

Cumberland County Virginia and its people
The Cumberland County Historical Society
Cumberland County 1833 – pgs. 154 & 155.

Thomas Meador was born around 1610 in England. He came to the new world in the 1630's, using headright. Thomas settled on land about 50 miles north of Jamestown a part of Charles River, Northumberland, Lancaster, Rappahannock, and Essex Counties as each was established. He married, and between 1635-37 Thomas, Jr. was born. Thomas did well raising tobacco and paid passage for others claiming their land. Thomas died in 1655 leaving an estate of several hundred acres.

Little is known about **Thomas, Jr.**, of Lancaster County except that he married and was the father of **John**. Apparently a successful farmer, he, too, paid for persons to cross the ocean, holding their grant. John sold this land following his father's death in 1662.

John (1658-60 -1721) married **Elizabeth White** in 1677. By her were Thomas, Rachel, Elizabeth, Richard, John, Jr., Hope and Esther. Mrs. Meador died in 1693-94. John remarried in 1695-97, **name unknown**. Their children were Mary, **Jonas**, Job, Jason, Joshua. The custom of using Biblical names beginning with 'J' for their sons continued for generations and, through often confusing, served to identify this branch of the family.

Jonas was born in Essex County around 1700. He married **Frances (Hudgens?)** about 1721. They were parents of Joel, Jonas Jr., Mary, Frances, John, Josiah, Joab, **Jehu** and Jesse. Records show some Meadors living in Cumberland in the 1740's. Although he owned land there earlier, Jonas and Frances did not move until 1751, locating in an area now a part of the State Forest. When Jonas died in 1768, he had acquired 630 acres. Frances died in 1780.

Jesse was among the first volunteers enlisting in 1775 from Amelia District of Cumberland County. Other brothers furnished the forces with supplies. Three sons of Joel -Jonas, Joel, Jr., and Isham - also served.

Jehu and Jesse remained in Cumberland all their lives. Jonas, Jr. lived in Bedford briefly. He returned home following the death of his father and remained until his passing in 1773. Other members moved to Lunenburg, Bedford, Franklin, then southward and westward.

Jesse (1745-1812) married Martha (Johns?) (1752-1832) between 1765-70. Their children were Roseann, married to William Bates; John to Nancy Flippen; Thomas to Frances Gilmore; Jonas to name unknown; William to Phebe Flippen; Martha to Stephen Robinson; Jesse, Jr., married prior to 1802, name unknown, remarried about 1824 to Elizabeth Winfree; James to Fanny Anderson.

William (1770-75-1854) married Phebe Flippen (1776-1841) in 1808. They were parents of Jonas, who married Polly Oakley; Sarah, unmarried; Nancy, married William

Huddleston; Mary married ____ Stinson; Delilah, married Royal Godsey; and Martha, married Josiah Smith. Thelma Timberlake

The writer is indebted to Victor Paul Meador (Joel line - son of Jonas and Frances) for information furnished. She also acknowledges the contributions made by late Major Perkins Nunnally, grandson of Julia Ann, daughter of Jonas and Polly Oakley Meador.

MEADOR – Part II

Jonas (1800 – 1868) and Mary (Polly) Oakley (1811 – 1886) were married November 26, 1832. Their children were Julia Ann, William, Alpheus, John, Mary, Thomas, Merritt Singleton, Robert, Jonas, Manville. Jonas acquired land in the same area as that settled a century earlier by his great-grandfather, the first Jonas Meador.

Merritt Singleton (1843 – 1914) enlisted January 14, 1862, in the Confederate Army. He was wounded November 27, 1863, at Mine Run. On July 20, 1864, he married Sallie Randolph Newton (1844 – 1917). They were the parents of Rosa Lettitia (her history follows); Nellie Lee (1867 – 1892); John Lewis; Susie Martha (1871 – 1961), married Eddie Franklin Walden, 1895, moved to Missouri; Blake W. (1873 – 1885); Marillie Dickenson (1877 – 1952), married Edward Nelson Motley, 1898, lived in Colonial heights, had five sons, three daughters; Walter Gathright (1879 – 1939), married Pocahontas L. Dowdy (1882 – 1935) 1901, moved to Richmond, parents of Drs. Blake and (late) Carl Meador; Olive Henson (1881 – 1882).



