

SECTION "H"

SOME OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF
ELI, SR. AND SARAH HAMBY
IN TENN., ARK., & OKLA.
1800 TO 1970

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO MAY HAVE
A GENERAL INTEREST IN THE DESCENDANTS OF THE PIONEERS,
ELI Sr. and SARAH HAMBY OF BURROWS COVE IN PELHAM VALLEY.

By: Earl Meeks
and
Nana Lou Hamby Meeks
March, 1989

DESCENDANTS OF THE PIONEER SETTLERS, ELI. SR. AND SARAH LEWIS HAMBY

My wife was Nana Lou Hamby B1921. Her Great, great grandfather was Eli Hamby BA 1795 in North Carolina, husband of Sarah Hamby BA 1797 in N.C. They migrated from Wilkes County in Northwestern North Carolina in 1821 to Hickory Creek in Warren County Tennessee. They migrated from Warren County to Grundy County, Tennessee (Pelham Valley) with their children sometime in the 1850's. It is positively known that their first two children were born in N.C. and the others in Tenn. We do know that NanaLou's Great Grandfather, Eli "Wash" Hamby was born in Warren County, Tennessee in 1826. Wilkesboro, west of Winston Salem, is in Wilkes County, N.C. Eli and his family probably traveled the usual route through Cumberland Gap when they migrated from N.C., about 400 miles. Eli died about 1871. Sarah died Oct. 26, 1875.

No Hambys appeared in the Tennessee census of 1820 or 1830. Three Hamby families appeared in Coffee County, Tennessee in the 1840 census: (1) Asa Hamby, age 30-40 and wife, age 20-30, with one daughter age 5-10 and two sons under 5; (2) Nathan Hamby, age 60 - 70 and wife, age 50-60, with three sons ages 15-35 and two daughters ages 10-20. They may have had other children married and not living in their household. (3) William Hamby and wife, both age 20-30, with one daughter under 5. Pelham Valley was a part of Coffee County from 1838 to 1844, when Grundy County was formed. Of the above group, Asa and Nathan never appear in 1850 and 1860 census reports but William and wife, Matilda, do appear in the 1860 Coffee County census report, now 42 and 44 respectively, with just one son, John W. age 4 still in their household. They appear to be unrelated to the Pelham Valley Hambys.

There were 12 Hamby families from N.C. who were settled in Morgan and Scott Counties of Tennessee in 1850. These counties are located some 30 to 60 miles north of Harriman, Tenn, and less than 60 miles west of Cumberland Gap. Two more Hamby families from N.C. were located near Johnson City, Tenn. in 1850. The Hamby families in Warren County, Tennessee in 1850 were Eli Hamby and his son, William H., then 30.. Many of the Hambys above had first names that were the same as those Hambys who lived in Wilkes County, N.C. in the 1820's through the 1850's. Over 90% of the Hambys who lived in N.C. prior to 1860 lived in Wilkes County.. Thus, Wilkes County, N.C. supplied most of the Hambys who migrated to Tennessee.

As far as we know, all of the Hambys of Grundy County, Tennessee were descended from Eli and Sarah Hamby, who moved to Pelham Valley, Burrows Cove, in the 1850's from Warren County, Tenn. Most of the descendants remained in Pelham Valley, including my wife's parents, Grover Cleveland and Bessie Hamby. Some few did relocate on the mountain to the Tracy City area in the late 1880's.. The male descendants tended to remain in Grundy County, while many of the females married men who left Pelham Valley.

** This report was compiled in Feb., 1989 by: T. Earl Meeks
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Eli Hamby BA 1795 in N.C. and Sarah Hamby BA 1797 in N.C. were parents of the following 8 children: (He died 1871, she in 1875)

1. Ephriam L. Hamby B1816 in N.C., married Catherine Elizabeth Calhoun B1825, D1875. Their children and grandchildren were as follows: (He died 1878. Buried in Hamby Family Cem.)

A. William "Bill" Hamby B1846 married Sarah E. "Sally" Cornelison Sutherland BA1846 .. Their five children were:

- Dora Della Hamby B1878 married H.H. "Bud" Haynes, and their children were Cora Haynes married Maurice Warren; and Holbert Haynes married Maggie Kennedy.
- William Ephriam Hamby BA 1881 married Lela Campbell. BA1892 ; and their children were:
 1. Nellon E. Hamby B 1908 married Madeline Burnett; and their children were Nelene who married Jim Nunley; and Doyle who married Ernestine Meeks
 2. Wayne Elmo Hamby B 1913 married Pauline Smartt. Had several children. He died 1957.
- Agnes "Aggie" Hamby B 1884 married Nelson G. Jones. Their children were Bill, Orville, Marie, Maurice, Lavonne, and Ophelia Jones.
- George W. Hamby B 1882 married Jennie Sanders. Their children were Chester and Edna Hamby.
- Mary Hamby b 1889 married Billy McDaniels. They had no children.

B. Jane Hamby BA 1848 married Jim Sanders. killed by lightning. (Presumably Jane)

C. Elvira Hamby BA 1849 married Arch Campbell. They had no children.

D. Joseph C. Hamby B 1855, D1934, married Susan Sartain, B1865, D1917. They had at least six children.

- Leonard Hamby married Anna Coker. Had 2 children..
- J (John). Hamby B1885, D1940. Buried Bethel Cem.
- Aaron Hamby B1886, D 1947. Buried Bethel Cem.
- Ethel Hamby married ? ? ? Coker.
- Azzie Hamby B1889, D1963. Buried Bethel Cem.
- Lizzie Hamby married Richard H. Davidson in July 1905
Their children were:
 1. Lillard Davidson married Janie Bennett.
 2. Dillard Davidson married Gladys Brinkley..
 3. Louella Davidson married Vernon Bonner.
 4. Elbert Davidson married Florence Speegel.
 5. Johnny Davidson married Frances Bailey.

E. Sarah E. Hamby B 1857 married William L. Brazile B 1851 on Feb. 6, 1876. Sarah died 1896 and Wm. L. died 1933. Both are buried in Winton Cemetery in Burrows Cove.

Sarah Hamby and Wm. L Brazile had these 7 children:

- James Thomas Edward "Eddie" Brazile B1876; married Josie McCaula. Their children were James, Leona, and Zelma.
- William Lawrence Brazile B1880, Married Julia Sanders. Had one son, Buford, who lived in Huntsville, Ala.
- Mary Emma Brazile B1885, married 1st. Mr. Tendill; 2nd. James Marlee. One child, Clara lived in Texas.
- Elzie Brazile B????, married Ruth Laseter. They had one daughter, Evelyn, who married Paul Williams, and they have at least one child.
- Henry "Toby" Brazile B????, married Eva Parsons of Tracy City, Tenn. They had several children.
- John Brazile B????, Unmarried. In later years he lived in household of the second wife of Wm. L. Brazile, Betty.
- Nora Brazile B????, married Ab. Hayes. They had 4 children; Floyd, Elmer, Eules, and Lorraine Hayes.

