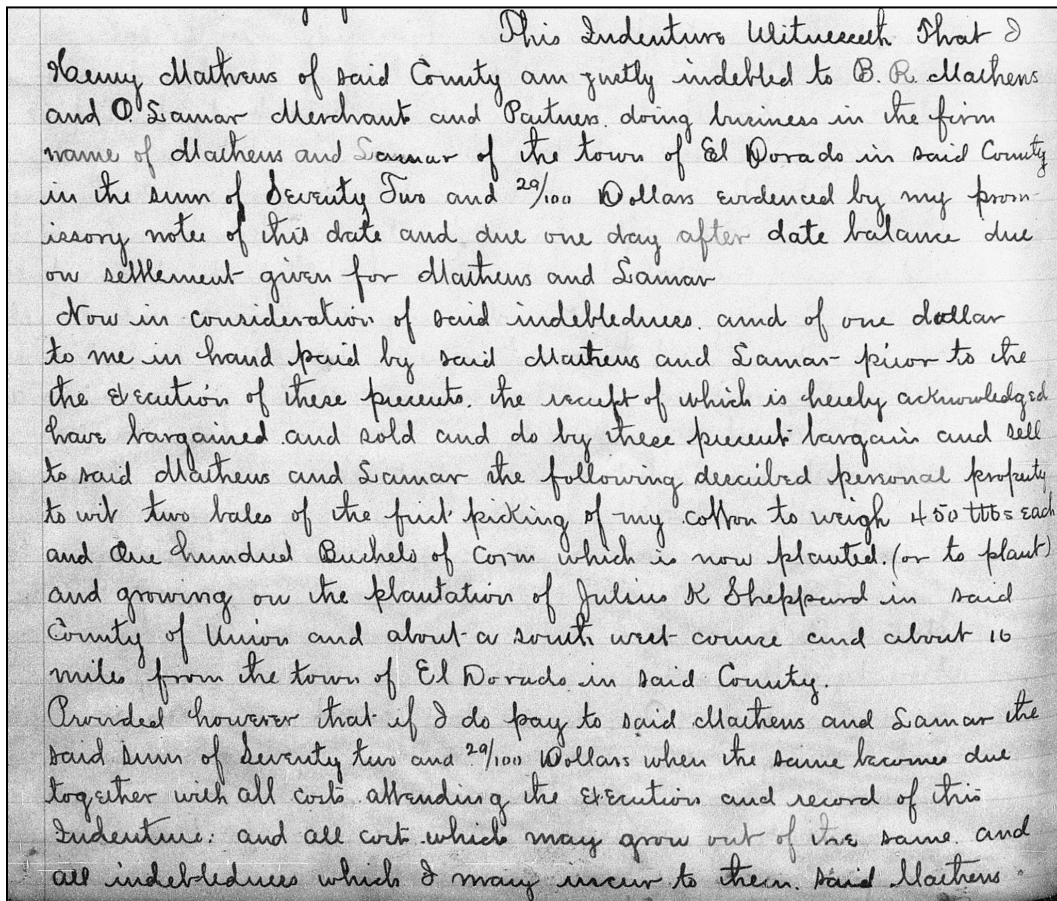


Matthews Family

1. **Henry Matthews**, born about 1830 in Maryland, was a farm laborer when he was counted in the [1870 census](#) for Three Creeks, Union County, Arkansas. In his household were his inferred wife **Sarah** (age 50, born in North Carolina) and children born in Arkansas: **Cornelia** (age 16), **Elizabeth** (age 14), **Sophina** (age 10), **Nancy** (age 7), **Susan** (age 5) and **William** (age 2) Matthews. Also living with them was Alfe Busley (age 18).¹

On 21 September 1871 Henry [mortgaged](#) two bales of cotton (each weighing 450 pounds) and 100 bushels of corn. The crops were planted on the plantation of Julius K. Sheppard in Union County. The mortgage was made to B.R. Matthews of the town of El Dorado, Union County, for a loan \$72.29.²



This Indenture Witnesseth That I Henry Matthews of said County am justly indebted to B. R. Matthews and O. Samar Merchant and Partners doing business in the firm name of Matthews and Samar of the town of El Dorado in said County in the sum of Seventy Two and ²⁹/₁₀₀ Dollars evidenced by my promissory note of this date and due one day after date balance due on settlement given for Matthews and Samar

Now in consideration of said indebtedness and of one dollar to me in hand paid by said Matthews and Samar prior to the execution of these presents the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have bargained and sold and do by these presents bargain and sell to said Matthews and Samar the following described personal property to wit two bales of the first picking of my cotton to weigh 450 lbs each and one hundred Bushels of Corn which is now planted (or to plant) and growing on the plantation of Julius K Sheppard in said County of Union and about a south west course and about 16 miles from the town of El Dorado in said County.

