. The 100 acres of this tract had been formed from portions of earlier tracts ABERGANIE and SMALL LOTT, and lay on the south side of Quantico Creek in Somerset County (Somerset County, MD Land Records Liber MF#Y folio 8, 4th Oct. 1738). Thomas also acquired the tract DANBURY which his grandfather, Samuel Jackson, had patented 4 Feb. 1673, 300 acres. In 1678, Samuel had willed this tract to his sons, Samuel and Daniel. How it fell into Thomas's hands is not indicated. However on 19 Oct. 1749 for 47 Shillings Gold, Thomas sold it to Thomas Gillis, the Recorder for Somerset County.

Thomas Jackson married Sarah Humphris (Humphreys) on 7 Oct. 1735 ((Stepney Parish Vestry Records). On 14 Jan. 1745, Thomas and Sarah sold to John Leatherbury their tract CHANCE for 40 Pounds (Somerset County, MD Land Records Liber X#1 folio 184). This transaction was made the same day Thomas's older brother, Joshua, sold WARWICK and his moiety of WARRINGTON to the same John Leatherbury. Both Thomas and Sarah signed this deed in their own handwriting. Thomas and Sarah had three daughters;

- Mary Jackson born 22 June 1736
- Betty Jackson born 20 June 1738 and

Samuel Jackson, the youngest son of Jonathan and Rachel Jackson, lived along Quantico Creek, Nanticoke Hundred, Somerset County, MD. He married Patience c1763. He farmed the land inherited from his father. Their children were: Jonathan, married Polly; Ellenor, married a Bennett; Nancy, married a Mitchell; Rachel, married a Leatherbury, and Priscilla, married a Cox. (The Samuel Jackson family lineage is found in the Bible of George Decatur Jackson in the possession of Mrs. Norris Burwick Downing, the mother of M. Catherine Downing Holcombe, Milford, DE.)

Nothing is known about the other children of Jonathan and Rachel Jackson—Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaac, James and Esther.
Daniel Melson Sr(I) the son of John Melson II and Mary Smith, married Mary Cary, a daughter of Solomon Cary (Ref. 3 to Chap. 3). Their second son was John Melson, born c1733, in Accomack County, VA, and grew up in the Wicomico Hundred, Worcester County, MD. In c1755, he married Hannah ____ (Ref. 65).

He was a planter like his father. John and Hannah Melson had seven children:

- William Melson, born c1759
- Mary Melson, born c1760
- Hannah Melson, born c1762
- Elizabeth Melson, born c1764
- Achshah Melson, born c1766
- Tabitha Melson, born 1768
- Joseph Melson, born c1770

William Melson, the oldest son, left his parents home in Sussex County, DE. and took up lands in Somerset County, MD. He married, but his wife's name is not known. The 1790 Census for the United States listed him as having a wife, one son older than 11, one son younger than 11, and two daughters both younger than 11 years of age. His death was recorded in the SOMERSET HERALD dated 3 Dec. 1839, age 80 years.

One son of William Melson was Benjamin Melson, he married and his wife's first name was Eby. They registered the birth of a son, William C. Melson, born 11 Oct. 1803, at the Stepney Parish Episcopal Church, Somerset County, MD. Benjamin Melson had lands along the Nanticoke River.

Mary Melson, the second child of John and Hannah Melson, married Thomas Prettyman. The Prettymans were a Sussex County, DE. family. Her husband, Thomas Prettyman, was mentioned in his father's will (Ref. 68).

"Prettyman, Thomas, Planter, made Feb. 26, 1790, Heirs, wife, Elizabeth Prettyman, sons: William, George, Burton, Robert & Thomas: daughters; Tabitha Morris, Mary Ngram, Patience Noles, Sarah Marvel, Agnes Williams and (Isa) bell Pepper. Execs: wife Elizabeth and son William Prettyman. Witts: Samuel Green, Tabitha Walker, Kendall Warren. Probate Oct. 26, 1790." A later archive note, Arch Vol. A94 page 118, stated the estate was settled Apr. 14, 1795, by Joseph Wharton and Elizabeth, his wife, the late Elizabeth Prettyman. The only other information about Mary Melson Prettyman was she was awarded a portion of the proceeds from the sale of MIDDLE PLANTATION when the estate of her grandfather, Daniel Melson(I) was settled.

Hannah Melson, the third child of John and Hannah Parsons Melson, married John Dorman. Her grandfather, Daniel Melson I gave her a wedding gift:

"Know all men by these presents that I Daniel Melson of Worcester County State of Maryland do of my own free will give unto my Granddaughter Hannah Dorman; one Negro woman called "Grace" both for her and her increase to the said Hannah Dorman of County and State aforesaid she and her heirs Executors or Administrator or Assigns to the proper use and behest of the said Hannah Dorman her heirs and assigns forever and I the said Daniel Melson myself my Executors Administrators forever will warrant and defend against the claims of all persons. In Witness whereof I have to these presents set my hand and Seal affixed this twenty fifth day of July Anno Domini One Thousand seven hundred and ninety one.

Signed, sealed and delivered his

in the presence of JOHN WILLIAMS

and WILLIAM MELSON

mark

NB John Dorman and Hannah Dorman is to take a child that doth belong to the Negro Woman and keep it until it is two years old and then or at any time after if the said Daniel Melson should send for the Negro Child an

Or from his own hand then said John Dorman and his wife

Hannah their Executors or Administrators is to deliver the said Child"
to him or his order but if the said Daniel Melson does not send for the Child in his lifetime it will belong to the said John Dorman and his wife Hannah their and their heirs or assigns forever. In testimony whereof we the said parties have hereunto interchangeably set our hands and Seals affixed.

JOHN WILLIAMS
his
WILLIAM MELSON
mark
his
DANIEL MELSON
mark

JOHN DORMAN(Ref.16)

The fourth child of John and Hannah Melson of Worcester County, MD. She was still unmarried at the time of the final accounting of her Grandfather's estate in 1799. She acted as the Attorney at Law in the suit filed by the children of John Melson against their uncle, Daniel Melson II, the Executor of the Estate of his father, Daniel Melson I. Both John and Hannah Parsons Melson had died before Daniel Melson I's death. In his will, Daniel Melson I had bequeathed to each of his son Joseph Melson's children 15 Pounds specie. Whatever was the cause of the initiation of the suit by the children of John and Hannah Melson against the Executor of Daniel Melson I's estate, after a lengthy Court action, the children of John Melson were awarded 20 Pounds each by the Court. This forced the sale of MIDDLE PLANTATION, a tract of land in the Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex County, DE. Being a forced sale, the land was sold at a bargain price. It's regretted the cost of the trial, the delay in settling Daniel Melson's estate and the acrimony involved was permitted for the scant additional 5 Pounds awarded. Elizabeth Melson was not listed as a resident of either Delaware or Maryland in the 1800 Census of the United States.

Achshah (Achsey, Asha) Melson, the fifth child of John and Hannah Parsons Melson, was a co-suer with his sisters against his uncle, Daniel Melson II. He faded from sight shortly after the settlement of the suit, possibly joining the migration westwards. An Ezery Melson is shown in the Census for 1800 in Kentucky, whether this was Achshah or not is unresolved.

Tabitha Melson, the sixth child of John and Hannah Melson, must have died before 1796 as she was not shown as an heir when her Grandfather's estate was settled.

Joseph Melson, the seventh child of John and Hannah Melson, migrated to Kentucky during the 1790's, settling in what was then Bourbon County. This county was subsequently divided into three new counties, Fleming, Nicholas and Mason. Joseph lived in the portion that became Mason County. He was married there and had a son, Joseph Melson Jr, born 1802. The tracing of this Joseph Melson line is based on the family records of Mrs. Jeanne Freeland Hawk Bouldin, Edgewater, MD.

Joseph Melson Jr. born 1802, died c1880 at Taylorville, IL, married Elizabeth Moore 16 Jul. 1831 in Pike County, OH. She was born 1805 in Mason County, KY. She left Mason County, KY for Scioto County, OH in 1830. She died 1880 in McLean, TX. Joseph Jr. and Elizabeth Moore Melson's children were:

William Melson, born 1836 in Scioto County, OH, died 1867, in Wayne County, IL, married Nancy Wooley, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Wooley, 13 Nov 1858 in Wayne County, IL. She was born 1839 in Johnson County, IN, died 1870, Wabash County, IL. Their children were:

Samuel Melson, born 1859 in Effingham County, IL.
William Perry Melson, Jr., born 6 Nov 1860, in Effingham County, IL, died 1929, Lawton, OK, married c.1882, Amanda Elizabeth Gober, in Waxahachie, TX, she was born 6 Oct 1861, in Mason County, KY., died Oct. 1955, their children:

- Cleveland Columbus Melson, born 1 Sep 1884 in Palmer, TX, died in Capitan, NM. He married c.1904, Gladys Hargrove, born c.1885, they had 13 children.

The names of those known are:

- William Melson, born c.1905
- George Melson, born c.1907
- Richard Melson, born c.1909
- Cleveland Melson, born c.1911
- John Melson, born c.1913
- Arthur Melson, born c.1915
- Andra Melson, born c.1917

Amos A. Melson, was the second child of William Perry Jr and Amanda Gober Melson. He was born 24 Jun 1888 in Palmer, TX, died 4 Oct 1889.

Lecta Espanola Melson, the third child of William Perry Jr and Amanda Gober Melson, was born 16 May 1892, in Palmer, TX, died 14 Feb. 1979, in Fairfax, VA. She married 3 Oct 1912, Edwin Freeland. He was born 14 Apr 1879 in Larnoo, KS, died 30 Dec 1931 in Lawton, OK. Their children:

- Jeanne Elizabeth Freeland, born 7 Feb 1917 in Oneida WI, married (1) c.1945, Stanley Wolford Hawk, born 3 Jun 1909, their children are:
  - Sharon June Hawk, born 26 Aug. 1948, married Terence Albert Murphy, and their two children are Shane Michael Murphy born 11 Jan 1977 and Brent Anthony Murphy, born 9 Aug. 1981.