John Lewis (1869 – 1942), called “Redhead” Meador, spent his entire life in Cumberland County. He married Mildred Estelle, daughter of Judson Lewis and Melissa Frayser Dawson May 5, 1898. They lived near his parents before moving to “Booker’s Tavern”, a former stagecoach stop. Their children were Beulah Estelle, Judson Singleton, Mable Mildred (1903 1905), Dora Bertha, Katie Gertrude.

(Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis Meador pictured on the left.)

Beulah (1899-1950) married Arthur Harrison Cooke (1888-1961) August 12, 1919, and established a home near Cartersville. Their children were Mable Mildred, born dead July 16, 1920, Thelma Mildred, Ethel Harrison, and Mable Estelle. Thelma married Thomas Lynwood Powers August 15, 1942; born to them Thomas Lynwood, Jr., and Arthur Meador. Lyn died in 1951. In 1954 Thelma married Roscoe Lee Timberlake and with her Sons moved from Cartersville, where they had lived since the death of her mother, to Powhatan. Tom married Myra Abertnathy (1951-1982) August 7, 1971. Art married Sarah Adams Wilkinson October 29, 1977. They are parents of Arthur Wilkinson and Sarah Blanton. Ethel married Carl Franklin Muse May 14, 1949, and moved to Charlottesville. Their children are Charles Franklin and Janet Anne. Mable married

James Cosby Cluff July 2, 1961, and they live in Orange. They are parents of James Harrison and Anne Meador.

Judson (1901 – 1930) married Bessie Southworth September 25, 1926. Their daughter, Helen, married A.J. Fortenberry August 25, 1951. Lu Ann and Jay Edward are their children. They live in California.

Dora married George W. Southworth (1897-1967) August 1, 1925, and lived in Richmond. They were parents of Dorothy Louise (1927-1971), married Eugene Burns (1924-1982), children Linda (married Ronnie Seay), Laurie (married Michael Dyer), and Nita; George Jr., married Clara Gentry, children Judy (married Jim Zeller) and George III; Alvin, married Elizabeth Condyles (1934-1972) and had Michael (married Pam

Ferguson, daughter Ashley), Todd, and Stephen. In 1978 Alvin married Beatrice Wilson.

Katie married Drury H. Baughan(1899-1954) September 2, 1933. Their son, Drury, Jr., married Anne Hungate April 5, 1958. They have two daughters, Karen and Rebecca, and live in Richmond.

The early Meadors engaged mostly in farming. Later generations produced physicians, nurses, religious leaders, journalists, craftsmen, educators, business persons, as well as scientific farmers.

Ethel C. Muse

Cumberland County Virginia and its people
The Cumberland County Historical Society
Cumberland County 1833
by Louise Meador – pg. 156



I, Louise Meador, b. 31 July 1903, in Cumberland Co., VA am much interested in family history. I know that Thomas Meador, Sr., was born in England 1600 to 1610. On June 2, 1663, he was issued a land grant of 320 acres in Old Rappahannock Co. on the south side of Haskin's Creek. Jonas Meador was born in Essex Co., VA about 1696-1700. He was the son of John Meador (2nd marriage). In 1751, following the lead of his younger brothers and older children, Jonas moved to Cumberland Co., settling about 5 miles northeast of the county seat of Cumberland.

My parents, Mary Blanche Godsey of Carysbrook Farm (March 1, 1870 – July 12, 1933) and Albert Thomas Meador (Nov. 4, 1873 – Aug. 16, 1947), were married Jan. 16, 1902. Their graves have a joint marker in a small plot on the farm which they owned (located on Route 624, and now owned by Lonnie Midkiff). The 2 other graves in the plot

(unmarked) belong to _____Johns and a small child.

My first school was Talley School taught by Miss Bertha Robertson. After graduating from Cumberland High School and attending Harrisonburg College (now James Madison University) I taught in Pittsylvania, Fairfax, and Cumberland Counties.