F. Eli Harrison Hamby B1859, D1930, married Mary Lavonna "Molly" Hawk B1868, D1894, daughter of John and (Lusk) Hawk. Both are buried in Winton Cemetery, Burrows Cove. They had these three children:

- James Harvey Eli Hamby B1885, D1954, married Jan. 22, 1909 to Anna Pearl Campbell B1889, D1961, daughter of Lemuel J. "Tonky" Campbell (1866-1930) and Betty Roberts (1872-1956), daughter of Alex Roberts, the first sherrif of Grundy County. Both are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Burrows Cove. James Harvey and Anna Pearl had these 6 children:
 1. James Arley Hamby B1910, married on June 21, 1936 to Katherine Lucy Howard, daughter of David W. and Bethie Howard. They have three children: Harvey Howard Hamby B1937 married Helen Orr; Mary Katherine Hamby B1939, married Dr. Frank Cadwell; James Arley Hamby Jr. B1947.
 2. Lavonna Hamby B1913, married on August 9, 1934, to Earl L. Tipps B1905, son of Benjamin W. and Donnie (Massey) Tipps. No children.
 3. Pauline Nancy Hamby B1915, married on May 10, 1942, to Irving Mercer Robbins B1904, D1975, of N.C., son of John Thomas and Mattie (Winfield) Robbins. They had one son, Edward Hamby Robbins B1943, married Susan Ferebee and they had at least 2 children.
 4. Blanton Hamby B1919, D1920, buried Bethel Cem.

5. Randal Lee Hamby B????, married Jane Hill. They have three children:
 - o Teresa Ann Hamby married Charles Franklin Willis
 - o Susan Hamby
 - o William "Bill" Hamby
6. Willadean Hamby B1927, married on Sept. 18, 1943 to Russell P. Shockley B1925 and they had at least 2 children.
 - Lena Hamby B1888, D1950. Un married. Buried in Bethel Cemetery
 - Eldridge Lee Hamby B1892, D????, married 1st. on Sept. 1, 1916, to Vennie Lee Crabtree B1898, D1963, daughter of Pete and Emeline (Darkus) Crabtree. Married 2nd. on Nov. 9, 1963 to Eva Cooke Crabtree. No children by either. Buried in Bethel Cemetery.
- G. John Morgan Hamby B1862, D1937, married on Aug. 13, 1885 to Mary Frances Henson B1865, D1940. Both buried in Bethel Cemetery.. Their two children were:
 - Thursie J. Hamby B1890, D1964, married Apr. 29, 1917 to Will Payne.
 - Ella Mae Hamby B1899, D1969, buried Mud Creek Cemetery, Summittville, Coffee County, Tenn. Was the first wife of Barney Bartley Johnson, B1904, living in 1989. Their children were:
 1. Ralph Morgan Johnson B1923
 2. Mary Ella Johnson B1925
 3. Gordon Edward Johnson B1927
 4. Janie Naomi Johnson B1929
 5. Joseph Johnson, died infancy, bur. Bethel.

② William Harrison Hamby B1819 in Wilkes County, N.C., died 1906 in Lowell, Benton County, Arkansas. Married 1st. in 1840 to Polly Tucker, daughter of Jonathan Tucker, of Warren County, Tennessee. Married 2nd. on July 23, 1846, in Warren County, Tennessee to Mary Dixon B1827 in Tenn., died 1908, daughter of Thomas and Penina Dixon, daughter of Thomas Cannon. At some time prior to 1870, Wm. H. and Mary moved to Osage Township of Benton County, Arkansas. In 1880 they were in Colville, Benton County, Ark. Both are buried in Gourd Springs, Arkansas, three miles east of the home-
stead. There were two children by the first marriage and nine by the second wife, as follows:

- A. Byron Davis Hamby B1841, died 1863 in the Civil War.
- B. Nancy Ann Hamby B1843, D1896, married as the 2nd. wife of Henry Gibson B1831, D1891, on May 25, 1875. son of George Washington and Sarah Gibson of Beech Grove in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Henry had first married the daughter of Jesse Shelton, Harriett Catherine Shelton. There were the following three children born to the second marriage:

- o Charlie Milton Gibson B1876, in Fairfield, Bedford Co., Tenn., died 1962. Married Cora Mandie Clayton B1887 in Runnels Co., Texas, died 1974 in San Angelo, Tex. They had 6 children, all born in Benoit in Runnels County, Texas.
- o Margaret "Maggie" Bibson B1878 in Bedford County, Tenn. died 1900. Married Robert Cantrell.
- o Granville Thomas Gibson B 1883 in Bedford County, Tenn. died 1950 in Runnels County, Texas. Married in 1904 to Ollie Brookshire B 1888, D1935, of Runnels County. They had 4 children, all born in Runnels County, Texas.

For further information of the children of the above couples, see the History of the Jesse Shelton descendants. Apparently Nancy Ann Hamby Gibson relocated to Salisaw, Oklahoma sometime between 1891 and 1896 because she was buried at McKee Switch, west of Salisaw in 1896.

The 9 children of the second marriage of William Harrison Hamby to Mary Dixon are shown below.

- C. Lucinda Letishe Hamby B1847 Grundy County, died 1928, married in 1870 to John Marshall Beard. They had children but their names are unknown to us..
- D. George Washington Hamby B1849 Grundy County, died 1926 in Sayre, Okla. Married 1871 in Springdale, Ark. to Minerva Jane Beard B1852 Marshall County, Tenn. died 1922 in Guymon, Okla. They had 12 children, of which 11 were born in Benton County, Ark.
- E. William Carrol B1852, died 1927 in Goodman, Mo. unmarried.
- F. Amanda Melissa Hamby B1855 in Benton County, Ark. died 1948. First married to John M. Giles; then to James Byrd. Had 2 children.
- G. Mary Jane Hamby B1857, died 1937. Married 1886 to John H. Beard. They had 10 children.
- H. John Newton Hamby B1860 in Washington County, Ark. died 1947 place of death unknown. Married in 1886 to Tennessee Mozier. They had 3 children.
- I. James Morgan Hamby B1863 in Washington County . Ark. died 1943 in Colcord, Okla. Married in 1888 in Benton County, Ark. to Eliza Melrose Brown B1870, D1935. They had 9 children.
- J. Sarah Penina Hamby B1886, died 1933 in Goodman, MO. Unmarried.
- K. Clarissa Adell Hamby B1869, died 1963 in Colcord, Okla. Unmarried.

This ends the listing of the children of William Harrison Hamby. From information about the children we can surmise that he and Mary Dixon moved from Grundy County, Tennessee to Benton County, Arkansas between 1850 and 1855.