Jeanne and Stanley Hawk were divorced 19 Jul 1958. On 30 Dec 1970, she married William Kennon Bouldin, born 1916. They live in Edgewater, MD.

Laura Bell Melson, the third child of William Perry Jr and Amanda Melson, was born 5 Mar 1863 in Effingham County, IL, died 14 Apr 1936, in Wheeler, IL. She married (1) 30 Jul 1881 in Ellis County, TX, Layton Riley, born 25 Jun 1849, died 20 Jul 1888, in IL. He was a Teacher. Their children were:

- George Wamack Layton, born 20 Jan. 1882, in Palmer, TX, died in Elliotstown, IL.
- Perry Layton, born 1885, in Elliotstown, IL, died 1886, in Elliotstown, IL.
- Charlie Layton, born 1889 in Elliotstown, IL.

Laura’s second husband was Harvey Greenwalt. They were married 1890 in McLean, TX. He was born 1848 in Elliotstown, IL, died 30 Oct 1898, in Elliotstown, IL. Their children:

- Jesse Greenwalt, born 1894 in Okla.
- Della Greenwalt, born 1895, in Elliotstown, IL

Laura’s third husband was John McCann, in 1901, in Wheeler, IL. He was born c.1864, in Wheeler, IL. Their children:

- John McCann, born 1902, in Elliotstown, IL.
- Amy McCann, born 1905, in Elliotstown, IL.

James Melson, the fourth child of William and Nancy Wooley Melson, born 1866, in Effingham County, IL. He moved to Okla in 1880.

Mary Melson, the third child of Daniel I and Mary Smith Melson, was born c.1736 (Ref. 14) in Accomack County, VA., died 1780, Sussex County, De. She moved
from Accomack County, VA to Worcester County, MD. with her parents. She married cl755, Joseph Wharton, born cl736, died after 1791. Their children:

Elizabeth Wharton, born cl770, married cl792, Warren Prettyman.

Joseph Wharton Jr., born cl772, emigrated to Bourbon County, KY, after 1800, died there.

Mary Wharton, born cl774.

In addition to those lines of the Melson family described by the earlier pages, The Delaware Archives also show an Elijah Melson, whose will was drawn Nov. 28, 1778 (Ref. 32). The administration of his estate was assigned to George Black and wife, Elizabeth, late Elizabeth Melson. Just which Melson family, Elijah was a member, has not been determined. Obviously, his widow, Elizabeth, has remarried shortly after his death and was then Elizabeth Black.

William Sharp's will was made Dec. 21, 1789 in Sussex County, Delaware (Ref. 23). In this will, he bequeathed:

to wife Polly

son Joseph Melson Sharp
daus Lovey, Polly, Elizabeth Sharp

Exec. wife, Polly Sharp

Witt: Joseph Melson and others

Elizabeth Short's will was drawn May 15, 1786, filed for probate May 25, 1786, Sussex County, DE (Ref. 34). In this will, she bequeathed:

to sons Jacob, Shadrach, Philip, Isaac, Edward
daus Betty Tindal, Nancy Melson, Rachel Shockly, Comfort Bengston, Patience Ellingsworth.

Catherine Evans will was drawn Sep. 22, 1787, probated Oct. 3, 1787, Sussex County, DE (Ref. 35). She bequeathed to:

sisters Nanny Melson, Mary Wharton, Nancy Wharton, Tabitha Wharton.
sister-in-law Esther Wharton

son-in-law William Evans

grandson John Cord Evans

granddaughters Elizabeth, Mary, Sarah Cord, Ann and Martha Evans.

Exec. William Evans, son-in-law.

(Note) Nanny Melson might have been the wife of William Melson, and the mother of Wharton Melson.

"SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1796-1871," Roy C. Pullitt, Old Somerset House, P.O. Box 308, Prince George, VA 23875, 1986 lists these:

Edward Melson & Lida A. Nichols 24 Nov. 1869
Elijah Melson & Sally Tignall 17 Nov. 1813
George H. Melson & Anne E. Tyson 5 Sep. 1867
Joseph W. Melson & Hester Windsor 30 May 1866
Levin H. Melson & Elizabeth A. Evans 20 Apr. 1868
Washington Melson & Julia Anne Weatherly 15 Dec. 1835
William Melson & Polly Robertson 31 Jan. 1809
Elizabeth Melson & Alan W. Robertson 7 Jan. 1840
Mileah Anne Melson & Caleb Washington Bozman 4 Sep. 1855
Hannah Melson & Levin Bradley 6 Nov. 1804
Mary H. Melson & CAPT. William J. Weatherly 29 Dec. 1859
References to CHAPTER SEVEN

