

Summary of Six Former Slaves that Join the United States Colored Troops From Patrick County Virginia

The following three soldiers are very familiar with each other. Their pension files are loaded with depositions that they gave for each other. They seem to have joined the Union Army at the same time and were mustered out at the same time and returned to Patrick County about the same time.

Edmund Hylton

Born on 2 February 1849 and died 26 April 1916 in Patrick County Virginia. He married twice: Mary Joyce (1843-1896, daughter of Samuel and Leathe Joyce) on 4 January 1854 and Onie Price in January 1901. To the first union 11 children were born: Henry, William, George, Mary, Samuel, James, General, Gabriel, Louisa and 2 unnamed children. No children were born to the second marriage.

He entered the Union Army on 14 April 1865 at Greensville, Tennessee and transferred to Camp Nelson, Kentucky on 10 May 1865 and served in Co. H, 119th USCT and mustered out 27 April 1866.

In his deposition dated 20 September 1895, he said that he was owned by Jeremiah W. Hylton: "... I was owned by Jeremiah Hylton, now dead. I resided in said neighborhood from my birth until April 1865... I left my old mistress [Nancy Hylton] April 9th 1865 and I returned to her on the 8th day of May 1866."

A search of my records on slaves in probate records¹, shows that at age 6 months, he and his twin brother, William were owned by Jeremiah Hylton – inventory dated September 1849. In a division of slaves on 17 October 1849, Nancy Hylton, Jeremiah's wife, received the twin boys. Later on 7 November 1850, they were sold to A. (Augustus) J. Hylton for a total of \$300.00. Augustus later died about 1861, but his inventory dated 8 August 1861 does not list either of the boys. Their mother, Lacky was also part of the September 1849 inventory and was given to Augustus Hylton.

Edmund applied for pension under a disability which was inflicted in the Fall and Winter 1865 when exposed to bad weather at the camp. He claimed that he contracted "rheumatism" and that affected his entire life – could not do manual labor. In the end he was given a pension of \$20 per month. His widow, Onie, applied for expenses incurred in the burial of her husband and accrued pension benefits. On 23 May 1928, years after her husband died, she was given a total of \$2169.40.

¹ Wilson, Cynthia A., Slaves in Wills, Inventories and Accounts in Patrick County Virginia 1791 – 1864; Seattle, WA 2003, page 41 – 43. Patrick County Probate records: Book 4 Pages 103, 118, and 148.

Samuel Tatum

Born 14 November 1847 and died 12 July 1937 in Patrick County Virginia. Was the son of Charles and Celia Tatum. He married Arabella Hylton (1858 – 1922, daughter of Bette Hylton) on 12 December 1873 in Stokes County, North Carolina. They were the parents of 11 children: Cora, Susannah, Nannie, S. Russell, Flora, Patrick, Samuel, Harry, Annie, Thomas & Ethel.

He enrolled in the USCT at Greenville, Tennessee on 14 April 1865 into Co. K. 119th Kentucky, commanded by John Wright and was transferred to Camp Nelson on 10 May 1865. His unit was mustered out on 17 April 1866 at Louisville, Kentucky.

He applied for disability with the following conditions which he attributed to over exposure to the weather: Rheumatism, Erysipelas and Nasal Polypus. His medical record for his time in the service listed his visits to the doctors with the following ailments: 14 May 1865 to 8 August 1865, Measles; 14 to 16 September, Mumps; 17 September 1865, Bil; 29 & 30 December 1865, Inflammation of the Larynx; 3 to 6 January 1866; Inflammation of the tonsils; and 13 to 21 January 1866, Constipation. In a deposition from Peter Gray dated 30 June 1892, he confirms that Samuel went to the hospital in the early part of May 1865 and did not return to duty until August.

He was granted a pension of \$20 per month but later requested an increase in the pension and was denied several times. After his death, his son, Thomas Tatum attempted to recover \$200 for the burial expenses, but only received \$100.

Peter Gray

Born 13 June 1845 and died 8 July 1919, son of Charles Pringle and Susan Gray. He married Adaline Joyce on 11 April 1875. She was born May 1852 and died 19 Nov 1937 and was the daughter of Sam and Leatha Hines Joyce. Peter and Adaline were the parents of 9 children: John, William, George, Lucy, Mater, Charley, Ernest, Joseph and Raleigh.

Peter enlisted at Greenville, Tennessee on 14 April 1865 and was transferred to Camp Nelson on 10 May 1865 into Co. K, 119th USCT under the command of Captain John Wright. During his service time, he was injured when he jumped a ditch and fell causing an umbilical hernia later in life. He spent most of the summer going to the hospital for illnesses: 14 July 1865, Rheumatism; 15 & 16 July 1865, Cold; 19 July 1865, Cough; 28 – 30 August 1865, Mumps and 8 April 1866, Jaundice. He applied for pension on many occasions and received his first pension of \$6 on 1 July 1905, but the month before his death he was receiving \$20 per month. After the completion of his military service he moved to Sandy Ridge P.O. in Stokes County North Carolina. During

the Fall of 1867, he moved to Russell Creek in Patrick County and remained there until his death.

His wife Adaline made her first application for widow's pension on 30 July 1919. It was on affidavit dated 14 August 1928, that she identified her siblings: Henry, Lum, Isabelle, Bettie, Martha, Ann, Louvenia and Nancy and that her parents, Samuel and Leathe were deceased. Adaline received \$9 per month.

