

Descendants of Wilson Murphy

Generation No. 1

1. WILSON² MURPHY (*JOHN*)^{1,2} was born Abt. 1801 in Georgia^{3,4}, and died 28 Jul 1878 in Butler County, Alabama⁵. He married ANNE UNKNOWN. She was born Abt. 1803 in South Carolina⁶, and died Bet. June 1860 and 03 May 1861^{7,8}.

Notes for WILSON MURPHY:

Butler County, Alabama Obituaries by Marilyn Davis Barefield, 1985, pg 70:

Wilson Murphy, 78, died at his home in Butler Co. 28th of July 1878; was a native of Ga; emigrated to Alabama at the age of 14 when Butler Co. was still in the hands of Indians. He was near the spot when Col Butler was killed by the Indians and he pointed out his grave 44 years later when citizens decided to give him a more decent burial. He was survived by five children. Greenville Advocate of 8/8/1878

Full text of obit copied from: WILSON MURPHEY (1800-1878) by Byron F. Murphey, published in the Alabama Genealogical Society Inc. Magazine, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter 2000 issues, as transcribed by Woody F. Murphy, Oct 2002 (important detail omitted in Barefield abstract; color and italics mine):

Butler County Alabama Obituaries compiled by Marilyn Davis Barefield 1985, p. 70 and The Greenville Advocate, Vol. XIII, Number 39 Greenville, Butler County, Alabama, Thursday. August 8, 1878. "Died at his home in Butler county, on the 28th of July last, Mr. Wilson Murphy, in his 78th year. Mr. Murphy was a native of Georgia, but emigrated *with his father* to this State and county when but 14 years of age, when Butler county was still in the hands of the Indians. He was near the spot when Col. Butler (the hero for whom this county was named,) was killed by the Indians, and he it was who pointed out the grave forty four years afterwards when the citizens determined to give his bones more decent burial, by bringing them to Greenville. "Mr. Murphy was a member of no church; he lived and died in the belief of final holiness. He leaves five children, all having families of their own, to mourn his loss." (Quote marks as in Byron Murphey's source list.)

Note: "in his 78th year" means that he had not completed his 78th year, at the end of which he would be 78 years old. We are not 2 years old in our second year, but at the end of the second year. So Wilson was 77 when he died. If he had already had his birthday by the time he died on 28 July, it would place his birth year in 1801, consistent with all census records, most of which were supposed to be as of 1 June. His age was consistently 1 year short of the census year. However, if he died before he had reached his 78th birthday later in the year, it would place his birth year in 1800.

Wilson had a very close relationship to John Murphy (d. 1844) and, since Wilson's obituary stated that he emigrated with his father from Georgia to Butler County, John was almost certainly his father. From Wilson's estate papers, sale of lands, Estate Book 16 pg 220: His 480-acre home place at Pine Flat included half of the SE 1/4 of Section 21 T10N R12E, for which John Murphy had received a patent in 1835 (BLM doc #16672). See notes on John's wife, Sarah, for other evidence.

Alabama Records, vol 243, Butler County, compiled by Pauline Jones Gandrud, pg 2:

"Lawsuits to State Supreme Court" June Term, 1844. The State versus Murphy. On points referred by Circuit Court of Butler.

Indictment charges that the defendant, with other persons, did on 4 Feb 1843 conspire wicked maliciously etc. to seduce from her virtue, one Temperance Buckalaw, a young maiden lady; and to assist and enable John Henry Watts to effect a pretended marriage with said Temperance Buckalaw and to make John Buckalow and Temperance Buckalow, Sen. (Father and Mother of said Temperance) believe it to be legal; and thereby to enable said John Henry Watts carnally to know

her, without legal matrimony between them.

