

# *Biographical Sketch of Mahaly Vaughan, Discovering a Brief Life in the History of Tennessee: 1809-1841*

By Helen Vaughan Michael

## *The Vaughan Family Tree*



Huge tree on the way to the barn.  
The John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan Farm, Hancock, Tennessee  
Pictured, Mabel Harp. 1997 Mabel Harp Photo

## Introduction to My Vaughan Narratives

*. . . Enquire I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow. . .*  
*Job, IX: 8 & 9. KJV*

In my search for ancestors I have been aggravated by finding that--this record exists here and that record exists there, and that there exists family talk linking the two, but, no paper trail between them can be found. Recent news that in Texas old boxed up paper files are turning to dust means that more written family history could be disappearing. Add these to files that have gone up before in the fire and smoke of homes, churches, courthouses, and government buildings. Most of my family trees have suffered from such losses.

The Vaughans suffered the least. Thanks to my great-great-great grandmother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, one of the branches of my family tree left a fine paper trail to accommodate my talkative kin and my need to write down everything I hear. Sometimes I see a story emerge from what I've heard and what has been written, and most of the time the spoken word and the written word actually match up and form a fact about the Vaughans. Then, the loose ends, when played with, and trailed through American history, can turn into quite a yarn. Being in love with the English language, I spin words into my stories for fun. Loving history, I write to record what facts are still readable, combine them with stories Vaughan chroniclers have told, and in effect, use facts for fun and family. Along the way a photo or relic or letter has turned up here and there to help sort out the fibs from the facts. The final result is--my folks get to take up a page in the annals of their nation's history, which, though un-named, they helped to make. Sometimes, as in the case of James L. Vaughan, they should have been named . . . .

The whatifs, the wudduh-cudduh-shudduhs, and the maybes expressed in my stories are products of a blend of curiosity and imagination and are intended to provide interest and provoke my descendants, and others to keep digging before all they have to dig through is ashes and dust. The views expressed and the questions I raise are my own. Tim Childress provides a repository at his website, <http://www.childresscousins.org>, to preserve my old-fashioned, often flowery, ramblings in case I am on to something. Being deeply motivated by belief in a spiritual world—motivation that might be viewed in some circles as insanity—I always feel one ancestor or another may be reading over my shoulder, saying, "It's about time."

Helen Vaughan Michael  
9/20/2013

. . . they enjoyed the excitement of discovering a bird's nest, chasing butterflies, peeking into a warren of baby animals, and picking wildflowers . . . , p5. **Edited from a description made by a recent observer of the Vaughan property, who, from the gated entrance, also reported seeing deer in a field of wildflowers.**

## A Brief Life

Mahaly Vaughan was born in 1809—the fourth daughter of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan. In the winter of 1841, when her eighty-one year old father wrote out his will, he let it be known that she had died:

*I, John Vaughan, do make this my last Will & Testament:  
Seventh. I do give and bequeath unto heirs of my daughter Mahala Dickard \$1.00.  
This 27th day of December, 1841.  
John his x mark Vaughan.*

***Timbers of original John Vaughan home in Tennessee in which Mahaly was born, now restored/reconstructed.***

Thus, among his last words can be found his daughter's only legacy—Mahala was married, and she had children.

Mahala's mother gave birth March 10, 1809 in Hawkins County, Tennessee; the baby girl was born in Hawkins County, and she lived her whole life not far from the house in which she was born. No one could know what a brief life it would be.

This northernmost part of Hawkins County was later changed to Hancock and gave future generations of Vaughans a change of address. But the Vaughans' house stayed, and the weathered edifice is still standing in Hancock over two hundred years later. Mahaly was born in it and joined her fellow Tennesseans who were born in it--Mary Polly, nine; Rebecca Greaser, seven; Benjamin, five; and Nancy, two. Her Virginia-born brothers, Beverley and James L. were entering their teens. The Vaughan household numbered nine.