1. MHR "EARLIEST SETTLERS OF MARYLAND, BOOK 16, PAGE 500."
2. MHS "SOMERSET COUNTY LIBER Ikl BIRTHS-MARRIAGES-DEATHS, 1600-1720," EARL BRODIE POLK, MSS, 1908, PAGE 110.
3. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY LAND RECORDS, JULY 13, 1719, WM. ROBINSON TO SAMUEL MELSON.
4. MHR WARRANTS LIBER D FOLIO 303, 10TH OCT. 1728.
5. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY INVENTORY LIBER 41 FOLIO 423, 1749.
6. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY WILLS LIBER JW#4 FOLIO 62.
7. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY INVENTORIES LIBER 106 FOLIO 364.
8. MRS. EVA FURLONG JONES' CHARTS SUPPLIED BY MRS. E. ARTHUR (MAXINE) SIMPLER, RT. 2 BOX 49F, MILLSBORO, DE. 19966.
9. RECORDS OF CLAYTON HENRY MELSON, JR. BRYN MAWR, PA.
12. DHR ARCHIVES VOLUME A88 PAGE 68, MAR. 6, 1827.
13. MS. MARGARET L. MOORE'S RECORDS, RT. 1 BOX 43, FREDERICA, DE, 19946.
14. MAXINE SIMPLER, RT. 2 BOX 49F, MILLSBORO, DE. 19966 CHARTS.
15. DHR BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.
16. MHR WARRANTS LIBER D FOLIO 303, 10TH OCT. 1728.
17. DHR SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE PROBATES LIBER G, JAN. 28, 1822.
18. MILLARD F. HUDSON "CEMETARY RECORDS OF SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE."
20. DHR ARCHIVES VOLUME A88 PAGE 53.
21. DHR BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.
22. RECORDS OF MS. MARGARET MOORE, FREDERICA, DE.
23. DHR ARCHIVES VOLUME A88.
24. MRS. THOMAS (ALICE LARAWAY) BRINSON, KNOXVILLE, TN. "MELSON FAMILY GENEALOGY."
25. MHS BIBLE OF BENJAMIN GREEN MELSON, SON OF BENJAMIN MELSON (IN POSSESSION OF MRS. NORMAN GLIME, FEDERALSBURG, MD.).
27. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY DEEDS LIBER 27 FOLIO 214, JUL. 2, 1774.
29. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY ASSESSMENT RETURNS 1783, MICROFILM #M873.
30. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY FEDERAL ASSESSMENT 1798, MICROFILM #M868.
31. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER B FOLIO 391-393, NOV. 30, 1751.
32. DHR ARCHIVES VOLUME A88, PAGES 43-44.
33. DHR "CALENDAR OF SUSSEX COUNTY PROBATE RECORDS, 1680-1800," LEON DE VALINGER, JR. PAGE 211.
34. IBID, PAGE 176.
35. IBID, PAGE 285.
36. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY INVENTORY LIBER 83 FOLIO 70-72, MAR. 8, 1764.
37. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER M FOLIO 363, MAR. 13, 1782.
38. DHR REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.
39. DHR LIBER AD#25 PAGE 287, MAY 24, 1806.
40. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER 34 FOLIO 462, MAR. 13, 1802.
41. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER 11 FOLIO 130, JUN. 19, 1811.
42. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY LAND RECORDS LIBER 11 FOLIO 129, JUL. 4, 1811.
43. MHS "STEPNEY PARISH REGISTER & VESTRY & INDEX, 1703-1890, SOMERSET COUNTY," MICROFILM #559.
82. GRANTOR INDEX TO DEEDS, FROM 1663-1799, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA. PART 1, 1799, PAGE 299.
83. IBID, 1737-1746, PAGE 324.
84. ACCOMACK COUNTY, VA. ORDERS, PAGE 268, STRATTON NOTTINGHAM, ONANCOCK, VA.
85. IBID, PAGE 273.
86. "WAINWRIGHT AND RELATED FAMILIES," CATHERINE HOLCOMBE, MILFORD, DE.
87. MHR "THE DASHIELL FAMILY, VOLUME 1, BENJ. DASHIELL, BALT., 1926.
88. MHR "MARYLAND CALENDAR OF WILLS," BALDWIN, COAN & POLLOCK, BALT., 1906.
90. MRS. MARIAN MELSON STRACK "MELSON FAMILY RECORDS," RED BANK, NJ.
92. ROY MELSON, NEWARK, DE. "MELSON RECORDS."
93. DR. WILLIAM F. MELSON, 19 STOCKELEY ST., REHOBOTH BEACH, DE. "MELSON FAMILY."
94. RECORDS OF MISS ANNE MELSON STOMMEL, RED BANK, NJ.
95. MRS. M.B. GORDY, HOUSTON, TEXAS "GORDY FAMILY RECORDS."
97. LEVIN FRANKLIN MELSON'S NOTES ON THE MELSON FAMILY. NOW HELD BY MISS ANNE MELSON STOMMEL, RED BANK, NJ.
98. FAMILY BIBLE OF EZEKIAL ALFRED MELSON.
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100. "RECORDS OF THE MELSON FAMILY," WILLIAM F. MELSON, REHOBOTH BEACH, DE.
101. MHS "CEMETARY RECORDS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND," MILLARD F. HUDSON. MHS, 1936.
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108. MR. ALAN PAYNE, DUNCANVILLE, TX, "MELSON FAMILY INFORMATION."
109. MR. BRUCE MELSON, SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX, "MELSON RECORDS."
110. MR. FRANK BAKER MELSON, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, "MELSON FAMILY RECORDS."
111. LETTER OF MRS. FRANK HOLLAND MELSON, MARIETTA, GA. TO L.B. MELSON.
112. "A FAMILY NAMED FORT," IN THE LIBRARY OF MRS. ROBERT M. BARTON.
113. MR. JOE B. COOK, HOUSTON, TEXAS RECORDS.
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115. MHR WORCESTER COUNTY, MD. LAND RECORDS, MICORFILM #CR37391-1-LIBER Y FOLIO 556.
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118. MR. KIRBY WATKINS, ARLINGTON, TX. "GORDY FAMILY NOTES."
119. MHR PATENT CERTIFICATE LIBER E13 FOLIO 416, 1735.
120. MHR PATENT CERTIFICATE LIBER BY & GY 1 FOLIO 514, 1746.
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126. 1850 CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
127. 1910 CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, WORCESTER COUNTY, MD.
128. "RECORDS ON THE GORDY FAMILY", MRS. DOREEN COOK DULLEA, SANTA BARBARA, CA.
129. SHELBY COUNTY, MO. CIRCUIT COURT BOOK C, SEPT. 18, 1854.
131. "DOWNING FAMILY," MRS. M. CATHERINE DOWNING HOLCOMBE, MILFORD, DE.
132. DHR "LEVI SULLIVAN DIARY,"
134. FLORENCE WILSON BESSAC, RIVERBANK, CA. MELSON FAMILY RECORDS.
135. SHELBY COUNTY, MO. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE MARRIAGE BOOK, A177.
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140. MRS. FLOYD MELSON HODGIN, VISALIA, CALIFORNIA, "HODGIN FAMILY RECORDS."
141. SHELBY COUNTY, MO. MARRIAGE RECORDS, BOOK B 121.
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143. SHELBY COUNTY, MISSOURI MARRIAGE RECORDS.
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145. "SAMPSON DAVIS MELSON BIBLE," IN POSSESSION OF L. B. MELSON.
147. DR. HARRY ROBERT GLAHN, 3233 HOLLY HILL DRIVE, FALLS CHURCH, VA. 22042. "MELSON FAMILY RECORDS."
148. "RECORDS OF MISS MARJORIE BOLING, LENTNER, MO."
149. MRS. JUDY WILSON HULSE, "WILSON AND MELSON FAMILIES," PALO ALTO, CA.
150. "MELSON FAMILY INFORMATION," FLORENCE WILSON BESSAC, RIVERBANK, CA.
152. "MELSON FAMILY HISTORY," MRS. SAMPSON D. MELSON, SALEM, OREGON BIBLE.
153. UNDATED CLIPPING FROM A SALEM, OREGON NEWSPAPER C1900 "SALEM IS HOME FOR ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING VETERANS OF THE WAR OF 1848."
154. MELSON FAMILY RECORDS OF LEWIS B. MELSON, 1928 PENDENNIS DRIVE, ANnapolis, MARYLAND 21401.
156. OTTO J. WILSON, 540 LESLIE ST., SALEM, OREGON, 97302 FAMILY RECORDS.
157. EUGENE A. FORTINE, 15983 CAMBRIAN WAY, SAN LEANDRO, CA. 94578 WILSON FAMILY RECORDS.
158. MRS. JUDITH WILSON HULSE, 2170 EMERSON ST., PALO ALTO, CA. RECORDS.
159. MRS. MARGARET WILSON BEST, 8049 CHARDONNAY COURT, SAN JOSE, CA. 95135 WILSON FAMILY RECORDS.
160. MRS. LEONE DAVIDSON OSTERMAN, SALEM, OR. "DAVIDSON FAMILY RECORDS."
161. MRS. PATRICIA KENT SMAYDA, 19 BLADE WAY, WALNUT CREEK, CA. "PLANT FAMILY HISTORY."
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162. RECORDS OF LEWIS B. MELSON, 1928 PENDENNIS DR., ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21401.
164. THE CAPITAL JOURNAL, SALEM, OR. 22 AUG. 1940, OBITUARY OF MARY AMANDA GIBSON MELSON.
165. RECOLLECTIONS OF MARY MARSH CASON, PILOT ROCK, OREGON, 1907.
166. DAN DINGES, BEAVERTON, OREGON, 'THE GIBSON FAMILY.'
167. 1880 CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, LOWER WILLOW CREEK, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, NAT. ARCH. NO. T-9 SHEET 69, PAGE 4, LINE 3.
168. ADA CASON TEMPLETON, REDMOND, OREGON LETTER TO ROY S. MELSON, 1951.
169. CURATOR, PENROSE MEMORIAL MUSEUM, WHITMAN COLLEGE, WALLA WALLA, WA. LETTER TO LEWIS B. MELSON, 1982.
170. MHR MARYLAND PATENTS LIBER 7 FOLIO 331.
171. MHR MARYLAND PATENT RECORD ORIGINAL LIBER 0 FOLIO 370.
172. MHR MARYLAND PATENT INDEX 54 - 1864 'BATTLEFIELD', 50 ACRES, ORIGINALLY SOMERSET COUNTY, NOW WICOMICO COUNTY, LIBER 22 FOLIO 22.
173. MHR SOMERSET COUNTY WILLS LIBER 30 FOLIO 352.
174. 'HISTORY OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY,' H.O. LANG, HIMES & LANG, PORTLAND, OR. 1885.
175. CITY OF SALEM, OR. REGIONAL PARK OFFICE PIONEER CEMETERY RECORDS.
176. MHR 'THE BOON FAMILY GENEALOGY.'
177. RECORDS OF MRS. JULIE HARRIS, SPRING HILL, FL.
178. MRS LAYTON GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION
180. ALABAMA DEPT. OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.
181. DHR SUSSEX COUNTY DE GUARDIANSHIP RECORDS - ACCOUNT OF JOSEPH MELSON DEC. 4, 1799 - FEB. 9, 1802
182. "GARRIGUES FAMILY BIBLE," IN POSSESSION OF LEWIS B. MELSON.
183. MRS. JAN PETERSON-TERJESON, 3299 SW NYE, PENDLETON, OR 97801 - CASON FAMILY.
184. MR. ROBERT B. OVER, 1650 VINING DRIVE, SAN LEANDRO, CA. 94579-2339.
185. MR. ROBERT BITTIKOFER, 28850 BASSETT RD., CLEVELAND, OH. 44145-2919 "CANNON FAMILY RECORDS."
188. TELEPHONE CALL FROM JUDGE ROBERT MECCONVILLE TO LEWIS B. MELSON 4 MAY 1996.
CHAPTER EIGHT

The first Welch of our line for whom information is now known was Lewis B. Welch. He was listed in the 1820 Census of the United States for the Madison Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. His will was filed as Case #1641 in 1837 (Ref. 20). In it, he listed his wife as Catherine, his sons were shown as Jacob Welch, born c1789; Peter Welch, born c1791; Henry Welch, born 1806. His daughters were Susan Welch, born c1793, married a Gilson; Catherine Welch, born c1802, married a Henderson; and Mary Welch, born c1804, married a Hillman. His farm of 210 acres was in the 13th Section, 10th Township Second Range of Madison Township, Columbiana County. The 1850 Census for Madison Township showed his son, Lewis Welch, as a resident, and listed his state of birth as Virginia (Ref. #1). Florence Janie Welch Nist's records showed Henry Welch and his brothers, James and John, were living in the same township in the 1840 Census (Ref. 5). Henry, the youngest son of Lewis B. Welch, married Barbara Smith, 27 Mar 1828. They were known to have had a family of ten children, the names of eight are known (Refs. 1 & 5).

- Lewis J. Welch, born 1829
- Peter Welch, " Oct. 10, 1830
- Henry Welch, " 1832
- Samuel Welch, " c1836 (Ref. 3)
- Susannah (Susan Welch), " 1837
- Martin Welch, " 1841
- John Welch, " 1843
- James Welch, " 1848

Henry Welch purchased in 1841 a Patent for land in the Wesley Township of Washington County, Ohio, which is in the south-eastern part of the state. He moved his family from Columbiana County to this newly opened tract. The patent for this land was, in 1970, in the possession of Mrs. William A. (Emma Agnes Welch) Wright, Leesburg, Ohio. The patent described a tract of land as the "Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 8, Township 7 of Range 11, District of Sanas. Henry Welch was shown in the 1850 Census of the United States, Washington County, Ohio as being on that tract of land. Janie's history of the Welch Family is silent about Henry Welch and his wife after this point. His name does not appear in the 1860 Census of the United States for Washington County, Ohio. Little else is known about the Welch family. The brothers and sisters of Peter Welch, other than for Janie Nist's records. Lewis J. Welch, the oldest son, was shown in the 1850 Census of Washington County, Ohio as living with
with his parents. Henry Welch was listed, married, wife's name Ann, born 1837. (Ref. 3). Henry is also shown in the Peter Welch Family photograph taken in 1905. (Ref. 4). Martin Welch is listed as a Farmer in the 1870 Census, married, wife's name Lucy, born 1853 in Ohio. (Ref. 6). John Welch, also a Farmer, married, wife name Isabell, born 1858 in Ohio. (Ref. 6). James Welch was listed in the 1870 Census, married, wife's name Emma, with two sons, William, age one year, and David, age 1 month. (Ref. 4).