Peter does not talk much about his family or life in Patrick County. In a General Affidavit given by Jessie Clark and Henry Tatum dated 20 August 1900, they talk about knowing Peter "since he was a small boy. That they were all born within three or four miles of each other.." If this correct then Peter was owned by Daniel Gray; Henry Tatum was owned by Edward Tatum²; and Jesse Clark is the brother of Lavinia Clark Gray (George Gray's widow) and owned by Joseph Clark.

Information for the following soldiers was obtained from their Widow's Civil War Pension files obtained from the National Archives in Washington DC. These three (3) soldiers' military service was cut short due to fevers and disease. Their widows in many instances struggled to get documents that confirmed their very existence. They, because of their status as slaves prior to the War, had to get depositions to prove prior and current marriages, births and deaths of children and to have consistent dates that slaves normally had difficulty knowing.

George Gray

Born about 1835 and died 11 June 1865. George was married to Lavinia/Louvenia Clark on 25 December 1858. Lavinia was born about 1835 (daughter of Martha Clark) and died 2 April 1916. There were no children born to this union. Although there is a child in the pension records who identifies herself as Nannie Gray, daughter of Lavinia. (Nannie was found in the census record as "Lillian".)

George enrolled at Boon, North Carolina on 14 April 1865 as part of Co. H, 119th USCT. On 10 May 1865 he was stationed at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. He entered the General Hospital and died 11 June 1865 as a result of Typhoid Fever. He is buried at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, Kentucky in Plot C, O, 1180. His "Record of Death and Interment" was issued by Daniel Meeker, Surgeon in Charge.

In her widow's pension deposition, Lavinia stated she was owned by "Clark". I checked my book of slave names in probate records and found that she was indeed owned by a "Clark", specifically Joseph Clark who died 5 July 1858. Lavinia was 14 years old

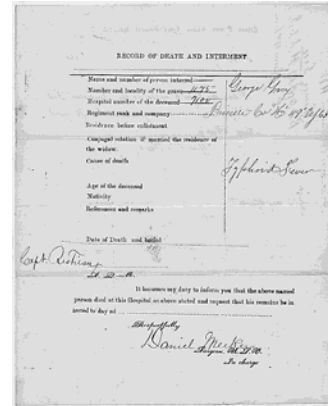
² Ibid, page 96; Book 5, Page 358.

(in the possession Mr. Houlway) and her mother, Martha was 35; each had a value of \$375 and \$800, respectively.³

Lavinia's daughter on several occasions pleaded with the Pension Board to get some relief on the debts left by her mother.



Headstone at Camp Nelson National Cemetery



Record of Death and Interment

Several of Miles' friends (Edmund Hylton, Peter Gray and Samuel Tatum) confirmed that they all joined General Stoneman in April of 1865 and later joined the 119th USCT at Greenville, Tennessee.

Rhoda received a widow's pension of \$12.00 per month until her death.

³ Ibid, page 12 and 13; Book 5 Page 279.



Headstone at Camp Nelson National Cemetery

Record of Death and Interment

Jacob/Jack Reynolds

Born about 1824 and died 13 June 1865. He was married near Christmas of 1848 in a ceremony performed by his owner, Harden W. Reynolds to Letty Cox. Letty, according to Nancy J. Cox Reynolds, Harden's wife, was raised by her father, Joshua Cox. Letty was born about 1822 and died 7 March 1894. Jacob and Letty were the parents of 3 children, Mary, Adaline and Henry. I did find a fourth child, Susan, not identified by Letty in her widow's deposition.

Jacob enrolled in the Army at Boon, North Carolina 14 April 1865 after following General Stoneman out of Danville North Carolina on 8 April 1865. He joined Co. K of the 119th USCT Kentucky under the command of Capt. John Wright at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. On 14 May 1865 he entered the General Hospital at the camp for the treatment of measles. He died on 13 June 1865 from the complications associated with measles. Jacob is buried at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, Kentucky in Plot C, O, 1177. A "Record of Death and Interment" was issued by the Daniel Meeker, Surgeon in Charge.

In a deposition given by Harden Reynolds on 18 January 1875 he confirms the story told in Tom Perry's book⁴, of his slaves leaving to join Stoneman. He stated, "... that they [Letty and Jacob] remained on his farm and as his property until Genl

⁴ Perry, Thomas David, *The Free State of Patrick, Patrick County Virginia in the Civil War*, Laurel Hill Publishing 2005, page 164: Harden Reynolds to son Abram, "My son the Yankees have been here and torn up everything and my Negro men have all gone with them."



Headstone at Camp Nelson National Cemetery

RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT

Name and number of person interred. *Frank Reynolds*
Name and locality of the grave. *1177*
Hospital number of the deceased. *2391*
Regiment rank and company. *Co. B. 1st Regt. U.S. Col.*
Residence before enlistment
Civilized relation if married the residence of the widow
Cause of death *Measles*
Age of the deceased
Maturity
References and remarks
Date of Death and burial *June 10/1865*
Capt. Reynolds
1865

It becomes my duty to inform you that the above named person died at this Hospital as above stated and request that his remains be interred to day at

Respectfully,
Samuel H. Hays
Surgeon, U.S.A.
In Charge

Record of Death and Interment

The above information was gathered from Pension Applications, Censuses, Slave Records, and Cemetery Records.

*Cynthia A. Wilson
2611 East Yesler Way
Seattle, WA 98122
seek2b@yahoo.com*