When Mahaly arrived in 1809 their mother's older sister, Dicey Callicott Vaughan Ford, had recently moved into the Hawkins neighborhood. Perhaps it was Dicey who helped with the birth of new nieces and nephews. Perhaps she even kept up their records, for after 1808 the handwriting changed as the name and day of birth were entered in Nancy's baby book. Little Mahaly's entry was the first to be written in the script of someone other than her mother. (Right)

The name Mahaly, a nickname of Mahala, is of some cultural interest. In 1809, Mahala was not a customary Vaughan name; after Mahala died, however, her name became almost as common around Hawkins County as *Nancy, Mary, Martha, Sarah*, and so on. The name's most famous, or infamous, bearer, was Mahala Mullins, born 1824, who became famous as a fat moonshiner. She was so huge the federal agents could never carry out their arrest warrants against her for running a popular but illegal liquor distillery, because they could not carry her. When she died in 1898, a casket was built around her bed, and her monstrous body was carried out through a wall where the fireplace was taken down. Mahala Mullins was of Melungeon ancestry, an ethnic group of mysterious and ancient origins which had settled exclusively in the area that became Hawkins and Hancock County. Melungeon ancestors migrated to America early on, and they are believed to be of mixed Mediterranean and Native American heritage. Later on, the clothing of the Cherokee in the area, which included turban headdresses, indicates a connection of some sort with Arabic types who populated the coast of northern Africa. Oral tradition tied the Melungeons to earlier immigrants from Portugal. As a group, they were Mediterranean in appearance, with dark hair and eyes, and an olive complexion. For some unknown reason they were unique to Hawkins and, especially, to Hancock Counties.

**Mahala Mullins, 1824–1898, Legendary Melungeon Moonshiner.** Left: Porch of the restored Mahala Mullins Cabin. Note arched—European style—window frame.

Lower Right: Her cabin, of Hancock County, was originally located up on Newman's Ridge, visible above the roof.

Dicey in Vaughan  
 Was born in Vaughan  
 the 19 day 1806  
 as Nancy Vaughan  
 was born January  
 the 19 day 1807  
 Mahaly Vaughan was  
 born the 10th day March  
 in the year of our Lord 1809  
 John Vaughan was  
 born in the year of our  
 Lord September the 28 day  
 1811  
 Samuel Vaughan was  
 born February the 11 day  
 in the year of our Lord 1814



Looking Off the Top of Newman's Ridge  
Submitted by Sherie Corbett

James Madison was President in 1809; presiding over interesting times, he remained in office for the next eight years. Thirty years after Mahaly's father served in the Continental Artillery and blasted the Redcoats back to England, they returned in 1812 to have a go at a new generation of American soldiers. This time King George's son was on the throne. The British burned down the White House and Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" as he watched Fort McHenry get bombed. Two men who were particularly good at soldiering were Tennesseans Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston. After these two helped defeat the British, they made names for themselves and by the next decade became Tennessee's most popular politicians. Mahala's siblings began naming their children, Andrew, Andrew Jackson, and Sam Houston. Unknown to her family and Mahaly—if she still lived—her brother James L. and Houston would fight side by side, and later live side by side, for the next two decades in Texas.

Under Madison, and his predecessors, the nation was well on its way to becoming an agricultural Mecca. From 1792 to 1818 the Vaughan family had seen all the lands—first, around Virginia and then Tennessee--annexed into the United States. Further down the national highway--Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas, followed. Their descendants moved out into these areas to farm, even before the Civil War, and, even before the Homestead Act.

Like most of the U.S. population, Mahaly was born on a farm. Tennessee family farms produced a lot of cotton, tobacco, and corn. Snuff, tobacco in powdered form—and very addictive, was as commonly used as chewing gum is today; children and adults, alike, dipped, so growing a patch of the plants at least made economic sense.

