

Black Kentucky Pioneers:

Pleasant Point Baptist Church Cemetery Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, Ky.

Located at northeast corner of intersection of Highways 231 & 764 at Pleasant Ridge, Ky.
Copied by Jerry Long on 13 October 1987:

James R. Acton (funeral home marker)	6 Oct 1930	8 Apr 1987
Edward O. Acton	23 Jun 1935	16 Jun 1980
Desoline L. Bailey (Ky Pvt Co C3 Development Bn WWI)	24 Mar 1898	12 Apr 1967
E. Larry Bailey (Ky PFC Co A 31 Inf 9 Inf Div Vietnam SS-BSM-PH)	15 Mar 1950	24 Mar 1969
Edwin R. Baker, Jr. (son)	28 Aug 1932	23 Jan 1971
Lavetta M. Baker (mother)	6 Jan 1907	16 Sep 1971
Chancery Bell (Ky PFC US Army World War I)	23 Jan 1891	1 Oct 1969
B. Brannon	1 May 1861	17 May 1935
Joseph Brannon	3 Dec 1863	10 Jun 1930
Mary m. Brannon	18 Oct 1876	13 Sep 1942
Embry Board (husband)	18 Oct 1890	17 Jul 1972
Eva Payne Board (wife)	8 Feb 1897	28 Dec 1968
Charles C. Board (son)	17 Sep 1917	25 Feb 1964
Otha R. Collins (Ind. Pvt US Army World War I)	4 Mar 1909	9 Jan 1970
Malinda C. Cooper (d/o Luke & Ann)	16 Sep 1858	9 Apr 1887
Edmonia Shively Dozier	6 Mar 1914	17 Mar 1976
Mary A Fields	8 Sep 1828	11 Apr 1895
Wilson Fields	1824	12 Aug 1880
Addie W. Fields (mother)	12 Mar 1873	26 Nov 1957

Hollis D. French	11 Nov1884	26 Sep 1965
Gertrude French	1 Sep 1893	4 Jul 1945
Chester French (Ky PFC 815 Pioneer Inf World War I)	21 Jan 1894	7 Sep 1949
Altha O. French	7 Sep 1880	9 Feb 1899
W. H. French, Sr. (father)	1888	1949
Pearl French (mother)	1889	1961
Viola French (daughter)	1917	1942
Parker Haynes, Sr.	10 Sep 1833	26 Apr 1904
Eliza Ann Haynes (w/o P.)	15 Oct 1840	10 Jul 1881
Mary B. Higgs	1 Oct 1896	22 Mar1948
Thomas N. Higgs	8 Jun 1884	10 Apr 1952
Gertrude M. Higgs		
Cora J. Higgs	7 Jun 1896	25 Jul 1986
John B. Jackson (h/o Eliza J.)	died 26 Dec 1887	aged 75 yrs.
Mathew Jackson	1839	1921
Anna Jackson	1844	
Albert A. Jackson	20 May 1875	21 May 1966
Ella H. Jackson	17 Dec 1882	23 Jun 1943
Hardin H. Jackson	22 Feb 1877	11 Nov1951
Lora F. Jackson	13 May 1892	
Altie Mae Jackson	20 Apr 1897	14 Nov1982
Finley W. Jackson (father)	20Apr 1863	1 Apr 1938
Mary A. Jackson (mother)	9 Feb 1863	15 Sep 1928
Theodora J. Smith (daughter)	25 Sep 1904	
Harvey H. Jackson	27 Aug1881	5 Mar 1929
Judith Jackson	died 15 Feb 1916	age 95 years
Mrs. Emma Jackson	9 May 1882	12 Oct 1942
Wm. Taft Jackson	19 Nov1908	19 Nov1976
?Ph__ Jackson (w/o Chas.)	12 Jun 1868	3 Nov 1895