Provided however that if I do pay to said Matthews and Samar the said sum of Seventy two and ²⁹/₁₀₀ Dollars when the same becomes due together with all costs attending the execution and record of this Indenture: and all costs which may grow out of the same and all indebtedness which I may incur to them. said Matthews

¹ 1870 U.S. census, Union County, Arkansas, population schedule, Three Creeks Post Office, p. 479A (stamped), dwelling 35, family 35, Henry Matthews; imaged at *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 May 2025); citing NARA microfilm publication M-593, roll 65.

² Union County Deed Book N, p. 384;

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKN-B9HL-M?i=622&lang=en>

Henry may have been one of the two 21-year-old Black males listed in the 1850 slave schedule for **B.R. Matthews** in Union County in 1850. B.R. Matthews is same man to whom Henry mortgaged his crop in 1871

B.R. Matthews	1	21	m	t
	1	21	m	t
	1	16	m	t
	1	16	f	t
	1	12	m	m
	1	11	m	t

And he may have been the 28-year-old Black male in B.R Matthews' 1860 slave schedule:

B.R. Matthews	1	45	"	"	
	2	28	"	"	
	2	24	"	m	
	1	16	"	B	
	2	28	m	m	1
	2	24	"	B	
	1	18	"	m	1
	1	22	"	"	
	1	15	"	B	
	1	7	f	"	
	1	7	m	"	
	1	5	f	m	1
	1	3	"	"	1
	1	3	"	B	
	1	1	m	m	1

(Ages in the early census and slave schedules were often just rough estimates.)

By 25 January 1873, Henry owned an 8-year-old horse, a 12-year-old mare, and two milk cows with calves. He mortgaged them to John B. Speers for \$400 to pay for supplies to raise a crop of cotton and corn on a farm located 13 miles west of El Dorado.³

³ Union County Deed Book P, pp. 351-2;

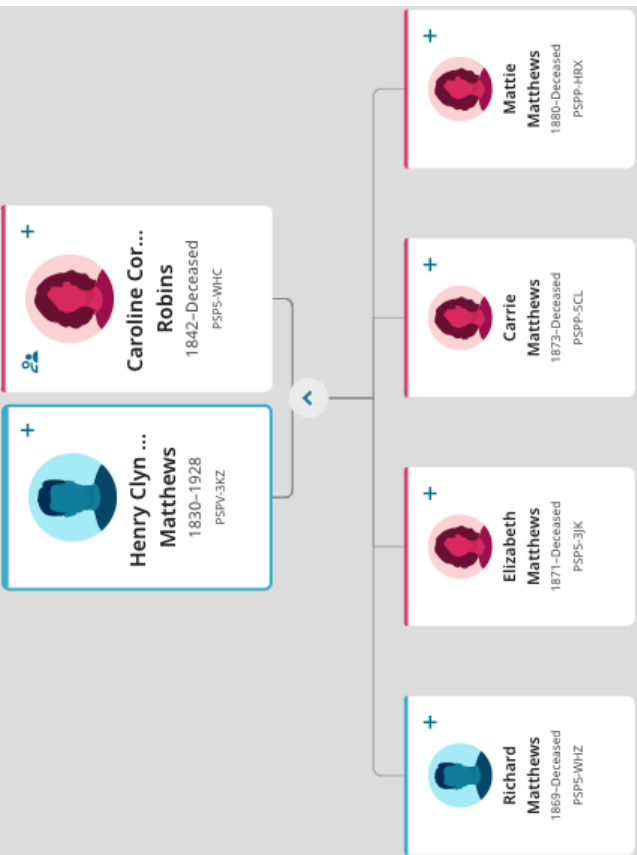
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QG-19ZF-B?i=556&lang=en>