Indictment further charges that J H Watts, Wilson Murphy and the other conspirators afterwards on 24 Mar 1843 repaired to the house of the father and mother and falsely represented to them and their daughter, that said J H Watts had obtained a license from Clerk of County Court of Butler, giving authority to anyone legally authorized to celebrate rites of matrimony to marry them. That Sterling B Parker (one of conspirators) represented himself to being a JP of Butler Co.; and he did then and there unlawfully marry J H Watts and Temperance Buckalow. The said John Henry Watts then and there, pretending to be the lawful husband of said Temperance, went to bed with her, etc...

Was he the same John Henry Watts who was married to Ransom Seale's daughter Amelia and died in 1850? Probably not, as a descendant of Temperance Buckaloo reported that J H Watts went on to marry Temperance for real and they had a son in 1850.

1830 US Census Butler County, frame 296A (pages very faded, mostly illegible):

Wilson Murphy: 2 males <5 (Julius & John), 1 male 20-30 (Wilson), 1 female 20-30 (Anne?)
+ 2 slaves (1m 24-36, 1f 55-100)
(Alfred Carter is adjacent entry)

. . . Thomas Seale. . . Arthur Sims. . . Phebe Minyard. . . Emily Mc ?? . . . Wilson Murphy. . . Alfred Carter. . .
(there is also a Thomas Seale on pg 301 near Joab Ainsworth, Thomas Burkett and Anderson Crenshaw)

1840 US Census Butler County, frame 135:

Wilson Murphy: 1 male 30-40 (Wilson), 1 female 20-30 (Anne? - she would have been abt 37)
2 males under 5 (Augustus and James), 2 Males 10-15 (Julius and John)
1 female 5-10 (Sarah) plus 9 slaves
(Ransom Seale is adjacent entry)

Note: Is this the same wife as in 1830 and 1850? Does not fit either one, unless she was on the borderline of abt 20 in 1830 and abt 30 in 1840. Too young to be same as Ann in 1850 and 1860. Was the stroke in the wrong age bracket on this census?

1850 US Census Butler County, 25 Sep, Beat #1 (slave sched. has Beat 3), #51:

Murphy, Wilson 49, farmer, RE=\$5000, Ga
Anne 47, SC
John 22, Sarah 16, Augustus 14, James 12, Wilson 9, Rufus 7, Florence 4, Nancy 1/12 - all Al

1850 Agricultural Census, Butler County, Alabama, 19 Sep:

Wilson Murphy: 400 acres improved, 700 acres unimproved, farm valued at \$5000, tools and implements valued at \$500; 4 horses, 6 mules, 40 cows, 6 oxen, 150 other cattle, 25 sheep, 200 swine; livestock value \$1000; 30 bushels wheat, 2000 bushels corn.

1850 Slave Schedule, Butler County, Alabama, Beat 3, 25 Sep:

Wilson Murphy: 45 slaves (John Murphy had 50 slaves in 1840; since Wilson had only 9 slaves in 1840, it appears that he picked up a large number of them when John died.)

1850 - Butler Co. Deed Book B, pg 440-441 (abstract) James Marion Sims bought land from Wilson and Anna (her x mark) Murphy in 1850 -- East 1/2 of NW 1/4 Sec 33 T10 R12, 80 acres for \$1500 upon which Butler Springs are situated, also 12 acres in west 1/2 of NE 1/4 in same section, TWP and range near Murphy's Creek... (note from wrm: BLM document #36677 shows Wilson Murphy received patent on that land on 3 May 1848.)

