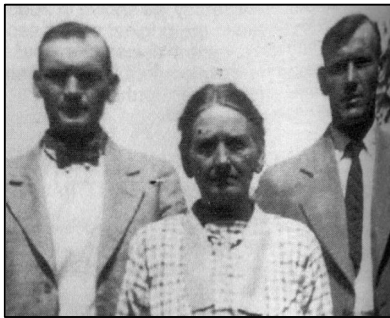


**DESCENDANTS OF MAHULDA JANE THOMPSON
AND JOHN T. JERNIGAN (#529)
(Though their daughter Mary Vennie)**

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pgs. 198 & 199: I, Charlotte Jo (Peden) Wiggins, am a descendant of Jernigans, Jareds, Thompsons, Short and Moss families. At my birth there were four generations living. I was at the Jernigan home when I was such a small child but I do remember the big front porch and later going to their home for a weekend and having such a wonderful breakfast. Not sure if Grandma fixed the breakfast or one of her daughters, but I can still hear my father talking about “red eye gravy and hot biscuits”.

E. L. & Naomi (Jared) Thompson, listed in the 1870 Putnam Co., TN census as living in the 13th District with two children, Joseph & Mary, are the parents of Mahulda Jane Thompson, my great-grandmother. Mahulda Jane, born March 5, 1871, Boma, Putnam Co., TN – died March 30, 1944, Double Springs, Putnam Co., TN, married John Tilford Jernigan about 1890, Putnam Co., TN. John was born October 22, 1865, White Co., TN – died November 18, 1944, Boma, Putnam Co., TN.



Grandma and Grandpa Jernigan, known as Mahulda Jane (Thompson) Jernigan and John Tilford Jernigan, had 10 children, all girls but one, 9 living to adulthood. Hulda and John T. lived in the Tighfit Hollar area of Putnam County where my grandmother was born. They later moved to the Double Springs area. Mary Vennie (1894-1968) was the third child born to Hulda and John. Her other siblings were Henry Woodrow Grady, Sallie Naomi, Amanda Catherine, Edna Vergie, Essie Avo, Flossie Mae, Pearl Frances, Jewel Argenia and Inca who died. (Pictured: Andrew, Edna Ardela & Charlie Moss)

There are some memories relayed to me by my mother regarding Grandpa Jernigan being a Justice of the Peace and holding court at his home. She said kids were not allowed, so they would go to the attic and listen. She also told me about the pole yard and how they would play in front of the Jernigan home on the poles that went all the way to the railroad tracks.

Mary Vennie met and married W. C. Moss (1896-1974) of Laurel Hill, Smith/DeKalb County October 6, 1912, son of William Bransford Moss and Edna Ardela (Harper?). William Bransford died when Charlie was two years old. He came home riding a horse bleeding where he had been shot, only to die a few days later with pneumonia. Edna married Charlie Clemons, Joseph Holland, and Zac Vaughn. Mr. Holland raised Charlie in the area of Silver Point, Tennessee. Charlie had an older brother, Andrew and some half siblings.



Charlie and Vennie lived in Boma, Tennessee. Around 1920, they moved to Double Springs from Ada, Oklahoma and 1921/1922 they moved to Algood where my mother and her siblings attended school in the Methodist Church while the school building was being repaired. Later they moved to Bridgeport, Alabama and after James was born, they moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The group picture is of Charlie and Vennie Moss and their children. Shown from left to right, 1st row – Eunice Bell (Moss) Woodall, William Charlie Moss, Mary Vennie (Jernigan) Moss, Diana (Moss) Hunton, 2nd row – Edna Ruth (Moss) Broyles, Bernice Mae (Moss) Peden, 3rd

row – Ernest Linuel Moss, James Andrew Moss, Charles Tipton Moss, John Pinoche Moss, Billy Ray Moss, 12/1957.

My mother, Bernice Mae (1913-1999), was born August 31, 1913 in Boma, Tennessee, the oldest of nine born to Charlie and Vennie. Four were born in Boma, Bernice Mae (1913-1999), Eunice Bell (1915-1992), Ernest Linuel (1917-2000), Edna Ruth (1920-2003); one in Algood, Charles Tipton (1922-1997); two in Bridgeport, John Pinoche (1924-1978) and James Andrew (1927-2003) and two in Chattanooga, Billy Ray (1931) and Diana Jane (1935). All five of their sons served in the military representing Army, Navy and Marines, four during World War II and one during the Korean conflict.



Third picture in this article, Four Generations of Jernigans, taken about 1939/1940 Mahulda (Thompson) Jernigan, Charlotte Jo Peden, John T. Jernigan, Bernice (Moss) Peden, Mary Vinnie (Jernigan) Moss.

I fondly remember all the many Christmases spent at my grandparents house. Sometimes there were as many as 40 family members. Of course, all the kids were excited about the gifts under that lovely tree. Papa liked having his family all together; and even after mama died he still wanted the family get together's which cousins continue today.

Mama and Papa always lived about two blocks from me; and since Diana was two years older than I, we did a lot of things together. My mother, mama, Diana and I would ride the streetcar to town for a day of shopping and many times come home with fabric so we could be dressed alike. One dress I still have and passed it to my granddaughter for picture purposes. When older, I walked to their house going by the Converse Bridge and Steel company where

Papa worked and I can remember him at the windows throwing me a dime. What a treat!

When I was in the eighth grade at East Side Jr. High, I became a big sister to Donna Sue (1951), almost 15 years between us. Upon graduation from Chattanooga Central High School, I was admitted to David Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tennessee earning a degree in Home Economics and starting to work as a Dietitian at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

September of 1960, I met my husband, Oliver Wendell Wiggins (1936-1991) of Winter Park, Florida, stationed at the US Naval Reserve Training Center in Chattanooga, marrying April 15, 1961. Two sons were born to us; Charlton Wynn (2/25/1962) Chattanooga, Tennessee, a rebel and Jeffrey Hayden (10/19/1965) New London Sub Base, Groton, Connecticut, a yankee. From Connecticut we moved to Wilmington, NC, and I again worked in Dietetics at a local hospital. From there Uncle Sam sent us to Guantanamo, Cuba for four years. Upon completion of his duty there, we came to Chesapeake, Virginia for his last tour of duty before retirement. Wendell died in 1991, and I elected to stay in the area.

I have worked as a substitute teacher, and spent eleven years in the real estate business, attended community college for some interior decorating courses and took two years of upholstery; now enjoying genealogy, scrapbooking, tole painting, and church work. I am active in the Chesapeake Church of Christ, and my husband and I were some of the charter members at Chesapeake, Virginia and Norwich, Connecticut congregations.

Our two sons live in North Carolina and both have Graphic Arts degrees. Jeffrey Hayden is CTP Technical Manager for the Freedom Communications Inc. on the Times News staff in Burlington. Jeff married Shannon Elizabeth Hammons of Bolivar, Tennessee in St. Thomas, VI, USA. They have one daughter, Catherine Elizabeth. Charlton married and is now divorced.

Story submitted by: Charlotte Peden Wiggins, 1452 Pamlico Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23322

Sources: family; Birth Certificates; Death Certificates; Self knowledge.

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