

Some of the People Resting on This Hill

Known or Suspected to Be

Compiled by Hoyte Cook

A Work in Progress, for Review and Comments

July 20, 2026

(1) "Squire" Joseph Cummings (1802 - 1868) (KNOWN)

- Born in Virginia (near present-day Town of Bassett),
- Was brought to the Caney Fork River area by his parents Joseph, Sr. and Rosannah Medley Cummings around 1805,
- Was engaged in land trading early in his adulthood,
- Often witnessed documents such as deeds and wills, and was occasionally appointed as administrator of the estates of decedents,
- Married Ann Denney, Daughter of William & Patsy Burnett Denney,
- Was in charge of surveying the boundaries of Van Buren County in the early 1840s,
- Was in charge of laying out and mapping the Town of Spencer, Tennessee,
- Was a member of Masonic Mountain Lodge 261,
- Was the first Trustee of Van Buren County,
- Was instrumental in the establishment of Burritt College, -and served on its Board of Trustees,
- Was a Justice of the Peace and conducted several marriage ceremonies,
- Was Chairman of the Van Buren County Court in 1861 when Lincoln called for volunteers to "put down the rebellion" (and presided over formation of Van Buren County's Home Guard),
- Resigned from the Van Buren County Court in 1862 and,at age 60, ... joined the Confederate Army (Co. E, 22nd Tennessee Infantry, ...later the 38th Tennessee Infantry),

- Served as an "orderly" (scribe?, clerk?) and as an ordinance officer while in the army,
- Was among the bareheaded-and-barefoot troops of John Bell Hood's wrecked army that retreated southward in January 1865 ...in snow and freezing rain ...on frozen ground... following the Battle of Nashville (and, according to his grandson William Burl Mitchell, "got his feet frozen"),
- Continued to serve on the Burritt College Board of Trustees following the War (his proxy vote usually carried to the meeting by his son Denny Cummings),
- Is suspected of dying from Tuberculosis that he contracted during the War.
- Left a will.

(1W) Ann Denney Cummings (1813-1885) (KNOWN)

- Wife of Joseph ("Squire Joe") Cummings; daughter of William and Patsy Burnett Denney

(2) Thomas Crawley (1755-1843) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

- Born in Amherst County (likely part of Albemarle County at the time), Virginia,
- While residing in Pittsylvania County, Virginia in January 1776 he joined the Revolutionary Army of "Minute Men"....(dubbed "patriot rebels" by Virginia's colonial governor, Lord Dunmore). His first enlistment was for 8 months, during which time he served at places in Virginia such as Petersburg, Williamsburg, and Old Jamestown. He admitted to firing a few long-distance shots at 'Old Lord Dunmore' (presumably when Norfolk was burned in 1776, ... and Dunmore was run out of Virginia).
- In 1777, while still a resident of Pittsylvania County, Virginia he re-enlisted in the Army for a second hitch, ...for one year. In this tour of duty he was stationed at Hillsboro, N.C.; Camden, S.C.; at Sisters Ferry on the Savannah River; at Ebenezer, Georgia; and at Savannah, Georgia. While stationed at Savannah he was involved in engagements with 'Tories, Indians, and Florida Scouts'. And on May 16, 1777 he was a 'spectator' of the duel fought by General Lachlan McIntosh and Button Gwinnett (a signer of the Declaration of Independence), wherein both men were wounded, -Gwinnett mortally. *:[Those personalities probably would have viewed the other option (a lawsuit) as a thing for sissies.]*
- In February, 1779, while a resident of Guilford County, N.C. he enlisted for a third term of service, ...6 months. His travels took him through Salisbury and Charlotte, N.C. ...down to the Savannah River, where his unit joined up with that of General Lincoln. They crossed the river with the intent of whipping the British

at a fort on Briar Creek, but found the place vacated. Then they crossed back into South Carolina and finally stirred up some action at Bacon's Bridge on the Ashley River, and fought a battle at Stono Ferry near Charleston....which did not go very well. Lincoln retreated, and after a short time Thomas was discharged.

