

PATERNAL

DISCOVERING THE PAST
LIVING TODAY
ANTICIPATING TOMORROW

By Patsy Ford Simms (1997/2013)

One fact that we should remember when doing an African American Family History is that Birth and Death Certificates were not available until 1911. Black records were mostly kept by family members in bibles and passed on through oral history story telling sessions. Some information was found in census records and death certificates kept by the Filson Club, public library, and Nelson County Court House in Bardstown. The 1890 records were destroyed in a fire in Washington DC. 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).

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. These marriages could be performed by the Priests. To be able to get married in 1866, the couple had to pay \$. 75 at the court house and claim the number of years already living as husband and wife. Records on slaves were not available until 1860 and then they were only listed as property under the names of the owners. The only identification slaves had (on record) was by 1) owner 2) age 3) sex. No names were ever written down on census records for slaves. All slaves were to have been freed by the 1870 census.

It has been said that our fore-parents lived in Maud(e), Kentucky in Washington County. Census records tell us that a few years after the end of slavery and indentured servitude (mid 1870's), the Fords were in Bloomfield KY (in Nelson County), The reason for the mix up was that at that time, the Post Office serving Bloomfield and Beech Fork, was in Maud(e) Ky. According to oral history, in the mid '80's, John Ford b. 1852 (2nd generation), wife and child Fred, moved back to Henry County, KY (where he was born during slavery). Around 1894-1995, John Ford and his family (wife and 4 children) returned to Beech Fork, KY. a colored settlement in Bloomfield (right across the Beech Fork River from Maud(e) Ky). Clarence b. 1910, (5th generation) recalls how his father John Pap b. 1892 (4th generation), told him about their move from Henry back to Nelson when he (Pap) was a young child (around 3 yrs.old).

The FORD FAMILY has a history of African, French, Caucasian and Native American Ancestry. (Some FORD men married women with Native American Ancestry)

BASIL FORD (b. 1793)

FIRST GENERATION (found in 1997)

BASIL FORD b. 1793 is the first (Black) Ford that has been located on record. It is believed that he was owned by PHILLIP FORD (White-Catholic slave owner). Phillip Ford (French roots) from

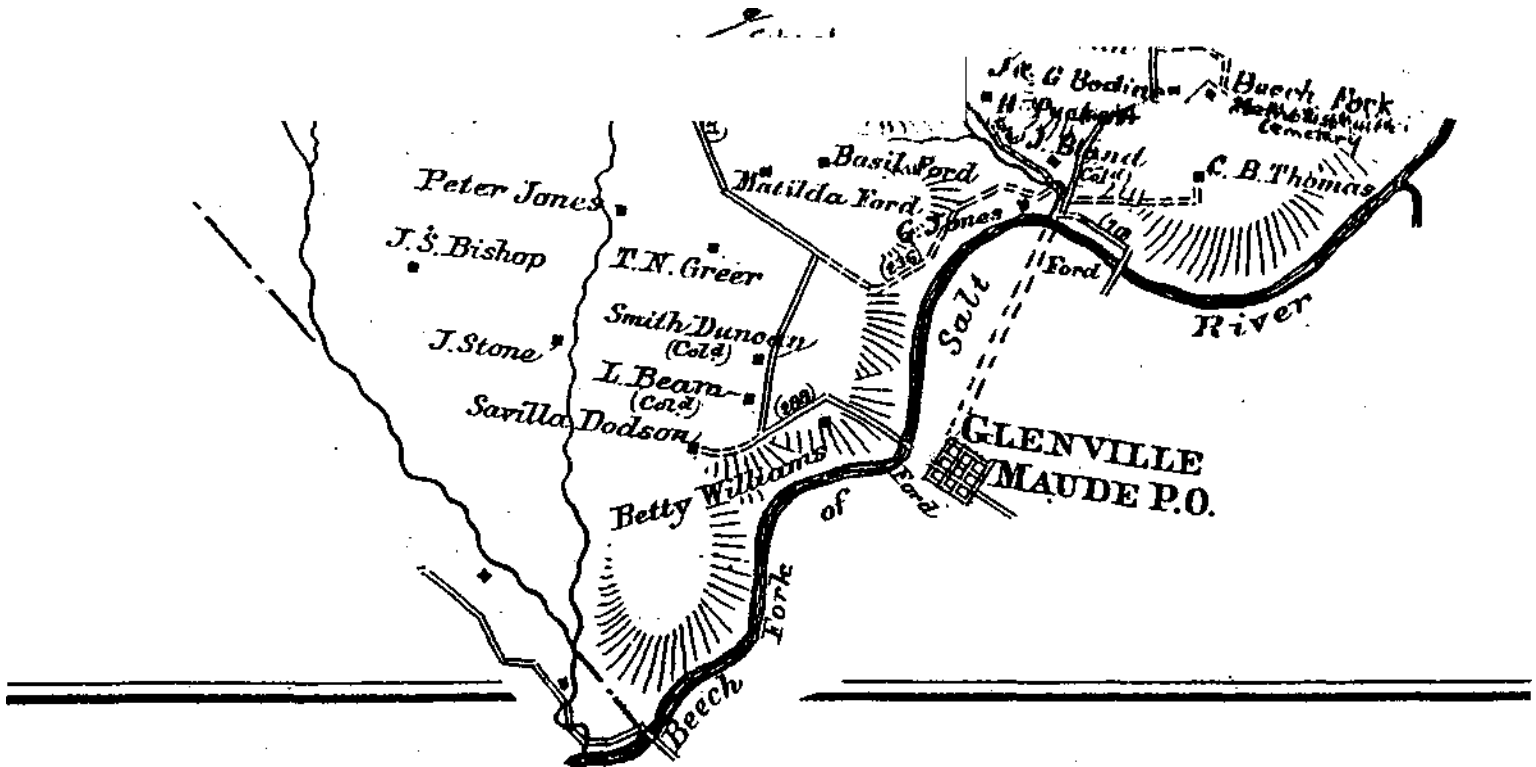
Maryland, brought his slaves to New Castle, KY in Henry County when the Northern states began abolishing slavery around 1790. Catholic slave owners named their newly born slaves after catholic saints. This was the reason for the name, BASIL.

