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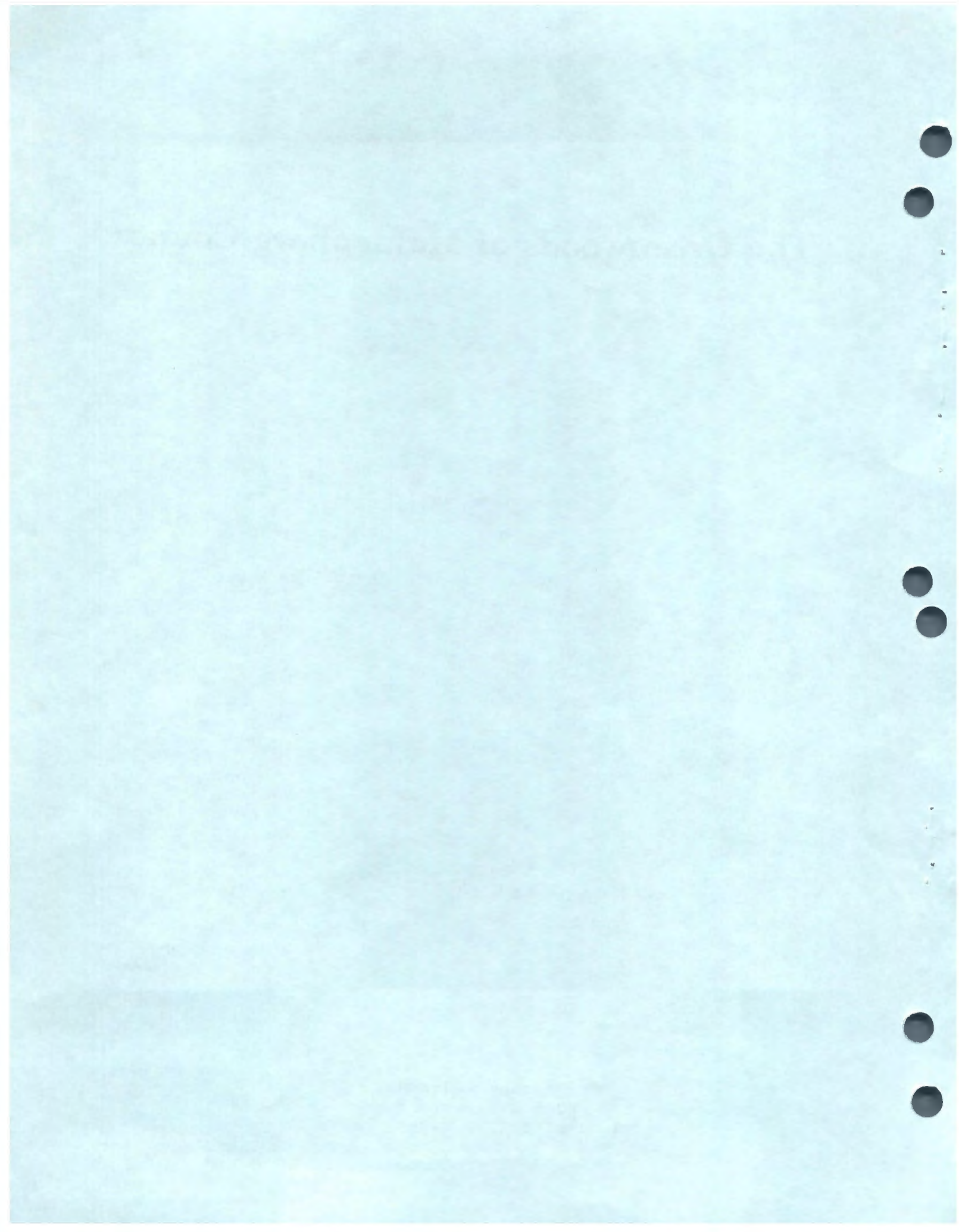
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# **The Greenwoods of Muhlenberg County**

(Revised 1991)

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## THE GREENWOODS OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY

(Much of the credit for research of the Greenwood family of Muhlenberg County goes to Gayle Carver of Greenville, Carver genealogist Keith Carver of Pelham, Mass., formerly of Russellville and Charles Bennet Greenwood of Central City.)