1860 US Census, Butler County, Precinct 11, Butler Springs, 31 July, pg 206, #1474:
Murphy, W Sr 59 farmer, farm value \$7000, pers prop \$40,000 Ga
A 52 SC
W Jr 19, W K (male, should be R K) 16, F L (fem.) 14, N (fem.) 10

At 1475: Watts, S (fem.) 26, seamstress, pers prop \$3700 Al
with J W Watts (m) 4, T M Watts (m) 2/12 Al
At 1471: John and Susan Clark (she was Ransom & Ellen Seale's daughter)
At 1472: John and S A Murphy with A W and E A Carter family

1860 Agricultural Census, Butler County, Alabama, Pct 11, Butler Springs, (very hard to read) #4:
W Murphy, 600 acres improved, 800 acres unimproved, \$7000 farm value, \$200 farm implements, 3
horses, 8 mules, 20 milk cows, 4 oxen, 50 other cattle, 25 sheep, 150? swine, \$500? or \$5000? value of
livestock; 3200? bu corn, 90 bales cotton, 50 lb wool

1860 Slave Schedule, Butler County, Alabama, 1 Aug 1860, Precinct 11, pg 252A:
Wilson Murphy: 53 slaves, 10 slave houses

1860 US Census, Wilcox County, 8 Aug, frame 1093, #552
Wilson Murphy no age or sex entered, just 'Plantation'
Augustus Murphy was at #551 as overseer

1850-1860 Wilcox County Slave Schedules: no Murphy slave-owner listed via Ancestry.com index.

Wilcox County Deeds, cApr 1860-cFeb 1870:

Vol O, pg 542-3 17 Mar 1868.

Deed from Wilson Murphey to Missouri A Kingsberry (his assigns, etc), for \$5,000: E ½ of SE ¼ Sect
29 and W ½ of SW ¼ Sect 33 all in T12 R12 and W ½ of NW ¼ Sect 33 and SE ¼ of SE ¼ Sect 32 all in
T12 R12 containing 280 acres more or less in county of Wilcox...Signed Wilson Murphey. Wit: A.
McKellar, JP. (Note: I have not found this parcel in any BLM grant to either John or Wilson Murphy.)
(Note: Significant that *Anne did not sign this deed*. Assumed dead by then.)

Butler County Deed Book J, pg 351:

3 May 1861. Deed from Wilson Murphey to officers of Ebenezer Baptist church for lot of land on
which to build a house of worship. Signed: Wilson Murphey. Wit: Ransom Seale and Seaborne Moore.
(Note: *No signature of Ann Murphy on this deed*. Assume she was dead by then.)

Note: In **1860 Monroe County**, there was a large landowner named Rufus K George, age 63, from Ga - -
farm value \$12000, personal property=\$97000 (Vincent Watts was his overseer) - - any connection with
Wilson and Ann? Namesake of all their descendants named Rufus King? Also, on Butler Co. 1870 census
#260, there was a black farm laborer named Adeline George listed with John Clark and wife Susan, who
was daughter of Ransom and Ellen Murphy Seale. From **Butler County in the Nineteenth Century** by
Marilyn Davis Hahn, 1878, page 170: Real estate taxes for 1856, Precinct 11: Alfred Carter for Rufus K
George. George connection needs further research.

1866 Alabama Census Butler County, Alabama: only Wilson Jr is listed.

Butler County Tax List, 1867, 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: (pct 11 is Butler Springs)

Murphy, A
Murphy, W, Jr
Murphy, Wilson, Sr

Page 11, Precinct 12: (pct 12 is Greenville) (Who are these people?)

Murphree, W M
Murphy, Ann
Murphy, Hellen G
Murphy R G

It seems that in one 8 year period, Wilson lost four of his sons, his mother and his wife:

James Murphy d: Abt. 1859
Rufus K. Murphy d: Bet. 1863 - Sep 24 1864
Julius B. Murphy d: Apr 15, 1865
Wilson Murphy, Jr d: Abt. Jul 1867
Sarah Unknown d: Bet. 1860 - 1866 (probably)
Anne Unknown d: Bet. Jun 1860 - May 1861

1870 US Census Butler County, Alabama, TWP 10, Greenville, page 374, #218

Wilson Murphy 69, farmer, \$5000, \$325, Ga

At #212: Wilson's son Augustus and Amanda
At #216: Thomas and Mary McCrory
At #220: Wilson's dau Florence and Peterson Harris
At #222: Wilson's dau Nancy and Peter Cheatham
At #236: Alfred Carter

LDS familysearch.org:

1880 US Census Butler County, Alabama, Butler Springs, pg 419A (near Franklin & Elizabeth Seale

Vickery, W J Seale, etc. Is this the Caesar mentioned in the 1856 deed from Josiah Mullins?