Ann C. Johnson	1871	1924
Kittie Johnson	died April 1873	aged 65yrs
Herbert D. Kendall	23 Sep 1945	1 Mar 1981
W. H. Mason	1877	1934
Garfield Mason (Ky Pvt 801 Pioneer Inf)		23 Jun 1934
Bettie C. Merriweather	26 Oct 1907	2 Mar 1984
J. W. Montgomery.	19 Jan 1833	4 Sep 1902
Judith A. Montgomery (w/o J. W.)	10 Mar 1850	26 Jul 1924
Mary A. Montgomery (d/o J. W. & Juda A.)	3 Apr 1879	8 Sep 1897
G. Ernest Murray	6 Jul 1878	22 Sep 1936
Elizabeth H. Murray	28 Jul 1891	11 May 1970
Nelson Murray	22 Sep 1863	4 Oct 1924
Robert E. Murray	4 Mar 1873	27 Sep 1952
Sarah J. Riley	1891	1973
Jim Rowan	27 Apr 1874	6 Mar 1961
Bernice Marie Shively	15 Jun 1935	29 May 1937
Tamar Shively (w/o T. L.)	died 13 Oct 1897	aged 28years
Thomas Shively	24 Jun 1856	10 Jun 1935
Octavia R. Shively	born 1828 Va.	died 1931 Tn.
James H. Shively	11 Apr 1869	25 Aug 1899
Richard W. Shively	2 Feb 1910	25 Aug 1916
William Leslie Shively	1856	1932
Kate Thomas Shively (his wife)	1880	1958
Charlesetta N. Simmons	12 Dec 1919	13 Jul 1980
Hillison B. Simmons (Ky STM 1C USNR World War II)	31 Mar 1916	7 Oct 1947

Stephen Simmons (Co. M 6 US Cld. Cav.) Mildred Simmons	22 May 1837	28 Apr 1941
Daniel S. Smith (father)	1863	1934
Pruda M. Smith (mother)	1872	1957
Mary A. Smith	10 Oct 1858	21 Jul 1917
Leslie Shively Smith (dau. of W. L. & K. T. Shively, wife of Charlie C. Smith)	1908	
Ruthie Stevson	26 Mar 1892	6 Feb 1986
Alford B. Sutton Julia A. Sutton (his wife)	2 Mar 1854 9 Oct 1867	7 May 1933 10 Jun 1951
Eligah Tinsley	1834	1901
Jane Tinsley	1855	1922
Joseph H. Tinsley (Ky PFC Co.B 823 Engr Avn Bn WWII)	9 Dec 1917	16 Dec 1964
James A. Tinsley Nina Tinsley	1879 1887	1957
John E. Tinsley Evie B. Tinsley	1870 1876	1956 1937
G. W. Tinsley	17 Feb 1872	10 Apr 1945
Malinda J. Tinsley	1875	1956
Mary L. Tipton	15 Oct 1889	19 Mar 1973
Curlie Whitnell Juanita T. Whithell	18 Jul 1908 4 May 1913	21 Jan 1980
Rollie P. Wilhite	10 Jun 1886	7 Oct 1951
Herbert M. Young Rachel B. Young Rachel Ann Young	1 Feb 1896 12 Apr 1897	17 Jul 1950 4 May 1947

counted 22 other graves marked by funeral home markers or fieldstones

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The Pleasant Point Baptist church at Pleasant Ridge, Ky. was founded in the years immediately following the Civil War. The oldest monument in the church cemetery is that of "Kittie Johnson, died April in 1873 aged 65 years". In the Daviess County marriages it is recorded that the marriage of Moses Mason and Miss Sallie Jackson was performed at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church on 20 Dec. 1878 (Negro marriage book D, p.89). The property where the church is located was owned jointly by the church (one-half interest) and James W. Montgomery and Edmond Murray. Some of the early members of the church were: Stephen & Mildred (Holmes) Simmons, Erick Simmons, Harry Simmons, John & Katherine (Simmons) Bell, George W. & Malina J. (Simmons) Tinsley, Jeff & Sallie (Jackson) Higgs, Octavia (Simmons) Shively, Thomas L. & Tamar (Lewis) Shively, William Leslie & Kate (McCline) Shively, James H. Shively, Edmond & Lucy R. Murray, John Brown Jackson, Judith Jackson, Finley W. & Mary Jackson, Elijah & Jane Tinsley, Wilson & Mary A. Fields, Moses & Sallie (Jackson) Mason, Alford B. & Julia A. (Talbot) Sutton, Jim Rowan, Daniel S. & Pruda M. Smith, Mrs. Ann Cooper, Miss Malinda Catherine Cooper, James W. & Judith A. (Cooper) Montgomery, and Parker & Eliza Ann (Cooper) Haynes.