By BOBBY ANDERSON

The recent death of Mrs. Dollie Greenwood Hickey (Feb. 15, 1989) of Central City brought rebirth to a desire to trace the roots of the Greenwood family of Muhlenberg County.

Dollie and her surviving brother, Charles Bennett Greenwood of Central City are two of several children of William H. and Louisa Jago Greenwood. William H. Greenwood was the son of William Greenwood, originally of Rosewood, and his wife, Susan Dukes. In turn, William Greenwood was the son of Henry Greenwood of North Carolina, progenitor of most--if not all Greenwoods in this area.

Henry Greenwood and his wife, Levinia Carver Greenwood came to Muhlenberg County in about 1852 with a wagon train of Carvers and others from near Leaksville, a textile town in Rockingham County, North Carolina, according to Carver Historian Keith Carver.

But Henry was not the first Greenwood of his clan in Muhlenberg County. His son, Thomas had arrived here several years earlier and was perhaps the influence which brought Henry and Levinia, as well as William and Lemuel Carver and their families from North Carolina to the Rosewood area.

Thomas, the first son of Henry and Levinia, with his wife, Minerva, were known to be in Kentucky in 1845. Their eldest child, Martha F. Greenwood, was born in Kentucky in 1845, as were the rest of their children. Thomas was a tobacco farmer at Rosewood.

He was born in North Carolina in 1821 to Henry and Levina Greenwood, the first of nine children, which included Henry, Willis, Cassandra, Catherine, James, William, Martha and Nancy.

The elder Henry Greenwood was born in North Carolina in about the year, 1795, though no official birthdate has been found. On Jan. 17, 1819, he married Levina Carver, who was born in 1797. Levinia was the daughter of Benjamin and Peggy Carver of North Carolina, foreparents of most Carvers who now inhabit Muhlenberg and adjoining counties.

After Henry Greenwood married Levinia, and William Southard married another of Benjamin and Peggy's daughters, Lucy, Benjamin Carver led his rapidly enlarging family from Person County to Rockingham County seeking a better way of life for them.

While in Rockingham County, Henry Greenwood can be found in census records and other official documents listed as Henry, George or William, and under the surname of Greenwood, Greenway and Grineway, according to research made by genealogist Keith R. Carver. His full name may have been the combination of Henry, George and William, while the Greenwood spelling of the family name has continued even unto today.

But things were not rosy, financially, in Rockingham County, as they had been painted for Benjamin Carver. So in the fall of 1851, Lemuel Carver with a small group of his friends, traveled to Kentucky in search of productive farm land. Among those traveling with him, Henry Greenwood was probably included,

because his son, Thomas, who was also Lemuel's nephew, now resided in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.

There is no word as to what, if any, transactions Henry Greenwood made in Kentucky. But on that trip in 1851, Lemuel Carver purchased 130 acres on Sulphur (Clifty) Creek near Rosewood, for \$150 from Eli Skipworth.

Also, it should be noted, that in 1851, Benjamin Carver died, and in 1852, his widow, Peggy also died. This broke the ties to North Carolina for the Greenwoods, the Carvers and other relatives. In the summer of 1852, they left North Carolina, enroute to Kentucky to establish a new home.

Records show that in late summer, the wagon train arrived in south Muhlenberg County, though some of the migrators may have actually taken up residence in Todd and Logan Counties. Here to greet them was the Thomas Greenwood family.

Thomas, in the 1850 census of Muhlenberg County, was shown to be 29 years old. His wife, Minerva, was 28, and their children were: Martha F., 5; Mary E., 4 and William, two.

(If, as Carver genealogist Keith Carver believes, Minerva was the daughter of Benjamin and Peggy Carver, a sister of Levinia, Lucy, Lemuel and William, then Thomas Greenwood had married his aunt -- his mother's sister, prior to migrating to Kentucky.)

When the 1860 census was taken, Henry was the senior Greenwood in the area, listing his age at 65, and his wife, Levinia, at 70, though actually, by birth records, Levinia was only 63 (born 1797). Henry listed his occupation as "a trader". His sons were mostly tobacco farmers, but were listed as "tobacconists", those who grow, buy and sell tobacco.

It is not known just how many of Henry's children came to Kentucky with him, for some apparently married in North Carolina. Some did, however, come to Muhlenberg County, for there are several lines of the Greenwoods we can follow through census, marriage and death records.