Sezar MURPHY Self M Male B 55 AL Farmer NC NC
Theresa MURPHY Wife M Female B 40 AL Keeping House SC SC (plus several children)

16 Sept 1879, **Estate Book 16**, pg 219, estate of Wilson Murphy: list of heirs in petition for sale of land:

John Murphy
Augustus Murphy
Nancy T Cheatham, wife of Peter H Cheathan
Sally Watts, wife of William Watts
Florence L Harris, wife of Pete Harris, of Trast (actually Troup) County, Georgia
Julius Murphy's heirs:
Susan Coleman, wife of John Coleman
Elizabeth Murphy, John W Murphy, Augustus Murphy, Anderson Murphy,
Florence S Burkett, wife of Thos Burkett, of Choctaw County, Alabama
(Ella is not listed here, but she appears in other lists, sometimes as Annie)
Wilson Murphy's heirs:
William Murphy
Iola Murphy

ALgenweb archives: <http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/al/butler/misc/1853jurors.txt>:

Transcribed by Mildred S. Brown from the
Butler County Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly

1853 Jurors - Butler Co., AL

When the courthouse fire occurred in April 1853, the following were elected officials for the County.

Judge - Samuel J. BOLLING
Circuit Court Clerk - Ezekiel PICKENS
Sheriff - George W. THAGARD

These officials met in August 1853 to help choose the Grand Jury and Petit Jury members. This is the list of names that were selected to serve in September 1853, in the Presbyterian Meeting House. All chosen were listed as planters by trade. Jurors selected were:

Pct. 11: (G=Grand Juror; P1=Petit Juror, 1st week; P2=Petit Juror, 2nd week)
Edward BOWIN - G
Alfred CARTER - P1
Ezra HIXON - P1
Wilson MURPHY - P1
Warren A. THOMPSON - P1
Ransom SEALE - P2

Children of WILSON MURPHY and ANNE UNKNOWN are:

- i. JULIUS B.³ MURPHY⁹, b. Abt. 1825, Butler County, Alabama¹⁰; d. 15 Apr 1865, Howard's Grove Hospital, Richmond, Virginia¹¹; m. AMANDA E. SEALE¹², Alabama; b. Jan 1825, Alabama¹³; d. Bef. Jul 1909, Butler County, Alabama¹⁴.
- ii. JOHN MURPHY^{15,16}, b. 11 Jul 1828, Butler County, Alabama^{17,18,19}; d. 05 Nov 1898, Texas²⁰; m. CELIA ANN GAFFORD^{21,22,23}, 20 Oct 1854, Butler County, Alabama²⁴; b. 06 Jun 1837, Alabama^{25,26}; d. 30 Aug 1884, Cherokee County, Texas^{27,28}.
- iii. SARAH (SALLY) MURPHY, b. Jan 1834, Butler County, Alabama^{29,30}; d. Aft. 1910³¹; m. (1) AUGUSTUS CHARLES WATTS^{32,33}, 02 Mar 1855, Butler County, Alabama³⁴; b. 1836, Butler County, Alabama; d. Dec 1858; m. (2) WILLIAM J WATTS³⁵, 11 Jan 1868, Butler County, Alabama³⁶; b. Abt. 1828^{37,38}; d. 24 Oct 1899³⁹.
- iv. C AUGUSTUS MURPHY^{41,42}, b. Oct 1836, Pine Flat, Butler County, Alabama^{43,44}; d. 19 Apr 1909, Pine Flat, Butler County, Alabama⁴⁴; m. AMANDA F. WATTS, 02 Feb 1855, Butler County, Alabama⁴⁵; b. 11 Apr 1834, Alabama⁴⁶; d. 02 Mar 1906⁴⁶.
- v. JAMES MURPHY, b. Abt. 1838, Butler County, Alabama⁴⁷; d. Abt. 1859⁴⁸; m. PRUDENCE WATTS^{49,50}, 21 Oct 1858, Butler County, Alabama⁵¹; b. Abt. 1842, Alabama⁵²; d. 1922, Butler County, Alabama⁵³.
- vi. WILSON MURPHY, JR, b. Abt. 1841, Butler County, Alabama⁵⁴; d. Abt. Jul 1867, Butler County, Alabama⁵⁵; m. JULIA A. HARRIS, 14 May 1862, Russell County, Alabama⁵⁶; b. 1846⁵⁷; d. 05 Sep 1898⁵⁸.
- vii. RUFUS K. MURPHY, b. Abt. 1843, Butler County, Alabama⁵⁹; d. Bet. 1863 - 24 Sep 1864⁶⁰.
- viii. FLORENCE L MURPHY, b. Abt. 1846⁶¹; d. 17 Jun 1896⁶²; m. PETERSON HARRIS, 23 May 1866, Butler County, Alabama⁶³; b. Abt. 1842, Georgia⁶⁴.
- ix. NANCY T MURPHY, b. Aug 1850, Butler County, Alabama⁶⁵; d. 07 Mar 1894⁶⁶; m. PETER HOLMES CHEATHAM, 15 Mar 1868, Butler County, Alabama⁶⁷; b. Abt. 1840, Alabama⁶⁸.