Farm children were helpful. They earned their keep and were valuable assets to pioneer families. Even while small they were taught how to do simple but vital chores—especially hoeing weeds out of corn rows and picking the ears when they grew full. They filled up the corn cribs from which they fed their hogs which every farm family raised for bacon. Working in the fields, they enjoyed the excitement of discovering a bird's nest, chasing butterflies, peeking into a warren of baby animals, and picking wildflowers. Daughters helped mothers with the laundry, cooking, cleaning, sewing, and tending smaller siblings. Mahaly surely had a doll and may have claimed a favorite spot in the woods, or down by the creek, where she could play house with her sisters. Several of Mahala's siblings left written documents, so she may have had books in the house. There is no known record that says if she learned to read and write, but her older sisters Mary Polly and Nancy, who were able to read, could have read her stories from a schoolbook, the Bible, Shakespeare, or Homer. It was not uncommon for young Americans of this era to read and memorize great passages from the classics; her contemporary in nearby Maryville, the truant schoolboy, Sam Houston, was known to read and to quote from Homer's *Iliad*—endlessly. In 1809, at age 16, Houston ran away from home, and school, and lived with the Indians. He took the *Iliad* with him.

When Mahaly was two John Jr., was born, followed by the birth of two more brothers—Samuel N., and George Washington, plus her sister Martha Jane, so that their two-story log home stayed packed until after 1820. By then, Mahaly's two oldest brothers, James L. and Beverley, had moved west and started families; her sisters Mary Polly and Rebecca Greaser left in the early twenties, leaving her and Nancy to help their mother watch over little Martha Jane and the three young boys.

**Tobacco patch behind restored 1800 John Vaughan home.**



**Below: Harvested tobacco hanging up to dry inside the old Vaughan barn. Mabel Harp Photos, 1997**



Tennessee, during the twenties, was an interesting place to be. No records tell us about Mahaly, but whole history books have been written about the political excitement bursting out all around her. Sam Houston and Andrew Jackson filled East Tennessee with expectation.

By 1830, her fellow Tennesseans—heroes in the War of 1812—held elective office; Andrew Jackson was in the White House as President of the United States, and Sam Houston had served in the United States Congress and as Governor of Tennessee. In a brief setback to his political career, Houston resigned his governorship and before going to Texas to win a war, he withdrew into Cherokee country. Here he adopted the ways of the tribe, spoke their language, and married one of their women. Here he also adopted their dress—which included their Arabic type of headdress—the turban.

Famous Turbans—How did the Cherokee pick up this Arabian style of headdress in Tennessee?



1. Sam Houston, in full dress & 2. detail. 3. Sequoyah, w/his Cherokee syllabary. 4. Tah-Chee, Cherokee Chief, 1837. 5. Oolooteka, a Cherokee chieftain and Houston's friend.

Andrew Jackson was born in the Carolina country, but he had also lived in northeast Tennessee. As a boy during the Revolution he had witnessed the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill in which Mahaly's father had taken part. John Vaughan of the Continental Artillery had fought, had lost his cannon to the British, and had to really fight to take it back. Fourteen year old Jackson, a prisoner in a British jail up on the hill,



witnessed the battle and may have had a vista view of the nineteen year old gunner's heroics. Elected president in 1828, he served from 1829–1837. His Indian Removal Act, which forced thousands of Native American tribes out of Tennessee and into Indian Territory, opened up more land for white settlement. Several of Mahaly's siblings followed the infamous Trail of Tears left by the natives. States to the west continued to offer cheap



land. In territories such as Texas, land could be bought for a nickel to a quarter an acre--if one didn't mind fighting the Mexicans and Comanche for it. The 1830 census shows Mahala's parents still on their original Hawkins County homestead with her four youngest siblings in the house. Mahala lived next door, and all but her two wandering brothers—James L. and Beverley, who were leaders in the western movement--were living in the neighborhood. Rebeccah would be next to head west; married to John Roller, they would end up in Barry County, Missouri. There, later on, one of many mysterious Deckard individuals would marry into the Roller family. Rebeccah's Vaughan nephews also migrated there.

The 1830 Hawkins County census indicates that Mahaly married in the late twenties, probably still a teenager, and when her father died in 1842, he not only noted her death in his will, he also left a record of her married name. Her marriage was to William Deckard, and the couple moved into the Hawkins, Tennessee address next door to her parents. They were the parents of one little boy.