Members of the Simmons family at the Pleasant Point Church were descendants of Levy Simmons, a slave, who came from Virginia to Kentucky about 1828-1844. He is listed in the 1870 Daviess County, Ky. census, he was listed as age 70, with him were his wife, Annie and their two children, Harrison, age 15 and Barbara, age 12 (Murray Precinct, p.235, #200). By his first wife he had at least two children: Octavia, born 1828 in Virginia, and Stephen, born 1844 in Kentucky. Levy Simmons married second Annie Richardson 1845-1852. Born in Virginia, she had been a slave of George Richardson, who came from Virginia and settled in Ohio County, Ky. between 1840-1850. By her slave master she had had three children: Thomas, Rock & Lou Richardson. Thomas Richardson, born about 1839 Va., married Hester L. Fields on 9 Jan. 1868 Daviess County, Ky., they were living in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood at the time of the 1870 & 1880 Daviess County censuses. Some of the members of the family of Annie (Richardson) Simmons were buried at the George Richardson family cemetery near Pleasant Ridge in Ohio County, Ky.

The children of Levy & Annie (Richardson) Simmons were: Jacob, Harry, Barbara Ann and Octavia. Jacob Simmons, born about 1853 Ky., at the time of the 1870 Daviess County, Ky. census was living with his half-brother, Thomas Richardson. Harry Simmons, listed in the 1870 census as Harrison, was born about 1855 Ky. He married Dolly Johnson on 27 Dec. 1882 in Daviess County, Ky. He died on 10 Nov. 1940 at Pleasant Ridge, Ky. and was buried at the Pleasant Point Church. Barbara Ann Simmons, born about 1858 Ky., married William Crowds on 24 Feb. 1881 in Daviess County, Ky.

Octavia Simmons, daughter of Levy Simmons and his first wife, according to her monument at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church was born 1828 in Virginia and died 1931 in

Tennessee. About 1856-1860 she married Edmond Nathaniel Shively, who was born about 1835 in Kentucky. They were listed in the 1870 census of Ohio County, Ky., in the Bartlett's Precinct (p.315, #4). Living with them and their four children were three members of the Turner family: Lette age 80, Violet age 58 and Reuben age 21. Lette Turner was listed as "mother". Octavia Shively and her four children were residing by themselves at the time of the 1880 Daviess County, Ky. census (p.31 of the Murray Precinct). Ed & Octavia Simmons Shively's children were: Thomas, Levy, William Leslie, Ada and James Harvey.

Thomas L. Shively, born 24 June 1856 (from his gravestone, the 1870 & 1880 censuses report his age as 9 & 19) Ky. In Owensboro, Ky. he married Tamar Lewis on 15 Aug. 1894. On 10 June 1935 he died and his wife died on 13 Oct. 1897, at the age of 28. They were buried at the Pleasant Point Church. William Leslie Shively according to his monument at the Pleasant Point Church was born in 1856 and died in 1932; his age in the 1870 & 1880 censuses was reported as 7 & 18. He married Kate Thomas McCline (1880-1958) and their children were Leslie, Edmonia and Richard Walker. His daughter, Leslie Shively Smith, for 40 years was a teacher in West Virginia and Kentucky. Since her retirement in 1972 she has devoted her time to writing. She is the author of the book, Around Muhlenberg County, Kentucky: A Black History (Unigraphic, Inc., Evansville, Ind., 1979). Ada Shively, born about 1866 Ky., married Sandy Nelson on 26 Feb. 1893 at Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, Ky. James H. Shively, born 11 April 1869 Ky., married Julia Wright on 17 Feb. 1895 in Daviess County, Ky. He died on 25 Aug. 1899 and was buried at the Pleasant Point Church.