- His fourth term of service was for three months as a substitute for William Astill of Guilford County, N.C. for three months, beginning in late 1779. He caught up with the main army in South Carolina, went with them to Charleston, and was engaged in building fortifications when time came for his discharge...in March 1780.
- Then, in March 1780, when he was discharged in Charleston, S.C., he reenlisted for a fifth hitch in the Army.("because British General Sir Henry Clinton was menacing the safety of Charleston, and General Lincoln needed help"). Clinton laid siege to Charleston; and on May 12, 1780 General Lincoln surrendered his army; ... and Thomas Crawley became a prisoner of war. But,...after 10 or 11 days he was paroled and allowed to go home to Guilford County. And before he could be formally exchanged and try for another hitch....Cornwallis got cornered at Yorktown -and threw in the towel.
- On March 3, 1786 Thomas married Margaret (1761-1844, maiden name not known). The marriage may have taken place in Surry County, N.C.where the couple was reportedly living in 1788. Thomas and his family are also listed in the 1810 census of Surry County, N.C.
- In 1818 Thomas and Margaret Crawley were reportedly living in White County, Tennessee.
- In the 1820 census of White County, Tennessee Thomas Crawley's name is listed next to that of Daniel Hasting (Haston).
- In 1838 Thomas was granted a Revolutionary Soldier's pension of \$80 per year. We have a copy of his 1832 pension application -with testimony before the White County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. People that he named who could attest as to his character were Joseph Cummings, Esquire ("Squire Joe"), Thomas Hill, William Shropshire, and John White, Sr.

(2W) D. Margaret Crawley (1761-1844) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

- Wife of Thomas Crawley
- *A fieldstone, engraved 'D M C' -which is near the marked grave of her daughter Mary Polly Crawley Shockley- is believed to be her grave marker..*

(3) Thomas Shockley (1755-1843) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

- Was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia,
- Was married twice: the name of his first wife not known to us, and his second wife reported as Elizabeth Freid (or Freed),
- Stated that he lived in Grainger County, Tennessee for a while,then came to White County, Tennessee around 1816,
- In July 1833 -at age 77- he applied for a Revolutionary War pension, testifying that his first enlistment (for 3 months) was in 1773, entering service while a resident of Pittsylvania County, Virginia,...participating in a military campaign against the Cherokee Indians,...and visiting the Long Islands of the Holston River (at present-day Kingsport, Tennessee). And he testified that his second enlistment (for 3 months) was in 1774, while still a resident of Pittsylvania County; ...that tour of duty being a campaign against the Shawnee Indians, ... requiring him to visit places along the New River.
The Pension Department reviewed his application and returned his paperwork "not approved",....possibly due to some inconsistencies in the timetable of his claim of military service. [The conflict with the Shawnees (known as Lord Dunmore's War) was in 1774. And the referenced campaign against the Cherokees (regarded as part of the American Revolution) began in 1776, -not 1773. Some people can be really picky!] His application was eventually approved, and he was granted a pension of \$20 per year for his service as a Soldier of the Revolution.
- Isaiah Shockley vouched for his brother Thomas's claim of military service. Thomas named the following people who could attest to his good character: Turner Lane, Esq., Joseph Cummings, William Denney, and David Hasting, Esq.

(4) James Moore (1762 - 184_) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

- Was born in Bertie County, North Carolina,
- Lived in Bertie County, N.C; Cumberland County, N.C.; Pendleton County, S. C. ("for 20 years"); and in a part of White County, Tennessee that, in 1840, became part of Van Buren County.
- Entered Revolutionary military service. "in the fall of the year" ..but couldn't recall which year", joining his company in Cumberland County, N.C ... (*determined by others to have been in 1781*).
- "Was in an engagement with Tories in Chatham County, North Carolinaat Lindley's Mill" (*Battle of Lindley's Mill, 9/13/1781*)
- Was in an engagement with Tories & British "near Harmon Cox'es"
- Marched Randolph, Chatham, and Cumberland Counties of North Carolina

"through-and- through", ...then took furlough.