3. Clarissa Matilda Hamby B1821 was the third child of Eli and Sarah Hamby, the pioneers who migrated from Wilkes County, N.C. in 1821 to Warren County, Tennessee. She was born November 22, 1821, within a few months after they arrived in Tennessee, if the 1821 migration year is correct. She married about 1841 to John Keel B1818 in Warren County. Apparently they relocated to Benton County, Arkansas about 1861-65, the same county in which her brother, William Harrison was then living. Their children were 4 as follows:
- A. Martha Jane Keel, B1842.
 - B. Pamela Ann "Molly" Keel B1844
 - C. Sarah Emaline Keel B1849, settled in Oklahoma in the 1890's and was killed by lightning. Married David Banks.
 - D. William Poindexter Keel B1853 in Tenn.

4. Sarah Emaline Hamby B1823 in Warren County, Tenn., died 1895 at Riley Creek in the 4th Civil District of Coffee County, Tennessee. She was married about 1839 to John W. Shelton in Warren County, Tenn. He was from the Beech Grove area of Coffee County, Tenn. They lived near her parents, Eli and Sarah Hamby in Warren County until about 1856 and then moved to the headwaters of Riley Creek, Coffee County, Tenn. This is probably about the same time that Eli and Sarah moved from Warren to Grundy County. They owned 140 acres of land in 1860, valued at \$2500 and lived in a three room log house with a separate log kitchen. Emaline and her daughters did the cooking, carded the wool and cotton, spun the thread and wove the cloth for all of the families clothing. The menfolk tilled the soil, raised livestock, and killed hogs for the winter's meat. They were a typical rural farm family of the 1850-80 era. John Shelton was born in 1820 and died in 1882 at Riley Creek.

John W. Shelton was the second of three sons born to Jesse Shelton B1799, died 1865, and Lydia Keele Shelton. Jesse was brought into the Beech Grove and Fairfield area of Bedford County Tennessee (later became Coffee County) by his parents prior to 1815. It is thought that Lydia died at the birth of her third child. Jesse then married Nancy Montgomery and they had an additional 12 children. We are forever indebted to Cecil and Louise Shelton of Hanford, California. Cecil Melvin Shelton was a fifth generation descendant of Jesse Shelton, and a fourth generation descendant of John Shelton. Cecil and Louise spent 15 years of continuous and diligent research to put together a 590 page hard-cover book of the descendants of Jesse Shelton. Also included are the descendants of some related families such as Drake, Foster, Gibson, Hamby, Keele, and Martin. Much of this Hamby history is included or paralleled in this book. This book was copyrighted in 1977 by Cecil and Louise Shelton, 1255 W. Grangeville Blvd. #74; Hanford, California, 93230. It is titled "DESCENDANTS OF JESSEE SHELTON" and published by Pioneer Publishing Co. of Fresno, California. It is an invaluable reference for anyone seeking genealogy of the descendants of the above family names who originated in the Bedford, Coffee and Grundy County areas of Tennessee in the early 1800's.

When John W. Shelton married Sarah Emaline Hamby about 1839, two pioneer families of middle Tennessee were united; that is, the child of pioneer Jesse Shelton married the daughter of pioneer Eli Hamby. The descendants of Jesse Shelton and Eli Hamby, Sr. are abundant and scattered throughout the U.S.A., but mostly in a direction westward from middle Tennessee. Descendants of both Jesse and Eli married into the Keele family, thus the Hambys became inter-related to both the Shelton and the Keele families.

The⁹ children of John W. Shelton and Sarah Emaline Hamby were:

- A. Lydia Ann Shelton B1840 Warren Co., died 1901 Coffee Co., Married in 1865 to James G. Drake B1840, D1923. They had 12 children. See "Jesse Shelton Book", page 20 for names.
- B. Sarah Lucinda Shelton B1840 Warren Co., a twin of Lydia Ann above. Died 1914 Bedford Co. Tenn. Married 1858 to David R. Throneberry B1839, D1923. They had 11 children, listed on page 20 of "Jesse Shelton Book"
- C. Jesse Ransom Shelton B 1844 Warren Co. Died 1940 near Beech Grove. Married 1868 to Martha Jane Eaton B1842, D1906. They had 3 children.
- D. Mary Ann Shelton B1847 Warren Co., died 1925 Coffee Co. Married 1864 to A. John Throneberry B1845, D1871. They had 3 children before John died in 1871. Many years later in 1904, Mary Ann married Ellihue Keele B1851 whose first wife had died some 13 months previously. It is of interest here to note that Ellihue Keele was the son of Philmore and Martha Ann Hamby Keele. Martha Ann was a younger sister of Sarah Emaline Hamby Shelton. Thus, the daughter of Sarah Emaline married the son of Mary Ann; first cousins to be sure, but both beyond the age of 53. Ellihue died in 1912. Mary Ann died in 1925.

After John Throneberry died, Mary Ann and the 2 boys and one girl had a very difficult time making a living. A great grandson relates that she and the boys arranged with neighboring farmers for permission to follow behind the wheat cutting machines and hand-cut the wheat that remained around stumps, etc. In this manner they procured the wheat for their annual supply of flour.

- E.. Matilda Frances Shelton B1850, died before 1860.
- F. David Elizabeth "Betty" Shelton B1855, Riley Creek. Died 1917 Coffee Co. Married about 1872 to Ferdnan "Fred" Sartain B1853 in Burrows Cove near Pelham, Tenn., son of James Sartain Sr., and a half-brother to Rachel Arkansas Sartain that married my wife's great grandfather, "Wash" Hamby. Fred died in 1905. Fred and Betty are buried in the Sartain family cemetery. They lived in Grundy County in 1880 and in Coffee County in 1900. He was a J.P. in Coffee County, a School Board Member, and a member of the Baptist Church.

The 13 children of Fred and Betty Shelton Sartain were all born in Grundy County or Coffee County, as follows:

- Sarah Isabel Sartain B1874, D1966. Married in 1892 to John Bartley Drake, the son of her great aunt, Melinda Shelton Drake. "Bell" was divorced from Drake and operated a restaurant, but is buried in the Sartain Cemetery.
- Robert Dolphis Sartain B1876
- Idella Ermine "Della" Sartain B1878.
- Anlisa Ariances "Liza" Sartain B1880
- Alletta "Lettie" Sartain B1882
- Rowena Lee Sartain B1884 Sartain Hollow, died 1961. Married John Thomas Eaton B1878, D1959. Both buried in Sartain cemetery.
- Forest Loke Sartain B1886
- Narcissie Elizabeth "Sissie" Sartain B1889
- Ester Mae Sartain B1891
- James Lillian "Jimmie" Sartin B1893
- Arthur Carrol Sartain B1897
- Samuel Lawrence Sartain B1900
- John Elmer Sartain B1902

G. Eli Washington Shelton B1859, D1943 Riley Creek, Coffee Co. Married first to Mayme "Mima" Elen Darnelle B1857, D1936. They had 13 children during the years 1877 thru 1903, 5 boys and 8 girls. After Mima's death, Eli married Lillie Ann Floyd in 1938 in Coffee Co.