Peter Welch, the second child of Henry and Barbara Smith Welch, was born Oct. 10, 1830 in Columbiana County, Ohio. (Ref. 5). He moved to the Wesley Township, Washington County, OH, with his parents. This county, for which Marietta is the county seat, is in the southeastern corner of the state. Wesley Township, lies along the western border of the county immediately above Decatur Township. Both border the Little Hocking River. The land is generally rolling hills, broken and rugged, with thin soils along the sides and crests. The soils are red or clays with wheat and hay being the principal crops although fruit does well. Peter moved south from his parents farm- lands to Decatur Township when he married and settled. He became a substantial farmer. He married Hannah Gilmore in 1852. She was a daughter of Torrans and Polly Gilmore. Hannah was born in 1834. (Ref. 5). Her father, Torrans Gilmore, came from Ireland. (Ref. 18), and her mother, Polly, was born in Pennsylvania. (Ref. 18). Peter and Hannah Welch had a family of thirteen children. (Ref. 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>born</th>
<th>died</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Welch</td>
<td>1853 (Ref. 5)</td>
<td>after 1943 (Ref. 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Welch</td>
<td>Oct. 3, 1855 (Ref. 5)</td>
<td>Sep. 13, 1938 (Ref. 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilie Welch</td>
<td>1857 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Welch</td>
<td>1860 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Welch</td>
<td>1862 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McClellan Welch</td>
<td>1864 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Welch</td>
<td>Feb. 24, 1866 (Ref. 8)</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1944 (Ref. 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estelle Welch</td>
<td>1868 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Welch</td>
<td>1870 (Ref. 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella May Welch</td>
<td>1872 (Ref. 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Dow Welch</td>
<td>1874 (Ref. 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Welch</td>
<td>Jun. 24, 1877 (Ref. 8)</td>
<td>Aug. 30, 1906 (Ref. 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion Welch</td>
<td>Feb. 1880 (Ref. 5)</td>
<td>after 1955 (Ref. 5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peter was active in the affairs of the Township. He served as a Trustee for it and for its central settlement, originally known as Upper Settlement, then later as Decaturville Postoffice. He gave land and built a church, which was known as the Welch Chapel United Brethren Church. Near the church, he established a family cemetery that still exists. The county keeps it well maintained. His original home has been torn down as has the first chapel building. Today, another structure known as the Decatur Township House, which is also used as a chapel, has been built, adjacent to the cemetery. Peter acquired more land as time passed and gave each of his sons a large farm when they became adults. In his later years, he still farmed.
325 acres of Section Twenty-two. Peter Welch died Oct. 16, 1906 at the age of 76. (Ref. 8). Hannah Gilmore Welch died Jan. 31, 1922. Both were buried along with other members of their family in the Welch Cemetery.

This region of Ohio was visited in August 1969. The lands to the east of the Little Hocking River are a jumble of small hills, numerous creeks and are heavily wooded. The area is being returned to its natural state and the old Welch farmlands lie within the newly created National Forest. Looking at the thin soils, it is amazing any farmer could have prospered as Peter did. Peter and Hannah's final resting place is on Washington County Highway #111 three miles west of its eastern terminus, which is the junction with Ohio State Highway #555. This highway runs north from Belpre on the Ohio River through the Decaturville Postoffice and Cutler to Bartlett on US 50A. The graves in the Welch Cemetery were neatly maintained. Peter's headstone was the most prominent. Upon the granite marker were inscribed these words:

"All is dark within our dwelling
Lonely are our hearts today
For the one we loved so dearly
Has forever gone away" (Ref. 8)

Hannah's marker merely recorded the years of her birth and death and the phrase "The Lord is my Shepherd."

The other graves within the cemetery included:

George L. Welch  Jun. 24, 1877     Aug. 30, 1906 (his grave was decorated with a Spanish-American War flag).
Warren P. Welch  Feb. 24, 1866     Dec. 20, 1944 (This is Ella).
Belle Welch     Apr. 22, 1880      1908
H. S. Welch     1903                    1908
M. L. Welch     1908                    1908
A. V. Welch     1906                    1908
A. K. Welch     1897                    1897
Guy Brandenberry Sep. 18, 1882    Nov. 11, 1887 (son of Isaac and Emilie).
Bessie Brandenberry Kincaid 1878  1905 (wife of V. A. Kincaid).

Hannah Gilmore Welch's parents were Torrans and Polly Gilmore. (Ref. 5). Torrans was shown in the 1850 Census as a native of Ireland. Hannah Gilmore Welch confirmed this when she, in the 1880 Census, listed Ireland as the birthplace for her father. Torrans was born in 1804. (Ref. 10). Torrans wife was Polly _______ (Ref. 10). She was born in Pennsylvania in 1807. He was a farmer in Wesley Township. Like Henry Welch, he is listed for this area only in the 1850 Census. What happened to the Gilmore family after that is unknown, none of the later census reports show any Gilmores. In the 1850 Census, Torrans and Polly Gilmore were shown to have seven children. Torrans and Polly Gilmore were probably married in Pennsylvania c1828. The children living with their parents in 1850 were: (Ref. 10).
John Welch, the oldest child of Peter and Hannah Welch, was born in 1853. John's first wife was Margaret (Maggie) McIlveen, born 1855 in Ohio. Her parents, John and June Munn McIlveen (McIlvene), were born in Ireland and emigrated to the United States sometime between 1851 and 1854. Her father was a farmer and she had, in 1860, five brothers and sisters:

- John McIlveen 1848 in Ireland
- Agnes McIlveen 1851
- Harriett McIlveen 1854 Ohio
- Margaret J. McIlveen 1855
- Mary E. McIlveen 1858
- Annabella McLiveen 1859

John Welch was a farmer and a schoolteacher throughout his life in southeastern Ohio. John and Maggie had five children:

- Clarence Welch c1877
- Florence Jane Welch 1879
- Isa Bell Welch
- Frank Welch
- Emma Agnes Welch

Maggie McIlveen Welch died during the late 1880's. John remarried in 1892. His second wife was Nancy Jane Garvin. They had three children:

- Gordon Welch
- Preston Welch
- Hannah Ellen Welch (Ref. 5).

John lived to be more than ninety years old. His grandson, COL. Cecil W. Nist, USA, visited him in 1943. (Ref. 13). Cecil is the son of Charles and Florence Jane Welch Nist. Cecil wrote in his letter about this visit that his grandfather was very alert and active during the visit. John, Nancy Garvin Welch, and their daughter Hannah Ellen Welch were buried in the Center Point Union Church graveyard, which is on US50 between Athens and Albany, Ohio. (Ref. 13).

Florence Jane Welch, the second child of John and Maggie Welch was born in the Decatur Township, Washington County, OH. in 1879. She married Charles Nist, another Decatur Township resident, c1898. They had four children; (Ref. 13).

- Cecil W. Nist born Aug. 10, 1900 died Nov. 13, 1978
- Cora Nist c1902
- Frank Nist c1906
- Percy Nist c1908 polio 1924
Charles and Florence Welch Nist left Decatur Township and moved to Salem, Oregon in 1905, and lived in Salem for the rest of their lives. Charles died in the 1950's, and Florence Janie on Nov. 4, 1969 at the age of ninety. (Ref. 11).


Cora Nist, the second child of Charles and Florence Janie Nist, grew up in Salem, Oregon. She married Charles Sappingfield. Charles and Cora lived on Howells Prairie, east of Salem, Oregon. Their only son died young from heart problem complications. She cheerfully provided excellent information about the Welch family. (Ref. 11).

Frank Nist, the third child of Charles and Florence Nist grew up in Salem, Oregon and settled in Portland, OR. (Ref. 11).

Percy Nist, the fourth child of Charles and Florence Nist was born in Salem, OR in 1908, he died from polio in 1924. (Ref. 13).

Among my mother's records was a photograph she had kept showing a reunion of the Peter Welch family in 1904 when her father revisited his parents for the last time. Grandfather had never listed on the photograph the names of the family members shown. In the summer of 1970, Cora took the photograph with her on a visit she made to see her aunt, Mrs. Emma Agnes Welch Wright, Rt. 2, Leesburg, Ohio. She encouraged her aunt to name as many of the members of the family shown in the picture as possible. Neither Emma or Cora were in the picture, Emma was sick the day it was made and was kept at home and Cora, nor her parents, were present, they were successful in naming thirty of the thirty-six people shown. Thanks to their efforts, much of the information about the children of Peter and Hannah Welch has been saved. The photograph of the Peter Welch family reunion and the names of the family members shown in it may be seen on pages 11-57 and 11-58.

Emma Agnes Welch, the youngest daughter of John and Maggie McIlveen Welch, married William A. Wright. They settled in Leesburg, Ohio. She and her husband were still alive in 1975. Mrs. Wright kept as a treasured memento of the family the Patent issued Joshua Reeve by President Van Buren for the land in Wesley Township, Washington County, Ohio purchased by Henry Welch, her great-grandfather.

There is no information about the other children of John Welch, the oldest son of Peter and Hannah Welch.

Little is known about the other children of Peter and Hannah Welch. Emilie Welch, born 1857, married Isaac Brandenberry. The Brandeberrys might have also moved from Columbiana County to Washington County about the same time as the Welchs, as the 1820 Census for Columbiana County showed several Brandeberry families there. Isaac and Emilie Welch Brandeberry were shown in the 1880 Census (Ref. 10), with two
Later information adds eight more:(Ref.s.8.10.13).
Bessie May Brandenberry born ,1878,died 1905.
Attie Jane Brandenberry " ,1879
Guy Brandenberry " Sep.18,1882,died.11,1887
Frank Brandenberry
Peter Brandenberry
Hannah Brandenberry
Carl Brandenberry
Van Nellie Brandenberry
Thomas Brandenberry

Bessie May Brandenberry married V.A.Kincaid and died in 1905. She and her brother,Guy, were buried in the Welch Cemetery.