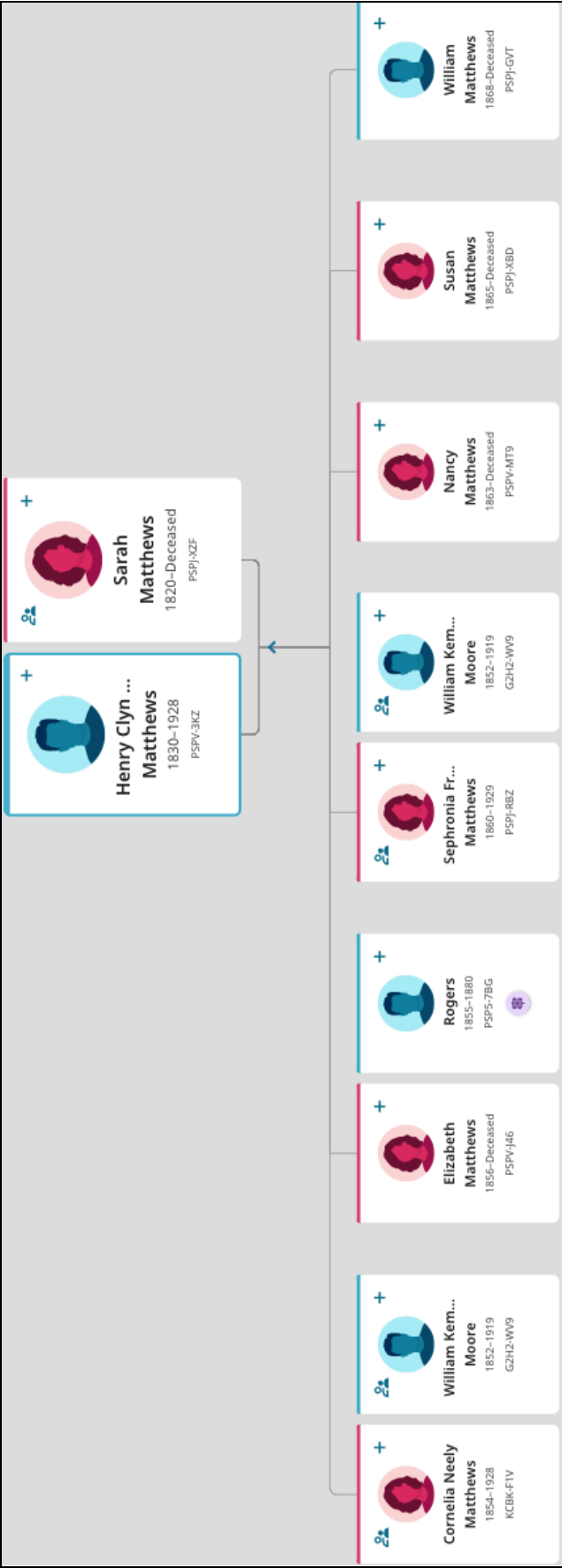
In the 1880 census ([p1](#), [p2](#)) for Cornie Township, Union County, Henry was listed under the name Clown Matthews (age 50), working as a farmer rather than a farm laborer. His household included wife Caroline (age 38), daughter Susan (age 16), daughter Eliza (age 16), son William (age 12), son Richard (age 11), and daughters Elizabeth (age 9), Carrie (age 7), and Mattie Matthews (age 9 months).⁴ (Clown was also the surname of a white family in Union County.)

Henry was the father of

- 2 i. Cornelia, born about 1854.
- ii. Elizabeth¹, born about 1856, married or had a daughter named Lucy Rogers by a man named Rogers before 1880 when she was counted in Cornelia's household for the census.
- 3 iii. Sophina, born about 1860.
- iv. Nancy, born about 1863, counted in the [1900 census](#) for Cornie Township with 6 of her 7 children in the household adjoining A.J. Moore.
- v. Susan, born about 1865.
- vi. William, born about 1868.
- vii. Richard, born about 1869.
- viii. Elizabeth², born about 1871, died
- ix. Carrie, born about 1873.
- ix. Mattie, born about September 1879.

⁴ 1880 U.S. census, Union County, Arkansas, pop. sch., Cornie Township, Enumeration District (ED) 275, p. 296D (stamped), dwell. 29, fam. 29, Clown Matthews; imaged at *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 May 2025); citing NARA film publication T-9, roll 58.





