

MATERNAL

DISCOVERING THE PAST
LIVING TODAY
ANTICIPATING TOMORROW

By Patsy Simms Turner (2013)

This family history of the Maternal side of the Ford's has been compiled from oral history, the census records from 1880, (1890 destroyed in fire), 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930. Additional information came from the Filson Historical Society (Louisville, KY) and the Louisville Public Library. Consider also that even Census records could be off by a couple of years either way. They were not always accurately recorded (if at all). Please excuse all spelling and date mistakes found. Thanks to Daddy (at age 85) for hanging with me to get it done.

Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation proclamation in September 1862. On Jan 1, 1863, it was put into effect. Due to results of the Civil War and controversies within the state, the slaves in Kentucky were not emancipated until Dec. 1865 (almost 3 years later) but were still held into indentured servitude for years after. Law did not allow slave marriages EXCEPT for slaves belonging to White Catholic families until 1866. Records on slaves were not available until 1860 and then they were only listed as property under the name of the owners. The only identification slaves had (on record) was by owner, age and sex. All slaves were to have been freed by the 1870 census.

I was told that Kentucky did not have a certain tribe of Native Americans especially in the Louisville area and I could not find any plantations owned by PEYTON or CHURCHILL families. The Native Americans living here in Louisville migrated from Indiana and they were of the Shawnee Tribe. The furthest back I could find on our MATERNAL side was EMMA PEYTON and was also spelled, PAYTON. I will count her as the 1st generation located because the records earlier could not be found.

EMMA (EMILY) PEYTON (b. 1837)
FIRST GENERATION

Emma was born in Louisville, KY and as a child lived in the neighborhood that was eventually called Smoketown. There was no record of her being born into slavery. I'm not sure if there were even slaves in Jefferson County. We were told as children that there

was definitely NATIVE AMERICAN (possibly Shawnee) ancestry in our history on the maternal side. She and JOHN CHURCHILL had a daughter by the name of EDMONIA PEYTON in 1851. Edmonia Peyton listed Emma Peyton and John Churchill as her parents when she registered with the FREEDMAN'S BANK, which was the only way that freed slaves, and/or Native Americans with slave partners could be recorded on paper until the

next census was done (every 10 years) which only included Blacks/Native Americans after 1860. Recorded in the 1880 United States Federal Census, Emma (also known as Emily) was head of household, housekeeper and widowed on record. Edmonia's age (daughter) was recorded as the oldest of eight children. Emma died around 1915 at the age of 78 years old.

EDMONIA (PEYTON) JONES (b. 1857)
SECOND GENERATION

Edmonia was born in Smoketown and according to the Freedman's Bank records of 1873; she lived on Preston between Breckinridge and Caldwell Streets. Edmonia was in her early twenties, her complexion was Dark Mulatto and she worked for Colonel Lee as a cook. Two half brothers and two half sisters were also mentioned (no names). Edmonia married George Jones (b.1857, d.1919) who was a private in the 12th Regiment United States Colored Heavy Artillery in WWI. Upon his death, Edmonia received a pension of around \$20 per month until her death May 10, 1936 at the age of 79 years old. Georgia Jones (Anderson) was one of their children. The 1890 Census Records were destroyed by fire in Washington DC.

GEORGIA (JONES) ANDERSON (b. 1888)
THIRD GENERATION

Georgia Anderson (Granny to us) was the fourth child out of six children born to Edmonia and George Jones.



Hulda (Huldy) b. 1880; John b. 1882; Lillian b. 1886; Harrison b. 1890 and Emily M. b. 1894. In the 1900 and 1910 census records, George Jones was head of house and Edmonia's mother; Emma Peyton lived with them in Smoketown. Granny's occupation was a dietitian at Veterans Hospital and helped Mama with the cooking, cleaning, washing and watching us. Georgia (Granny) died in 1965 at the age of 77 years old. She LOVED wrestling and looked like GRANNY on the Beverly Hillbilly's Show (only she was African American). She had one child.



KATIEMAY CHURCHILL (EVANS) HOUSTON (b. 1909)
FOURTH GENERATION

Katiemay Churchill Evans (as written on her diploma from Colored Central High School) was the only child born to Georgia Anderson and is listed on the 1920 census at age 11. We called her De, or DeDe.



Emily M. Jones is listed as Emily M Tapp (which could have possibly been a mistake) and Edmonia Jones is widowed and head of house. They are renting the house at 958 South Preston Street. Katiemay (De) died in 1995 at the age of 86 years old. I remember De with her fancy hats, high heels and impressive dress. She was a seamstress and beautician and owned a beauty shop on Hale Street.

MARY E. (HOUSTON) FORD (b. 1926)
FIFTH GENERATION

Mary Elizabeth Ford (Mama/Grandma) was the only child born to Katiemay and Charles Houston (grandpa).



In the 1930 census she was listed as being 3 years and 4 months old. The family purchased the house at 958 South Preston Street in 1925 from Ida M. Wilson and the deed was in Emily M. Jones name. After aunt Emily married Victor StClair they worked as a personal assistant and chauffer for Mary Cummings Paine Eudy (a novelist). They spent winters in Winter Park Florida and summers in New York visiting Louisville when possible. Edmonia (age 73) is listed as head of house and all of Granny's siblings are still alive in 1930.



Mary E. Houston married Eugene Ford (1922-2007) (Daddy/Papa).



Emily and Victor StClair deeded the house at 958 to them on June 26, 1950. To this union five children were born. Gene Elizabeth b. 1943; Patsy Ann b. 1946; Marilynn Louise b. 1949; Eugene Jr. b. 1954 and Fred Charles b.1957.



Mary E. (Mama/Grandma) died April 29, 1993 at the age of 66 years old. She was a part-time staff associate with the Presbyterian Church, USA, staff member of the Presbyterian Community Center, an elder of Grace Hope Presbyterian Community Center, Scout leader mother, grandmother and substitute teacher with the Jefferson County Public Schools.

After Mary's death in 1993, the family established a scholarship for deserving students to attend college. Since 1994, 48 students have received either a Mary E. Ford, Eugene Ford Sr., or a Ford Family Scholarship which was funded by the Mary and Eugene Ford Foundation, Inc. In March, 2010, the Ford Foundation transferred the funds to College Heights Foundation as an endowed scholarship to WKU students from Central High School (Louisville, KY) and Jefferson County Public School Students attending Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. WKU awards a \$2000 MARY AND EUGENE FORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP annually.

Mary and Eugene's graves are in section 26, 194 at Evergreen Cemetery, Louisville, KY.