

THOMAS JERNIGAN DESCENDANTS

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Heritage of White County Tennessee

1806 – 1999

White County Heritage Book Committee

I, Mable Joyce Austin Moore, am a direct descendant of Thomas Jernigan through my grandmother, Mary Florence Jernigan Austin. Thomas Jernigan was born in England in 1614. He emigrated to Virginia in 1635 at the age of 21, by way of Bermuda. He was one of 129 persons who were examined at Gravesend, England, on June 10, 1634. They were permitted to sail for Bermuda aboard the ship *Truelove* of England.

In Virginia, in 1668, Thomas Jernigan received a land grant of 250 acres in Nausemond County at a place called Somerton.

From the direct line of Thomas Jernigan born in England in 1614 is Thomas Jernigan, Jr. born in 1652; Henry Jernigan I born in 1655; Henry Jernigan II born in 1685; Henry Jernigan III born in 1710; Lewis Jernigan born 1742; (Lewis served in the American Revolution); Kedar Jernigan born in 1768 and buried in Wayne County, North Carolina; Wiley Jernigan was born in 1816 in North Carolina. Wiley was a cattle dealer and drove cattle from North Carolina to Tennessee. He was my great grandfather. When he was 38 years old in 1854 he made his last trip of driving a herd of cattle from North Carolina to Tennessee. The following story sounds like a ghost story, but was told by my grandmother, Mary Florence Jernigan Austin, about her father Wiley Jernigan. At the end of the first day on his last cattle drive to Tennessee, he drove his cattle into a church yard where he planned to spend the night. A church bench was his bed. He was asleep by about eight o'clock. After about four hours of sleep he was awakened by a person dragging a red-hot chain walking toward him. She sat down beside him and talked about a hour. She told him some things that were good and some not-so-good. She told him if he ever told what she had said he would die instantly. The next morning he continued his journey on to Tennessee and located in White County. According to records of marriage at the White County courthouse, Wiley Jernigan was married to Sarah "Sally" Short the 19th of April 1856. He lived to be 81 years old without ever telling what was told him by the woman in the church.

According to the 1870 Census in White County, children of Wiley and Sarah Short Jernigan were listed as: Washington age 13; James M. 11; Walter Haywood 9; Mary Florence (my grandmother) age 7; John T. 5; Thomas Wiley and William Riley (twins) age 1. In the 1880 Census, the following names were listed in addition to the above names in Wiley's household: Charlie P. age 9; Franklin Pierce age 4 who was a Methodist preacher at age 17; Laura A. age 1. Orlando Clay was born July 10, 1882 and died August 21, 1954.

My grandmother, Mary Florence Jernigan, daughter of Wiley Jernigan, was born June 5, 1863 in White County and died March 15, 1941. She was married June 6, 1883 to William Edward Austin born January 10, 1860 and died October 3, 1931. They had the

following children: Flora Ann born July 17, 1884 at O'Conner in White County and died November 10, 1936. She was married to John Byrd Sliger November 13, 1904 and they had three daughters, Jessie Cleo Sliger, Evola Jewell Sliger, and Stella Florence Sliger. Nora Etta, born December 20, 1885 at O'Connor in White County never married, Ernest Haskell Austin Sr. born January 4, 1888 and died June 16, 1951. He was born in Putnam County. He married Della Mae Brown May 10, 1910 and they had the following children: Opal Glo, Anna Lee, James Edward, Ernest Haskell Jr., & Mable Joyce. The mother, Della Mae, died February 21, 1927 when Mable Joyce was three days old. Later Ernest Haskell Sr. was remarried to Zora America Sliger and they had one daughter, Elizabeth Carlene. Evola Avo "Vola" was born December 24, 1889 and died March 19, 1988 at 98 years old. Never married. Franklin Pierce was born February 14, 1892 and died September 21, 1964. He married Anna Vera Judd November 26, 1911 and they had three children: Mary Edna, Ernest Fred, and Hazel Marie. Elmer Claude born December 23, 1894 and died January 30, 1980 was married to Lela Gentry December 20, 1914 and they had one daughter Norma Inez. Myrtle Gertrude "Berchia" Austin was born August 23, 1897 and died May 1, 1995. She would have been 98 years old on August 23. She married William Joshua Thomas December 21, 1923 from South Charleston, West Virginia. She taught school for over forty years in South Charleston. There were no children. William Arthur Austin was born March 6, 1901 and died October 28, 1980. He married Nora Avo Sliger October 14, 1921 and they had the following children: Johnny Lynell, Flora Juanita, Reba Mae, Clayron Durell, and Billy Thomas.

I, Mabel Joyce Austin Moore, was born February 18, 1927. My mother died at childbirth and I was reared by my father's sister, Flora Ann Austin Sliger, and her daughter, Jessie Cleo Sliger who was a teacher. I received my BS, MA, and EdS degrees from Tennessee technological University. I was in the field of education for thirty years as a history teacher and guidance counselor in the local high school until retirement in 1991. I married Joseph Edward Moore of White County June 18, 1946. We had two children, Joseph Edward "Joe Ed" Jr. born March 11, 1954, and Lisa Austin born March 20, 1959. My husband, Edd, was a teacher and principal for over forty years.

Our son, Joe Ed, has a BS degree from Tennessee Technological University, and a Master's degree from the University of Tennessee. He is an appraiser with Farm Credit Services. He is married to Vickie Lynn Carney of Indiana and they have two children, Joseph Kyler, born September 3, 1985 and Kaci Maree born March 14, 1988.

Our daughter, Lisa Austin, has BS, MA, and EdS degrees from Tennessee Technological University. She was a business teacher and now a guidance counselor at White County High School. She is married to David Will and they have two children, David Brandon, born December 31, 1985 and Sean Austin born August 18, 1991.

Story submitted by: Mabel Joyce Austin Moore and Lisa Austin Moore Will, 1982 McMinnville Hwy., Sparta, TN 38583.

(Wiley Jernigan was the gggrandfather of Audrey J. Denny Lambert). Chapters 9 & 10 and Jernigan family sheets can be viewed at ajlambert.com)