I am a member of Tar Wallet Church where I was treasurer many years. I still teach a Sunday school class there. Since my father's death, I make my home with James and Margaret Godsey in the village of Cumberland.

I find old cemeteries to be most interesting. One Meador cemetery is approximately 1.9 miles from the intersection of Routes 45 and 624. About 6 miles northeast on Route 45 (toward Cartersville) is the beautiful cemetery at Oak Grove Church. About 1/4 mile west on Route 626 there is another Meador cemetery where Robert J. Meador (Turkey Bob), his wife Mary Richardson Meador (granddaughter of John Brown), and other Meadors and Sandersons are buried.

Overlooking Route 626 on the south of Reynold's Creek, there is another cemetery where Jesse Meador, Jr., his 2 wives, and his son Albert Meador are buried. (After Alfred's death his wife Sallie (or Sarah) Talley married Willis Anderson. They had a son Cornelius E. Anderson.) They only stones legible in this cemetery are "B.P. Dunkum., 1824 – 1905 and "Ann E. Dunkum, 1842 – 1938.

There is a Jenkins cemetery about 1 mile southwest of the cemetery mentioned above and 1/4 mile south of the intersections of Routes 626 and 624. This is a well kept cemetery and includes graves of Meadors and Andersons as well as Jenkinses. On Route 624, 1 mile north and behind Cumberland Baptist Church (Jenkins Church) is a cemetery where Ransones, Davenports and Tranners are buried. Northwest of the church's cemetery is a Dunkum cemetery on property owned by Ellis Dunkum.

Further north and approximately 1 mile east on Route 624 is a cemetery located on Jack and Ida Davenport's property (both deceased). Minter and Davenport graves are found in this cemetery.

In the state forest area, southeast of Cumberland Court House on Route 624 in Carysbrook Farm cemetery are the unmarked graves of James Benjamin Godsey (June 10, 1838-March 27, 1918) and his wife Mary Catherine Talley (Nov. 2, 1845-Feb. 3, 1918). These are my grandparents. Their children, William Nelson (Aug. 18, 1869-Mar. 20, 1889), Edna Judson (Jan. 22, 1879-June 28, 1901), and Jeff Banks (June 27, 1884-Aug. 1907) are also buried there.

Someone may find interesting these records copied from John Brown's arithmetic book dated August 17th, 1788:

Polly Arthur, the daughter of John Brown and Elizabeth his wife, was born in the year of our Lord 1797 February 16.

Willis Sanders Brown the son of John Brown and Elizabeth his wife was born in the year

of our Lord 1798 August 21st.

William Arthur Brown the son of John Brown and Elizabeth his wife was born in the year of our Lord 1803 July 27th.

Elizabeth Brown the daughter of Clement Brown and Mary his wife was born in the year of our Lord 1776 Oct. 20th.

Louise Meador

MEADOR BROTHERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

Cumberland County Virginia and its people

The Cumberland County Historical Society

Third Supplement, pg. 60-61.

Merritt Singleton Meador's Confederate Army service was reported previously by Mrs. Roscoe L. Timberlake. Further examination of available records has revealed additional details of his military service and that of his brothers.

Cumberland County's Jonas and Mary "Polly" Oakley Meador had four sons who joined the Confederate Army together. In Chesterfield County, on Jan. 14, 1862 James A., Lewis E., William J. and Merritt S. (called Singleton) Meador were enlisted by Captain L. M. Burfoot in Co. A, 2 Virginia Artillery, later reorganized as 22 Battalion Virginia Infantry. (Other Meadors also were in the Confederate Army but have not yet been established as their brothers).

Their military records are scattered and incomplete but suffice to give a glimpse of the brothers' careers and fates.

Including such data as company rosters, with absences and hospital leaves, the records of all the soldiers reflect the unhappy conditions that prevailed at the time. Wounds caused fewer casualties than did illnesses, especially those related to poor food, inadequate camp sanitation and exposure. The fact that medical facilities were limited and strained, attempting to function under the severest circumstances, is shown by the frequent transfers of invalids among the various hospitals. Some patients recovered or died at home, presumably having been sent there because of hospital overcrowding.