2. **Cornelia Matthews**, born about 1854 in Arkansas to a father born in Maryland and a mother born in Alabama, was listed as widowed or divorced in the [1880 census](#). She was head of a household in Three Creeks, Cornie Township, Union County, and lived with her daughter **Lae?** (Black, age 7), son **James** (Mulatto, age 5), and an unnamed son (**Mulatto**, age 3 months). Also in the household were her divorced or widowed sister **Bettie Rogers** (age 23), Bettie's daughter **Lucy** (Black, age 5), and her sister **Sophronia Matthews** (age 20). Sophurina's children were John (Mulatto, age 4) and Jacob (Black, age 5 months).⁵

Matthews Cornelia	B	F	24				1
" Lae ?	B	F	7	daughter		1	
" James	M	M	5	son		1	
" unnamed	M	M	$\frac{3}{12}$	son		1	
Rogers Bettie	B	F	23	sister		1	
" Lucy	B	F	5	niece		1	
Matthews Sophronia	B	F	20	sister		1	
" John	M	M	4	nephew		1	
" Jacob	B	M	$\frac{5}{12}$	nephew		1	

In the same 1880 census, **Cornelia** lived in dwelling no. 149 in Cornie Township, near **William K. Moore** (white, age 27, single), who resided in household no. 157 adjoining the home of his father, **A.J. Moore**.

By the [1900 census](#) for Cornie Township, **Cornelia** was listed as single and the mother of eight children, all then living. Her household included the following children, all recorded as Black: **Edward** (born May 1883), **Ella** (born June 1887), **Pearl** (born May 1888), **Sam** (born May 1893), **Sally** (born June 1896), and **Kemper Mathews** (born September 1879).

⁵ 1880 U.S. census, Union County, Arkansas, pop. sch., Cornie Township, E.D. 275, p. 303B (stamped), dwell. 149, fam. 149, Cornelia Mattheus; imaged at *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 May 2025); citing NARA film publication T-9, roll 58.

Matthews Cornelia 77	Head 82	B	Fi		1855	45	8		8	8
— Edward?	Son	B	M	may	1883	17	S			
— Ella —	Daughter	B	Fi	Jun	1887	13	S			
— Pearl —	Daughter	B	Fi	may	1888	12	S			
— Sam	Son	B	M	may	1893	7	S			
— Sally	Daughter	B	Fi	Jun	1896	4	S			
— Kemper	Son	B	Fi	July	1899	8 1/2	S			

In the [1910 census](#) for Cornie Township, **William K. Moore** was recorded as head of a household that included **Nely**, his servant (widowed, mother of 9 children, 8 still living), and five children listed as Mulatto servants: **Edward** (age 24), **Ella** (age 22), **Bryant** (age 17), **Sallie** (age 13), and **Kemper** (age 9).

Moore Wm K	Head	M	W	56	S			
Matthews Nely	Servant	F	B	51	Wd		9	8
— Edward	Servant	M	Mu	24	S			
— Ella	Servant	F	Mu	22	S			
— Bryant	Servant	M	Mu	17	S			
— Sallie	Servant	F	Mu	13	S			
— Kemper	Servant	M	Mu	9	S			

William K. was the owner of his own farm, mortgage-free, and living in the household adjoining that of **Joseph Moore** (Mulatto, age 30).

Cornelia was the mother of

- i. **Leu?**, born about 1873.

William K. Moore and Cornelia Matthews were the parents of

- i. **James**, born about 1875, received property from W. K. Moore by Union County deed on 14 November 1907.⁶
- 4 ii. **Joseph**, born in May 1880.
- iii. **Edward**, born May 1883.
- iv. **Ella**, born June 1887.
- v. **Pearl**, born May 1888.
- vi. **Sam/ Bryant**, born May 1893.
- vii. **Sally**, born June 1896.

⁶ Union County Deed Book 88, p. 53.

viii. **Kemper**, born September 1899.

3. **Sophina (or Sephronia) Matthews**, born about 1860, was recorded in the 1880 census for Cornie Township living with her Mulatto son **John** (age 4) and Black son **Jacob** (1 year, 5 months) in the household of her older sister **Cornelia**.