One, Henry Greenwood, Jr., who was born in 1825, came to Muhlenberg County, but not until he had fought in the Mexican War in 1845. Rother's Muhlenberg County History reveals that Henry enlisted in North Carolina, and did not come to Muhlenberg County until about 1855.

Thomas of course was in the county. By 1860, his family had tripled. Added to Martha, Mary and William (this is not the William, father and grandfather of Dollie Greenwood Hickey) were James T. in 1851, Obediah H. in 1853, George W. in 1854, Samuel J., in 1856, John W. in 1858 and Menerva A., in 1860.

(Thomas Greenwood, incidentally, was the first postmaster at Rosewood. He was appointed to that position when the post office was inaugurated on Sept. 5, 1855. It's tenure was not long, however, as it ceased to operate as a post office on Oct. 24, the same year. The post office was reopened and discontinued several times, before it was closed permanently in 1915.)

James, the sixth child of Henry and Levinia, also lived in Muhlenberg County in 1860. He and wife, Elizabeth, had children Armintha L., in 1856; William H. in 1858 and Thomas W. in 1859. Since Armintha was born in Kentucky, and the others in Tennessee, it indicates that James had lived in Kentucky earlier, but had migrated to Tennessee, and then back to Kentucky again.

Henry, the Mexican War veteran was also censused in 1860. He, too, had a wife named Elizabeth, and their children were William M., born in Kentucky in 1852; Mary Ann and Elizabeth, born in

Tennessee in 1854 and James M., born in Kentucky in 1858. This indicates also that Henry may have lived to Tennessee for a short while, before returning to Kentucky.

The seventh child of Henry and Levinia Greenwood was William, who was to become the grandfather of Dollie Greenwood, according to census statistics. He was born in North Carolina in 1837 and came to Kentucky when he was 15 years old. On Dec. 17, 1856, he married Susan Dukes, who was born Nov. 17, 1841. Their first child was William H., who was born Jan. 3, 1858, and would become the father of Dollie Greenwood. A second child was also present for the 1860 census, she being named Matilda, who was born just ten months before the census was taken.

At this time, all of the Greenwoods lived in the greater Rosewood area, though the younger William was living much nearer to Greenville.

As for the other children of Henry and Levina, Cassandra, born in 1829, married Caleb Cisna (Cisney?); Catherine, born in 1833, was not located in the search; Martha, born in 1841, married Marion Finley in 1858 and Nancy, born in 1843, married Josiah C. Johnson.

By 1870, many of the Greenwoods had departed Muhlenberg County, bound for parts unknown. Henry and Levinia were both dead, but at present, their burial place is unknown, though it is believed to be at Rosewood.

The younger Henry and Elizabeth were still listed as living near Rosewood. With them, children William W., 17; Elizabeth M. and Mary, each 16; James M., 11; Alice L., six, and young Florence V., one year old.

Then, the only other Greenwood listed in Muhlenberg County for that year was William, and his wife, Susan (Dukes). Others may have been skipped over by the census taker, or omitted through mistake, but they did not show up in the 1870 census.

William and Susan were living beside what appears to be her parents, Elijah (68) and Edna (67) Dukes, south of Greenville. On an adjoining farm was William's sister, Nancy, and her husband, Josiah Johnson.

William and Susan's children in addition to William H. and Matilda now showed Elijah (named for his grandfather?), two years old.

Before another census could be enumerated in 1880, William H. Greenwood had taken a young bride. Though the date is not readily available, William H. married Louisa Jago of near Central City (probably, the Stringtown area). That marriage took place sometime in early 1880, as they were listed in the 1880 census as recently married. In fact, they were listed in the census twice, once as living in the home of his father and mother, William and Susan -- and again as boarders in the home of Robert and Margaret Casebier in the Paradise census district (probably near to Central City). William was listed as 23 years old and Luisa (Louisa) was 14.

Louisa Jago was born July 30, 1865, to Jacob and Dorothy Ezell Jago. Jacob was from a pioneer Muhlenberg County family, which came to the county in the early 1800s. He was born March 15, 1806, and first married Fanny Boman (Bowman?) on Feb. 7, 1828. When Fanny died in 1863, at the age of 56, Jacob remarried, this time to Dorothy Ezell, on Sept. 18, 1864. Louisa (who was listed as Lewis in the 1880 census), was born the next year, when Jacob was 59 and Dorothy 39.