When Phillip died, his slaves were divided among his children (as property). In the 1860 census records, there were 6 Ford slave owners in New Castle who had a total of 31 slaves.

SECOND GENERATION

MATILDA FORD b.1828, a widow (by 1875) was the daughter-in-law of BASIL(b.1793). Matilda was married to Basil's son George. They had 9 children. GEORGE (Jr) b.1849, BASIL b. 1854, JOHN b. 1852, MILTON b. 1861, MANDY b.1858, CHARLOTT b. 1863, MARY b. 1865, ALBERT b. 1867 and SIMEON b. 1868. George and Matilda could legally be married by the Priest because they were owned by a Catholic family. Matilda was listed as being a widow by 1875 with 9 children and elderly Basil living with them in Bloomfield (Nelson County). Matilda and Basil (father-in-law) bought 33 acres of land in 1878 for \$396 (equal shares). The family is on record living there in 1875 but not buying the land until 1878. This info was taken from 1880 census and

deed records of Nelson County. Included in the 1882 Colored Settlement Atlas is a map of Beech Fork (in Bloomfield) with Matilda and Basil's names showing where their land was located with 2



houses on the property.

THIRD GENERATION

JOHN FORD b.1852 and GEORGE FORD b.1849 were brothers (from Matilda's and George's family of 9 children) in Nelson County. These are the only two of Basils grandchildren that I have traced

down additional generations. Brother Simeon, married Laura Wilson in 1897 and brother Basil married Adaline Wigginton in 1881.

JOHN FORD b. 1852 and LUCY BELL (Weathers) b. 1864 had 4 children. Their names were FRED b.1884, JOSAPHINE (Josie) b.1891, JOHN Pap - b.1892 and LULA b.1888 (no children)

Around 1895, John and Lucy were in Nelson County where John bought 10+ acres of Beech Fork River front land and built a house. John was a cropper (fanned the land). Before his death (1896), John purchased 2 additional parcels of land and divided it for his children. Half he gave to FRED and John (Pap) and the other half to Lula and Josie. Lula eventually came to Louisville to study to be a school teacher and returned to Nelson County to teach. She did not have any children. (Previous informaton is from oral history). After John's death, Lucy Bell married Simon Lewis.

FOURTH GENERATION JOHN and LUCY BELL'S CHILDREN

FRED b.1884 married HARRIET (Thomas) b. 1892 had 7 children.



RUFUS, b. 1911 (RK) died in 1929 from pneumonia^DAVID LEE b.1918 d.2004, ANNA MAE (Harvey) b.1908 d. 1998 (no children), CHARLES b, 1929 d. 2004, EUGENE b.1922-d.2007, SYLVESTER b. 1926, and JOHN (Jack) b. 1918.

FRED AND HARRIET moved their family to Louisville KY around 1923-1924 and lived in Smoketown. Fred had been a cropper in Nelson County before they left.

EUGENE (Feb. 19, 1922-Oct. 8, 2007) was a celebrated basketball star at Louisville Central high school, served in WW II and was the 2nd African American Alderman representing the 8th Ward in 1965. He was a faithful member of Grace Hope Presbyterian Church for over 65 years.



FIFTH GENERATION

EUGENE married MARY Houston (Nov. 4, 1926-April 29, 1993) They had 5 children who were all raised at 958 So. Preston Street, Lou. KY



Gene Eliz. Wilson, b. 1943 Patsy Turner b. 1946, Marilyn Taylor, b.1949, Eugene Jr., b. 1954 and Fred Charles, b. 1957.



All 5 children grew up in Smoketown and attended the same schools as Mary and Eugene,. Booker T. Washington, Jackson Jr. High (now Meezeek) and Central High School.



Eugene and Mary started one of the first African American Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops at Grace Presbyterian Church in the mid 50's and stayed involved with Troop 36 for over 40 years.

After Mary's death in 1993, the family established a scholarship for deserving students to attend college. Since 1994, 50 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 Annually awards a \$2000 scholarship know as the MARY AND EUGENE FORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

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



SIXTH, SEVENTH and EIGHTH GENERATIONS EUGENE and Mary's children

GENE WILSON b.1943 has 4 children: Toni b.1966, Terri b.1968, Ise' b.1977, Shaun b.1979 and

PATSY SIMMS TURNER (Otis) b. 1946 has 2 children. Melvin Eugene b.1976 and Keith Andre' b,1978.

MARILYNN TAYLOR (Willie)b, 1949 has 3 children. Johnathan b.1973, Travis b.1975 and DeAnna b. 1977.

EUGENE JR. b.1954 and Jacqueline have 2 children. Tia b.1980 and Eugene III (Trey)b.1987.

FRED b.1957 and Beverly have 2 children. Pamela b.1985, and Erica b.1990.