Stephen Simmons, son of Levy Simmons and his first wife, was born about 1844 in Kentucky. He was a veteran of the Civil War. His government marker at the Pleasant Point Church shows that he served with Company M of the 6th US Colored Calvary. He married Mildred Holmes on 5 Jan. 1870 in Daviess County, Ky. Born 22 May 1837 in Kentucky, she had a daughter, Sallie Jackson, by a Jackson slave master. Sallie Jackson married Jeff Higgs and they had Mack, Willie, Estella, Bennie, Thomas and George D. Several members of the Higgs family were buried in the Pleasant Point Church Cemetery in unmarked graves, including Willie Higgs, Estella Higgs Johnson and Sally Johnson Bell.

Stephen Simmons acquired a 90 acre farm on the Park and Red Hill Roads in Daviess County, Ky. He died in 1933 and his wife, Mildred, on 28 April 1941. They were buried at the Pleasant Point Church. Their children were: twin daughters, Malinda J. & Katherine, and a son, Erick. Malinda J. Simmons, born in 1875, married George W. Tinsley on 23 March 1893 at Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, Ky. She died in 1956 and was buried at the Pleasant Point Church. Katherine Simmons, born in 1875 Ky., married John Bell on 27 March 1898 Daviess County, Ky. John Bell, born in 1864, family had been slaves of the Bell family near Buford, Ohio County, Ky. His family in the 1870 Daviess County, Ky. census (2nd ward of Owensboro, p.294, #236) was listed as: Bell, Margaret 30, Marzilla 14 (she married a Shaw), Eliza 13, Martha 12, Sallie 10, John 7, Charles 3/12. Katherine Simmons Bell died in 1901 and John Bell in 1948, they are buried at the Pleasant Point Church in unmarked graves. They had one

daughter, Frances Bell Harris (1900-1975), whose son, Milton Stephen Harris, of Owensboro, Ky., was the author of Black Family Thee, Slavery to 1984 (McDowell Publications, Utica, Ky., 1984) and who is past secretary of the Josiah Henson Historical Society. Erick Simmons, born in 1885 Ky., married Estella Anderson 11 May 1911 at Owensboro, Ky. He died in 1955 and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Pleasant Point Church.

Members of the Jackson family buried at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church are descendants of John Brown Jackson, who was born in Virginia about 1812. He died on 26 Dec. 1887 in Daviess County, Ky. and has a monument at the Pleasant Point Church. He had been a slave of Christopher D. (Kit) Jackson, an early settler of the Masonville area of Daviess County, Ky. The Owensboro Daily Messenger, Wednesday, 4 Jan. 1888 reported that Brown Jackson, servant of the late C. D. Jackson, died last week at Red Hill. John Brown Jackson was listed in the Masonville Precinct (p.6, #119) in the 1880 census of Daviess County, Ky., his family was listed as: Jackson, Brown 69 (Va.-Va.-Va.), Eliza 45 wife (Va.-Va.-Va.), Mary 17 daughter (Ky.-Va.-Va.), Martha 15 daughter (Ky.-Va.-Va.) & Wilson 10 adopted son (Ky.-Ky.-Ky.). Eliza may have been his second. wife Besides the children listed here, John Brown Jackson's children included: Charles, Mathew (born 1839), Jerry (born about 1845), Jefferson (born about 1851) and Sallie (born about 1853).