Martin Welch, the fourth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, married Arminta Chambers.(Ref.5). He farmed near his father. They had four children: Pearl, Raymond, Lelin and Ernest. Mrs. Wright identified one of the children in the family photograph as Leila Welch, this might have been "Lelin." Martin married again after Arminta's death. The name of his second wife is not known, but they had three children: Paul, Jess and Genevieve(Ref.13).

Barbara Welch, the fifth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, married Charles Weaver. Their four children were: Mae, Noah, Roy and Estelle.(Ref.13).

McClellan Welch, the sixth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, married, but his wife's name is not known. One of their children was Emil Welch.(Ref.13).

Warren P. Welch, the seventh child of Peter and Hannah Welch, was also married, but, again, his wife's name is not known. Possibly some of their children were H.S.; A.V.; and A.K. as the graves of these infants were next to his grave in the Welch Cemetery.

Estelle Welch, the eighth child of Peter and Hannah Welch married Charley Burfield. Both were alive and shown in the family photograph.

Lucy Welch, the ninth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, married Tom Matheny, both were shown in the family photo.

Ella Welch was the tenth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, there is no other information about her.

Dow Welch was the eleventh child of Peter and Hannah Welch. He was in the family photograph, with his wife and baby.

George Welch, the twelfth child, never married.

Marion Welch was the thirteenth child of Peter and Hannah Welch, there is no other information about him.

Noah Welch, the second child of Peter and Hannah Welch, was born in the Decatur Township, Washington County, Ohio, Oct.3, 1855(Ref.15). He grew up on his parents farm and began his career as a schoolteacher at the age of seventeen. He lived with his parents until he was 27, when he left Ohio and settled at Glasco, Kansas. There he became a partner of W.B. Hare in a general store. When Glasco, a small farming community in Cloud County, Kansas, along the banks of the Solomon River in north central Kansas, built its first school in
1884, Noah became its first Principal for the summer term. He was Postmaster for Glasco, from 1885 to 1889. Noah married Alverda Hare, a daughter of DeLuney Lawrence Hare and Rebecca Burk. Alverda was a sister of William Burk Hare, Noah's partner in the Glasco store. They were married Oct. 3, 1883. In 1890, Noah and Alverda decided to move from Glasco. They left Kansas and settled in Salem, Oregon. I asked Grandfather Welch once why they left Glasco, his eyes twinkled and he replied with a smile that the prolonged drought that blanketed Kansas and the plains and prairies of the Midwest during the 1880s had outlasted him. When they reached Salem, Noah rented a small farm about a half a mile east of the city limits on D Street Extended. A year later, he purchased ten acres directly south of where they'd been living, on Center Street. This was to their home for the rest of their lives. Noah resumed his career as a schoolteacher. He devoted his life to teaching school and handling his small farm. He taught in the small communities east of Salem; Pringle, Pratum and Swegle. He supplemented his income from teaching by specializing on his modest acres in fruits and berries. He delighted in raising high-quality produce. I well recall his delicious apples and plums, and the plump Logan and blackberries he raised. Noah never returned to see his parents and homeland in Ohio until 1905, when he made a visit as the Peter Welch family reunion was held. His copy of the picture of the reunion was saved by my mother.

Noah and Alverda Welch were impressive in appearance. Grandfather stood more than six feet two inches in height, he was stalwart, had dark hair and brown eyes, he always wore a moustache. He was and always wore a moustache. He was meticulous in everything he did. He appreciated fine livestock, his farm always sparkled. Grandmother Alverda or "Verde" as she was more commonly known was a warm, chipper, alert lady. A fabled person for every small grandchild to visit. Her kitchen was better than a trip to Disneyland. Cookies were always waiting in a huge jar to be sampled along with fresh drippy honey or molasses, and hot steamy biscuits at every meal. She kept a formal parlor, seldom opened during normal living, but filled with treasures such as Aunt Mildred's ukelele, a steroiptican, with boxes of slides showing the Chicago World Fair of '93, the St. Louis Fair of '04 and assorted views of such things as acrobats crossing Niagara Falls on a tight wire. She always had a bright smile and a cheery word at just the right moment. She didn't have many grandchildren, so she lavished ample affection upon those of us fortunate enough to be with her from time to time. Grandfather was a staunch Democrat, who regarded William Jennings Bryan as one of his idols. Every summer, when the Chautauqua (a traveling tent show featuring reknown persons and novel specialty acts) swung through Salem on its annual visit, he made a specific point of visiting Bryan, who was one of the top attractions. Incidentally, he took me along and introduced me to this world reknown orator and politician. Grandfather also corresponded for many years with Franklin Delano Roosevelt many years before FDR became a national figure. Grandfather never came to grips with the mechanical age. In the early 1920s, he bought a Willys-Overland touring car. He built a small garage for it at right-angles to the highly crowned road that
extended Center Street eastwards from the city limits of Salem. The county had paved the road of this section in 1921, casting up the clayey contents from the deep drainage ditches that bordered the roadway, and asphalt paving the surface, all 12 feet in width of it, but leaving only minimal steeply sloping shoulders. This was the traditional 'turnpike' type of construction favored for a hundred years for teams of horses and wagons, but not quite correct for motorcars. Whenever Grandfather decided to go into town, he would open the doors to the garage, place the throttle of the car in the wide-open position, retard the spark, prime the engine and twist the crank until the motor roared into life. With the first sputter, Uncle Maurice would pause, drop whatever he was doing, dash to the barn and harness the horses. He knew from experience that Grandfather would get into the driver's seat with the engine still racing, wrench the gears into the reverse position, let out the clutch and shoot backwards out of the garage without ever looking to see if the road was clear of oncoming traffic. This maneuver assured the Willys-Overland would shoot from the garage over the narrow paved portion of the highway and down into the drainage ditch on the far side. The steep sides of the ditch would prevent his being able to get the car back onto the roadway. About then, Uncle Maurice would arrive with the team of horses. Without a word being said by either, Maurice would hitch the team to the front bumper and haul the car, with the engine still roaring, back onto the paved surface headed towards town. He'd unhitch the team and get out of the way. Grandfather would grind the gears into Low and lurch away, leaving a shower of mud behind from the rear wheels to show where he'd been. I used to enjoy this scene, watching it was one of the delights of a visit to Grandpa and Grandma Welch.

After retiring from teaching in 1930, Grandfather continued to tend his farm. He took an active interest in civic affairs and was a marvelous friend to his grandchildren until his death from pneumonia, Sep. 13, 1938 (Ref. 15). Alverda Hare Welch remained in their home until 1942. Her daughter, Edith, and her husband, Charles Fuller, lived next door, which was a convenience. Finally, she moved to an apartment in Salem. She died Aug. 20, 1945. (Ref. 15).

Noah and Alverda Welch had nine children, four were born in Kansas, the others in Salem, Oregon:

- Lewis Warren Welch b. Sep. 9, 1884 d. May 10, 1899, drowned

Lewis Warren Welch, the oldest child of Noah and Alverda Welch, drowned in a pond not far from his home. Mother said Lewis and some other boys were playing on a raft in this
in the pond. Somehow he slipped off the raft and sank below the surface. Many years later, I looked at the pond which looked to me to be more of an abandoned excavation for a building that was never built. Whatever happened, no one knows, but he never survived the mishap.

Maurice William Welch, the second child of Noah and Alverda Welch, became an expert farmer, nurseryman and an all-around outdoorsman. He married Myrtle Goebel, Aug. 15, 1918. (Ref. 15). Myrtle had a daughter, Maxine, from a previous marriage. June Welch, the only child of Maurice and Myrtle Welch, was born Nov. 25, 1919. (Ref. 15). Maurice and Myrtle separated a few years after their marriage and were divorced in 1937. Maurice married again, his second wife was Nellie Varley. Maurice worked many years as a nurseryman, he loved grafting trees. He also taught Farming at the Chemawa Indian School, which was four miles north of Salem, OR. After retiring from this position, he worked in a Salem social club until his death in 1963. Maurice was always close to my mother, his sister. One of my earliest memories was watching Uncle Maurice help Dad make Sauerkraut in the cellar of our home on N. Statesman Street in Salem, OR. Dad and Maurice made enough for the Melson and Welch families. Hundreds of heads of cabbage were collected, then sliced on a shredder clamped over the open upper end of a wooden barrel. Maurice enjoyed chores of this type. He kept up a lively chatter even permitting a small 5 year old nephew to help push the cabbages across the cutting blade.

June Welch, Maurice's only child, graduated from Salem High School in the same class as my sister, Evelyn, 1937. She worked several years for the Stiff Furniture Company in Salem, OR. Later she worked for the State of Oregon and for the Willamette Hyster Co. in Portland, OR. She married John Simmons in 1943. John, after returning from service with the U.S. Army in WWII became a successful restaurant owner. When he sold the restaurant, he joined a cooperative that manufactured plywood and worked in its mill for many years. John and June built their home in Scappoose, OR. some twenty miles west of Portland along the Columbia River. They never had any children of their own. They adopted two, a boy and a girl. John and June now divide their time between a winter home in southern California and their home in Scappoose, OR.

Edith Welch, the third child of Noah and Alverda Welch, married Charles Fuller, born c1885, in Salem, OR., Sep. 28, 1910. (Ref. 15). Charles was a skilled sheetmetal worker and followed this trade throughout his life. In the early 1920's, Charles and Edith purchased a tract of land immediately east of her parent's farm and built their home on this tract. They had one son, Norman Fuller, born 1916, died 1944. Norman graduated from Salem high School in 1934 and trained with his father in sheetmetal work. He was drafted into the Army in 1940, and became a Sergeant with the Second Armored Division. Norman was killed in action in France, Aug. 14, 1944 (Ref. 15). Edith never recovered from this blow and became an invalid for the remainder of her life. She died Aug. 15, 1964. Charles only survived her by two weeks, dying Aug. 29, 1964. Ref. 15
Hattie Etta Welch was the fourth child of Noah and Alverda Welch. She was born in Glasco, Kansas and went to Salem, Oregon with her parents when she was one year old. She graduated from Salem High School in 1903 and married Roy S. Melson, Jun. 25, 1913. Mother and Dad's story may be found in Chapter Five.