In the [1900 census](#) for Cornie Township, **Sophina** was listed as the mother of six children, five of whom were then living. Her children, recorded as Black, included **Etta** (born May 1886), **Mary** (born July 1888), and **Maggy** (born July 1888).

Matthews Sophina	Head	B	F		1868	32	8		6	5
— Etta	Daughter	B	F	May	1886	14	8			
— Mary	Daughter	B	F	July	1888	13	8			
— Maggy	Daughter	B	F	July	1888	13	8			

By [1910](#), she was recorded in Cornie Township living with her daughter **Mary Neasley**, a widow and mother of two daughters: **Amie** (age 5) and **Vera Neasley** (age 3).

Matthews Sephronia	Head	F	B	47	Wd		6	5
Neasley Mary	Daughter	F	B	23	Wd		2	2
— Amie	Grand daughter	F	B	5	S			
— Vera	Grand daughter	F	B	3	S			

Amie and **Vera Neasley** were likely the children of either **William Neasley** (born August 1883) or **Aubry Neasley** (born May 1887), both of whom were recorded in the [1900 census](#) for Cornie Township in the household of their mother, **Augustina Bensen**.

Fronie was living on Route #1 in Wesson, Union County, on 12 September 1918, when her son by Charles Smith, **Marshall Charles Smith**, [registered](#) for the World War I draft:

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER	1186	ORDER NUMBER	Q-2415
1	Marshall Charles Smith <small>(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)</small>		
2	PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Route #1 Mission Union Ark. <small>(Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)</small>		
Age in Years	38 <small>(Month) (Day) (Year)</small>		
RACE			
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian
5	6	7	8
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant
10	11	12	13
14		15	
If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? PRESENT OCCUPATION: Farmer EMPLOYER'S NAME: M. M. Sheppard			
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Route #1 Mission Union Ark. <small>(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)</small>			
NEAREST RELATIVE		Name	
Address		Fronnie Matthews	
		Route #1 Mission Union Ark. <small>(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)</small>	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE P. M. G. O. Marshall Charles Smith <small>Form No. 1 (Red) (Signature) (Date)</small>			

She was later recorded in Marshall's household in the [1920 census](#), when he was a widowed father of four children:

Smith Marshall	Head	1	M	B	40	ind
Grover	Son		M	B	16	M
Laddie	Son		M	B	12	M
Lally	Daughter		F	B	10	M
Susie	Daughter		F	B	6	M
Matthews Fronnie	mother		F	B	37	M

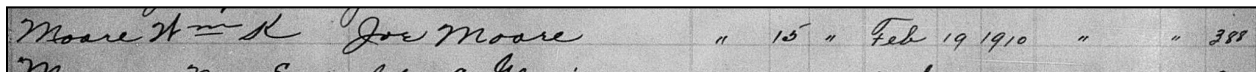
Fronney [died](#) in Union County on 21 August 1929.

Sophonina/ Sophrinia/ Fronie was the mother of

- 5 i. **John**, born about 1876.
- ii. **Jacob**, born about January 1879.
- iii. **Marshall Charles Smith**, born 2 September 1880, [married](#) (1) **Maggie Davis** on 3 November 1901 in Three Creeks. Marshall, son of Charles Smith and Fronnie Matthis, [died](#) on 31 August 1969 in El Dorado. Marshall was probably the son of **Charles Smith** (age 25) who was counted one census page from Sophonia in the [1880 census](#) for Cornie Township with his wife Elizabeth.
- iv. **Etta**, born in May 1886.

- v. **Mary**, born in July 1888, mother of Amie and Vera Neasly.
- vi. **Maggy**, born in July 1888.

4. **Joseph Matthews/Moore**, born in March 1880, was likely the unnamed 3-month-old son of **Cornelia Matthews** listed in her household in the 1880 census. On 19 February 1910, he received property from his father, **William K. Moore**, according to the online [deed index](#) for Union County Deed Book 49, p. 388:



Joseph was recorded in the 1920 census for Cornie Township, Union County as a farmer who owned his farm free of mortgage. His household included his wife **Susy** (age 38) and their children, all listed as Mulatto: **Benjamin** (age 19), **Mabel** (age 18), **Josie** (age 17), **Herman** (age 15), **Pinky** (age 13), son **Alma** (age 12), **Ursuline** (age 9), **Isaac** (age 5), and daughter **Vashti** (age 3 years and 10 months).