- Was mustered out of service at Cross Creek Town in Cumberland County, N.C. and was given a written discharge ...for 6 months of service as a volunteer and Lieutenant.
- Did not apply for a Revolutionary pension until 1841 because he had been told that the furlough taken during his 6-month tour rendered him ineligible, *(and he was right; his application was rejected due to that furlough).*
- Those who vouched for James Moore: Abijah Crain, Joseph Herd, John White, Sr., and Thomas Robertson.
- *James Moore lived near Big Fork Church and Cemetery. His son William ("Brother Billy") Moore was a prominent member of Big Fork Baptist Church.*

(5) Abel Pearson (1764-184_) (POSSIBLY)

In the 1840 Census Abel Pearson, Age 78, Revolutionary War Pensioner, was living in the household of Joseph (Squire Joe) Cummings (#1 above). At the time of this writing it has not been determined whether Mr. Pearson died in the said Cummings household -nor whether his daughter was still living in Bledsoe County, Tennessee. It is known that Squire Joe Cummings and his parents-in-law William and Patsy Burnett Denney are buried at Big Fork. Therefore, considering the foregoing circumstances, and in the lack of information to the contrary, it is speculated that Abel Pearson is possibly buried at Big Fork. According to his sworn testimony in 1832:

- He was born in Carrol's Tract, Pennsylvania in May of 1764.
- 1778-1790 -was living in Washington County, North Carolina (later part of Tennessee).
- 1790-1802 -was living in Union County, South Carolina. (Found in 1800 Census).
- 1802-1808 -was living in Carter County, Tennessee.
- 1808-1813 -was living in Washington County, Tennessee. (Not found in 1810 Census; could have been living in house of some other listed 'head of household'.)
- 1813-1815 - was living in Lincoln County, Tennessee
- 1815-1825 -was living in Bledsoe County, Tennessee (Not found in Bledsoe County in 1820 Census. An Abel Pearson was found living alone in Habersham County, Georgia in 1820. Was he working away from home?)
- 1825-1840 -was living in White County, Tennessee.

- 1840- ? .

During the American Revolution: he served five tours of duty as a volunteer, for a total of 19 months, and furnished his own horse,

- First tour,6 months, beginning around October of 1778, serving under Captain John Trimble as a guard at Sherill's Station on the Nolichucky River (in what is now east Tennessee).
- Second tour,about 3 months, beginning in late summer or early fall of 1779, serving under Colonel John Sevier, Major Jesse Walton, and Major Jonathan Tipton. Was in the Battle of Boyd's Creek (against the Cherokee Indians) in what is now East Tennessee. Participated in burning of the Indian towns of Tellico, Cleota (spelling?), and Chilhowee. Was discharged shortly after Christmas.
- Third tour,about 4 months, beginning in September of 1780, serving under Captain Jacob Brown. Joined group commanded by Colonels Campbell, Sevier, and Shelby at Greasy Cove, marched across the Allegheny Mountains, fell in with Colonel Cleveland's unit,...and, on October 7, fought in the Battle of King's Mountain. Helped guard the 600 to 700 prisoners taken at King's Mountain as they were marched to Salisbury, North Carolina. Was mustered out of service at Turkey Cove on the Catawba River.
- Fourth tour,about 3 months, beginning early in the year of 1781, serving under Captain Luke Boyer in a unit commanded by Colonels Sevier & Robertson. Fought against the Cherokee Indians in the 'Middle Settlements' or 'Overhill Towns' in the Cherokee Nation. Participated in burning some of those towns.
- Fifth tour, about 3 months, beginning around September of 1781, serving under Captain George Dougherty in a unit commanded by Colonels John Sevier and Charles Robertson, and Majors Walton, McNabb, and Tipton. Marched through several places in North Carolina, into South Carolina, and was attached to a brigade commanded by General Marion (the "Swamp Fox"). Assisted in taking a British hospital and 85 prisoners near Monck's Corner, South Carolina.

And, while living in Lincoln County, Tennessee, he again enlisted in military service for the War of 1812.