Jacob died April 14, 1871, when Louisa was only six years old. He and his first wife, Fanny, are buried in Jago Cemetery, on Stringtown Road, near Central City.

Meanwhile, William and Susan Greenwood, now living nearer to Central City, had added two more children of their own, John R., and Jacob. John was born in 1877, and Jacob in 1879. This John is probably the one who first opened Greenwood Market in Central City and was the father of Delbert Greenwood. John married Ella Bransford in 1898 and Jacob married Mary Cobb the next year.

Still one other, the old Mexican War veteran, Henry, and Elizabeth, were living not far from Penrod and Dunmor, where their son, William was a merchant. William, now 28, had married Roberta Wood, and had daughter, Willie, born in 1878. Florence still was at home with Henry and Elizabeth. Henry, now 55 years old, called himself "unemployed".

Near Central City, the grandson of North Carolina-born Henry and Levinia Greenwood was raising his family. William and Louisa began with C. C. on May 13, 1881. He was from thereafter to be known as Lum Greenwood. Lum died Feb. 11, 1968. He and his wife, Pearl and daughter, Flossie are buried in the Jago Cemetery. Others to follow were Lizzie, Dollie, Tiny, Annie, Willie, Daniel and later, Charles Bennett, now the only survivor of that family.

The 1900 Muhlenberg County census showed, other than William and Louisa, his father, William, wife Susan, and children Jacob (Jake), Elijah, and Elijah's wife, Sarah Garrett.

Also John R., and wife, Ella, with their son Virgil;

Jesse, with wife, Alice, and children Andy, two, and Joseph, seven months, all of the above in the Central City area.

Nearer to Paradise, William M., son of Henry, lived with wife, Roberta, and children, Minnie, Robert, Donnie, Homer, Charley and Joe.

At Rosewood were James, son of Henry, a widower, with two children, Bertie and Gola, living in the home of his brother-in-law, Bob (and Mary) Craig.

At Rosewood also, Henry, now 75, and drawing a pension from his Mexican War efforts, lived with a wife, Eliza F. (Fanny Carver), whom he married in 1893, and his daughter, Florence, now 31. (Henry's first wife, Elizabeth, died in 1889.)

Near to Greenville, a Thomas Greenwood, 19, single (and parents unknown) lived in the Sherman Hays home, and was a farm laborer.

Henry died in 1907 and is buried beside Elizabeth at Rosewood.

William M., son of Henry, died in 1900, shortly after the census was taken, and is buried at Ebenezer.

Jake and his wife Mary (Cobb) are buried in Wilcox Cemetery. He died in 1944 and she in 1964.

Virgil, son of John, his wife Gertrude and a son, Virgil, have markers at Rose Hill Cemetery, though only Gertrude's indicate date of death, her's in 1971.

Willie Greenwood Kimmell and husband, Joseph, are buried in Rose Hill. Willie, who married Joseph in 1899, died in 1964, and he in 1967.

In the Jago family cemetery on Stringtown Road, near Central City, North Carolina-born William Greenwood is buried, though the date of his death is not documented. He was born in 1837. William's wife, Susan (Dukes) is also buried. She died in 1900. John R. Greenwood is buried there beside his wife Frances (Ella). John died in 1911 and Ella in 1950.

Of course, William and Louisa (Jago) are buried in the Jago

cemetery. William was born Jan. 3, 1858, and died April 11, 1932. Louisa was born July 30, 1865, and died April 16, 1940.

There are many other later burials of Greenwood family members in Muhlenberg County, but more importantly, there are many whose deaths cannot be documented, because many of the early ones, including the earliest, Henry and Levinia lie in unmarked graves.

As for marriages, other than ones already mentioned, Matilda, sister of William, married Alvis Tooley on April 28, 1877; Florence, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth, married Richard Pearson in 1900. He was born in 1850 and died in 1927. She was born in 1869 and died in 1900. They are buried at Rosewood. Thomas Greenwood married Rosa Dukes on July 20, 1901. They are also buried in the Jago Cemetery.

\* \* \*

Perhaps there are errors, because much family history has been lost through death of family members, and because it was impossible to contact all living descendants of Henry and Levinia Greenwood. There will perhaps additions which may be added later. Any correspondence should be addressed to the writer, 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tn. 37072.