Moore Joseph	Head	10	7	in mu	1	m
— Susy	Wife			7	mu	38 m
— Benjamin	Son			7	mu	19 v
— Mabel	daughter			7	mu	18 v
— Josie	daughter			7	mu	17 v
— Herman	Son			7	mu	15 v
— Pinky	daughter			7	mu	13 v
— Alma	Son			7	mu	12 v
— Ursuline	daughter			7	mu	9 v
— Isaac	Son			7	mu	5 v
— Vashti	daughter			7	mu	3 10 v

Joe (50) and Susie (48) were counted in the [1930 census](#) for Cornie Township with their children Vasti (14), Pikie (23), Isaac (15), Thomas (9), and Francella (7).⁷

Joe Moore [died](#) at age 59 in Junction City, Union County on 22 May 1939. His death certificate noted that he was the son of William K Moore and Nelie Mathews, and the husband of Susie Brown Moore.

⁷ "United States, Census, 1930", FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XMGV-56M> : Fri Mar 08 07:43:52 UTC 2024), Entry for Joseph Moore and Susie Moore, 1930.

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Division of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do Not Use This Space
1178

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Union
Township Three Creek
Inn, Town or City R.F.D. #2 Junction City
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 59 yrs. 2 mos. 7 days How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? Native of U.S.

2. FULL NAME Joe Moore
(a) Resident No. Route #2 Junction City (b) Rural Ward 2

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE Black 5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) Married
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced, (write name) Suzie Brown Moore
6. DATE OF BIRTH March 15 1880
7. AGE 59 Years 3 Months 7 Days (If less than 1 day, give hrs. or min.)
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, an officer, soldier, bookkeeper, etc. Farming
9. Industry or business in which work was done, an oil mill, saw mill, bank, etc. Road Work 1 yr
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) January - 1939
11. Total time (years and months) spent in this occupation 39

12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Three Creek Ark
(State or Country) Union Co. Arkansas

13. NAME OF FATHER William K. Moore
14. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or Town) Three Creek Ark
(State or Country) Union County - Arkansas

15. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Melia Matthews
16. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or Town) Three Creek Ark
(State or Country) Union County - Arkansas

17. INFORMANT Suzie Brown Moore
18. BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL
Place El C. H. May Lapidary Date 5-23, 1939
19. Undertaker Charles Lewis - Undertaker Co
(Address) Magnolia - Arkansas
20. Filed 12-12-1939 (Initial, Stamp, Signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH 5-22 1939
(Month, Day, Year)
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 5-20 1939 to 5-22 1939
I last saw h. deceased on 5-22 1939 Death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at 2 P. M.
The principal cause of death, and related causes of importance, were as follows: Degenerative heart disease
Other Contributory causes of importance: None
Name of operation: _____ Date of: _____
What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? Yes
23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ 19____
Where did injury occur? (Specify City or Town, County and State) _____
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in house, or in public place _____
Nature of injury None
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? No
(If so, specify) _____
(Signed) J. H. Sheppard M. D.
Address El C. H. May, Ark

MARGIN RESERVED FOR INDEXING
4. B. WHITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instruction on back of certificate.

5. John Matthews Moore, born about 1876, was called **John Moore** when he married **Ella Sheppard** (age 18) in Union County on 23 December 1898.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE. Jesse J. Craig D.C.

STATE OF ARKANSAS, County of Union:

I, John Tatum, do hereby certify that on the 23 day of Dec. A. D. 1898, I did, duly and according to law, as commanded in the foregoing license, solemnize the rite and publish the bans of matrimony between the parties therein named.

Witness my hand this 26 day of December A. D. 1898

(My Credentials are recorded in Recorder's Office, _____ Co. Ark., Book _____ Page _____)

John Tatum D.C.

In the 1900 census for Cornie Township, **John Moore** was listed with **Ella** (age 20) and their son **George** (born October 1899). Their household was located between that of **A.J. Moore** on one side and **Cornelia Matthews** on the other. On the opposite side of A.J. Moore lived John's aunt, **Nancy Matthews**.