Mathew Jackson, born in 1839 and died in 1921, and his wife, Anna, born in 1844, were buried at the Pleasant Point Church. They had sons, Albert A. (20 May 1875 - 21 May 1966, wife Ella H.) and Hardin H. (22 Feb. 1877 - 11 Nov. 1951, wife Lora F.), who were buried by their parents. Jerry Jackson, born about 1845, married Clara Barnes. They are buried in unmarked graves at the Pleasant Point Church, among their children were daughters, Rachel and Emma. Jefferson Jackson, born about 1851, married Melvina. He was buried at the Pleasant Point Church, his grave is not marked. Sallie Jackson, born about 1853, married Moses Mason at Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, Ky. on 20 Dec. 1878, their marriage was one of the first performed in the present church building. He was a native of Kentucky and was born about 1846. They lie in unmarked graves at the Pleasant Point Church. Their children included: William H. (1877 - 1934, buried Pleasant Point), Stanley, Malinda wife of John Haynes, and Nannie.

Charles Jackson, son of John Brown Jackson, fought and died in the Civil War. It is not known where he was buried, His wife, Judith, died on 15 Feb. 1916 at the age of 95 years and was buried at the Pleasant Point Church. Before going away to the war Charles Jackson put \$500 in a can and hid it in a tree. He told only one person, his friend Steve Simmons, of it's whereabouts. He told him that if he did not return to give it to his wife, Judith, which Steve Simmons did upon learning of his friend's death. Judith Jackson may have been a Wilson, her family came from Virginia and lived on a plantation near Hawesville, Ky. Charles and Judith Jackson had four children, who were all born on the Kit Jackson farm near Masonville, Daviess County, Ky., they were: Thaswell, Finley W., Malinda and Charles Jr. At the time of the 1870 Daviess census she and her four children were residing with Nick Smith, a German butcher (Uppertown Precinct,

p.308, #80) and in the 1880 Daviess census Juda and her four children were listed in the Masonville Precinct (p.6, # 42), near her husband's father and brothers.

Thaswell Jackson, born about 1858, was called Tack. He and his wife, Nancy (Talbot) Jackson are buried at the Pleasant Point Church in unmarked graves. Her family was from Calhoun, Ky., she had brothers, Sam and Preston Talbot. Tack & Nancy Jackson's children were: Blaine, Gertrude (French), Cora J. (Riggs), Harvey H. and Nina (Tinsley), all of whom are buried at Pleasant Point Church. Finley W. Jackson, born 20 April 1863, died 1 April 1938, married Mary A. Robinson. They were buried at the Pleasant Point Church, their daughter, Theodora Jackson Smith, lives at Pleasant Ridge, Ky. Malinda Jackson, born about 1862 and died following 1880. Charles Jackson, Jr., born about 1864, married Emma. His grave at the Pleasant Point Church is unmarked, he had a son, William.

Members of the Tinsley family buried at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church are descendants of Elijah and Jane Tinsley. He was born in 1834 and died in 1901. He had been a slave of the Tinsley family near Beda, Ohio County, Ky. He had sisters, Isabell Crowe, who lived at Livermore, McLean County, Ky., and Delphia Gibson, who lived near Hartford, Ohio County, Ky. Jane, wife of Elijah Tinsley, was born in 1855 Ky. and died in 1922. She was a sister of Edmond Nathaniel Shively. Elijah & Jane Tinsley's children were: John Edward, born 1870, married Evie Buckner (1876-1937); George W., born 17 Feb. 1872, died 10 April 1945, married Malinda J. Simmons; Mary M., born 18 Oct. 1876, died 13 Sept. 1942, married Charles Joseph Brannon (3 Dec. 1863 - 10 June 1930; their daughter, Rachel Young, age 91, lives at Pleasant Ridge, Ky.); Judy., born about 1876, married Charlie Barnes; and James A., born in 1879, died in 1957, married Nina Jackson. Elijah and Jane Tinsley and their children were buried at the Pleasant Point Church, the grave of their daughter, Judy Barnes, is unmarked.