Endnotes

1. Not proven definitively, that he was John Murphy's son, though several pieces of evidence exist.
2. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama, all Wilson's children listed in his household, except Julius.
3. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
4. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama.
5. Barefield, Marilyn Davis, compiler, *Butler County, Alabama Obituaries*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1985).
6. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
7. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama, not in Wilson's household; also, she did not sign deed donating land for Ebenezer Church dated 3 May 1861 or the deed to Wilcox plantation in 1868; presumed dead by then.
8. 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).
9. Wilson Murphy Estate papers, Estate Book 16, pg 219, Julius' children named.
10. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama.
11. *Compiled Service Records, Confederate*.
12. US Census 1900 Butler County, Alabama, Anderson Seale's brother, William Seale, 93, lived in the household of Amanda's son, Augustus (Chuck), in 1900; relationship: "uncle".
13. US Census 1900 Butler County, Alabama.
14. *Confederate Pension Record*, stricken from Civil War Pension Register (probate office) July 1909, as deceased.
15. US Census 1880 Butler County, Alabama, lists children James P through Gerald.
16. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama, lists children Elizabeth through William; shows 2 sons named John.
17. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
18. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama, Precinct 11, pg 206, #1472.
19. Murphey, William Edgar (grandson of William Daniel Murphey), *Murphey Family Data*, (July 2004, reported data taken from family Bible of John & Celia Ann Gafford Murphey), full birth date.
20. Online cemetery listing, http://www.tx-wooddell.net/cherokee/ne/myrtle_springs_cemt.htm.
21. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama, Beat 6, page 227, #727, daughter who should be Celia is listed as Ann; see also notes from Phillip Barr, gr-grandson of Martha J Murphy, re his old photos referring to "Aunt Anna" and "Cousin Ora."
22. Deed, Butler County Alabama, Deed Book 7, pg 373, John and Celia Ann Murphy to Mrs D W Wright, 28 Dec 1869.
23. Online cemetery listing, http://www.tx-wooddell.net/cherokee/ne/myrtle_springs_cemt.htm, listed as Celia Ann Murphy.
24. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
25. Murphey, William Edgar (grandson of William Daniel Murphey), *Murphey Family Data*, (July 2004, reported data taken from family Bible of John & Celia Ann Gafford Murphey).
26. Online cemetery listing, http://www.tx-wooddell.net/cherokee/ne/myrtle_springs_cemt.htm
27. Barefield, Marilyn Davis, compiler, *Butler County, Alabama Obituaries*, (Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1985), pg. 69, although online listing of tombstone gives 22 Aug 1884 as death date, same day as birthdate given by Edgar Murphey for Johny Aulpin Murphey.
28. Online cemetery listing, http://www.tx-wooddell.net/cherokee/ne/myrtle_springs_cemt.htm, has death date of 22 Aug 1884.
29. US Census 1900 Monroe County, Alabama.
30. Tombstone, <http://www.frontiernet.net/~cmcco/cemetery/AWIN.htm>.
31. US Census 1910 Monroe County, Alabama.
32. Butler County, Alabama probate records, Book B-1, Pg. 582-3, many records refer to Wilson Murphy, administrator of estate of Augustus C. Watts.
33. Online family group sheets, <http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~banks/gene/D0060/I6162.html> (copied 24 Nov 2002), original source cited: Some Descendants of Thomas Watts, Jr. and Hannah Rust Boggess (no publication info.); gives full name Augustus Charles Watts.
34. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
35. Wilson Murphy Estate papers.
36. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
37. US Census 1880 Monroe County, Alabama.
38. US Census 1870 Monroe County, Alabama.
39. *Confederate Pension Application*.
40. Tombstone, <http://www.frontiernet.net/~cmcco/cemetery/AWIN.htm> .