Eli was a prominent political figure in Coffee County throughout his married life. He served as a member of Coffee County Court for 37 years. They were prominent members of the Riley Creek Baptist Church. When Eli and Mima first married in 1876 they began housekeeping with only one chair, one bed, and they cooked on the open fireplace. He worked for 25 to 50 cents a day, sunup to sundown. Soon after they began housekeeping a big black bear climbed upon the house and began pulling off the boards nailed over the cracks between the logs. The house was an old double log house with a dogtrot open hallway and a porch with a dirt floor. A month or so later Eli and a neighbor saw the bear trying to catch a squirrel. With the help of his brother's hounds they cornered and killed the bear.

H. John Bartley Shelton B1862, D1942, was the 8th. child of John and Sarah Emaline Shelton. Married 1879 to Martha Elender West B1862, D1927. Nine children were born to this union. "Fuller Branch John", as J.B. was known, next married in 1928 to Elizabeth Vera (Keele) Barton, widow of Robert E. Barton. Elizabeth and J.B. were first cousins. Two children were born to this union.

- I. Narissa Emaline Shelton B1866 on Riley Creek, Coffee County, died 1896, was the 9th. and last child of John Wesley and Sarah Emaline Hamby Shelton. Married in 1883 to Robert Benjamin Burk B1860, D1936. They had 3 children.

Thus, we have learned of the 9 children of John W. Shelton and his wife Sarah Emaline Hamby Shelton. These 9 children were first cousins of the 5 children of "Wash" Hamby and wife, Rachel Arkansas Hamby. They were also first cousins to all of the other grandchildren of the pioneers, Eli Sr. and Sarah Lewis Hamby of Burrows Cove.

5. Eli Washington "Wash" Hamby B1826 on Hickory Creek in Warren County, Tennessee, was the 5th. child of the pioneers, Eli SR. and Sarah Lewis Hamby. He died 1884 in his home at the head of Elk River in Burrows Cove, Pelham, Tennessee. "Wash" and Arkansas were the great grandparents of the 4 children of Grover Cleveland and Bessie Meeks Hamby, including my wife, Nana Lou Hamby Meeks. "Wash" enlisted in the 44th. Tennessee Confederate Infantry in the Civil War in 1861 and assisted in organizing his Company. He remained in service until 1863 and participated in the battles of Shiloh and Perryville. Upon his return to Burrows Cove he had to begin life anew at 37 years of age and was without financial means, but he had drive and managerial abilities. He became one of Pelham Valley's most prosperous farmers and livestock men and eventually owned over 600 acres of prime farm land in Burrows Cove, including the greater part of Robert's Hollow. "Wash" married Arkansas August 21, 1856. She was born in 1839. Shortly before he died in 1844, he divided his farm land among his 5 children (13 months). I understand that Arkansas married H. Bost, a farm hand on their farm, after "Wash" died and that her part of money passed on to him at her death. "Wash" is buried in an old cemetery on the East side of Elk River and Arkansas is buried in the Winton Cemetery on the farm land that "Wash" gave to one of his sons, James Harrison Hamby, my wife's Grandfather. Arkansas died in 1892. The 5 children of "Wash" and Arkansas Hamby were:

- A. James Harrison Hamby B 1857 married Nancy Anne Phipps B 1865. They are my wife's grandparents. Their children were:

1. Grover Cleveland Hamby B 1884 married Bessie Meeks B 1888 on October 19, 1913 in Burrows Cove. These are my wife's parents. Their Children were:

- Hagan Cleveland Hamby married Mildred Chrisman. Hagan died in an automobile accident in Ohio in May, 1965, while enroute from his home in Royal Oak, Michigan to Pelham, Tennessee. They had no children.
- Jewell Hamby married Lude Goodman of Tracy City, Tenn. They had no children. They both taught at Grundy County High School in the 1940's and 50's.

Stoop burned
1958.
rebuilt in 1960

- Melrose Hamby married Edward Holder of Tullahoma, Tenn. Their children are (1) Rosalyn Dawn Holder married Dr. Charles Bennett, parents of Alicia Dawn Bennett; and (2) Edward Donovan Holder married Patricia Mathis, of Murfreesboro.
- Nana Lou Hamby B1921 married T. Earl Meeks B1922 of Coalmont, Tenn. Their children are (1) Grant Evan Meeks, B1960, unmarried this date and (2) Joy Eileen Meeks B1962, married George Timothy Bettison B1961, All live in Memphis, Tenn.

- 3. Clarice May "Clercy" Hamby B???? unmarried. *Died Jan 1995* lives in the James Harrison Hamby homeplace in Burrows Cove, near Pelham, Tenn. since birth.
- 2. Willie Hamby B????, D1955. Married James Green of Pelham. No children. (Born before Clercy.)
- 4. Maymie Ellen Hamby B????, D1981, unmarried. She, too, lived her entire life in the homeplace,

- B. Eli W. Hamby B 1860 married Allie Hawk. *B1868, D1909* He was High Sheriff of Grundy County at one time. Moved to Tracy City. 1895. Buried in Tracy City. Their children were:
 - 1. Henry Hamby mar. Louella Stewart, then Nannie ????
 - 2. Cora May Hamby B????, married Thomas Dement.
 - 3. Roy Briggs Hamby B????, married Bessie Harrison, 4 c
 - 4. Dola Bell Hamby B????, married Gus Beard, no chil.

- C. Jesse Ransom Hamby B 1863 married Mary Lavonna Hawk. *B1868 D1941*
The children of Jesse and Mary Hawk Hamby were:
 - 1. Horace Hamby married Nila Parsons and they were the parents of:
 - o Pauline Hamby - unmarried. Died at age 7.
 - o Juanita Hamby married Earl McNear.
 - o Eva Rose Hamby married Billy Winton.
 - o Mitchell Hamby married Evelyn Brannon.
 - o Carl Hamby married Ruby Campbell.
 - o Katherine Hamby married Bobby Phipps.
 - o Henry Hamby married Lorena Yokely.
 - 2. Robert Lee Hamby married Ezella ? ? ? . Sever. ch.
 - 3. John Hamby B???? . Married, no children.
 - 4. Thomas Hamby - unmarried.
 - 5. Alton Hamby married Dorothy Price. Several ch.
 - 6. Eva Rose Hamby married John Worley. Several ch.
 - 7. Timmie Hamby married Thomas Barrett. Two chil.
 - 8. Ola Hamby married Barney Brown. Several chil.