Members of the Cooper, Haynes and Montgomery families buried at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church were interrelated. Luke and Ann Cooper's three daughters and their husbands are buried at the church: Eliza Ann wife of Parker Haynes, Judith A. wife of James W. Montgomery and Miss Malinda Catherine Cooper. Mrs. Ann Cooper and her three daughters were residing with Parker Haynes at the time of the 1870 Ohio County, Ky. census (Bartlett's District, p.315, #6). Annie Cooper and her daughter, Malinda, were living with her son-in-law & daughter, James W. & Judith Montgomery at the time of the 1880 Daviess County, Ky. census (Murray Precinct, p.41, #386), nearby was the family of Parker & Eliza Haynes. Mrs. Ann Cooper was born about 1810 in Kentucky and died after 1880, the gravestone of her daughter, Malinda, at the Pleasant Point Church, has recorded on it that she was a daughter of Luke and Ann Cooper. Eliza Ann Cooper was born 15 Oct. 1840 Ky. and died 10 July 1881. She about 1871 married Parker Haynes, born 10 Sept. 1833 Ky. and died 26 April 1904. Their children were: John, born about 1872, married Malinda Mason; Parker Jr., born about 1874; and Elizabeth, born about 1879. Judith A. Cooper was born 10 March 1850 Ky. and died 26 July 1924. She married James W. Montgomery on 23 April 1872 in Daviess County, Ky. He was born 19 Jan. 1833 Ky. and died 4 Sept. 1902. They had a daughter, Mary A., born 3 April 1879, who died single 8 Sept. 1897 and

was buried by her parents. Malinda Catherine Cooper was born 10 Sept. 1856 and died 9 April 1887, she was not married.

Other older families of the Pleasant Point Baptist Church included: Wilson & Mary A. Fields (in the 1870 & 1880 Daviess censuses, their children - Alexander, Walker, John, Peter, Malvinà, Martha, Lucy, twins William G. & James G., Robert W. & Mary P.); Daniel S. & Pruda M. Smith; Alford B. & Julia A. (Talbot) Sutton (married 25 Oct.. 1888 Daviess County, Ky.); Edmond (born Ca 1840 Ky.) & Lucy R. (born ca 1843 Ky.) Murray (listed in the 1870 Ohio County, Ky. census, Bells Precinct; their children at that time were: Lorenzo, Harvey N., Mary F. & Marvin R.); another older member was Jim Rowan, a native, of Ohio County, Ky. & son of Henry Rowan & Mary Richardson.

The following are among those buried at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church in unmarked graves. The late Milton Stephen Harris (29 May 1923 – 22 June 1988), of Owensboro, Ky. assisted in compiling this list :

John Bell	1864	1948
Katherine Bell (w/o John Bell, d/o Steven Simmons & Mildred Holmes)	1875	1901
Harry Simmons (s/o Levy Simmons & Ann Richardson)	ca 1866	10 Nov 1940
Dolly Johnson Simmons (w/o Harry Simmons)		
Ecick Simmons (s/o Stephen Simmons & Mildred Holmes)	1885	1955
Jeff Higgs		
Sallie Jackson Higgs (w/o Jeff Higgs, d/o Mildred Holmes)		
Willie Higgs (s/o Jeff Higgs & Sallie Jackson)		
Pete Johnson		
Estella Higgs Johnson James (w/o Pete Johnson & Abraham James; d/o Jeff Riggs & Sallie Jackson)		
Katie Johnson (d/o Pete Johnson & Estella Higgs)		
Milton Buck Johnson (s/o Pete Johnson & Estella Higgs)		
Sallie Johnson Bell (w/o Artist Bell, d/o Pete Johnson & Estella Higgs)		
Artist Bell (s/o Henry Bell & Fanny Field)		

Bennie Higgs (s/o Jeff Higgs & Sallie Jackson)

Henry Bell

Fanny Field Bell (w/o Henry Bell)

Kizzie Bell (d/o Henry Bell & Fanny Field)

Payton Bell (s/o Henry Bell & Fanny Field)

Henry Bell, Jr. (s/o Henry Bell & Fanny Field)

Zula Bell Carbon (w/o Audolph Carbon; d/o Henry Bell & Fanny Field)

Audolph Carbon

Jerry Jackson (s/o John Brown Jackson) ca 1845 after 1880

Clara Barnes Jackson (w/o Jerry Jackson)

