

Descendants of John Murphy

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN¹ MURPHY¹ was born Abt. 1770^{2,3}, and died 1844 in Butler County, Alabama⁴. He married SARAH A UNKNOWN⁵. She was born Abt. 1772 in Georgia⁶, and died Bet. 1860 - 1866⁷.

Notes for JOHN MURPHY:

From the **Heritage of Butler County** book, pg 6:

Referring to local elections held in June and July 1820: "...Captain John H Watts, John Murphey and Gilbert Chancelly (Chancellor) were managers of the election."

Also on same page, in a list of voters in the 1820 Butler County elections: "...Job Mullins?, John Murphey..."

(Job Mullins was probably the husband of Sarah Murphy Rhodes mentioned in the 1856 deed from John Murphy's widow, Sarah, to Wilson Murphy. A Job Mullins married a Sarah Murphy 02 OCT 1815, Jones County, Georgia.)

Alabama Records, Vol 140, Greene County, compiled by Pauline Jones Gandrud, pg 97:

Thomas (Seale) 3rd . . . said to have removed from Edgefield, S.C., to Jones Co., Ga., about 1789 (Jones Co. was formed from Baldwin Co., Dec. 1807 and he was a member of the 1st Jones grand jury in 1808). . . married 1st RACHEL BAXTER of S. C., and had: TEMPI married a man by name of MULLINS. . .

Note: This Thomas 3rd (1759-1825, listed as son of Thomas, son of Thomas) is the one that Ida Carrie Seale (pg 58-59) reports as son of Charles Seale who married Lydia Muse, and brother of James Seale (1769-1860) of Butler County. Thomas' daughter Temperance (b. 1786) is said to have married James Mullins, Neshoba Co., MS. However, the Neshoba Co item is not likely unless she is second wife, as James Mullins is reported to have bought land in Jones Co., Ga., in 1816 (see <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~pmullins/gen3.htm>) and according to the 1850 census of Covich County, MS, his children were born in Ga until about 1820. At any rate, whichever Thomas he was, this marriage of Tempi and Mullins indicates that the Seale and Mullins families already knew each other in Jones County about the time that John Murphy's daughter Sarah married Job Mullins in 1815.

1830 US Census, Butler County, Alabama, pg 292:

John Murphy 1m 20-30, 1m 60-70, 1f 50-60 + 25 slaves

(Who was the male aged 20-30? He is too old to be the Martin Murphy we can't identify on the 1850 census, and Wilson Murphy was listed separately on that census, with 2 slaves.)

1840 US Census, Butler County, Alabama, pg 135:

John Murphy 1m 60-70; 1f 60-70 + 50 slaves (10m < 10, 8m 10-24, 6m 24-36, 1m 36-55;
8f < 10, 7f 10-24, 10f 24-36)

(adj. entries are Thomas McCrory and PW Hilson. A few entries down are John Carter and John B Seale.)

Since he was in the same age bracket for both census years, I assume he was about 60 in 1830 and about 70 in 1840.

In **Butler County Deed Book B**, page 54, dated 9 April 1856, Sarah Murphy, widow of John Murphy, deeded her life interest in property (three slaves) left to her by her husband to her grandson, Josiah Mullins, only living descendant of Sarah Rhodes. The remaining interest in said property belongs to Wilson Murphy, Ellen Seales and the heirs of Sarah Rhodes, deceased. (So the four of them - widow Sarah Murphy, Sarah Rhodes, Wilson Murphy and Ellen Seale - each had a share from John's will.) That same day, Josiah Mullins deeded his newly acquired share to Wilson Murphy for three thousand dollars.

Both deeds were witnessed by Alfred Carter, O S Kelly and John A Seale. Alfred Carter as a witness is a clue that he might be a kinsman of the widow Sarah's. John A Seale may be the son of Thomas Seale III and the eldest of the four Seale boys for whom Wilson Murphy was guardian in the early 1850s. His signature on these deeds is interesting in that it could indicate that he was representing the interest of someone else. I have not found any deed transferring Ellen's share to Wilson.