He stated (in 1832) that he had a daughter living in Bledsoe County, Tennessee.

Those who vouched for him on his pension application were:

- Reverend John Scoggin
- Jesse Scoggin, Esquire
- Archibald Connor

- Captain John White
- Isaac Plumlee
- William Denney, Esquire
- Thomas Gist (who served with him on a couple of tours of duty.)

(6) Cader Measles (POSSIBLY)

Mr. Measles made his first application for a Revolutionary War pension before the Van Buren County Court on October 3, 1842 (at age 78), and his second application -before the Van Buren County Court- on June 27, 1848 (at age 84). There were a few inconsistencies in the testimonies given on those two occasions, -but the substance of his account appeared reasonably credible. From his last appearance before the county court, we have the following:

- He was born in Bertie County, North Carolina November 7, 1763.
- He volunteered for military service, and was inducted at Windsor, North Carolina May 5, 1780.
- Officers under whom he served included Captain Solomon Cherry, Major Thomas Pugh, Colonel Moore, and Generals Gregory and Butler.
- He was not engaged in any battle, but was within half a mile on one skirmish in North Carolina near the Yadkin River in which Virginia Troops killed 17 Tories. He did considerable marching and camping within North Carolina, -places visited including Kinston, Hillsborough, the old Moravian town (Salem), Bell's Mill, the Pee Dee River, the Neuse River, and the Yadkin River.
- He was discharged from the service by Gregory November 5, 1780 near the Yadkin River in North Carolina.
- When he made his pension applications he stated that he was living "on the bench of the Cumberland Mountain" in Van Buren County, formerly in White County, ...(on the Madewell Flat possibly?); and that he had previously lived in Bertie and Burke Counties of North Carolina, and Knox and Roane Counties of Tennessee.
- His wife's name was Jane, and he had a son named Richard.
- He named James Moore (No. 4 above) as one who could attest to his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

(7) Charles Madewell, Sr. (1785 - ca 1865) (KNOWN)

- Served in Newman's Company, 3rd. Regiment, West Tennessee Militia, War of 1812.

(7W) Charity Dixon Madewell (1792-ca 1865) (KNOWN)

- Wife of Charles Madewell, Sr.

(8) Charles Madewell, Jr. (1827 - ca 1867) (KNOWN)

- Served in Company C, 35th Tennessee Infantry, CSA

(9) William Denney (17-- - 18--) (KNOWN)

- *Was known as 'Captain' William Denney; -and may have been in the War of 1812 (not yet verified).*

(9W) Patsy Burnett Denney (KNOWN)

- Wife of William Denney

(10) John R. Whitley (KNOWN)

- Was born in Tennessee October 20 1831.
- Was in the household of Joel & Nancy Whitley in the 1850 Census of District 1, White County, Tennessee
- His military records indicate that he was a sergeant in Company E, 1st. Battalion, (Colms') Tennessee Infantry, CSA
- He joined the Confederate Army at Sparta, Tennessee 1/4/1862;
- was captured by Union forces at Fort Donelson 2/16/1862;
- was a prisoner of war at Camp Morton, Indiana ...until he was paroled due to sickness 9/3/1862, ...placed aboard the Steamer Louis D'or ..."to proceed via Cairo, Illinois to Vicksburg, Mississippi"; ... and was paroled (or exchanged) near Baton Rouge, Louisiana 10/9/1862,
- was reported to be in the Confederate post hospital at Dalton, Georgia 10/29/1862;

- was furloughed (for 40 days due to sickness) 11/29/1862,
- and was discharged (due to disability) 7/1/1863.
- He married Sarah Cummings (daughter of "Squire Joe" & Ann Denney Cummings) 6/29/1877,
- Appears in District 7 of Van Buren County, Tennessee in the 1870 Census;
- Died 5/1/1872 (probably from illness contracted as a prisoner of war)

(11) Denney Cummings (ca 1841 - 1868) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