James Meador may have been one of these. His brief records show his enlistment January 14, his last payday on March 1 and his death on April 13, 1862, in Cumberland County. We do not know if he was at home to recover from illness or a wound; if the latter, the date suggests it may have occurred in the action around Yorktown. His entire life in the army had lasted three months.

Lewis was also at home during that same period, because of illness. In July, after the army's reorganization, he re-enlisted, this time in Capt. Dance's Light Artillery. Early in the following December, however, he again became ill.

Lewis was placed in a hospital, transferred to a second hospital and then a third, and finally was sent home. He died there on January 31, 1863, one year and two weeks after he first enlisted. He was twenty-two years old.

William's file contains a slip bearing the isolated phrase "Commendation of Actions April 11, 1863"; there is not further information given. On June 4, 1864, he was admitted to Stuart Hospital in Richmond, wounded by gunshot. He died there June 12, and the next company muster roll dated July 7, 1864, counts him as Killed in Action.

The battle in which William was fatally wounded is not mentioned, but the date suggests Cold Harbor. His widow, Emily, and two children, Mary Elizabeth and William E., survived him.

Compared with the above, there is more detailed information about Singleton Meador since his military records are complemented by other sources. When he enlisted he was two days short of nineteen years old, five feet six inches tall, blue eyed, fair complexioned and light haired.

In the army, Singleton was hospitalized for at least three illnesses but still saw action in a number of battles including Second Manassas, Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville and Guiney's Station. He was in the hospital, however, when Lee drove into Pennsylvania to Gettysburg.

On November 23, 1863, while Lee was stopping Meade's Union offensive at Mine Run west of Chancellorsville, Singleton was in the action and received a gunshot wound in the left arm. The arm was permanently disabled, as can be seen in surviving photographs.

While convalescing, Singleton was married to Sallie Randolph Newton on July 20, 1864. He apparently returned to active duty in the army but, because of the condition of his arm, he was granted a Certificate of Disability on February 8, 1865.

Shortly thereafter his name appeared on a "List of Confederate Prisoners of War" paroled by the Union Army at Farmville April 1-11, 1865 (i.e., the time of Lee's surrender). However, the National Archives have no record that he ever signed, the Amnesty Oath.

A Confederate headstone marks his grave in what is now the Cumberland State Forest.

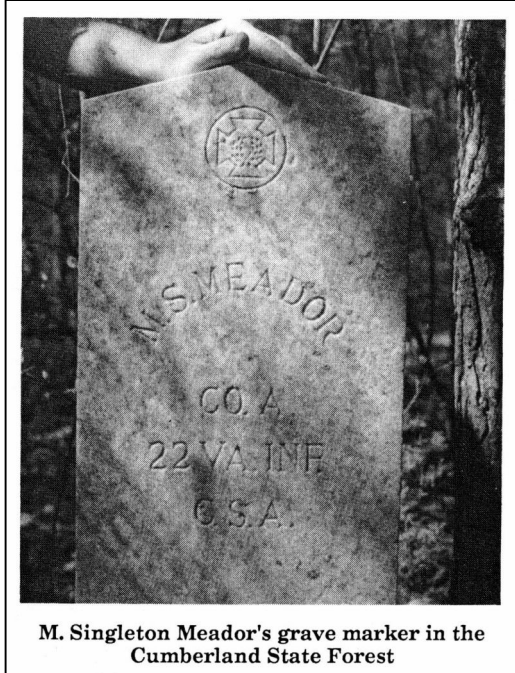
Sources and Notes: Sibling and parental relationships are from U. S. Census reports, especially 1850; Victor Paul Meador, *Meador Families of Virginia* (published by Mr. Meador, Independence, MO, 1898); and family records.

Military date are from *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers*, Microcopy No. 324, Reels 225, 286 and 658, Virginia State Archives, Richmond; the National Archives; additional photocopies of War Dept. records provide by Mrs. Shirly Meador Wersinger to Mrs. Roscoe L. Timberlake; and Rosa L. Meador Pulliam's application for membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, approved April 8, 1925.

Marital information is from Merritt S. Meador and Sallie R. Newton's marriage certificate and from Victor Paul Meador, op. cit.

