

## Introduction:

There were five of us , sitting at my kitchen table, having a gabfest and drinking colas. Someone mentioned our gggrandmother, who was rumored to be an indian. Suddenly the conversation changed and we were discussing genealogy. Why not try to find out more about this interesting woman who had married prior to the Civil War , and had two small children, a boy and a girl, when her husband enlisted in the war . We knew very little about her, except that she had lived with her children and grandchildren all her life. She had never remarried. Our gggrandmother was her daughter, Lydia Ann Blackwell Davis.

At this time, our Uncle Hoyt was still living, by now about ninety years of age. He was our Father's oldest brother. We went to visit him and found out a few things about all of our relations. later we went to visit another brother, Hosey Davis. He was much younger and remembered more, and furnished us with many of the wonderful pictures in this book. More than that he identified some of the persons in other pictures we had found. We would have had a much harder time of it if it had not been for these two wonderful men.

Our grandfather Davis, William Abner Tipton Davis, "Tip", was a very private man and when we would ask questions about our ancestors, he would say "Daughter , do you know who you are?" and I would say "Yes sir". Then he would tell me that that was all I needed to know. He was the head of the family for many years and he signed a lot of documents, death certificates, etc. He usually put "Don;t know" in most of the spaces. It made our task much more difficult, but did not lessen our love for this wonderful man.

As we sat at my table, there were the five of us, Myself, my sisters, Wanell Davis Bubak, and Joy Davis Trant, and my daughter, Wyla Williams Watson , really the daughter of my sister ., Alice, who was killed in an auto accident when Wyla was 6 years old. Her sister, Sandra Williams Maxwell . We divided the different families , and I was assigned the Huffs, my Grandmother Davis;s family. Her mother had died when she was very small, and she had one full sister, Aunt Martha Huff Ward. We had no idea who their Mother was, and all the Uncles could recall was that she had been a Miller. While researching the census records, we found her to be Arminda Miller.

About this time I located one of Uncle Matt's sons, Uncle Matt was grandmother's 1/2 brother. He put me in contact with M. L. Skiles, the daughter of Grandmother's 1/2 brother, Andy. The three of us pooled our info and had a really nice time working together. We exchanged a lot of pictures and I will treasure them always.

Later I was to meet Billy Ray Newcomb on the internet. He was a descendant of John Huff, brother to my gggrandfather, James Huff, and John's wife was a sister to my Arminda Miller, Mary Miller. Without Billy, I would never have learned so much about this family. He had a way of contacting all the right people and he was an excellent researcher. We will always be indebted to him. The Huff history is in another book and co-authored by Bill Newcomb.

Patsy Davis

Kirk

This book could not have been written without all the relatives that have given so generously of their time and of their memories. There were all of the lost family members who responded to our queries and shared their knowledge of their branches of our families with us. To all of them we want to express our sincere appreciation, may we never lose touch with any of you. If I should attempt to list all of them, it would fill many pages. Some of them were:

Lee Huff--son of Matt and Hollis Huff, who helped me get started on the Huff line.

M.L. Huff Skiles--Daughter of Andy Huff and Viola Walls Huff, she could fill the slot of family historian superbly.

Billy Ray Newcomb--ggrandson of John Huff and Mary Miller Huff. Billy was the major force in filling out and finding the places that needed correcting, putting all the children where they belonged, finding all the previous wives and placing the children with the right parent. Billy also gave me all the Miller genealogy. He is an excellent researcher.

Granville Hough--For all the help and his legacy to all Huffs everywhere in all the different spellings of the name. His research pointed us back to Ar. Mo., and Tn. He gave us our next Grandfather there.

Max Huff---Who so generously shares his work, as well as Granville Hough's work to any Huff who needs assistance, at no charge. Thank you, Max.

Bessie Miller Merritt--who gave so much to Billy Ray Newcomb and to me, and kept us straight on the Millers.

Dan Philen---Who shared his work on the Kirk, Walker and Davis family with us. He took us further than we thought we would go.

Peter Preston---For sharing his work on the Blackwell line.

There are many others, just as helpful, and we thank all of you. All of the relatives who shared photos with us and anecdotes about our loved ones.