- Was in the household of "Squire" Joseph Cummings (No. 1 above) in the 1860 Census of Van Buren County, Tennessee,
- Enlisted in Company I, 16th. Tennessee Infantry, CSA on 5/20/1861 as a private
- Was promoted to 3rd. Lieutenant at Perryville, Kentucky in October, 1862 -in which Battle he was severely wounded ("*...was shot in the mouth, breaking his jaw and carrying away 14 or 15 teeth, -but he got over it, re-joined our company, and was in the Battle of Chickamauga!*" -C.H. Clark),
- Was 'captured' by Federal Troops at Perryville, Kentucky on 10/9/1862 and imprisoned at Camp Chase, Ohio until 3/28/1863. On that date he was transferred to City Point, Virginia for prisoner exchange.,
- Was mentioned in an inspection report near Jonesboro, Georgia 9/16/1864 as being absent but accounted for by surgeon's certificate,
- Was paroled at Demopolis, Alabama 6/2/1865 following the surrender of Lieutenant General R. Taylor, CSA,
- On 4/16/1866 he presented his certificate of election as Circuit Court Clerk of Van Buren County, Tennessee and took the oaths of office.
- He served as a Trustee of Burritt College, usually bearing the proxy of his father, "Squire Joe" Cummings to meetings, the last such meeting he is on record as having attended being 2/24/1868.
- On 11/2/1868 his uncle, William Burrell Cummings, was appointed as Administrator of his estate.

(12) Allison Cummings (1844 - 1863) (SUSPECTED REINTERRED)

- Was in the household of "Squire" Joseph Cummings (No. 1 above) in the 1860

Census of Van Buren County, Tennessee,

- Enlisted in Company A, 4th Murray's Tennessee Calvary on 6/14/ 1862,
- Was killed in the Battle of Dover, Tennessee 2/3/1863,
- Appears to have been in "Carter's Company" (*Possibly Captain George W. Carter -who came to be known as a 'bushwhacker'*),

(13) John L. Cummings (1840 - 1866) (KNOWN)

- Was in the household of "Squire" Joseph Cummings (No. 1 above) in the 1860 Census of Van Buren County, Tennessee,
- Was a member of Masonic Mountain Lodge 261,
- Enlisted in Company I, 16th. Tennessee Infantry, CSA, on 5/20/1861
- Was captured by federal troops in the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee on 12/20/1864, and took the 'oath of allegiance to the United States' ...ostensibly as a condition of parole, (*Description on his service card states that he was 5'-9" tall, with fair complexion, light-colored hair, and blue eyes.*)
- Was killed (crushed by an overturning wagon load of logs) on October 30, 1866 in Cummings Cove, Van Buren County, Tennessee. (*Note: On 8/16/1960, William B. "Little Will" Mitchell, a nephew of John L. Cummings, was killed by an overturning tractor at the exact same location.*)
- The details of his funeral are recorded in the minutes of the Masonic Mountain Lodge 261.

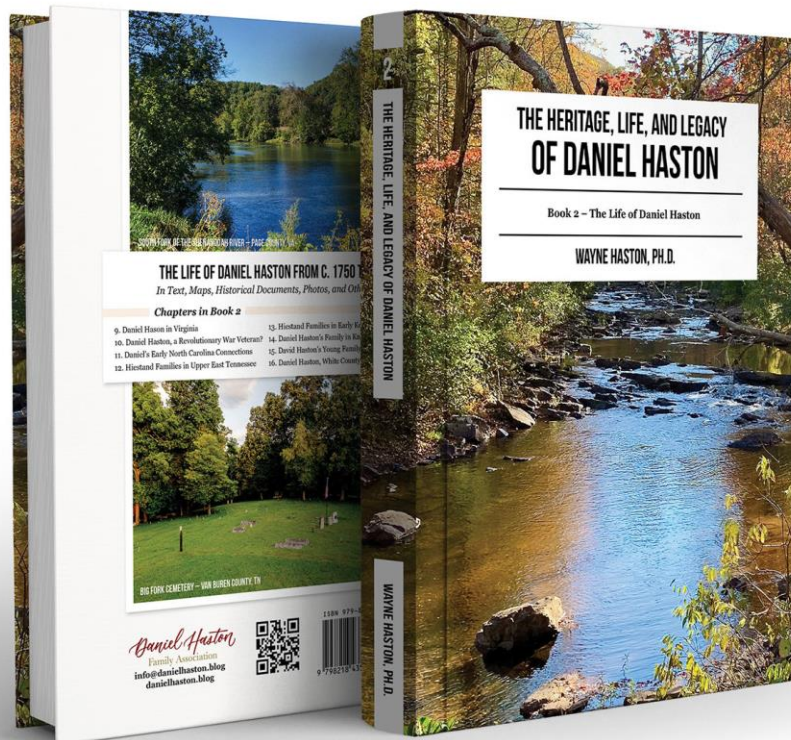
(14) Montgomery Greenville Haston (1823 - 1869) (KNOWN)