The "complaint" listed on the last hospital stays of both William and Singleton is 'vulnus sclopeticum', "Vulnus" is Latin for "wound". In a personal communication to the writer, Dr. Leonard F. Peltier, M. D., Rhd., Professor of Surgery at the University of Arizona and expert on medical history, indicates that vulnus sclopeticum is not a medical term but instead refers to the wounding agent, e. g. sclopeta, double barreled pistols; escopetta, a musket or carbine.

Because of the type of weapon involved, Dr. Peltier hypothesizes that the injuries were incurred in a cavalry action. Certainly Meade's Union Cavalry was actively patrolling around Mine Run since he planned an attack on Nov. 24, the day after Singleton was wounded, and Lee had scouts out. At Cold Harbor Grant used everything he had, with enormous losses.



MARTHA SUSAN⁶ GATHRIGHT GARTHRIGHT (*ABSALOM⁵, ANSELEM⁴ GARTHRIGHT SR., EPHRAIM³ GARTHWAITE JR., EPHRAIM², MICHAEL¹*) was born 1810 in Cumberland Co, Virginia, and died 1860. She married **RANDOLPH NEWTON** January 15, 1824 in Powhatan Co, Virginia. He was born April 1800 in Cumberland Co, Virginia, and died 1875.

Children of MARTHA GATHRIGHT and RANDOLPH NEWTON are:

- i. SARAH⁷ NEWTON, b. 1843, Powhatan Co, Virginia; d. Unknown.
- ii. **SALLIE RANDOLPH NEWTON**, b. July 07, 1844; d. June 06, 1917.

SALLIE RANDOLPH⁷ NEWTON (*MARTHA SUSAN⁶ GATHRIGHT GARTHRIGHT, ABSALOM⁵, ANSELEM⁴ GARTHRIGHT SR., EPHRAIM³ GARTHWAITE JR., EPHRAIM², MICHAEL¹*) was born July

07, 1844, and died June 06, 1917. She married **MERRITT SINGLETON MEADOR** July 20, 1864. He was born January 16, 1843 in Cumberland Co, Virginia, and died November 28, 1914 in Cumberland Co, Virginia.

Children of SALLIE NEWTON and MERRITT MEADOR are:

- i. ROSA LETITIA⁸ MEADOR, b. December 29, 1865, Cumberland Co, Virginia; d. March 21, 1959, Fort Worth, Tarrant, Texas.
- ii. NELLIE LEE MEADOR, b. 1867; d. Unknown.
- iii. JOHN LEWIS "READHEAD" MEADOR, b. 1869; d. Unknown.
- iv. SUSIE MARTHA MEADOR, b. 1871; d. Unknown.
- v. BLAKE WOODSON MEADOR, b. 1873; d. Unknown.
- vi. MARILLA DICKINSON MEADOR, b. 1877; d. Unknown.
- vii. WALTER GATHWRIGHT MEADOR, b. 1879; d. Unknown.
- viii. OLIVE HENSON MEADOR, b. 1881; d. Unknown.

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/a/t/Carolyn-Gathright/index.html>

CUMBERLAND COUNTY – INDEX TO WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS, 1749-1810

Contributed by: Joan Renfrow

<http://searches.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/iftch2?/u1/data/va+index+413963149824+F>

USGENWEB ARCHIVES(tm) NOTICE

All documents placed in the USGenWeb Archives remain the property of the contributors, who retain publication rights in accordance with US Copyright Laws and Regulations. In keeping with our policy of providing free information on the Internet, these documents may be used by anyone for their personal research. They may be used by non-commercial entities so long as all notices and submitter information is included. These electronic pages may NOT be reproduced in any format for profit. Any other use, including copying files to other sites, requires permission from the contributors PRIOR to uploading to the other sites. The submitter has given permission to the USGenWeb Archives to store the file permanently for free access.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb>

INDEX TO WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS – CUMBERLAND COUNTY

The Library of Virginia

[<http://eagle.vsla.edu/torrence/virtua-basic.html>]

Meador, Frances 1780

Meador, Jonas 1775

Meador, Jonas Sr. 1768

Meadors, Jehu 1808

<http://www.ajlambert.com>