

From the Desk
of
Mona G. Moreland
P.O. Box 1031
Duncan, OK. 73534
January 23, 2005

Dear Hollie,

You will be starting the greatest adventure in your life soon and will hopefully be carrying on your families lineage. You come from some highly esteemed families of Grundy County, Tennessee. This is my home county; I was born and raised in Tracy City, where some of your ancestors lived. I would like to share some of their histories with you as a gift for your wedding.

Your Meeks, Campbell's, Northcutts, Griswold, Scott and Jones families were some of the earliest settlers of Grundy County. They were hard working pioneers, some of which settled in Pelham Valley, (when it was part of Franklin County, Tn.), some in Altamont (which was part of Warren Co., Tn) and some in Northcutt's Cove (which was part of Warren Co., Tn). Grundy County was formed in 1844 from Coffee Co., Warren Co. and Franklin Counties, Tennessee. Later on, part of Marion County was added to Grundy County. Grundy County has coves, valleys and a mountain in its boundaries. The mountain is the Cumberland Plateau.

Your Meeks, Campbell, Payne and Sanders family lived in Payne's Cove, located in Pelham Valley, near the headwaters of the Elk River. They were hunters, farmers and stock raisers. They prospered as the soil in the Valley was very rich. Later on some of the children and grandchildren moved up on the plateau and started working in the Coal Mines. This was a hard and dangerous job. Many men have been injured and killed in the mines, or suffered Black Lung Disease from inhaling the coal dust for so many years. There were times when the miners went on strike, for better wages and working conditions, which turned out violent.

One of your ancestors, Susan Caroline Payne Meeks, is a prime example of the hardy stock you came from. Her Grandfather Poindexter Payne is said to have followed an Indian Trail to the a cove that would later bear his name. After her husband, John " Lige" Meeks died, Caroline kept the farm and worked it. She died in June 1909 at age 104 and was much admired in her community.

Your Grandfather many times removed, William Houston Meeks, Sr. married Norma Eudonia Idella Northcutt. Idella was the daughter of William Elihu Northcutt, Sr. and Mary Anne Susannah Griswold. William Elcho's parent were Gen. Adrian Northcutt and Sarah Cope. Adrian was among the first settlers of Tennessee. In the early 1840's he was appointed as President of the Commission named by the Tennessee State Legislature to form Grundy County. He served in the 1st. County Court of Grundy

County when it was formed in 1844. Adrian started acquiring land in 1825 near his mother's home in Irving College, Tn. and by the time of his death, he held over 13,000 acres. Adrian was a merchant, establishing a trade store at his home in Northcutt's Cove and later established the 1st. store in the new county seat, Altamont, Tn. Adrian and his sons raised livestock to sell or trade. He served as a Captain of a company of volunteers during the 1846 Mexican War. After returning from this war, he became the 1st. from Grundy County to serve in the Tennessee State General Assembly; House of Representatives (1854 to 1849); State Senate (1849-1851) and the House (1853-1854). Adrian and three sons and one grandson served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Adrian achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the State Militia.

His son, William Elihu Northcutt followed in his father's footsteps as a farmer and livestock trader. He married Mary Anne Susannah Griswold, daughter of Stephen M. Griswold and Sarah Purdom. * This is the connection to you being a far fetched cousin to my children, through my 1st. husband's Northcutt Line and my connection to you being a far fetched cousin through Stephen M. and Sarah Purdom Griswold line.

William Elihu took a herd of horses to Texas to sale or trade and never returned. One family story was that he was killed by either Indians or rustlers for the horses. Another story was that he fell in love with a woman in Texas and stayed there. We find Mary Anne in Pelham Valley in the 1860 Grundy County Census Records, 32 years old and with children Stephen A., 10; Sarah K. 8; Norma Eudonia Idella 7; James H. 4, and William Elihu, Jr. 1. She had property valued at \$2000.00.

On your Campbell line, we start in 1850 with William Campbell and wife Nancy, living in District 7 of Grundy County, with children all born in Tn: Asa, 14, m; Lemuel J., 112, m; Zebida, 9, m; William C., 6, m.

In the 1860 Grundy County Census, Dist. 2, Altamont, Wm., 45, Cabinet maker/Farmer, b. SC; Nancy, 41, f, b. Tn; Zebada, 18, m, Tn; Wm. Jr., 15, m, Tn; Julete, 6, f, Tn.