It was not uncommon for a man to leave his wife a life estate in property that was to be given to his children at the death of his wife. As long as she lived, she retained use of the property, but it ultimately belonged to the children. If this is what John did, then Wilson, Ellen and Sarah Rhodes would have received the slaves upon the death of John's widow, Sarah.

Now, since Josiah Mullins was legally able to sign such a contract, he had to be at least 21 years old, meaning he had to be born by 1835. Actually, Josiah was born about 1820. He was age 40 on the 28 July 1860 census.

RE: CLARK COUNTY JOHN MURPHY/SARAH CARTER

There was a John Murphy who married a Sarah Carter 16 Jan 1832 in Clark County, but according to **History of Clarke County** by John Simpson Graham, 1923, that John Murphy was the one who was elected governor of Alabama in 1825. On page 266 he states that "his second wife was Mrs. Carter, a sister of Colonel John Barrington." His farm was near Pigeon Creek and Gosport in what had been Monroe County but became Clark. That John Murphy was born about 1785-6 and died 1840-41 - - too young to be the Butler County John Murphy.

Notes for SARAH A UNKNOWN:

It was thought that she might be the Sarah Carter who married a John Murphy in Clarke County, Al in 1832 but see notes on John Murphy to see reasons that is not correct. The Butler County Murphys had close ties with their Carter neighbors, and the fact that Alf Carter witnessed Sarah's deed to Josiah Mullins indicates he may have been her kinsman, but there is no evidence that John's wife Sarah was from Clarke County.

Even if John Murphy is accepted as the father of Wilson and Eleanor Murphy, there is no proof that Sarah was their mother - there is always the possibility of multiple wives.

1850 US Census Butler County, Alabama, 12 Nov 1850, Beat #6, #693:

Murphy, Sarah 78 Ga

Saucer, Mary 40 NC

(At #689 is Vincen Watts 63 and Prudence 56; #690 is Prudence Watts; #691 Permelia Watts)

1850 Slave Schedule, Butler County, Alabama, Beat 7, 13 Nov 1850:

Sarah Murphy: 18 slaves

1860 US Census Butler County, Alabama, 31 July, pg 198?, Pct 11, Butler Springs, #1468:

Murphy, S A 92 (female), farmeress, farm value \$1200, pers prop \$12070 Ga
Sasser, M 55 (female), seamstress NC

(According to a compilation of local cemeteries, located in Butler County Probate Office 1989,
she is buried at Shackleville Cemetery: Mary Saucer d. 7-?-1889 aged 78 yrs.)

Is Mary Saucer some relation?

(At #1470: Ransom & Ellen Seale; #1471: Ransom & Ellen's dau Susan Clark
#1472: John & Celia Murphy with Carter family in household; #1474: Wilson Murphy
#1481: J G Barge & Carter family; #1482: P Watts 63, farmeress)

1860 Slave Schedule, Butler County, Alabama, Precinct 11, 1 Aug 1860:

Sarah Murphy: 19 slaves, 4 slave houses

This entry is from online images at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tmark/AL1866/butler-1-005.jpg>:

1866 Alabama State Census, Butler County, pg 5:

B F Saucer 3m < 10, 1m 10-20, 1m 30-40: 1f < 10, 1f 20-30, 1f 50-60 1 disabled soldier

(Note: the female 50-60 fits his mother, Mary, who is probably the one who had been living with Sarah Murphy in 1850 and 1860. If she is living with B. F. in 1866, this may mean that Sarah Murphy has died by then, especially considering the fact that Sarah would have been about 88 in 1860 (though listed as 92); neither does Sarah appear on 1867 tax list of Precinct 11.)

1867, Butler County Tax List, from Quarterly Publication of the Butler County Historical Society, Vol 17, No 4, Dec 1981 (bound copy in Alabama Archives Reference Room), page 8, Precinct 11:

No Sarah Murphy listed, only Augustus, Wilson, Sr and Wilson, Jr.