On 10 February 1908, **John** acquired property from **Monroe Bowie**, another freedman, by Union County deed:

Brain Moore Geo Moore 14 Feb 10 1909 10 370

The 1910 [census](#) for Wesson, **John Moore** was listed as the owner (with a mortgage) of a farm. Living with him were **Ella** and their children: **George** (age 10), **Smead** (age 8), and **Emma** (age 2), along with a boarder, **George Hunter** (age 26).

On 10 January 1911, John Moore and **George Sheppard** [mortgaged](#) property to the City National Bank.⁸

Sheppard Geo Geo Moore City Nat Bank 10 16 163

George Sheppard, who owned his own farm mortgage-free in [1900](#), was likely a relative of John Moore's wife, **Ella Sheppard**—possibly her father:

Sheppard George	Head	HC	10 m	Apr	1882	46	m	25		
— Ella	wife	—	10 F	—	1878	22	m	5	2	1
— Bulci	Daughter	—	10 F	Dec	1884	15	5			
— Lubi	Son	—	10 m	Apr	1887	13	8			
— Pete	Son	—	10 m	Oct	1889	10				
— Ben	Son	—	10 m	Jul	1892	4	8			

John Moore may have been the same person as **John Spot Moore**, who [mortgaged](#) property in Union County to B.W. Reeves on 7 January 1918.⁹

moore John Spot B.W. Reeves Jan 7 1918 636

On 14 July 1919, John and Joe Moore leased property in Union County to H.C. McKinney:

Moore John H.C. McKinney July 31 7 July 14 1919 Lease 72 437
Moore Joe Do " " " " " " " " " " 1440

⁸ Union County Deed Book 30, p. 163; *FamilySearch*,

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL2-6Q78-K?i=365&lang=en>

⁹ Union County Deed Book 51, p. 636; "Union, Arkansas, United States records," images, *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL2-6QOP-F?view=explore> : Jun 1, 2025), image 536 of 645; Image Group Number: 008197439

John had died by the time Ella was counted as “widowed” in the [1930 census](#) for Wesson with their children: George (19), Smead (18), Emma (12), Herbert (8), Booktee (6), and Hary (5).¹⁰

Moore Ella	Head	1	0	m	f	m	36	902
— George	Son			m	m		19	8
— Smead	Son			m	m		18	8
— Emma	Daughter			f	m		12	8
— Herbert	Son			m	m		8	8
— Booktee	Son			m	m		6	8
— Hary	Son			m	m		5	8

John’s consistent use of the surname **Moore** rather than *Matthews* may suggest that his father was a member of the Moore family.

John and Ella were the parents of

- i. **George**, born about 1900.
- ii. **Smead**, born about 1902, [died](#) in El Dorado on 13 July 1961.
- iii. **Herbert**, [born](#) 5 February 1911.

Moore Family

1. **Aaron John Moore**, born 20 October 1824 in Alabama, [married](#) **Sarah Kelly Reed**, widow of Nathan W. Reed, in Union County, Arkansas on 20 May 1849.

He was recorded in the [1860 census](#) for Three Creeks, Cornie Township, with \$6,700 in real estate and \$16,720 in personal estate—primarily enslaved people. In the household were his wife **Sarah** (age 43, born in Tennessee), and children: stepson **John N. Reed** (age 15), **Lucy A. Moore** (age 10), **William K. Moore** (age 8), **Sarah J. Moore** (age 5), **Julia S. Moore** (age 2), and **John R. Brown** (age 25), a physician from North Carolina.

¹⁰ "United States, Census, 1920", FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDFG-J26> : Mon Jan 20 02:24:33 UTC 2025), Entry for Ella Moore and George Moore, 1920.

A. J. Moore	36	"	X	farmer	6700	16.720
Sarah "	43	f				
John N. Reed	15	m				
Geo. A. Moore	10	f				
William K. "	8	m				
Sarah, D. "	5	f				
Julia S. "	2	"				

Aaron John's slave schedule for 1860 ([p1](#), [p2](#)) included 4 of 15 enslaved people who were listed as Mulatto:

A. J. Moore	1	43	"	"
	1	30	"	"
	1	27	"	m
	1	17	"	13
	1	24	"	"
	1	15	"	"
	1	22	"	m

A. J. Moore	1	21	f	13
	1	19	"	m
	1	5	"	"
	1	4	"	13
	1	2	m	"
	1	1	f	"
	1	1/2	m	"

Sarah "Sallie" Kelly Moore, born 29 June 1817 in Franklin County, Tennessee, [died](#) at age 56 in Union County, Arkansas on 15 July 1873. She was buried in Hopewell Cemetery.