By 1870, Zebalen is 27, Head of Household, Tn; Jane, 26, w, Tn; James F. (Floyd), 10, m, Tn; Ann, 8, f, Tn; Josephine, 6, f, Tn. In Dist. 3, 1880, we find Zebedee, 40, works farm, Tn; Jane 29?, w, keeps house, Tn; Annie, 11, d, at home, Tn; ; Dovey, 10, d, Tn; and Floyd, 18, s, Tn.

James Floyd Campbell and Sarah Ann Scott were married in Grundy County by W.L. Parks, J.P. on Jan. 5, 1880. In the 1900 Grundy County Census, Dist. 8., we find James H., b. Oct. 1860, 39, marr. 22 yrs., Farmer, Tn; Sarah, w, b. Jan. 1862, 37, 9 children, 9 living, Tn; Hilary, s, b. Jan. 1881, 19, single, Tn; Milas, s, b. May 1883, 17, s, Tn; Cleveland, s, b. Mar. 1885, 15, s, Tn; Franklin S., s, b. May 1887, 13, Tn; Tobias, s, b. May 1890, 10, Tn; Allie, d, b. June 1892, 7, Tn; John, s, b. June 1894, 5, Tn; Odyst, s, b. Jan. 1897, 3, Tn; and Robert L., s, b. Feb. 1899, 1, Tn.

By the 1910 Grundy County Census, James Floyd and Sarah are living in District 2. James is 50, marr. 1, 32 yrs., Laborer, Tn; Sarah, w, 49, marr. 1, 32 yrs., 9 children, 9 living, Tn; Miles, s, m, 26, single, Tn; and all other children listed.

In the 1920 Grundy County Census, we find Miles, 33, married to Bessie, 26, and children: Sparta, 7, d, Tn; Celo, 5, s, Tn; Timy A., d, 2 yrs. 10 mos., Tn; and Arizona, d, 2 mos. Old, Tn.

In the 1904-1916 Grundy County Marriages by John E. Sweeton, on page 40, we find the following: M.C. Campbell was married to Bessie Jones on November 26, 1911 by M.B. Sweeton, J.P. Bessie was the daughter of Annie Jones, who by 1910 had divorced her husband, so we do not know who Bessie's father was.

I have not found your Grundy County Sanders connections.

Hollie, I hope this information will give you some understanding of your heritage. I wish for you and your husband, good health, may you be blessed with children and may you be best friends and lovers and may you live to an old age to enjoy your life's memories together.

May the good Lord bless your marriage, may He keep you well, may He give you the comforts of life that you will need and may He comfort you in time of grief.

This is a wonderful gift from your new Mother-in-Law, so enjoy it.

Mona Griswold Sweeton Moreland

Mona Griswold Sweeton Moreland

YCHS Bob
Per query sent to me by
Janell from Bomba Easter
1403 Eureka Rd —
Rockwood, In 37854
2-10-05
These copies are for the
Root Cellar —
Mona

THE ANCESTORS OF NANNIE "DOLL" MEEKS

RESEACH OF MONA G. MORELAND

P.O. Box 1031

DUNCAN, OK 73534

580-252-2941

gommie@sirinet.net

These are the ancestors of Doll Meeks. John "Lige" Meeks was born ca. 1821 in Tennessee and married Susan Caroline Payne, born April 1821 in Tennessee.(1)

"Thomas Payne, Sr., and wife, Yannaka Ayers, owned land with their son, Poindexter Payne, in Franklin County, Georgia. They sold their land in 1811 and Poindexter moved to Pendelton County, South Carolina. Between 1811 and 1820, Poindexter moved his family to Franklin County, Tennessee".(2)

When the 1820 Franklin County Federal Census was taken, Poindexter was living in Franklin County, Tn. with the following listing: Poindexter was over 45 years old; 3 males under 10 yrs.; 1 male 16-18; 1 male 18-28; 2 females under 10; 2 females 16-18; 1 female 26-45. The latter was his wife, Annie Bell Hill.(2)

"Poindexter and Annie Bell settled in the protected reaches of what is now their namesake, Paynes Cove. According to oral history the first Payne settlement was right at the baser of Spring Hollow, just northeast of Robert's Cemetery. The old house place was located by a spring which supplied water, and the nearby forest supplied game." (2)

Susan was the daughter of Poindexter Payne, one of the early settlers of Pelham Valley when it was part of Franklin County, Tennessee.(1) When Grundy County, Tennessee was formed in 1844, Pelham Valley was then part of the newly formed county.(3)) Susan lived to the age of 104. In the Meeks Family History book it is stated that in her latter years she wore a white cloth over her face due to a cancer.(1)