Thank you, one and all  
Patsy



#### INTRODUCTION:

James Madison Huff, My gggrandfather, born 1812 in Tennessee was married twice. His first wife was Delilah Butler, born about 1826 in Tennessee. The Huffs and Butlers were mountain people. Records on them are found in Jackson Co., Tn. The Butlers, Huff, etc. were all members of the Little Pigeon Baptist Church in the Smoky Mountains of Tenn.

James Huff first shows up in Arkansas about 1827. His first child was Samuel Henry Huff, born 1827 in Arkansas. Like the Mountain men they were, they intermarried with the people in their inner circle. There were several Huff--Wyatt marriages, the Miller and Huffs had four marriages, and so it went. This has made doing the research on these families very difficult. Family after family used the exact same names for their children. Billy Ray has been excellent at putting these families together. Our families for generations will owe him a debt of gratitude.

They lived in Arkansas for several years, and it appeared that they had moved to Missouri, but Billy Ray studied the maps and survey records and learned that they did not move, but the State lines between Missouri and Arkansas did move.

They came to Texas in the 1840s or there about and were first on the Census records in 1850, Panola Co., Tx. They were part of a wagon train that came to Texas, led by Daniel Martin. From what has been learned, these families traveled together, forming wagon trains and helping each other as they moved west. The wagon train bedded down about half way between Nacogdoches and Carthage, Tx. and the next morning, Daniel looked over the location, along a beautiful flowing creek and even though this was on an Indian trail, used by the Indians to travel to Pecan Point, Red River, Tx. and Oklahoma, He decided to stop here and build a settlement. The Huffs, the Trammells, Wyatts, were but a few of the families that stayed with him. James Madison Huff, by this time a widower, married Elizabeth Martin, daughter of Daniel.

This area became know as the Trammel Trace, surveyed by Nicholas Trammell. The children of these families were to later appear intermingled in our family trees.

Patsy Davis Kirk



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**Jesse B Miller** in a Claim for Pension for service in the Seminole Wars of Florida a description was given as 6' tall, Black hair, Black eyes, Dark complexion. In the application for Pension given in Bandera County, Texas January 28 1890 it states that he was discharged May 7, 1838 in Camp Call, Hall County, Georgia. He went to Murray County, Georgia where he resided until 1844. He then moved to Gilmer County, Georgia and resided until 1847. He then moved to Ozark County, Missouri and resided there until 1853. He then moved to Texas County, Missouri and resided there until 1859. In 1859 he moved to Texas settling in Ellis County, Texas, where he stayed until 1863. ( Ellis Co borders Hill Co. ) He was listed in the 1860 Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas as a blacksmith. This was left out of the Pension Claim, most likely because this fact would not have helped his claim that he was blind due to the service in the Florida Seminole Indian Wars. In 1863 he moved to Van Zandt County, Texas , where he resided until 1869. He then went to Travis County, Texas and resided until 1872. In 1872 he moved to Burnett County, Texas stayed until 1873 and again moved on to Coryell County, Texas , where he lived until November of 1887. He then moved to Bandera County, Texas , where the papers were written in January 1890.

Although there is no direct proof, started with the year 1860 and researched every Miller that lived close to Jesse and worked my way back . I was unable to find enough similarities to any of these Miller's, until I came to Joel T Miller in Murray County, Georgia . The first thing I noticed was the fact that he named his son, born just after the Civil War by the same name as the son of Jesse B Miller , that was killed in the Civil War. As I began to research Joel T Miller I started to notice more similarities. Some have Joel T Miller as the son of Asa R. Miller of Franklin County, Georgia , but I "BELIEVE" him to be the son of Asa R Miller's brother John Adam Miller Jr. , due to the location of him at the time of birth of Jesse B and Joel. Joel moved to Franklin County, Georgia after the death of his first wife and lived next to his " uncle " Asa R Miller until abt 1873 when he moved to Caddo, Montgomery County , Arkansas . This moved me on to John Adam Miller , Jr. and his wife Anny Hulsey . When I received the information on Anny Hulsey's family I was quite surprised at all the similarities . There were ALL the odd first and middle names that I had on Jesse and Joel's families. Such as Jesse, Berry, Green, Joel, Calvin, and Lafayette , with the exception of FELIX which I now believe to have come from the Mullinax family of Eliza Mullinax. I further believe that John Adam Miller, Jr. was in Murray County, Georgia in 1840 , but was missed in the census. There is a John Miller in the 1840 Hall County, Georgia census , but the children in that census do not match up with the children in the 1850 , so it has to be another John Miller most likely related . Jesse B Miller was in same area of Missouri as James Madison Huff which leads to speculation that they knew each other for a long time in an affidavit signed by John Huff for Jesse B Miller he had known them since age six.