Mahaly's teenage brothers John, Jr., and Samuel N., and ten year old George Washington were still with their parents. Benjamin, though not yet married lived nearby in what seems to be an entire section of Vaughans, Fords, Callicots, and Churches. It's possible Mahaly was given a dowry of this Vaughan land by her father at the time of her marriage. After her death, William and her children disappear, and the Deckard property appears to have gone to the families of her siblings—most notably, to the Hickman family of sister Nancy.

Before Mahaly died there were very few Deckards paying taxes and voting in the district. Although there is no data proving her husband William came from one of these families, he probably did. For one thing, the children of this Vaughan family almost always married the boy or girl next door or thereabouts. But William was gone without a trace by the 1840 census, and most likely, even before the age of thirty, Mahaly was dead.

1830 Hawkins County Census

73 SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division allotted to *Living*

NAME or HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES)																			
	MALES										FEMALES									
	Under 5 years of age	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 85	85 to 90	90 to 95	95 to 100
<i>William West</i>		1		1																1
<i>John Wells</i>	2		3			1													1	3
<i>Wagon Adams</i>				1																1
<i>Barnaby West</i>	1			1																1
<i>Samuel Langston</i>	2	2	1			1														1
<i>John Vaughan</i>	1		2					1											2	1
<i>William Atchard</i>	1			1																1
<i>John Joss</i>	2																		1	1
<i>Samuel Menden</i>	1			1																1
<i>John Adams</i>	1		1		1														2	1
<i>John Cook</i>	1			1															2	1
<i>John Adams</i>			1	1				1											1	1
<i>Henry Church</i>	1		1	1															3	2
<i>Thomas Huntlock</i>				1																1
<i>Nicholas Mack</i>	2			1															1	1
<i>Charles Madlock</i>	2	1	2																1	2
<i>Christian Brimble</i>				1		2			1											1
<i>William Stone</i>	1		1	1		2													1	1
<i>James Schwan</i>																				1
<i>John Thomas</i>	1		2	1		1													3	1
<i>John Buckley</i>																				1
<i>W. Huntlock</i>						1													2	1
<i>Patry Thomas</i>																				1
<i>Richard Madlock</i>				2					1											1
<i>John Lewis</i>	2			2															1	1
<i>George Huntlock</i>	2		1	1					1										1	2
	19	9	11	11	15	1	2	1	2	2					12	16	10	6	10	7

32  
SC

(No. 4.)

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES		Value
brought forward		57 1/2
Littleton Kayser		
Peter Leavin		
Daniel Wright		
Edya White		1
Jacob Price		2
Theodorick Webb		
Michael Shanks		2
Polly Shepphine		
Nason Johnson		
Willie B. Kousner		2
George W. Huntman		
John S. Brown		1
Winstead Cobb		
Elizabeth Milam		1
<u>Benjamin Vaughan</u>		
James Callicott		
James C. Ford		
Ruth Gibbons		1
William Ford		
Bewily Ford		
<u>John Vaughan, jr</u>		2
David Hickman		1
<u>Samuel Vaughan</u>		2
John Callicott		
John Edens		2
William Church		
Pattience Sargent		
Henry Church		1
Peter Fields		2
Josiah Bradley		1
		67 1/2

Hawkins County - 1841

### 1836 Election, Hawkins County Tax and Voters List

Partial list of Voters and Tax payers.

Civil District 7: Beginning on the river opposite the mouth of the Laurel Branch then down the river to the mouth of Renfroes Creek then up said creek to the fork then up the west fork to the Carter's valley road between James Amis's and Bartram Galbreaths then up the creek by **John Mocks** then crossing the **Stanley valley** knobs with the path between Benoni Coldwells and Walter's and running with the line that divides the land of Coldwell and Walters to the Virginia line and Clinch mountain east of **John Deckard** then with the Virginia line east to the corner of District No. 6 and with that line to the beginning. Election to be held at the home of John Winn.