- Served in Company C, 35th Tennessee Infantry, CSA

(15) William Burrell Shockley (1819 - 1875) (KNOWN)

- Served in Van Buren County Home Guard, CSA

(16) Daniel Haston (1735 - 1826) (KNOWN)

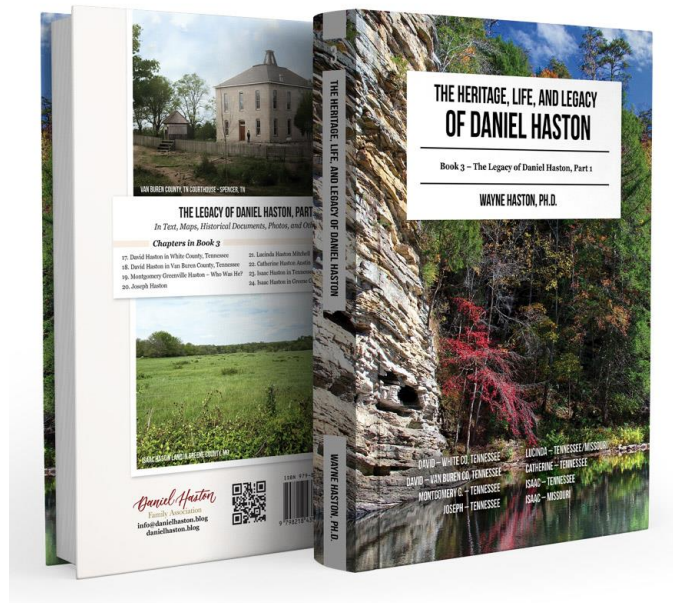


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75% of the funds from the sale of this book go into the Big Fork Historic Cemetery Maintenance Account

(16W) (Wife of Daniel Haston)

(17) David Haston (1777 - 1860) (KNOWN)



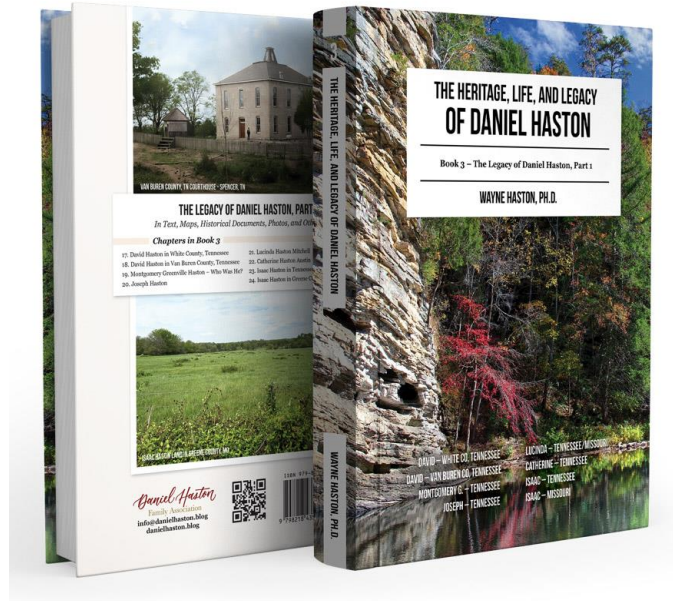
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(17W) Margaret Roddy Haston