Aaron John Moore, born 2 October 1824 in Perry County, Alabama, [died](#) at age 77 in Union County, Arkansas on 27 August 1902.



Aaron John and Sarah Moore were the parents of

- i. **Lucy A.**, born about 1850.
- ii. **William Kemper**, born about 1852.
- iii. **Sarah J.**, born about 1855.
- iv. **Julia S.**, born about 1858.

Endnotes:

1. Other freedmen who owned their own farms in Cornie Township in 1900 included:

Frank Adderson (1900 census, family # 4), Walter Adderson (#5), Jesse Tatum (#6), Frank Adderson (Sr., #8), Jake Tatum (#12), Lowrey Martin (#13), William Charles (#15), Ulman Meriwether (#17), Frank Alderson (#18), Walter Fraser (#19), Lecor Moore (#21), Alfred Fraser (#22), Dallas Lockhart (#40), Toby Meadows (#47), Sebe Thompson (#48), Samuel Griffin (#50), Andy Cooksy (#89), Alfred Wiseman (#136), Jeff Davis (#172), Frank Sheppard (#173), Tom Roberson (#192), Allen Alen (#198), Straughn Webster (#199), John Daniels (#203), Nelson Williams (#207), Henry Fraser (#209), Robert White (#211), Tom Buckner (#217), Robert Buckner (#218), John Ramy (#219), G. Armstrong (#224), William Yocum (#233), and Askus Stanly (#238).

Twenty five percent of African Americans living in the South owned their own land in 1910. Just 35 years after emancipation, more than 425,000 Black families

had saved enough to buy nearly 20 million acres in the Jim Crow South. However, Jim Crow laws led to the Great Migration which led to loss of land and wealth.¹¹

2. Whether someone was listed as “Mulatto” or “Black” in the population and slave schedules was subjective. In the 1900 census for Cornie Township, for example, all of Cornelia’s children were listed as “Black.” Apparently, some census takers simply recorded whether a person was white or African American.

Cornelia and her sister Sophronia may have been the 3- and 5-year-old Mulatto girls listed in B.R. Matthews’s 1860 slave schedule—or the 1- and 5-year-old Mulatto girls listed under A.J. Moore. Being listed as “Mulatto” did not necessarily mean their father was white, only that they may have appeared lighter-skinned than others.

A.J. Moore owned Cornelia and Sophronia before emancipation, and four of the fifteen enslaved people listed in his 1860 slave schedule were recorded as Mulatto. This raises the possibility that A.J. Moore may have fathered children with enslaved women himself—perhaps contributing to his apparent tolerance of his son William K. Moore’s later relationship with Cornelia, which resulted in several children and, eventually, shared residence after A.J. Moore’s death in 1902. Sophronia also had children by a white man surnamed Moore, possibly William or his brother.

GENEALOGIST BIO

Paul Heinegg (paul.heinegg@gmail.com) has over 35 years of experience in genealogical research. He is the recipient of four major genealogy awards (Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, American Society of Genealogists, North Carolina Genealogical Society, D.A.R.), and has authored three books and four journal articles. These publications include the origin and family history of over 1,100 African American families that were free in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware during the colonial period.

Paul was identified as “*the world’s expert on the Free Black population in the United States*” by Henry Louis “Skip” Gates, Jr., and as “*the leading authority on early African American families*” by *Genealogical.com* and *FamilySearch*. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Hackett Fischer described him as a “*gifted genealogist*” who “*transformed our knowledge of slaves and free people of African*

¹¹ Francis, Dania V., et al. "Black land loss: 1920–1997." *AEA Papers and Proceedings*. Vol. 112. 2014 Broadway, Suite 305, Nashville, TN 37203: American Economic Association, 2022.

ancestry in early America” and “changed our fundamental understanding of race, slavery, and servitude in early America.” <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution/african-founders>

In addition to his extensive research on the genealogy of free African Americans, Paul has also traced the ancestry of an enslaved family back to the mid-1600s in a journal article that meets rigorous genealogical standards.