- D. Clarissa M. Hamby B 1875 married Charles B. Womack. Their children were:
 - 1. Herbert Womack
 - 2. Arley Womack
 - 3. Ross Womack
 - 4. J. D. Womack
 - 5. Eldridge Womack

E. George Franklin Hamby B1877, in Burrows Cove, died 1964, married in 1905 to Mary Lou "Eliza" Crabtree B1886, D1934. Both are buried in Bethel Cemetery. They had these 7 children:

1. Luard Franklin Hamby B1908 Pelham, married Iola Dyer B1907. One adopted son, Billy Luard Hamby, B1939 in Hardin (??) County, Tenn.
2. George Herman Hamby B1910 in Pelham, killed in a water skiing accident in 1959 in Huntsville, Ala. First married Elizabeth Fultz, divorced, then married in 1949 to Annie Ruth Childress B1916 in Lincoln County, Tenn. No Children.
3. Rachel Emily Hamby B1914, D1959. Married William Guinn first, then Marvin Sharp. No children.
4. Elmer Lee Hamby B1918 near Hillsboro, Tenn. Married in 1939 to Mona Lucille Hargis B1921, Gruetli, Tenn. Their 3 children, all born in Camden, Ark. were:
 - Betty Ruth Hamby B1940 married John Wm. Hunter. Had 2 children.
 - Shirley Ann Hamby B1946 married Harry Joseph Clayton
 - Lee Franklin Hamby B1950.
5. Milton Hamby B1921, D1923. Buried Bethel.
6. Thelma Nellena Hamby B1924. First married in 1942 to Jessie Dale Langley, Camden, Ark. They had 2 children: (1) Laurelle Daphene Langley B1943 and (2) George Clifton Langley B1945. Next, Thelma married in 1947 to John W. Moyers in Madison County, Ala. They had 1 daughter, Kathy Lynn Moyers B1949 in Madison County, Ala.
7. Onis Herndon Hamby B????.

.. This completes the descendants of Eli "Wash" and Arkansas Sartain Hamby.

⑥ Martha Ann Hamby B1829 on Hickory Creek, Warren County, Tenn., died 1860, married about 1850 to Philmore Keele B1828 in Bedford County, Tenn. They were living in the 3rd. Civil District of Coffee County in 1850. They had 5 children and apparently she died at the birth of her 5th. child in May, 1960. By the time of the 1860 census, all 5 children were living with relatives as described below: (I have no further information on Philmore Keele.)

A. Ellihue Elisha Keele B1851, reared by Aunt Sarah Emaline Shelton, Martha Ann's sister. Died 1912 in Coffee County, Tenn. He first married in 1875 to Sarah Parthenia "Sally" Eaton B1861, D1903, and they had 12 children, only 5 of which were still living in 1900. Second, he married his first cousin, Mary Ann Shelton, in 1904, after Mary Ann's first husband had died in 1871. Mary Ann was the daughter of Sarah Emaline Hamby and John W. Shelton. See the book, "Jessee Shelton", page 433 for list of Ellihue's children.

- B. Sarah Emaline Keele B1853, Bedford County, Tenn., reared by grandparents, Eli and Sarah Hamby, died 1914 in Eastman, Okla. Married in Coffee County in 1878 to Matthew Newton "Newt" Fox B1856, D1928 in Thackensville, Okla. Both buried in Eastman, Okla. They had 8 children:
1. Ada Rosilee Fox B1879 in Tenn. Died 1879 in Tenn. lived 1 month.
 2. Mary Florence Fox B1880 Coffee Co., Died 1970. Married in 1900 to Henry Monroe Lang in Love County, Okla. Had 7 children, all born in Love County, Okla. between 1902 and 1913.
 3. Parthena Ellen Fox B1881 in Tenn. Died 3 months later.
 5. Samuel Newton Fox B1884 in Quincy, Mo. Died 1957 in Ardmore, Okla. Married in 1911 in Newport, Okla. to Mary Frances "Fanny" Ward, B1889, D1943 in Love County, Okla. Both are buried in Milo, Carter County, Okla. They had 10 children, all born in Okla. See page 464 of the book, "Jessee Shelton" for list of their children and grandchildren.
 4. Daniel Elihu Fox B1883 in Forney, Texas. He lived only 5 months.
 6. Lucretia Melvina Fox B1887 in Quincy, Mo. Died 1972 in Marietta, Love Co., Okla. Married 1902 in Eastman, Indian Territory to Thomas Oliver "Ollie" Lang B1881, D1962 in Eastman, Okla. "Ollie" was a brother to Henry Monroe Lang, husband of Mary Florence Fox (2) above. They had 10 children, all born in Eastman, Okla. See page 467 of "Jessee Shelton" for list of descendants.
 7. Dora Fox B1889 in Forney, Texas. Died 1962 in Vernon, Texas, buried in Odell, Texas. Married in 1905 in Ardmore, Okla. to John Bass B1878 in Texas, died 1950 in Peoria, Ariz., buried in Glendale, Ariz. They had 3 children, all born in Okla. See page 468 of "Jessee Shelton" for descendants.
 8. Cora Fox B1898 in Forney, Texas. Died 1967 in Ardmore, Okla., buried Ardmore, Okla. Married in 1909 in Carter Co. Okla. to Gue Livingston Webb B1892 in Kaufman Co., Texas, Died ????. They had 6 children, all born in Marsden, Okla. between 1910 and 1920. See page 469 of "Jessee Shelton" for descendants.
- C. Mary C. Keele B1855. Reared by her Uncle Eli "Wash" and Aunt Arkansas Sartain Hamby. In 1880 she was living in the household of her cousin, Jessee Ransom Shelton. Never married.

- D. Nancy E. Keele BA1858. Reared by grandparents, Eli Sr. and Sarah Hamby. Believed to have died young.
- E. Martha Ann "Matt" Keele B1860, D1915. Reared by Aunt Sarah Emaline Shelton, Martha Ann's sister. Married in 1882 to Thomas Nelious Shelton B1861, D1935, son of Wiley Preston Shelton B1822, a brother to Sarah Emaline's husband, John W. Shelton. They had 7 children, of which 2 died at birth. One son, Ellihue Ervin Shelton B1889, died in France during World War in 1918. See page 29 of "Jessee Shelton" for list of descendants, also page 67.