Sexton Brown; Benjamin H. Brown; Jonathan B. Davis; William Davis; Jonathan Davis Jr; Squire Fields; **John Forgey**; Jacob Johnson; Lane Jones; Jesse L. Johnson; Enoch Jones; Stephen Johnson; **John Kinkead**; **Rebecca Kinkead**; **Peggy Kinkead**; Addison Kinkead; Henry Larkins Jr; **William Lyons**; George M. Lyons; James **Mork**; William Rice; **Alexander Skelton**; **James Skelton**; Darst Shiflet; Abraham **Winnager**; Margaret Winnager; Clement Winnager; Joseph Winnager; Jonathan Winnager; George Winnager; John A. Winnagar; Polly Winnager; Elizabeth Winnager; Erni Winnager; Christina Winnager; Daniel Winnager; **Robert Wright**; **John (Son Of Wm) Winnager**; **Heirs Of Wm Winnager**; **Andrew Winnager**; **John Winnager**; **Polly Wright**; **Heirs Of George Wright**.

Except for the 1830 census, no records exist on Mahala's William Deckard. Of the Deckards listed on the 1836 Hawkins County Tax and Voters List, there is a John mentioned. However, there are a number of other Vaughan-Deckard relationships that stretch out of Tennessee into Kentucky, Arkansas, and Texas. But, subsequent census records seem to show that William either died, or left, Hawkins County. If Mahaly's children grew to adulthood, and although they had not yet left for parts unknown in December of 1841, they do not appear to have grown up in the area.

In the 1840 census listing, Mahala's sister Nancy and her Hickman family occupy the former Deckard residence between John, Jr. and Samuel N. (**See, Left**) There is no further written record of the Deckards in this neighborhood until 1858. Mahaly's widowed mother applied for her war widow's pension in 1858, and Benjamin recalls his sister's death and has a last word on Mahaly.

State of Tennessee county of Hancock, Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid Benjamin Vaughan aged about 54 years, .... further certifies that the enclosed record of my father John & Nancy Vaughan is the record which was found among my father's old papers and it has ever since remained to my possession and ....that .....Mahaly is dead .....

Benjamin Vaughan  
Nancy Callicott Vaughan 1858 Pension Application

Deaths of women, especially during childbirth, were common in the nineteenth century, but its frequency made it no less tragic. When the Deckard and Vaughan families lost Mahaly, her death occurred at the same time that she was starting a family of her own. The loss of the young mother must have seemed unbearable to her friends and family. After her death many namesakes began to appear



amongst her kin and neighbors. There is a cemetery on the site of the original Vaughan homestead—the property of her brother Samuel N. Although Samuel's is the first known interment, in 1863, it's possible the Vaughans buried her there—on the farm where she was born, and next door to where she and William were getting started. The Vaughan Cemetery, sometimes called Copper Ridge Cemetery, is up in a stand of cedar trees along a line of fence above the old farmhouse.

***Vaughan Cemetery, sometimes called Copper Ridge Cemetery, is in the stand of cedar trees along a fence line above the old farmhouse—now restored/reconstructed. 1997 Mabel Harp Photo***



After Mahala's death, her husband William and her heirs disappeared. Her name continued to be honored in residences from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri to Texas for the next sixty years, but with never a link back to William Deckard of Hawkins County. It could be that her heirs, so young when she died, forgot their mother.

Several Vaughan–Deckard families did get registered in the federal censuses of the times. Variant spellings included Deckerd, Dickard, Dickerd, Dickert, etc. So, listed families in Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas may be of her heirs and/or their descendants, or, may be those of their extended families. After the Civil War, two of Mahaly's nephews, the sons of her brother Samuel N., moved to Kentucky. Wherever they go, these two nephews and their descendants stay linked by marriage, cemeteries, obituaries, and census records to Vaughan–Deckard families for decades--everywhere else, just not back to her and her Hawkins County family. Her Vaughan nephews, William, b. 1838, and George Washington, b. 1846, left Kentucky for Missouri and finally headed to Grayson County, Texas. Grayson is at the end of the same trail followed by Vaughan–Deckard families. There, descendants of the Vaughan boys married into the Kentuckian families that have Vaughan–Deckard links.