Frank Gordon Welch, the fifth child of Noah and Alverda Welch was born in Salem, Oregon, he died from an attack of the flu in 1915. (Ref. 15).

Ella Mae Welch was the sixth child of Noah and Alverda Welch. She was born and grew up in Salem, OR. Mae married Homer Tarpley c. 1915. They had no children and were divorced in the late 1930's. Mae remarried, Jul. 19, 1943. Her second husband was John Stark. They were divorced three years later. Mae worked for the Marion County Welfare Department for thirty years. After her retirement, she continued to live in Salem, OR. until her death (Ref. 15).

Eva Welch, the seventh child of Noah and Alverda Welch was born in Salem, OR. She died when she was less than one month old (Ref. 15).

Alice Rose Welch was the eighth child of Noah and Alverda Welch. She was born in Salem, OR. graduated from the Salem High School and the University of Oregon where she received her degree in Library Science. Alice married a fellow student at the Univ. of Oregon, Chauncey Marston, in 1923. Chauncey continued his studies and received a degree in medicine. They settled in Portland, OR. where Chauncey practiced medicine and Alice was the Librarian for the Lincoln High School. They had no children. They were divorced in the 1950's. Alice remained in Portland after her retirement, dying Jul. 24, 1970. She lies with her parents in the Jason Lee Cemetery, Salem, Oregon (Ref. 15).

Mildred Olive Welch was the ninth child of Noah and Alverda Welch. She was born in Salem, Oregon. After graduating from high school, she worked as a secretary in Salem for many years. She married Trent Dawson in 1927. Trent and Mildred lived in Eugene, Oregon for many years, then moved to Portland, Oregon, where they had a unique dwelling, a houseboat on the Willamette River. Trent became a locomotive engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad. They had no children. Mildred died of cancer, Aug. 6, 1953 (Ref. 15).

This completes what is known about the Welch family to which my mother belonged. Alverda Hare Welch's family records extend further into the past. The basic source of the research into the Hare family and its relatives was collected by a niece of Grandmother's, Mrs. Bernice Goff-Fraser. Grandmother saved her niece's letter and gave it to my mother for our records. Mrs. Goff-Fraser's data is so detailed, rather than attempting to rewrite it, I have included it in its entirety.

"Mrs. Bernice Goff-Fraser to her Aunt Alverda Hare Welch, Merriam, Kansas, Nov. 3, 1934."
Dear Aunt Verde:

Nov. 3, 1934

I have not forgotten you but have been writing and waiting for more information about our families. Here is the Stoops line: (1) Rebecca Burk Hare, b. 1827, Noblesville, IN, married Deone Hare, b. 1829, Noblesville, IN, on Dec. 19, 1849, at Noblesville, IN, by her brother, John Burk, Justice of the Peace. (2) Rebecca Burk Hare, daughter of Alicia Stoops Burk, b. Nov. 29, 1797, married, date unknown, Moses Burk, birth unknown, Noblesville, IN. (3) Alicia Stoops Burk, daughter of Mary Ferguson Burk, b. 1773, supposedly in Pennsylvania. Phillip Stoops, born June 17, 1768, died Jan. 23, 1841, Noblesville, IN. (4) Mary Ferguson Stoops, daughter of Moses Ferguson, born Ireland 1736, died Pennsylvania, 1801, who married date unknown, Sarah, birth unknown, died unknown.

Children of Philip Stoops and Mary Ferguson Stoops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Stoops</td>
<td>Sep. 10, 1793</td>
<td>never married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Grey Stoops</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1795</td>
<td>George Burk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Stoops</td>
<td>Nov. 29, 1797</td>
<td>Moses Burk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Stoops</td>
<td>Apr. 17, 1799</td>
<td>Zeruah Burk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Stoops</td>
<td>Apr. 17, 1802</td>
<td>Margaret Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Stoops</td>
<td>Mar. 3, 1807</td>
<td>John Wheeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Stoops</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Jane Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Stoops</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Authorities proving line:
Records in the Family Bible to Alicia Stoops (Grandpa Hare's Bible). Letters from Great Uncle Philip Burk states his mother was Alicia Stoops Burk. Grandmother Rebecca Burk mentioned on page 6 of the "Wheeler Stoops Genealogy" in Noblesville, IN. Library. Her mother, Alicia Stoops Burk and her grandmother, Mary Ferguson, mentioned in "Wheeler Stoops Genealogy."

Moses Ferguson, father of Mary Ferguson Stoops

"Pennsylvania Archives, series 5, volume 4, page 286
" 5, 4, 650"
"Life in the Middle West, Clark, pages 28-29.
Cousins DAR National Number 176, 771 - Mrs. Laura Wheeler Keiser, whose great grandmother, Mary Stoops, was a sister to my great grandmother, Alicia Stoops.

Authorities proving service on ancestor with details:
Name appears on combined roll of John Fleming, Hugh McClelland and William Lamb, Captains, April, May, June, July, August, 1782.

Moses Ferguson, b. 1736 in County Antrim, Ireland, d. 1801, Fleming County, KY
Sarah, b. ?, d. ?

Children ---- three girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Ferguson</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>m. Archibald Glenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Ferguson</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>m. Andrew Glenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ferguson</td>
<td>b. 1773</td>
<td>m. Philip Stoops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ann Grey Stoops and George Burk's children:

John Burk  b. 1814  d. 1878  m. Mary Kiger, 7 children.
Philip Burk  b. ?  d. ?  Family moved west, unknown.
Margaret Burk  b. ?  d. ?  m. Perry Brown, went west, unknown.
Mary Ann Burk  b. ?  d. ?  m. Hiram Ellingwood.
Rebecca Burk  b. ?  d. 1911  m. Michael Bennett, 3 children.
Sarah Burk  b. ?  d. ?  m. John Palmer, one child.

Alicia Stoops and Moses Burk's children:

John Burk  married Elizabeth Adair, Tonkawa, Okla., died there.
Walter Burk  married Sarah Miller.
Ann Burk  married Peter Forsee.
Margaret Burk  married Isaac Coon.
Mary Burk  married Simpson Holman.
William Burk  never married.
Philip Burk  never married.
Rebecca Burk  married Delune Hare.

The first Stoops came to America from Germany. Philip Stoops was the first to settle in Pennsylvania and he soon learned to speak English. A descendant, Philip Stoops, was born Jun. 17, 1768, probably in Virginia and thought to be the son of Story Stoops (Rev. War Record). His old family Bible containing many records is supposed to be in the possession of a grandson, William Stoops, of South Bend, IN. (I wrote there and received no reply). It is bound in deerskin and printed in English and has been handed down from father to son. Philip married Mary Ferguson, daughter of Revolutionary War Veteran Moses Ferguson, a Scotch-Irishman, born in Ireland. They settled in Kentucky where he cleared a good farm in Nicholas County, near Alexander Blair's place. He was strongly anti-slavery and finally left Kentucky to get his family out from its influence. On arriving in Hamilton County, Indiana, he bought a half section of land adjoining the present Corporation of Noblesville, built a cabin and went to work to clear the land from the heavy timber. He got his farm under cultivation, then built a two-story house and became a prosperous man. He died in this house Jan. 23, 1841.

The old Philip Stoops homestead lies southeast of Noblesville. The county records show that Philip Stoops purchased 100 acres of this land May 29, 1826 from John Stoops (probably his son) who entered this land with permission from the government, June 10, 1823. Philip Stoops and wife were strong Presbyterians and helped to found the church of that denomination in Hamilton County. In politics he was a Whig.

I guess that is about all I have to tell about our families.

Bernice Goff-Fraser.

Through the assistance of Mrs. Eva Sheets, Glasco, Cloud County, Kansas, and the wife of another cousin of Grandmother Alverda Hare Welch, more information is available about the Hare Family and its members. Mrs. Eva Sheets wrote me a comprehensive letter in 1961 detailing what she knew about the Hare families. Like the preceding letter to Grandmother from Mrs. Bernice Goff-Fraser, I am reproducing it in its entirety.
Dear Lewis:

I am glad to send you the family history, the only grandchildren of D.L. Hare living in Glasco, Kansas are Walter Sheets, Lawrence Sheets and Etta Henderson. Joe Sheets live in Concordia, Kansas and Fern Sangster in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Raymond Sangster, Fern's oldest son, is with the Texas Instrument Co. in Dallas, Texas. Wayne, the other son, is a Meteorologist with the government in Washington, DC. Raymond is married and has two small daughters. Wayne is single.

Our daughter and family live on the John Hare farm about a quarter of a mile east of Grandfather Hare's home, and the great-granddaughter and family a quarter of a mile west and we are a half a mile north. There is no house or orchard left on Grandfather's place. Eighty acres where the house stood was sold out of the family.

Pearl Hare lives in Toronto, Kansas and Mattie Hare Lewis at Loveland, CO. The house where your Mother, Lewis, Maurice and Edith were born in the little town of Glasco, is gone.

HARE'S

Deluney Lawrence Hare was born in 1826. He married Dec. 19, 1849, Rebecca Burk, a daughter of Moses and Alicia Stoops Burk, at Noblesville, Ind. Rebecca Burk was born in 1826 at Noblesville, Ind. Their ten children were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William B. Hare</td>
<td>Sep. 19, 1850</td>
<td>Noblesville, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Hare</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 1851</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus L. Hare</td>
<td>Apr. 16, 1854</td>
<td>Bedford, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almeda Hare Goff</td>
<td>May 3, 1856</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Hare White</td>
<td>Nov. 29, 1858</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma Jane Hare Wall</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 1861</td>
<td>Savannah, Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alverda Hare Welch</td>
<td>Jan. 10, 1863</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Bell Hare Sheets</td>
<td>Jul. 1, 1865</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printus Hare</td>
<td>Nov. 30, 1867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Etta Hare Emick</td>
<td>Mar. 4, 1870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grandfather and Grandmother Hare with the two older children moved to Iowa in the early 1850's, where he farmed and raised livestock. In 1861, the family moved to Savannah, Mo. They bought a farm seven miles north of Savannah, along Bennetts Lane Road. He farmed and ran a sawmill there.

