

- **A meeting of 4th-generation Claiborne cousins**

From Lucinda Jennings Barnard

... to Addie McDaniel

... to Lucy McDaniel

... to Marie McDaniel Ratliff

By Ann Hill

For 20 years, my sister, Nell Quesenbery, has been taking her wash to England Coin Laundry in Tazewell, and for just as many years, she's been friends with Marie Ratliff, who works there. But the two friends only recently discovered they are Jennings cousins when Marie told Nell that she was the great-granddaughter of Lucinda Jennings, who married James Barnard.

Marie's grandmother was Addie Barnard, who married Willie McDaniel, and Marie's mother Lucy McDaniel, who married Ephraim H. (E.H.) McDaniel. Marie knew from her family history that Lucinda Jennings was "from Lone Mountain," but she admitted that was about as much as she knew about the Jennings.

Marie Ratliff told my sister that James and Lucy Jennings Barnard had lived in Upper Caney Valley and are buried in the Barnard Cemetery there. What she learned from her newfound cousin Nell was that Lucinda Jennings is part of an old Virginia family that had migrated into North Carolina after the Revolutionary War. Later, these Jennings would be among the early settlers of Grainger and Claiborne counties in a young state of Tennessee.

Marie's earliest Tennessee ancestor, Edward "Ned" Jennings, was the son of the William Jennings who had bought up part of grant No. 642, dated Jan. 27, 1795. The original 5,000-acre parcel was given to Stokeley Donelson and James King by the state of North Carolina.

William Jennings' 1801 deed is still at the Claiborne County Courthouse. It's registered on page 42 of the county's first deed book, Book A. In part, the land is described thus: "... a certain tract or parcel of land containing 370 acres lying in the aforesaid county of Grainger bounded by the Balld Creek waters of Clinch River beginning on the East side of said creek immediately below the plantation where said (William) Jennins now lives."

Later, the name of Marie's ancestor would be among those penned to a Claiborne County Courthouse petition dated 1803 that was also signed by other early Jennings, including Ed Ned's father and several of his brothers.

When old William Jennings died, he left this land to be divided among seven heirs, one of whom was Ed Ned. Deeds from the 1820s show that Joseph Jennings began to buy up the heirs' shares, including that of Ed Ned, Dickason, John and William Jr. And that original parcel of land remained in the Jennings family until well into the 20th century. In fact, Nell Quesenbery is quite certain her house in Lone Mountain is on land once owned by David F. Jennings, son of Anderson Jennings, and grandson of Hezekiah Jennings.

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Nell was pleased to tell Marie Ratcliff that her great-great-grandfather was Henderson Jennings, a son of Ed Ned. P.G. Fulkerson gives us some information about Henderson in his book titled "Early Settlers of Claiborne County":

"Henderson Jennings, son of Edward, came to Mulberry Creek. Hemarried Sallie Gray. His children were: Mary, who married George Wells, removed to Knox Co., Lucinda, married James M. Barnard; Garrett; George, removed to Mo., William; James. James, William and Garrett Jennings were in the Confederate Army. Garrett was killed at Chickamauga (GA), and William was killed at Big Creek in Hawkins Co."

Not all the Jennings boys fought for the Confederacy. A grandson of Hezekiah Jennings, called Royal Sterling (the ancestor of Nell Quesenbery and myself), served in the Union Cavalry and, according to family legend, was one of the finest horsemen in the county. But despite their political affiliations, all the Jennings family shared the sorrow in Henderson's great loss of two fine sons.

Tina Lephew Cooke of Union County, who has known Marie's nephew Walt McDaniel all her life (Tina's mother went to school with him), helped me in the search for Marie Ratliff's ancestors. Tina is also a Jennings (through the Revolutionary War veteran Royal Jennings of Grainger County) and related to the Barnards. She told me about another Barnard who served in the Civil War, William Henderson Barnard, a great-grandson of Jonathan Link Barnard I through Link's son George Barnard, who married Lucretia Grisham, and grandson Robert Barnard, who married Lemira (Milly) Carpenter.

From the published records of Annie Walker Burns, Tina discovered that William Henderson Barnard, born Dec. 5, 1836, in Claiborne Co., joined Company B 37th Infantry in 1861 and was promoted to a captain his first year. In 1864, he re-enlisted after a bout of ill health, and in June of that year was captured and imprisoned first at Camp Douglas, Ill., and then at Point Lookout, Md. After his release on June 23, 1865, Capt. William H. Barnard resumed farming. In 1878, he married Martha A.E. Barnard, daughter of Pleasant and Nancy Senters Barnard, and the couple were the parents of Virginia M. Barnard, born Sept. 23, 1879.

From just these few examples, it's easy to see that Millie Ratliff's family - both her Jennings and her Barnards - served their country well. Her family also served the cause of the American Revolution.

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Lucinda Jennings married James M. Barnard about 1848 and was blessed with a large family, 11 that have been documented and some bearing the names of Lucy's slain brothers. These children were Elizabeth (1849), Samuel E. (1852), George W. (1854), John (1856), William H. (1859), Robert Garrett (1862), Henry (1864), Matilda (1868), Addie (Dec. 6, 1871), Dorey (1875) and Rachel C. (1877), all born in Claiborne County.

James Bernard himself had grown up in a good-size family. He was the son of Jonathan "Link" Barnard II and his second wife, Mary Polly Dodson. Jonathan's grandfather, Jonathan Barnard I, was born in London, England, on Jan. 1, 1760, emigrated to America and married Obedience Bridget Barnett, a Goochland, Va., native, in 1784. About 1834, he had his war pension moved to Mercer County, Ky., where, he wrote, he thought he could live "better and cheaper" now that his children were "breaking up and removing to the West." He died in Kentucky on Oct. 16, 1835.

Jonathan Link Barnard had a proud military service quite a distance from his native England and far from his eventual resting place in Kentucky. In May 1775, he joined the cause of the Revolution in the Continental army of Massachusetts under Capt. Grantham in the regiment of Col. Whitcom, Cambridge, Mass., about four miles from Boston.

Eight months later, on Jan. 1, 1776, he re-enlisted and was soon taken prisoner and marched to New York. It would be another year before he made it home. One Barnard descendant says Jonathan Link Barnard was given land in Tennessee for his war service. We know he was living in Claiborne and working as a teacher when he applied for a pension in 1820.

Many of this first Jonathan Link Barnard children were in Hawkins and Claiborne counties at the turn of the 19th century. One family researcher reports that one of his sons, also called James M. Barnard, was murdered in Missouri because his sons fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy.

Many of descendants of E.H. and Lucy McDaniel were members of Thorn Hill or Grissom Island Baptist Church, both close to Upper Caney Valley, where their ancestors had lived and worshiped. The boys in the E.H. McDaniel family were Henry, Elisha, George, Harrison, Joe and Winton. The girls were Nellie Harvey, Martha Ward, Christine Smith and Marie, who married Harve Daavis and Milum Ratliff. Marie has the following children:(1) Edith, who married Jerry Acuff, with one child, Greg.(2) Denise, who married Richard Runions, with one child, Candace.(3) Barbara, who married Danny England, with two children, Daniel and Brittany.(4) Donna, who married Jimmy Moore, with two children, Heather and Will.

And so it comes full circle, and in this casual meeting of Nell Quesenbery and Marie Ratliff at England Coin Laundry, two friends had an opportunity to share their heritage and close the gap of four generations.