If, in his will, John Vaughan had just made known how many heirs his daughter left—and their given names—some of their folks might be making the acquaintance of a lot of new cousins, and his Mahaly might be not be so forgotten.

**The End**

## Epilogue A Vaughan –Deckard Family Album

*Of Grayson County*

*John H. Deckard was born 1838 in Virginia. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth Jane Vaughn in Warren, Kentucky in 1870. They had a daughter Ellen Elizabeth Deckard in 1862. Ellen Elizabeth married David Wade Lawrence, b.1860. By 1880 they were living in Grayson County, TX. In Grayson County the David Wade and Ellen Elizabeth Deckard Lawrence family became linked by marriage to the two Vaughan nephews of Mahaly, William and George Washington. Of the children of D.W. and Elizabeth Ellen Deckard Lawrence, a daughter, Alma Lawrence, carried on the Vaughan –Deckard legacy when she married William Dishner from Hawkins County, Tennessee. Closing the link, their son James R. Dishner, b. 1877 married Lear Chaney from Kentucky, whose sister Lunette Chaney married into George Washington Vaughan's family. In a double connection, Lura Bell Vaughan, the daughter of William (George W.'s brother) also married into the Lawrence family of Grayson County. Several members of these merged families are buried there in Cedar Cemetery. Finally, besides Samuel N., Mahaly had two more brothers whose descendants settled in Grayson County—Benjamin and George Washington.*

*David Wade and Ellen Elizabeth Deckard Lawrence*



Pictured,below, left: Lunette Chaney, married Mahaley's grandnephew, Sam Houston Vaughan, (middle picture, w/Lunette) and her sister Lear married a Dishner, a Deckard descendant from Hawkins County. Pictured, right: Lura Vaughan, daughter of William Vaughan, she was Mahaly's grandniece, and she also married a Deckard descendant.



#### Of Missouri

William and George Washington (pictured, right ), the sons of Samuel N., not only had lived in Kentucky for a while, but they afterwards migrated to Barry County Missouri, where lived Mahaly's big sister Rebecca Greaser Vaughan Roller. Rebecca's son married into a Vaughan-Deckard family . . .



#### Of Arkansas

Back in Hawkins County, John Rogers, b 1798 married Elizabeth Deckard b. 1798—who surely must be related to Mahaly's husband, whether there is a record to show it, or not. Their daughter, Malinda Ann Rogers, b. 1828 moved to Barry , Missouri, and she and her husband, Pittser Edens, b. 1827 had a daughter who married Rebecca Vaughan Roller's nephew. In addition, the names of their sons, Granville Patton Rogers b.1825 and Hiram Rogers, b. 1827, are mentioned by Mahaly's mother in her 1858 pension application. Also, the connection of these two boys, reaches to the Vaughans in Benton, Arkansas where their sister Cynthia Rogers, b. 1836 lived. Hiram and Granville moved to Benton as well. That these children of Hawkins County are Deckard grandchildren who ended up in an Arkansas community where more of Mahaley's kin settled is another strange coincidence, and sadly, without a single link back to her husband. In all of these families "Mahala" continues to be a favorite name given to daughters.

### Faces Of Two Daughters Of Elizabeth Deckard Rogers

Malinda Ann Rogers, 1828-1916



*Obituary: leahanne1975added this on 26 Jan 2008. **Ancestry.com***

*Aged Citizen Dies: Mrs. Malinda Ann Edens died at her home near Washburn, Barry County, Missouri, April 27, 1916 of infirmities attending old age. She was in her 88th year, having been born Nov 23, 1828.*

*She was the widow of the later Petser Edens who lived for years in the Rock Springs locality near Washburn. They moved to this county from Tennessee about 47 years ago 1880? and located on what is now known as the old Edens homestead. In early life she professed faith in Christ and united with the Baptist Church of which she remained a consistent member until death took her to her rest. A few moments before her spirit took its eternal flight she called her children to her bedside and asked them to meet her in heaven.*

*Funeral services were conducted by Elder A. C. Crouch and interment made in the P. E. Roller cemetery surrounded by a large crowd of mourning relatives and friends.*