Jefferson Jackson (s/o John Brown Jackson) ca 1851 after 1880

Thaswell "Tack" Jackson ca 1858
(s/o Charles & Judith Jackson)

Nancy Talbott Jackson (w/o Tack Jackson)

Charles Jackson, Jr. ca 1864
(s/o Charles & Judith Jackson)

Sallie Jackson Mason ca 1853
(w/o Moses Mason; d/o Charles & Judith Jackson)

Moses Mason ca 1845

Judy Tinsley Barnes ca 1876
(w/o Charles Barnes; d/o Elijah Tinsley & Jane Shively)

Boots Higgs (s/o Thomas N. "Coots" & Gertrude M. Higgs)

Isaac Cash

Loy Mason (w/o Garfield Mason)

James Mason (s/o Garfield & Loy Mason)

Elizabeth Mason (d/o Garfield & Loy Mason)

Dorothy Mason (d/o Garfield & Loy Mason)

Abraham James

Mamie Hines (w/o Albert Hines; d/o Abraham James & Estella Higgs)

Albert Hines

S. A. Hines (s/o Albert Hines & Mamie James)

James T. Tinsley (s/o James A. & Nina Tinsley)

Oscar Simmons (s/o Harry Simmons & Dolly Johnson)

Levi Moton Simmons (s/o Harry Simmons & Dolly Johnson) 1971

Harry Simmons Bell (s/o Vergie Simmons Bell) died age 3 months 8 Dec 1934

Willie Shauntee (w/o Randall)

George Johnson

Jane Cox (d/o Perry McFarland

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Published in Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 8, Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1988), 114-120. "Lineage Lines", Harry D. Tinsley, Times-News (Hartford, KY: 20 February 1997), 4B, (27 February 1997), 16B & (6 March 1997), 12A. Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 36, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Calhoun, KY: Spring 2012), 59-65.

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The Rev. Rhondalyn Randolph stands outside of Pleasant Point Baptist Church on Tuesday in Utica.

Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com

From Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 24 October 2020, p1D

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Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 24 June 1988:

Author, retired music teacher Harris dies

By Marty Payne

Messenger-Inquirer

Milton Stephen Harris, author of a journal and book tracing local black history and family trees, died Wednesday at his home in Owensboro. He was 65. **(Obituary, this page).**

Harris, of 911 Pennbrooke St., was a retired music teacher and was the author of "Milton's Pen," a quarterly publication containing information about black history from colonial days to the present.

The first issue was published in July 1985, with future issues scheduled to appear every three months. At the time of the publication of the first issue, Harris wasn't sure how many future issues would result from his efforts.

Ross Ray, a clerk in the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro-Daviess County Library, said the library has three subsequent issues of the first volume—October 1985, January 1986 and April 1986.

Harris, who received a degree from Howard University, wrote another book, "A Black Family Tree: Slavery to 1984" in 1984. "Milton's Pen" was initially planned as an extension of that book.

However, more genealogical material began accumulating than Harris expected, and he decided to turn his project into a quarterly magazine.

His writings came about as a result of his interest and pride in his ancestors and of the progress of slaves.

Harris collected his information from letters written to him and from word-of-mouth from relatives and friends. He found that information began building up and soon began taking information from surrounding counties. Harris wrote his genealogical information by hand with an ink pen and mailed each page separately to the publisher. Thus, the name for the publication — "Milton's Pen."

Milton Stephen Harris, 65, of 911 Pennbrooke St., Owensboro, died Wednesday, June 22, 1988, at his home. He was born in Drakesboro, was a veteran of World War II, was a retired music teacher in public schools in Kentucky and a private music instructor, and was a member of St. Stephen Cathedral and Knights of Columbus Council No. 817 of Owensboro. He was the author of "Milton's Pen" and "A Black Family Tree" and an honorary member of the Daviess County Historical Society. He was an organist for Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Cedar Street Baptist Church. **(Story, this page.)**

Survivors include a foster son, Trent Jackson of Owensboro; a stepbrother, James W. Johnson of Owensboro; two stepsisters, Pauline Collins of Vincennes, Ind., and Bessie Newton of Owensboro; a great-uncle, Mack Higgs of Owensboro; a great-niece, Margaret Coleman of Owensboro; and several cousins.