(18) Joseph Haston (1780-1834) (KNOWN)



50+ Pages on Joseph Haston

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(18W) Sarah Crieley (or Crawley?) Haston (KNOWN)

(19) Jacob Stipe (1769 - 1858) (KNOWN)

(20) William ("Brother Billy") Moore (1802 - ca 1883) (SUSPECTED, AND VERY LIKELY)

(20W) Abitha (Tabitha) Moore

- Wife of William ("Brother Billy") Moore

(21) Mary "Polly" Crawley Shockley (ca 1790 - 1830) (KNOWN)

- Wife of William ("The Jailer") Shockley (ca 1783-1853)
- Daughter of Thomas & Margaret Crawley (No's. 2 & 2W above)

(22) Nancy Ann Cummings Mitchell (1854-1883) (KNOWN)

- Daughter of Joseph ("Squire Joe") & Ann Denney Cummings
- First wife of John Franklin Mitchell (1852-1922), grandson of "Brother Billy" Moore (#20 above)
- Died January 14, 1883 from childbirth complications.
- *Her husband remarried less than a month after her death (White County marriage license is dated February 9, 1883). According to family lore, when the second wife took her first load of laundry down to the washing shed, she found Nancy's footprints in the hardened mud.*

(22) William Jasper Cummings (1835-1862) (KNOWN)

- Son of William Burrell and Martha Denney Cummings
- Was in the Mercantile business with his father & brother in 1860
- Was a member of Masonic Mountain Lodge 261
- Died "at home February 4, 1862" according to Masonic records.

BLACK SECTION:

(1B) William Huddleston (ca 1832 - ca 1914) (KNOWN)

- Served in Company C, 44th Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry, War between the States
- Was a blacksmith

(1BW1) Martha Huddleston (1836-1904)

- First wife of William Huddleston

(1BW2) Lou Hammonds Evans Huddleston (1864 - 1911)

- Second wife of William Huddleston

(2B) Peter Cummings (ca 1821 - 1916) (KNOWN)

- *Was born in Georgia. He may have come to Van Buren County -as a slave- with Gabriel Marion Cummings (a Georgia school teacher who was a native of Van Buren County, Tennessee) when the War between the States broke out in 1861.*

(2BW) Eveline "Evie" Shockley Cummings (1850-1916) (KNOWN)

- Second wife of Peter Cummings

(3B) Gabriel "Gabe" Cummings (1884 - 1939) (KNOWN)

- Son of Peter & Evie Shockley Cummings
- Enlisted in the U.S. Army 4/20/1918 at Spencer, Tennessee
- Served in 155th Depot Brigade to June, 1918
- Served (overseas) in 320th Service Battalion, QMC 7/18/1918 - 7/2/1919.
- Was discharged from the Army 7/9/1919
- Played the banjo

(4B) Claiborne "Clabe" Cummings (ca 1880 - 1945) (KNOWN)

- Son of Peter & Evie Shockley Cummings

(5B) James "Jim" Cummings (1866-1945) (KNOWN)

- Son of Peter & Evie Cummings
- Worked in the coal mines near South Pittsburgh, Tennessee.
- Was a self-taught, practicing animal doctor. Had a hand-written book with some of his 'standard treatments' described. *(The treatment for a dog with rabies was,*

"Kill the dog".)

(5BW) Myra Lou "Luder" Sparkman Cummings (1874-1959) (KNOWN)

- Wife of "Jim" Cummings
- Daughter of Ben and Priscilla Rickman Sparkman
- Was a midwife and "herb doctor"
- Made lye soap -using lye recovered from an ash hopper in her back yard
- Was an avid gardener

(6B) Peter Cummings, Jr. (1871-1944) (KNOWN)

- Son of Peter & Evie Cummings

(7B) Benjamin Franklin Reedy (1927-1946) (KNOWN)

- Son of Wilburn ("Slick") and Notie Shockley Reedy.
- *Killed by a falling tree October 3, 1946)*