*She was the mother of Mrs. J. A. Roller, Mrs. R. L. Henry, Mrs. J. W. Anderson, Mrs. Mary Wilson, Curtis Edens, J.C. Edens, H. P. Edens, J. M. and Bob Edens, all of whom live in the Rock Springs locality except Curtis who lives near Garfield, Ark. She has two children gone on before, Mrs. John Cargile, and George Edens. Mrs. Edens had been a patient sufferer and was always kind and loving to everybody. She was an excellent citizen, a loving mother, and esteemed neighbor and faithful Christian.*

Lucinda Rogers, 1843 – 1937



### The Search for Mahala's Heirs:

Could the mothers of these two women and the Rogers brothers, Granville and Hiram, be Mahaly's in-laws?

The rest of Mahaly's brief life can only be told through her heirs, and her heirs can only be found through her. It's a search bookended by dead ends. However, her data, and near data, leaves a lot of room for guessing, for whatifs, and wudda—cuddah—shuddahs, ...mere speculation that hopefully may remind someone, somewhere that once upon a time they heard this or that, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, so that it can be known that once upon a time she lived, and she had a family.

Form No. 8-1-200 10-10-10 Commonwealth of Kentucky STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

County Clarkson File No. 20528  
 Vol. No. Clarkson Registered No. 112  
 Inc. Town \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
 FULL NAME Wm D Deckard

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS  
 SEX M. COLOR OR RACE W. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Married  
 DATE OF BIRTH January 17, 1829  
 AGE 84 yrs. 4 mos. 19 ds. 1 day 4 hrs. 02 min. 00 sec.  
 OCCUPATION Farmer  
 BIRTHPLACE not known  
 PARENTS: 10 NAME OF FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ 11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_ 13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 Informant: T. L. Dorman (Address) Millerstown  
 14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH DETAILED  
 DATE OF DEATH June 2, 1913  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from \_\_\_\_\_ 1913 to \_\_\_\_\_ 1913, and that I last saw him alive on \_\_\_\_\_ 1913, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at \_\_\_\_\_ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:  
Chronic Nephritis  
 (Duration) 10 yrs. 4 mos. 4 ds.  
 Contributory \_\_\_\_\_ (Duration) \_\_\_\_\_ (Duration) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signed) Marcus Phelps M.D. (Address) Clarksville  
 \*Death (Disease Causing Death) or (Cause from Violent Causes, (1) Means of Injury, and (2) Whether Accidental, Hospital or Home) (D) LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Present Residents) In the State \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_ Former or usual residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 15 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Rock Creek Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL June 3, 1913  
 16 UNDERTAKER Clarkson Mort. Co. Clarkson Ky. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Filed Aug 2, 1913 L. K. Solomon REGISTRAR

TOP: An interesting William D. Deckard, b. 1829, parents and birthplace—unknown.  
 BOTTOM: An interesting Mahala Deckard, named so in 1832.

HUSBAND 4009 Henry Deckard July 1795 Wyers Va.  
 Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died 15 Dec. 1879 Near Washington Ind.  
 Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 HUSBAND'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ HUSBAND'S MOTHER Mary Vance  
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE Elizabetta Etter  
 Chr. 1811 Place Va.  
 Died 1870 Place Washington, Ind. (near)  
 Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 WIFE'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE'S MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS \_\_\_\_\_

AGE	SEX	CHILDREN	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE TO WHOM	WHEN DIED
			DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY		
4050	M	David	10 July	1826	Wyers	Va.	Emily Dea	28 Feb 1910		
4051	M	John	15 Sept	1828	"	"	Caroline Clark	15 Aug 1899		
4052	F	Mahala		1832		Ind.	Milton Raspberry	7 Feb 1922		
4053	F	Rebecca		1834		"	Albert Davis	10 Sept 1890		
4054	M	Thomas		1837	Smithville	"	Angelina Wesley	Sept 1893		
4055	M	Stephen	8 July	1839	"	"				
4056	F	Malinda	16 June	1843			Wade Gads	1860 5 Oct 1890		
4057	F	Henry Green	16 July	1848			Clemantine Pado	15 Sept 1918		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER MARRIAGES 702 2nd 2nd - Nancy Ping