Services are at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Burial in Elmwood Cemetery. Visitation after 1 p.m. Sunday at Young's Funeral Home, where prayers will be said at 7 p.m. Sunday.

William 'Washington' French
(c1839-1900/1911)
Civil War Veteran
Colored Troops

Washington French served as a private in the Union Army during the Civil War. In Owensboro, KY on 9 June 1864 he enlisted in a detachment of colored troops and was mustered in on the same day. On his enlistment he reported that he was age 24, born in Daviess County, KY and resided at Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY. He appears in the 1880 & 1900 Federal Censuses of Daviess County. The 1900 census reports that he was born in July 1836. The death certificate of his daughter, Laura French Doss, records that he was born in Daviess County. His full name appears to be William Washington French. On his marriage and the death certificate of his son, William Harrison French, his name is given as William W. French.

In Daviess County, KY on 11 February 1878 he married Eliza Ann Taylor. The 1900 census reports he was a farmer, owned his own farm in the Pleasant Ridge neighborhood and eight children were born to them. Their children were Altha O. (1880-1999), Zada A. (1881-), Georgie (1883-), Hollis Douglas (1884-1965), William Harrison (1888-1949), Chester A. (1891-1949), Laura V. (1892-1946) and one other died childhood before 1900. Washington French probably died between 1900 and 1910. In the Kentucky Death Index that commences in 1911 he is not listed and his death has not been found in the Owensboro newspapers. He is probably buried in an unmarked grave at the Pleasant Point Baptist Church Cemetery at Pleasant Ridge in Daviess County. His family resided in the Pleasant Ridge area and at least five of his children were buried at the Pleasant Point Cemetery, four of them have monuments.

- Compiled by Jerry Long

Obituaries

Mrs. Leslie Shively Smith, Leader-News columnist, dies

Drakesboro -- Mrs. Leslie Shively Smith, 89, of Drakesboro, died Friday, May 16, 1997, at 6:15 p.m. at her daughter's residence in Paducah.

Mrs. Smith was born in Pleasant Ridge, Kentucky on May 16, 1908. She was a graduate of Wilberforce University in Ohio, received her M.A. degree at Western Kentucky University and did advanced study at the University of Cincinnati, Indiana State University, Peabody College and the University of Kentucky. She taught in the public schools of West Virginia, Daviess and Muhlenberg counties in Kentucky for 40 years.

She was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church in Drakesboro and held membership in the Delta Sigma Theta National Sorority, American Association of University Women, Delta Kappa Gamma Society for Women Educators, the National Retired Teachers Association, Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, the Muhlenberg County Retired Teachers Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Mrs. Smith was one of the first blacks to serve on a Commission of the Kentucky Education Association and was present when the Kentucky Teachers Association merged with the KEA. She was also a member of the Advisory Councils for the Muhlenberg County Retired Senior Volunteers Program and the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center Satellite Operation in Muhlenberg County.



An avid newspaper woman, she wrote a column for the *Greenville Leader-News* from 1964 until the mid 1990's. Her book *Around Muhlenberg County - A Black History* is lodged in libraries in the Muhlenberg County area and in many other places.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie "Cash" Smith in March, 1977, and a daughter, Leslie Charlene Tucker.

Survivors include one daughter, Patricia Carmen Robinson of Paducah; two grandsons, Thaddius Tucker and Clifford Donald Robinson, Jr.; two granddaughters, Allyson Tucker and Peggy Gray; five great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; two nephews and many cousins.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 20 at 1 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church in Drakesboro with Rev. Edgar Goins officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Point Cemetery in Pleasant Ridge, Kentucky.

Contributions can be made to: Hospice, c/o Lourdes Hospital in Paducah.