- ⑦ Nancy Lavonna Hamby B1832. Died ??? without children. No further record.
- ⑧ Permelia Elizabeth Hamby B1834, D????, was the 8th. and last child of Eli Sr. and Sarah Hamby. Married in 1855 to Aaron H. Sartain BA1828. There were at least two Aaron Sartaains. This is the older one, believed to be the son of Susanah Sartain BA1790, and not the son of James Sartain Sr. They had these children: (from the 1860 census)
 - A. Sarah V. Sartain B1856
 - B. Mary F. Sartain B1858 married ? ? ? Meeks
 - C. Harrison Sartain B???? Unmarried
 - D. Susan Sartain B1865, married Joseph C. Hamby BA1855, son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Calhoun Hamby. Thus, they were first cousins. Susan died in 1917 and Joseph died in 1934. Both are buried in the Winton Cemetery in Burrows Cove. For a list of their children, see Joseph C. Hamby, son of Ephriam L. Hamby, in this report.

This completes the list of the descendants of the pioneer settlers, Eli Sr. and Sarah Lewis Hamby, from 1795 to the present generations. Information in the book, "Jessee Shelton", is usually more complete than I have shown here.

ADDENDUM TO SECTION "H"

FAMILY TREE

AND REMEMBERANCES

OF THE

G. C. & BESSIE HAMBY

FAMILY

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN PREPARED PRIMARILY FOR THE CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN OF GROVER CLEVELAND AND BESSIE HAMBY,
WHO LIVED IN BURROWS COVE FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS.

BY: Earl Meeks and
Nana Lou Hamby Meeks
March, 1989.

ANCESTORS OF THE G.C. HAMBY FAMILY OF PELHAM, TENNESSEE

Compiled 1989
By Earl Meeks

Eli Hamby BA1795, DA1871
Sarah Lewis BA1797, D1875
Both born in No. Carolina

James Sartain, Sr. B1816, D1910
1. ? Tucker
2. Rebecca Isabel Brown
B1827, D1912

John Phipps b ? m
Marv Sanders b ?
Both born in Va.

?????? Meeks BA1798
Elizabeth Meeks BA1798
Born in Virginia

Eli (Wash) Hamby B1826, D1884
Rachel Arkansas Sartain B1840
D1892

Jackson Phipps b1815
Sally Smith b ?

James Meeks b 1813
1. Nancy Smith b ?
2. Abigail ?

James Harrison Hamby B1857, D1951
Nancy Anne Phipps B1865
D1954

Andrew Jackson Meeks 1854
Sarah Henrietta Sanders
B1861, D1930

Grover Cleveland Hamby b1884 m Bessie Meeks b 1888

Children were:

1. Hagan C. Hamby m Mildred Chrisman - no chil.
2. Jewell Hamby m Lude C. Goodman - no chil.
3. Melrose Hamby m H. Edward Holder
Children: Rosalyn Dawn and Edward Donovan
4. Nana Lou Hamby m T. Earl Meeks
Children: Grant Evan, Joy Eileen

11.11.88

FAMILY TREE FOR THE CHILDREN OF GROVER CLEVELAND AND BESSIE HAMBY

The children of Grover Cleveland and Bessie Meeks Hamby were: (1) Hagan Cleveland Hamby, (2) Jewell Hamby, (3) Melrose Hamby, and (4) Nana Lou Hamby B1921. Grover Cleveland was born in Pelham Valley in 1884 and Bessie Meeks was born in Pelham Valley in 1888. They were married on October 19, 1913, by the Reverend Tom White of Pelham, Tennessee while standing on a large flat limestone rock in his front yard. They lived their entire lives in Burrows Cove near Pelham. She died in June, 1959, age 70. He died in March, 1960, age 76. Both are buried in Bethel cemetery in Burrows Cove. Marriage and death information on their four children is included elsewhere in this report.

First, we take a look at the direct line of ancestors for Grover Cleveland Hamby. His father was James Harrison Hamby B1857, D1951. The father of James Harrison was Eli "Wash" Hamby B1826, D1884. The father of Eli "Wash" was Eli Hamby Sr. BA1795 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. The father of Eli Sr. was probably William Hamby or John Hamby, both of whom lived in Wilkes County N.C. according to land records there in the late 1700's. Eli Sr. died at the age of 76 and was buried on the Hamby farm in 1871, in a now-ancient graveyard on the east side of the Elk River in Burrows Cove. His son, Eli "Wash" is also buried in the same graveyard. James Harrison and his wife are buried in the Winton Graveyard on the James Harrison Hamby farm in Burrows Cove.

The wife of James Harrison Hamby was Nancy Anne Phipps B1865, D1954. She was the daughter of Jackson Phipps B1820, D1899, and Sally Smith Phipps B1822, D1907. Both are buried in the old Baptist graveyard, Pel. The parents of Jackson Phipps were John Phipps and Mary Sanders Phipps from Virginia, who arrived in Pelham Valley prior to 1820. Sallie Smith Phipps was from Alabama.

The wife of Eli "Wash" Hamby was Rachel Arkansas Sartain B1839 in Missouri, D1892 at age 52, buried in Winton Cemetery in Burrows Cove. She was one of about 9 children of James Sartain Sr. B1816 and ??? Tucker. James Sartain Sr. was born in Missouri Territory but moved back to Tennessee about 1845. After his first wife died he married Rebecca Isabel Brown and they had an additional six children.

The wife of Eli Hamby Sr. was Sarah Lewis BA1797 in Wilkes County, N.C., the daughter of William Lewis Jr. DA1820 and Jean Lewis. William Lewis Sr., father of William Jr. also lived in Wilkes County, N.C., in the northwestern sector of N.C. William Sr. was probably born in the 1730-1740 period.

Next, we take a look at the direct line of ancestors of Bessie Meeks Hamby, wife of Grover Cleveland Hamby. Her parents were Andrew Jackson Meeks B1854, D????, and Sarah Henrietta Sanders B1861, D1930. Both are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Burrows Cove. The father of Andrew Jackson Meeks was James Meeks B1813, DA1877, the son of Elizabeth Meeks BA1788 in Virginia. The mother of A.J. Meeks was Nancy Smith Meeks BA1819, D????, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ernie Smith. James and Nancy Meeks are buried near the church in Paynes Cove.

March, 1989
 DATE
 Nana Lou Hamby & Earl Meeks
 NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING CHART
 5015 Minden Rd.
 STREET ADDRESS
 Memphis, Tenn- 38117
 CITY STATE

PEDIGREE CHART

CHART NO.

NO. 1 ON THIS CHART IS
 THE SAME PERSON AS NO.
 ON CHART NO.

Nana Lou Hamby
 BORN Feb. 4, 1921
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED July 26, 1953
 DIED
 WHERE
 Thomas Earl Meeks
 NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE
 Born - Feb 12, 1922
 Pelham, Tenn.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1 Graven Cleveland Hamby
 BORN Jan. 17, 1884
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED Oct. 19, 1913
 DIED Mar. 5, 1960
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn.
 Buried - Bethel Cem.

3 Bessie Meeks
 BORN Dec. 2, 1888
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn.
 DIED June 26, 1959
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn.
 Buried Bethel Cem.