1870: not found on Butler County census

Children of JOHN MURPHY and SARAH UNKNOWN are:

- i. WILSON² MURPHY^{8,9}, b. Abt. 1801, Georgia^{10,11}; d. 28 Jul 1878, Butler County, Alabama¹²; m. ANNE UNKNOWN; b. Abt. 1803, South Carolina¹³; d. Bef. 03 May 1861^{14,15}.
- ii. ELEANOR (ELLEN) MURPHY^{16,17}, b. Abt. 1807, Georgia¹⁸; d. 1889¹⁹; m. RANSOM SEALE²⁰; b. Abt. 1799, South Carolina^{21,22}; d. Bet. 08 Feb - 17 Mar 1862, Butler County, Alabama^{23,24}.
- iii. SARAH MURPHY²⁶, d. Bef. 1856²⁷; m. (1) JOB MULLINS²⁷, 02 Oct 1815, Jones County, Georgia^{28,29}; b. Abt. 1791, Georgia²⁹; m. (2) UNKNOWN RHODES³⁰, Aft. 1820.

Endnotes

1. Note, Very little is known about John Murphy: some land grants, two census entries and a couple of deeds from his widow and grandson. Research is under way to find further evidence linking him to these presumed offspring.
2. US Census 1830 Butler County, Alabama.
3. US Census 1840 Butler County, Alabama.
4. John Buckner Little, *History of Butler County, Alabama, from 1815 to 1885*, (A Reprint of the 1885 Edition, 1971), pg. 139.
5. Murphy, Sarah, widow of John Murphy, Deed to Josiah Mullins, Butler County, Alabama Deed Book B, pg 54.
6. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
7. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama, pg 205, Pct 11, Butler Springs, #1468, but not found on 1870 census.
8. Not proven definitively, that he was John Murphy's son, though several pieces of evidence exist.
9. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama, all Wilson's children listed in his household, except Julius.
10. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
11. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama.
12. Barefield, Marilyn Davis, compiler, *Butler County, Alabama Obituaries*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1985).
13. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
14. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama, not in Wilson's household; also, she did not sign deed to Wilcox County plantation when Wilson sold it in 1868; presumed dead by then.
15. Wilcox County, Alabama Deed Book, Vol O, pg 542-3, Anne did not sign the deed to Ebenezer Church on 3 May 1861 (Deeb Bk J, pg 351).
16. Not proven definitively, that she is daughter of John Murphy, or even a Murphy, but some evidence exists, including the 1856 deed from Sarah Murphy to Josiah Mullins and the fact that Ellen's son John Wilson named a daughter Ellen Murphy Seale.
17. John Buckner Little, *History of Butler County, Alabama, from 1815 to 1885*, (A Reprint of the 1885 Edition, 1971), pg 136, names her as Ellen Murphy.
18. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama, Beat #6, frame 225, #696, age 43.
19. Ida Carrie Seale, R.N. (dau of Elias Allen son of Anderson son of James), *Seale and Allied Families*, (3rd ed., 1954), pg. 48.
20. Note, Much of the information on his children and all information on subsequent descendants is from Seale and Allied Families by Ida Carrie Seale, RN.
21. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama, Pct 11, Butler Springs, page 205, #1470.
22. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama, Beat 6, Page 225, #692.
23. Ransom Seale estate papers, Butler County Estate Book 5, pg. 294, 17 Mar 1862, his will presented for probate; list of heirs includes nine children.
24. Seale, Ransom, *Will of Ransom Seale, 8 February 1862*, (Butler County, Alabama Will Book 1, pg 173).
25. Ida Carrie Seale, R.N. (dau of Elias Allen son of Anderson son of James), *Seale and Allied Families*, (3rd ed., 1954), pg 48, County of cemetery not specified, Butler assumed. There may be a Mt. Moriah cemetery in Butler County as well as Wilcox.
26. Murphy, Sarah, widow of John Murphy, Deed to Josiah Mullins, Butler County, Alabama Deed Book B, pg 54, relationship not definitively proven.
27. Not proven definitively that he is the Mullins who was father to Josiah Mullins.
28. History of Jones County, Georgia, pg 177?.
29. *LDS International Genealogical Index*, (www.familysearch.org), "Electronic."
30. Murphy, Sarah, widow of John Murphy, Deed to Josiah Mullins, Butler County, Alabama Deed Book B, pg 54.