41. Deed, Butler County Alabama, Book AA, pg 333, 29 Jun 1873, mortgage deed from C Augustus Murphy to W L Milligan for \$50 for making a crop; paid Nov 1873.
42. Deed, Butler County Alabama, Book 11, pg 321, 8 Jan 1897, deed from A F and A C Murphy to A G Winkler.
43. US Census 1900 Butler County, Alabama.
44. *Personal statement*, Alma Murphy Lowery, 1987.
45. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*, her middle initial was "F."
46. *Butler County cemetery compilation in Butler County Probate Office*.
47. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
48. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*, On 8 Nov 1859 Mrs. Prudence Murphy married William Thigpen at home of Mrs. Mary Watts. Assume James dead by then. Neither he nor his heirs mentioned in Wilson's estate papers 1878.
49. *Prudence Watts estate papers, 29 Dec 1866 and 14 Mar 1868*, listed as heir, Mrs. Prudence Thigpen.
50. Thigpen Tribe, The, by Alice Whitley Smith, 1961, located at Orlando Public Library, pg. 139, her name given as Prudence Hill Watts, William's first wife, with four children, but author apparently has wives' order reversed, and Prudence would have to be wife #2.
51. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
52. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
53. Sanders, Joe, *Sanders family history data*, (<http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=joecsanders&id=I4973>), "Electronic," not verified.
54. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
55. Byron F. Murphey, "Wilson Murphey," *Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc. Magazine*, Spring/Summer 2000 and Fall/Winter 2000.
56. Russell County, Alabama marriage records.
57. Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Butler County in the Nineteenth Century*, (1978, 1920-A Laurel Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35216), pg 93.
58. Obituary, Greenville Advocate, from copy at Butler County Historical Society.
59. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama.
60. *Compiled Service Records, Confederate*, Appears on Register of Claims of Deceased Officers and Soldiers from Alabama, filed 24 Sep 1864 by Wilson Murphy, father.
61. US Census 1860 Butler County, Alabama.
62. Obituary, Greenville Advocate, from copy at Butler County Historical Society.
63. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
64. US Census 1870 Butler County, Alabama, pg 373, TWP 10, Greenville, #220.
65. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
66. Gibson, Richard G., Cheatham descendant, *Gibson family data*, (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~albutler/families/patiencecheatham.htm>), "Electronic."
67. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
68. US Census 1880 Butler County, Alabama.