4 James Harrison Hamby
 BORN Dec. 17, 1857
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED About 1882
 DIED Feb. 5, 1951
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 Buried Winton Cem.

5 Nancy Anne Phipps
 BORN Jan. 5, 1865
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 DIED April 5, 1954
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 Buried Winton Cem.

6 Andrew Jackson Meeks
 BORN 1854
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED About 1881
 DIED ???
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 Buried Bethel Cem.

7 Sarah Henrietta Sanders
 BORN 1861
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 DIED 1930
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 Buried Bethel Cem.

8 Eli "Wash" Hamby
 BORN Oct 5, 1926
 WHERE Hickory Creek, Wilkes Co. Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED Aug 21, 1956
 DIED May 9/19, 1984 Bur. Hamby Farm
 WHERE Pelham, Tenn. Sunnys Cove
 9 Rachel Arkansas Santain
 BORN Nov. 5, 1834
 WHERE Missouri ??
 DIED Aug 2, 1892 Bur. Winton Cem.
 WHERE Hillsboro, Tenn.

10 Jackson Phipps
 BORN 1845 or 1820
 WHERE Tenn. - Palham
 WHEN MARRIED
 DIED 1899
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 11 Sally Smith
 BORN 1822 in Ala.
 WHERE Tenn. - Palham
 DIED 1907
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.

12 James Meeks
 BORN 1813
 WHERE In Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED
 DIED 1877
 WHERE Palham - Bur. Paines Cove Ch.
 13 Nancy Smith
 BORN 1819
 WHERE In Tenn.
 DIED
 WHERE

14 John R. Sanders
 BORN 1832
 WHERE Palham, Tenn.
 WHEN MARRIED
 DIED
 WHERE
 15 Salina E. ???
 BORN 1842
 WHERE
 DIED
 WHERE

16 Eli Hamby Sr. Born N.C.
 BA 1798, DA 1891
 Bur. Hamby Farm - Sunnys Cove
 17 Sarah Lewis Born N.C.
 BA 1797, D- Oct 26, 1925
 Bur. Hamby Farm Sunnys Cove
 18 James Santain Sr.
 B1816 in Mo. D1918
 Son of Susannah Santain BA 1890
 19 ??? TUCKER
 CONT. ON CHART

20 John Phipps Born in Va.
 CONT. ON CHART
 21 Many Sanders Born in Va. on N.C.
 BA
 CONT. ON CHART
 22 ??? Born in Ga.
 CONT. ON CHART
 23 ??? Born in Ga.
 CONT. ON CHART
 24 ??? MECKS
 CONT. ON CHART

25 Elizabeth ???
 BA 1798 in Va.
 Could have been born earlier
 CONT. ON CHART
 26 Thomas Smith
 CONT. ON CHART
 27 Many Ernie ???
 CONT. ON CHART

28 Jacob Sanders B1795
 Died 1867
 CONT. ON CHART
 29 Catherine ??? B1719
 CONT. ON CHART
 30
 CONT. ON CHART
 31
 CONT. ON CHART

-Pg: H16-

Before we leave the direct descendants of the pioneers, Eli and Sarah Hamby, born in North Carolina, let us digress for a moment and take a personal look at some of their descendants.

We have already taken a brief look at Eli "Wash" and Rachel Arkansas Hamby. "Wash" was the 5th. of 8 children of the pioneer Eli and Sarah Hamby. Arkansas' father was James Sartain, Sr. who was apparently born in Missouri. Arkansas is listed in both the 1870 and 1880 census reports as having been born in Tennessee in 1840. She died at 52 years of age. In the 1880 census, "Wash" and Arkansas lived between T.A. Sartain and F.R. Sartain. The Crabtrees and John Hawk lived nearby.. "Wash" and Arkansas were generous in taking homeless children into their household to live. Four years after they married in 1856, they had living with them their son, James Harrison 2, and their niece, Mary E. Keel 5. Mary E. was the daughter of "Wash's" sister, Martha Ann Hamby, who married Philmore Keele. Mary E.'s older sister, Sarah E. Keel, 7, was then living with her grandparents, Eli and Sarah Hamby. The conclusion is that Martha Ann died between 1855 and 1860, probably about 1858, at the early age of 28 or so.

At the time of the 1870 census "Wash" and Arkansas had living with them Harrison 12, Eli 9, Jesse R. 7, Mary E. Keel 14 or 15, George Meeks 14 as a laborer, and Martha Hamby age 1. As previously mentioned, this child Martha, age 1, is a mystery child, because she does not appear in their household in the census of 1880 or thereafter. She could have been their child and died between 1870 and 1880. Or she could have been the child of "Wash's" sister, Martha Ann Hamby, B 1832, but I believe we found all of hers. There was a 12 years gap between the birth of Jesse R. in 1863 and Clarissa Matilda in 1875, and Martha B 1869, would have filled in that gap. It is not known whose child George Meeks was.

In the 1880 census, "Wash" reported that he had been born in Tennessee and that both parents had been born in N.C. He and Arkansas had in their household at that time James H. 22, Eli W. 19, Jesse R. 17, Clarissa M. 5, and George F. 3. Arkansas reported in this 1880 census that she and both parents were born in Tennessee, however, her father, James Sartain Sr., reported several times that he was born in Missouri, which is probably correct. Unfortunately the 1890 census report for all of Tennessee was destroyed in a fire, so that source is unavailable. By the time of the 1900 census "Wash" and Arkansas were both dead. Arkansas died in August, 1892. "Wash" was 54 during 1880, and died May 9 or 19, 1884.

James Harrison Hamby B 1857 was the oldest child of "Wash" and Arkansas Hamby. He married Nancy Anne Phipps B 1865. They had a long and happy marriage; he lived to be 93 and she 89. Both are buried in the Winton Cemetery, which is located on their homeplace in Burrows Cove, where their daughters, Clercy and Maymie continued to live after their death. Clercy still maintains the homeplace as her residence, although she has been in a nursing home in Monteagle from a broken hip for the past year. Maymie died in 1981 and is buried in the Winton Cemetery. The homeplace

was originally a classic log structure with an open hallway through the center of the house, front to back, called a "dog trot". There was a large 20' X 20' room on the left side of the "dog trot" and another 20' X 20' room on the right side. Also on the right and behind the large room was a smaller room, perhaps 12' X 20', which served as the kitchen and dining area. In later years this smaller room became a bedroom after a new kitchen-dining area was built behind the 12 X 20 room. Also, the "dog trot" hallway has been enclosed and divided into two beautiful sitting rooms. A screened front porch has been built almost all the way across the front of the house. Clercy and Maymie spent many happy hours sitting on this tree-shaded porch watching the traffic, and the world, go by. The roadway that passes in front of the front yard has been designated as Tennessee State Highway 50 in recent years and is now a smooth blacktop. Two large barns, a large smokehouse, a washhouse, and numerous chicken houses complement the main residence. The old wagon scales remain to this day, and they were used by farmers for many years to weigh their farm products.