**James Madison Huff** the son of Samuel Huff of Tennessee first shows up in IZARD County, Arkansas in 1839 tax records. You next find him in Panola County , Texas with a second wife in 1849 Tax Records. He was in the 1850 and 1860 Panola County, Texas census making it appear they were there for a long time. But they were only there for the census. By abt 1851 they were in Missouri with the rest of his brothers and sisters. They did not return to Panola until about 1859. They seem to have moved in a large family group or clan. James appears to be the oldest of this clan. In 1860 Panola I noticed that James was ridding a \$ 10 horse his son Sam had a \$ 100 horse as reflected by the tax records. A \$ 10 horse would have been a common kind of horse so Sam must have been pretty well mounted. In 1870 Round Rock, Williamson County , Texas Sam paid the taxes on a team of horses. I assume the ones that brought them there. James Madison Huff's son Peter fought for the South in the Civil War, while James brother's sons fought for the North. James and family never appear to have returned to Missouri after the War. It's not known if this is the reason why. Sometime after the 1870 Round Rock census and before the 1880 Coryell County census James Madison Huff was laid to rest, we no not where . James Madison Huff named a son Peter , I find no other Peter Huff's in James' line. Peter Trammell's family moved with James family and had two girls marry sons of James' , it makes me wonder if Peter was named for Peter Trammell they both came out of the same part of Arkansas, and could have known each other for a long time. My great grandfather was James' 4 th son John Huff it appears he was dirt poor, but honest and worthy of credit. They moved from place to place to find work finally ending up on the 1920 Montague County , Texas poor farm . I knew none of these Huff I learned about them from the public records. But after working on it so long I have come to feel that in a way I do know them.

**John Huff** was born in Missouri, the census records sometimes show place of birth as Arkansas. His family moved around a lot and are found in a different location with each census. This was most likely to follow the work. After he married Mary Miller they still continued this pattern of moving from one location to another. They all moved as a large family unit , where you find one on the census you always find others within a few pages. At first it was very difficult to determine who this John Huff was. In contacting the Huff, Hough, Hoff Research center I found that according to the census records and the research that Grandville Hough had done, he was unable to determine which family he belong to, Henderson Huff or James Madison Huff. The limited family information that I had proved en valuable. I knew that John had cousins in Spanish Fort, Texas ( no longer there ) and that he had a brother

brother named Booger Red, and his wife's last name was Miller , and most of the children names. Not a lot to go on. After months of research on the Henderson Huff line, I was unable to make anything fit . It was close , but just not quite. Then I received an e-mail from Patsy J Kirk she was researching her James Madison Huff and had a John Huff that she couldn't find the descendants of. And the Research Center had given her my e-mail address. When we started comparing notes I was quite surprised to find that her Davis' were from Spanish Fort , Texas. Her grandmother Maude Huff had married Tip Davis and lived in Spanish Fort . John's Spanish Fort cousins were Davis'. Her great-grandfather James " Jim " Huff was a brother to my John Huff , and they had a brother named Peter " Booger Red " Huff. And Jim Huff's wife was Arminda Miller younger sister of my Mary Miller. We knew we had finally solved the puzzle of who John Huff belonged to. After this connection everything started to fall into place. Together we were able to find a lot more information, and put this tree together. John Huff appears to have been a dirt poor farm hand and finally ended up on the Montague County poor farm by 1920, his children are always close by so it must have been a close knit family. His son Jesse B Huff ,my grandfather, died before I was born , so I knew little of him. He was a hard worker and drank a little to much, from what I've been told. He loved to play his fiddle any where he could, church meeting to the saturday night beer joint crowds.

By Billy Ray Newcomb