In 1871, the family moved to Kansas. He and the two older sons took claims five miles south-east of Glasco, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Hare and the youngest daughter, Etta, spent a year in Salem, Oregon, and Etta taught school there. They returned to their farm in Glasco. Mr. Hare had a large orchard, mostly apples. He grafted his own trees. He had a cherry tree with one half an early variety and the other half a real late variety.

Rebecca Burk Hare died in 1894 and the Henry Sheets family moved into his house and kept house for him and farmed the land until 1900.

Mr. Hare bought a home in Glasco and married July 22, 1899 to Mrs. Fanny Gratere. D.L. Hare died Dec. 5, 1908. Fanny Gratere Hare died a few weeks later.

William B. Hare, the oldest son of D.L. Hare and Rebecca Hare, came to Kansas with the family in 1871. He homesteaded the NW\(\frac{1}{4}\) of 29-8-4, which is now the home
of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sheets. William was married Nov.17,1872 to Olive Eliza Armstrong, a daughter of John A. and Almeda Rexford Armstrong. Olive was born Nov.3,1850 at Attica, Indiana.

Their children were Gertrude, 1874; Pearl William, 1878; Rose, 1881; Linda, 1883; Ross, 1887 and Mattie, 1891. Pearl and Mattie survive. Olive Armstrong Hare died Sept.24, 1894, William Burk Hare on May 26, 1923.

John W. Hare homesteaded near his father's, which is now the land and home of our daughter and her husband - Maxine and Emery Yenni. John Hare was married in 1875 to Damaris Jane Kunkel, a daughter of Jacob and Julianna Kunkel of Oregon, Mo. Damaris Jane (Mamie) was born Dec.18,1855. Four sons were Marcus, 1876; Edward, 1878; Arthur, 1880 and Frank, 1883, who died in infancy. Arthur survives and resides in Holton, Kan. John W. Hare died April 20, 1921. Damaris Jane died June 23, 1937.

Marcus L. Hare came to Kansas at the age of seven years. He was an early day pharmacist and operated a drug store for many years. He was engaged in the hardware business earlier. He became Postmaster in 1889 succeeding Noah Welch, who resigned during the latter part of the Cleveland Administration. He was married Jan.5, 1878 to Margaret Hillhouse, a daughter of John and Jeanette McLuke Hillhouse. Margaret was born Feb.22, 1860 in Missouri. Their children were Jeanette (Mrs. Walter Coleman), 1880 to 1954. Charles Lawrence Hare, 1881 to 1955. May (Mrs. Carroll W. Olmstead) 1884 to 1943. The only survivors are two daughters of Charles Hare, Guinevere Glabaker and Margaret Hare. Marcus L. Hare died Sept.23, 1914 and Margaret Hillhouse Hare, Sept.4, 1939.

Almeda married Stewart Sawin. One son, Carl, who is deceased. She then married Carl Goff, a policeman in Topeka, Kan. Their children were Bernice Goff-Fraser, Anna Goff McManus and Fern Goff (died). Almeda died on Oct. 22, 1930. Carl Goff had died several years earlier.

Alice Hare married John White, Oct. ,1875. John was a farmer at Delphus, Kan. They had two children, Anna White Mullinax, born Dec. ,1880, a widow who visited Glasco recently and went to live in Washington, D.C. Leonard White, who was born in 1886. He lives in Indianapolis, Ind. He has four children. Alice Hare White died March 12, 1929. John White several years later.

Jane Hare Wall married Michael Wall, three children. Alice Wall married James Burke; Josephine Wall O'Hara and Philip Wall, who is dead. Alice lives in Ottawa, Kan. Josephine in Kansas City with her family. Phil had a family when he died. Jane Hare Wall died May 13, 1915 and Mike Wall later.

Alverda and Noah Welch. Noah Welch was born Oct.8, 1855 in Decaturville, Ohio. He began teaching at the age of 17 years. He came to Cloud County in 1882 and was a partner in a store with W.B. Hare. When the frame school was completed in the spring of 1884, Noah Welch was the principal for a summer term through June, July and August. He was the Glasco Postmaster from 1885 to 1889. Noah and Alverda were married Oct.3, 1883. They moved to Salem, Oregon in 1890 where Noah practiced his profession of teaching. He also raised fruit. Four of his children were born in Kansas and five in Oregon. Lewis Warren, Sep. 9, 1884, drowned May 10, 1899. Maurice William on April 17, 1886; Edith, July 23, 1887; Etta W., April 30, 1889; Frank Gordon, Sep. 20, 1892, accidental death May 2, 1915. Ella Mae, July 19, 1894; Eva, Feb. 25, 1898, died Mar. 18, 1896; Alice Rose Welch Marston on June 25, 1899, and Mildred Olive Welch Dawson, July 15, 1902, died Aug. 6, 1953. Norman Fuller, son of Edith Welch Fuller, died Aug. 15, 1944. Noah Welch died Sep. 13, 1938 and Alverda Hare Welch on Aug. 20, 1945.
Ida Belle Hare was married Jan. 26, 1886 to Henry Nathan Sheets. Henry was born Nov. 9, 1856 at Salladburg, PA. He was a son of George and Mary E. Sheets. He came to Solomon, Kan. in the fall of 1877 and by stagecoach to the Glasco community. Their five children were J. Walter, born Nov. 4, 1886; Lawrence William, born Aug. 13, 1889; Mary Etta (Mrs. Elmer Halderson), June 23, 1892; Joe D., on Jul. 17, 1897 and Margaret Fern Sangster, July 2, 1901. Walter and May have one son and two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Lawrence and Eva have one daughter (Mrs. Maxine Yenni) and four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Fern Sangster has been a widow since 1940 and has two sons and two grandchildren. Joe and Jessie have one daughter. Henry Sheets died Apr. 26, 1936. Ida Hare Sheets died on Oct. 6, 1945. Printus Hare died Aug. 27, 1869. Etta Hare Emick had one son, Virgil, and one daughter, Irene Emick Wicklin, both are dead. She had one grandson, Virgil Emick Jr.

Eva Sheets

Additional information on the Stoops, Hare and Burk families was found in the Census reports for Hamilton County, Indiana. This information supplements the wealth of data received from Mrs. Bernice Goff-Fraser's and Mrs. Eva Sheets's letters. In the 1850 Census for Hamilton County, Indiana, are these listings. (Ref. 16):

Noblesville Township

pg. 119 Moses Burk, b. 1790 Kentucky, wife Elsa (Alicia), b. 1797 KY.

their children as shown in this census were:

pg. 119 Margaret Burk, b. 1816 KY, m. Isaac Coon, b. 1814, OH.


Moses H. Coon, b. 1843, "

Isaac N. Coon, b. 1848, "

Isaac Coon listed as a Blacksmith, worth $300.

pg. 119 William Burk, b. 1824, KY, living with parents, nm.

pg. 119 Rebecca Burk, b. 1826 KY m. Delune(y) Hare, b. 1829, OH.

Deluney's name was misspelled, erased, and rewritten on the census page, It finally was left looking more like "Slune." He was listed as a Laborer, worth $200.

pg. 119 Mary Burk, b. 1820, KY, m. Charles Simpson Holman, b. 1820, Indiana.

children: Elsy A. Holman, b. 1846, Indiana

Charles S. Holman b. 1848, Indiana

pg. 119 John Burk, b. 1830, Indiana. Not married, later to Elizabeth Adair.

John was listed as being 20 years old and living with his parents. His occupation was as a Farmer

pg. 119 Ann Forsee and her husband, Peter Forsee, were not shown for 1850.

Their two children, Amanda Forsee, b. 1841, Indiana and John Forsee b. 1844 were living with their grandparents, Moses and Alicia Burk.

pg. 119 Philip Burk, b. 1832, Indiana, listed as living with parents and a Farmer.

Walter Burk was not shown, possibly he had moved elsewhere.
This census indicates the Burk Family, along with the Stoops, went to Indiana from Kentucky, rather than from Pennsylvania as Bernice Goff-Fraser surmised. This does not imply the family had not lived in Pennsylvania before moving to Kentucky and then onto Indiana.

The census also included information about the Hare Family showing it moved to Indiana from Ohio. Several Hares were listed as living in the Noblesville area. Although their relationship to Deluney was not confirmed, there was most likely a relationship.

Town of Noblesville

pg.164 Mary Hare, age 67, b. 1763, PA. shown to be living with George Hare, b. 1826, Ohio, Carpenter, m. Dorenda, b. 1827, Ohio.

pg.161 Daniel Hare, b. 1815, Ohio, Merchant, worth $5350, m. Elizabeth, b. 1823, NY children: Morris Hare b. 1839, Indiana  
Daniel Hare b. 1841,  
Almeria Hare b. 1843,  
Christina Hare b. 1845,  
Almira Hare b. 1846,  
Dumont Hare b. 1848,  

pg.161 Silas Hare, b. 1827, Ohio, Lawyer, worth $600, m. Octavia, b. 1834, Ohio.

pg.161 Wesley Hare, b. 1821, Ohio, wagonmaker, not married.

pg.161 Abraham Hare, b. 1821, Ohio, no vocation listed, m. Mary, b. 1825, Del. children: Milton Hare b. 1845, Indiana  
Scott Hare b. 1849,  

The Hares might have moved to Noblesville sometime between 1835 and 1839. There is another Hare, not shown above, listed with the family of Jacob Locker, Merchant, Isabella Hare, age 15, b. 1835, Ohio. She might have been the youngest member of the Hare family.