I personally had the privilege of being the supervisor of a crew of electrical linemen in 1949 when we built the first electrical power line into Burrows and Paynes Coves. Getting electricity had been a dream for many years of James Harrison Hamby and of his son, Grover Cleveland Hamby, as well as other residents of the two coves. J. H. realized his dream two years before he died, and G. C. lived 11 years with electricity before he died. Thus, I had the satisfying pleasure of helping bring a modern convenience to many, many of my ancestors descendants, and to the ancestors of my wife, Nana Lou Hamby Meeks. The greatest bonus of all, however, was that I began the courtship of Nana Lou while building the power lines in 1949; and we were married in the Methodist Church in Monteagle on July 26, 1953.. Why the long courtship? I had to finish up my electrical engineering degree at Purdue University in 1953. Also, it took that long to convince Nana Lou's sisters, Jewell and Melrose, that it was O.K. for Nana Lou (I call her Nancy) to leave the Pelham Valley area. In any event, running water and bathrooms were added to both of the above residences at the time of the arrival of electricity, to add to the appeal of living there. Jewell, whose husband Lude Goodman died in 1981, and Melrose with her husband Edward Holder still live in the G. C. and Bessie Hamby residence at the homeplace.

As previously mentioned, Eli "Wash" Hamby was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War from 1861 through 1863. At some time during the war Union soldiers came through Burrows Cove on a pillaging mission. When they stopped at the "Wash" Hamby residence just north of Bethel Cemetery they inquired of the menfolk, and particularly of "Wash". "Wash's" wife, Arkansas had hidden him and one or two others beneath the floor of the house and had covered the loose boards with a rug. She convinced the Union soldiers that no menfolk were around. One of the Union soldiers then proceeded to take Arkansas' personal horse saddle. Arkansas objected to this and resisted the soldier taking it. She held firmly on to the saddle as he slowly dragged her and the saddle toward the roadway. As he stood on the outside of the fence, and with Arkansas still clinging to the saddle on the inside of the fence, the soldier took his knife and rapped her knuckles until she had to release the saddle. She never saw her saddle again.

Hamby families have farmed in Pelham Valley continuously since the 1850's. Today there are several Hamby families still farming in Burrows Cove, many on land that their ancestors farmed before them. In the early 1920's, Grover Cleveland and Bessie Meeks Hamby added a retail store to their farming ventures and operated both the farm and a General Merchandise Store for more than 40 years until their death. He first bought the old Johnny Woodlee store, a small building up the lane and behind the present grist mill building at the homeplace. He only sold one box of baking soda the first day of operation. In time he built a new and larger store building, which still stands just north of the homeplace in Burrows Cove. They carried a full line of staple groceries, farm implements, dry goods, and a wide range of hardware items. Many customers swapped eggs and chickens for their grocery purchases. The Hambys then resold the eggs and chickens to non-farm customers that came from far and wide to trade with them. In later years, Mrs. Bessie did most of the operation of this successful country store.

Their son, Hagan began operating a retail store in Pelham about 1936 and when he relocated to the Detroit area in 1939, their daughter, Nana Lou took over operation of the Pelham store. This store was in the bottom floor of the old Masonic Hall, and located between the Dave Howard Store on the south and Dr. Bowden's office on the north. All three of these buildings stood on the northeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Hgw. 41 and Tenn. Hgw. 50. Mrs. Grace Gilliam, and later the Ashburns, operated a large store directly across U.S. Hgw. 41 for many years, but it burned in the 1940's. Nana Lou operated her store for some 14 years and after she married Earl Meeks in 1953, her sister Jewell resigned her position as English Teacher at Grundy County High School and began operation of the store. This store as operated by Nana Lou, and then Jewell, contained the U.S. Post Office and was a community gathering place. It was a sad Christmas Eve in Pelham in 1957 when both the Hamby store and the Howard store burned to the ground. Jewell and her husband, Lude Goodman, began construction immediately on a new store building just south of the Pelham Methodist Church. Jewell still operates the Pelham Food Market in this location today. Jewell and her sister, Melrose, continue to manage the G.C. Hamby farm. Thus, the G.C. Hamby family has combined farming and merchandising for more than 65 years in Pelham Valley.

G.C. Hamby operated a grist mill on his homeplace in Burrows Cove for many years. He cranked up the grist mill each Saturday afternoon and received one-sixth of all the corn meal that he ground as his fee for grinding. This Saturday afternoon grinding session was almost a community social function since people from far and wide brought their corn to be ground and visited with each other as they waited, and Mr. Hamby seemed to dance around to the rhythm of the machinery as it ground away. Mr. Hamby was one of the first valley farmers to own modern tractors and other modern farm machinery. When he could find the time he would do custom mowing and hay-bailing for other farmers. My father, T.N. "Pete" Meeks once contracted with Mr. Hamby to bail lespedeza hay grown on a 20 acre field in Paynes Cove. My brother, Paul David Meeks, and I had to fall in and help when two valley men quit in the middle

Hagan died
5/25/1965

of the morning because of the extreme summer heat. We survived the day but barely. I have never seen so much water, before or later, consumed by six men in one day. Mr. Hamby seemed to enjoy the work that day and worked harder than any of the rest of us as he made the final feed to the hay bailer with a pitchfork.

G.C. and Mrs. Bessie began housekeeping as newlyweds in a house in Bonner Hollow, about one-fourth mile west of the present-day Clercy Hamby farm. Hagan, Jewell, and Melrose were born in the house in Bonner Hollow. About 1920, they bought the Johnny Woodlee residence across the road from their current home, along with the old Woodlee store building. Nana Lou was born in this white frame house. Then about 1927 they purchased the current house and some more farm land, and added the present store building, probably in the 1930's. They were active participants in Bethel Methodist Church where he was a song leader at one time. It was in this same Bethel Church that Jewell, Melrose, and Nana Lou professed their religious faith enmasse in 1943 under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Lawrence Hicks, who later became a famous Nazerene Evangelist in Georgia, Florida, and Kentucky. They, along with 11 others, were baptized in the Elk River southeast of Bethel Church. May 30, 1943. Included in the 11 others was their mother, and their Aunt Thursa Meeks. Many years later, their father was baptized in 1959 in Elk River at Bells Mill in the Providence area of Pelham Valley. Bethel Church no longer is an active methodist church, however, non-sectarian services and summer revivals are still held there. Jewell and Melrose transferred their membership to the Pelham Methodist Church when Bethel discontinued being a methodist charge. Nana Lou and her husband, Earl, are active in Christ Methodist Church in Memphis.