## Timeline

Mahaly Vaughan  
 Birth 1809 10 Mar  
 Hawkins County, Tennessee, from mother's daybook, p.2. Mahaly

Aft 1825, Marriage to Wm Deckard  
 — Age: abt 20; Hawkins, Tennessee  
 Birth of son: ?Wm Deckard, jr.? up to five yrs bef 1830; Hawkins, Tennessee  
 Residence 1830 Census— Age: 21; Hawkins, Tennessee  
 Date of father's will, death, heirs, and married name  
 1841 27 Dec; Hawkins County, Tennessee,  
 Death between 1830 and 1841  
 Parents John Vaughan 1762 – 1842/ Nancy Callicott 1777 – 1858  
 Siblings  
 James L. Vaughan 1795 – 1861  
 Beverley Vaughan 1797 – 1858  
 Mary Polly Vaughan 1800 – 1880  
 Rebekah Greaser Vaughan 1802 – 1883  
 Benjamin Vaughan 1804 – 1864  
 Nancy Vaughan 1807-  
 John Vaughan Jr 1811 – 1887  
 Samuel N. Vaughan 1814 – 1863  
 Martha Jane Vaughan 1815 – 1880  
 George Washington Vaughan 1820 – 1901  
 Spouse & Children  
 William Deckard and "Heirs"

## Sources

*Nancy Callicott Vaughan Daybook, Page 2*  
*1830 Census*  
*1840 Census*  
*John Vaughan Will, Dec 1841*  
*1858 Nancy Callicott Vaughan Pension Application: Excerpts*  
*Oral History*  
*Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution*

*1836 Hawkins Co. Tax List, List of taxpayers:* <http://www.public.usit.net/billiam/hawkinscivildist.html>  
*Attached Note: Hello to all my fellow Hawkins county researchers. I thought some of you might like a description of the various civil districts of the county, as they are described on the 1836 tax list. I do not know if or when the various boundaries changed over the years. Sincerely, Mary Rollis*

## Notes

*TEXT: "... they enjoyed the excitement of discovering a bird's nest, chasing butterflies, peeking into a warren of baby animals, and picking wildflowers . . . ." P.5, edited from a description of a recent observer of the Vaughan property, who, from the gated entrance also saw deer in the field.*

Wikipedia: Melungeon data—Portugal to American Colonies.

Based on the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Portuguese Crown claimed it had territorial rights in the area visited by John Cabot in 1497 and 1498.[1] To that end, in 1499 and 1500, the Portuguese mariner João Fernandes Lavrador visited the northeast Atlantic coast and Greenland, which accounts for the appearance of "Labrador" on topographical maps of the period.[2] Subsequently, in 1501 and 1502 the Corte-Real brothers explored and charted Greenland and what is today the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, claiming these lands as part of the Portuguese Empire. Fragmentary evidence also suggests a previous expedition in 1473 by João Vaz Corte-Real, their father, with other Europeans, to Terra Nova do Bacalhau (New Land of the Codfish) in North America.[3][2] The possible voyage of 1473 and several other possible earlier pre-Columbian expeditions throughout the 15th century and before 1473, ordered from the Azores and Continental Portugal, to the area of North America, remain as matters of great controversy for scholars, and based in brief, often unclear as its precise destinations, or fragmentary, historical documents. In 1506, King Manuel I of Portugal created taxes for the cod fisheries in Newfoundland waters.[4] João Álvares Fagundes and Pêro de Barcelos established fishing outposts in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia around 1521; however, these were later abandoned, with the Portuguese colonizers focusing their efforts on South America. Although the Portuguese-founded town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada remains important as a cultural center, nowadays.[5]

"In 1619, the first documented Africans—about 50 men, women and children—came to Jamestown aboard a Portuguese slave ship"  
 Wiki, Jamestown.

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 v 2014