John "Lige" Meeks's mother was Elizabeth ? Meeks, and we do not know his fathter's name. In the 1850 Grundy County Federal Census records we find the following in District 7: John, 29, m, Farmer, \$375(value of real estate), born in Tn.; Susan, 25, f, born Tn.; Ormindia, 11, f, b Tn.; Elizabeth J., Elijah, 6, m, born Tn.; Eviline, 5, f, born Tn.; William H. (Houston), 2, m, born Tn.; Elizabeth Meeks, 62, f, born Va. (4) In the 1860 Grundy County Census Elizabeth states she was 93 yrs. old and born in N.C. She was living with her granddaughter, Armindia, and her husband George W. Oliver. (5)

John "Lige" and Susan's 5th. child was William Houston Meeks, born Feb. 1848 and died July 3, 1917. He was 2 yrs. old in 1850(4) and in the 1860 Grundy County Census, District 7, he was 12 yrs. old. (5) In the 1870 Grundy County Census, Wm. Houston is not listed in Grundy County. (6) By the 1880 Grundy County Census, Wm. Houston had married to Norma Eudonia Idella Northcutt. (7) Idella was born Dec. 22, 1854 in Grundy County, Tennessee to William Elihu Northcutt and Mary Ann Susannah Griswold.(8) Wm. Elihu was the son of General James Adrian Northcutt and Sarah Cope.(8) Mary Ann Susannah Griswold was the daughter of Stephen M. Griswold and Sarah Purdom.(9)

We find this listing in the 1880 Grundy County Census, District 7: Wm. H., H, 25, Farmer, Tn.; Ardella, 23, w, house keeper, Tn.; Mary,8, Tn.; William (Jr.), 4, Tn.; John, 1, Tn.(7)

By the 1900 Grundy Count Census, District 7, William Jr., 22, b. Dec. 1877 in Tn.,married to Ida ?????, 20, b. Feb. 1888, Tn., Idella, 1, d, b. Feb. 1889.(10)

Next door was his father: Wm., 49, b. Feb. 1851, m. 26 yrs., farmer, Tn., Idella ,38, b. ___ 1862, 10 children with 8 living, Tn.; John B., 20, b. May 1880, single; Nannie, 18, b.

??1882, s.,; Thomas, 15, b. Apr. 1885, s.; James, 14, b. Feb 1886, s.; Lucy, 11, b. 1889; and Norman D., 4, b. ___ 1896.(10)

Daughter Nannie "Doll" Meeks was married to John Vester Meeks March 15, 1905 by W.B. Pattie, J.P., in Grundy County, Tennessee.(11)

In the 1910 Census, William Houston, Sr. is living in District 3, 58 yrs. old, married 35 yrs., farmer, Tn.; Idella, 56, m. 35 yrs., with 11 children and 9 living, Tn.; Norman, 15, s., farmer, Tn. Living next door to Wm., Sr. and Idella are children, Wm. Jr and wife Ida and six children; Lucy and her husband, Jessie Woodlle, and no children; John B. and wife Mattie (Woodlee), no children; Tom M. and wife Myrtle (Burrows) , and no children. (12)

William Huston Meeks, Sr. died July 3, 1917 and Norma Eudonia Idella Northcutt Meeks died May 27, 1913. They were laid to rest in the Payne's Cove Cemetery, at the Payne's Cove Methodist Church.(13)

Doll's husband John Vester Meeks was the son of John and Mary "Polly" Cope.(see Ancestors of John Vestor Meeks for information on this family).

References:

- 1: Meeks Family History Book by Janelle Layne Coats, John Campbell and Willene Nunley Campbell, 1993
- 2: Homecoming '86, History of the Elk River Valley, (Pelham Valle y), of Grundy County, Tennessee, by Arlene Partin Bean and Janelle Layne Coats, 1986
- 3: Grundy County, Tennessee Court Minutes, W.P.A . Project completed December 14, 1936.
- 4: 1850 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 5: 1860 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 6: 1870 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 7: 1880 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 8: Research of Mona G. Moreland, completed Feb. 23, 2005
- 9: Stephen M. Griswold Family Bible in possession of Bille Faye Hampton Myers
- 10: 1900 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 11: 1904-1916 Grundy County, Tennessee Marriages by John E. Sweeton
- 12: 1910 Grundy County, Tn. Federal Census Records by Goins and Hobbs Genealogy Service
- 13: Tombstone Inscriptions of Grundy County, Tn. by Charles A. Sherrill, 1977, revised 1978 & 1986