Several members of the Stoops family were also listed in the same census for Noblesville, Indiana. Philip Stoops had died in 1841, so he was not listed, neither was his wife, Mary Ferguson Stoops. The presumption must be both had died by 1850. Several members of the family, though, were in Hamilton County, Indiana. (Ref. 16).

pg.119 Alicia Stoops Burk is shown with her husband, Moses Burk.

pg.119 William Stoops, b. 1799, KY, m. Zeruah Burk, b. 1802, KY. children: Philip L. Stoops b. 1829, KY.  
Sarah Stoops b. 1830, Indiana  
Samuel A. Stoops b. 1833,  
Minerva Stoops b. 1837,  
John E. Stoops b. 1842,  
Mary M. Stoops b. 1843,  

pg.104 Philip Stoops, b. 1802, KY, farmer, worth $5000, m. Margaret Ferguson, b. 1812 Kentucky. children: William W. Stoops b. 1833, KY.  
Philip S. Stoops b. 1835, Indiana
pg.104 children: Nancy Ann Stoops b.1839, Indiana  
John H. Stoops b.1842, "  
Mary M. Stoops b.1849, "  

pg.104 James Stoops (Decd.by 1850), m. Jane Ferguson, b.1810, KY.  
children: Henry Stoops b.1833, Indiana  
Nancy Stoops b.1838, "  

pg.104 Mary Stoops, b.1807, KY., m. John Wheeler, b.1802, KY, Farmer, worth $2500  
child in home: Alexander W. Stoops, b.1849 (there is no clue as to the names of the parents of this child the Wheelers were raising).  
Noblesville Township  

pg.120 Rebecca Stoops Betts, b.1804, KY., m. Albert Betts (decd).  
children: Catherine Betts, b. 1829, Indiana  
Mary Betts b.1830, "  
James Betts b.1832, "  
Rebecca Betts b.1837, "  
Albert W. Betts b.1844, "  

In addition to these members of our family, the census also listed on page 119, a William Burk, b. 1804, KY, wife, Susanna, b. 1810, Ohio, Farmer, worth $1000. Their children were:  

Samuel Burk b. 1832, Indiana  
Margaret L. Burk b. 1836, "  
Delila A. Burk b. 1836, "  
Sara E. Burk b. 1842, "  
Ellen P. Burk b. 1844, "  

William might have been a brother of Moses Burk, they are listed on the same page in the census and came from the same state. There is also a listing of a John W. Stoops, age 23, b. 1827, KY, Laborer, wife, Elizabeth, b. 1826, Delaware. He is shown on page 120 next to William Stoops and might have been a married son. In the Jackson Township, Hamilton County, IN., were Elizabeth and Lydia Stoops, both age 21, b. 1829, Indiana and living by themselves as shown on page 142.

Eva Sheets, page 8-13, listed Alverda Hare Welch, a daughter of Deluney Hare and Rebecca Burk, as having been born in Savannah, MO. My mother in her application for a marriage licence, indicated her mother, Alverda Hare Welch, was born in Bedford, Iowa. That would indicate both Grandmother and her next older sister, Alma Jane Hare, were both born in Bedford, Iowa. This implies Deluney Hare did not move his family to Savannah, MO., until after The DAR application #106,762 of Rachel M. McPherson, approved 23 Nov. 1920 added information about Moses Ferguson. She stated he married Sarah 2 Jan. 1758. Their children were Henry, born 2 Dec. 1758, killed at Gen. St. Clair's battle on the Wabash River, Indiana, 6 Nov. 1791; Sarah, born 28 Dec. 1759, married Archibald Glenn; Nancy, born 1761, married Andrew Glenn; Mary, born 1763, married Phillip Stoops; and Thomas, born 1769.

Another son was John Furgason, born c1760. His will filed for probate in Fleming County, KY Will Book A, page 68 in Oct. 1804 listed Ruth as his wife. Daughter Mary (Mrs. Phillip Stoops); Henry, married Nancy Glenn; Sarah Burns; Rebecca, born 1781, died 1857 married Jesse Alexander, 1782-1844; Margaret; John Jr., b. 10 Jan. 1785, d. 3 Dec. 1847, married Elizabeth Glenn, 1785-1854; Thomas b. 4 Jul, 1789, d. Mar 1823, married Mary D. Glenn; Moses, b. 1800 and Ann, Archibald Glenn was listed as a Brother-in-Law and Executor.
The research of Richard Burk, Roy, Utah has extended the information available about the Burk Family as provided by Grandmother Welch’s family. Now the Burks have been traced back to John (Bourke) Burk of County Kildare, Ireland. John Burk was born c1690 and emigrated to Virginia Family tradition recalls his stowing away on a ship that left Dublin about 1725. He bought land in Goochland County, VA in 1730. In 1735, he petitioned the Courts for his ‘head rights’. In 1755, he had moved to Augusta County, VA. He married Lettice Dannelly, 6 Nov. 1723 at Christ Church, Middlesex County, VA. Their children were: Bridget, William, James, Thomas, Richard, Elizabeth and Charles. John Bourke, died in Augusta County, VA c1762. Lettice Dannelly Bourke died 27 Aug, 1732 in Middlesex County, VA.

Thomas Burk, son of John Bourke and Lettice Dannelly, was born c1726 in Augusta County, VA. He is believed to have lived in Virginia his entire life. A son, John Burk, born 1757, in Albemarle County, VA. John was a Captain in the Albemarle County, VA. Militia (see DAR application Number 682493 of Arlene Bartley Fearing, 8 Feb. 1984). His family and the Stoops followed Daniel Boone into Kentucky settling in Fleming County. John Burk married Mary Porter, born 1758 in Albemarle County, VA., died 1823, Wayne County, IN. It is believed they had 14 children. The names of six are: George, Steven, Jane, Moses W., Zeruah, and William.

John Burk, his family, and the Stoops emigrated from Kentucky to Indiana in 1824 (Ruth E. Essington letter 15 July 1976 to her son). The Genealogy of Phillip Stoops states these families left Kentucky in Sept. 1826 by ox teams and arrived in Hamilton County, Indiana on 1 Oct 1826. Complicating this, the DAR application of Arlene Bartley Fearing lists them as being enumerated for the U.S. Census of 1820 in Wayne County, IN. Mrs. Essington’s records state Mary Porter Burk died in Wayne County, IN in 1823.

The 1830 Census for Moses W. Burk listed a male aged 70-80 living in his household. This may have been his father, John Burk.

The Genealogy of Phillip Stoops prepared in 1912 lists him as having been married twice, both times in Kentucky. His first wife was Mary Ferguson, a daughter of Moses and Sarah Ferguson. Their children were: John Stoops, born 10 Sep. 1793; Ann Grey Stoops, born 1 Oct, 1795, married George Burk; Alicia Stoops, born 29 Nov. 1797, married Moses Burk; William Stoops, born 27 Dec. 1799, died 3 Apr. 1862, married Zeruah Burk, born 1802; Phillip Stoops Jr., born 17 Sep. 1802, married Margaret Ferguson, born 1812, died 14 Jan. 1897; Rebecca Stoops, born 30 Sep. 1804, married Albert Betts, born 18 Sep. 1802, died 5 Oct. 1846; Mary Stoops, born 3 Mar. 1807, died 7 Apr. 1881, married John Wheeler, born 29 Sep. 1807, died 17 Aug. 1880; James D. Stoops, born 8 Apr. 1808, married Jane Ferguson, born 1810; Judith Stoops, born 2 Mar 1811. Phillip Stoop’s second wife was Agnes Morgan, born 16 Sep. 1778. Their children were: Thomas Stoops, Agnes Stoops, Sarah Stoops, Margaret Stoops and Jesse A. Stoops (Ref. 21).

Mrs. Frances Steggs, Deming, NM has supplemented the information about Phillip Stoops. Her records indicate he was born in Sinking Valley, Blair County, PA and emigrated to Kentucky before 1792. Phillip and Mary Ferguson after their marriage lived in that part of Bourbon County that became Nicholas County, KY where she died after the birth of their daughter, Judith, 12 Mar. 1811.
References to CHAPTER EIGHT

1. 1850 CENSUS OF THE US, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OH., WESLEY TOWNSHIP, PAGE 412, NAT.Arch.Wash.DC, MICROFILM #738.
4. PETER WELCH FAMILY REUNION PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT HIS HOME IN DECATUR TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OH, NOVEMBER 1905, IN POSSESSION OF LEWIS B. MELSON.
5. FLORENCE JANIE WELCH NIST, SALEM, OR. "WELCH FAMILY HISTORY."
7. IBID, PAGE 15.
8. PETER WELCH CEMETERY, DECATUR TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OH. ON HWY 111 THREE MILES WEST OF JUNCTION WITH OHIO STATE HWY 555.
10. 1850 CENSUS OF THE US, WESLEY TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON COUNTY, OH PAGE 410, NAT.Arch.Wash.DC MICROFILM #738.
13. COL. CECIL WELCH NIST, USARET LETTER TO LEWIS B. MELSON ABOUT THE WELCH FAMILY.
15. "WELCH FAMILY BIBLE," IN POSSESSION OF MRS. COURTNEY DUNCANSON (RUTH MELSON), 608 GREENWOOD DRIVE, NE, KEIZER, OR 97303.
16. 1850 CENSUS OF THE US, HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA, NAT.ARCH, WASH, DC.
17. "THE CAPITAL JOURNAL", SALEM, OR, 26 MARCH 1973, SECTION 3, PAGE 21, OBITUARY FOR MRS ROY S. (ETTA WELCH) MELSON."
20. LDS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY, SALT LAKE CITY, UT: COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO PROBATES 1833-1841 BOOK FOR MAY 1834 TERM, PAGES 158-161, CASE #1641, "WILL OF LEWIS B. WELCH."