

The Mendenhall Family

by:Wendy Meyers

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Patriarch:

Marmaduke Hudson Mendenhall (1823-1887)

We know very little about him pre-1880.

- Born 13 February 1823 in Deep River, Guilford County, NC
- Recorded in census records from 1850-1870 as a farmer in Guilford County; his children were also recorded as working on the farm.
- In 1861, was named as a member of a Vigilance Committee (a unionist, anti-Confederacy group) for Southwest Guilford County.

First Marriage (1848):

Phebe Spurgeon (1822 – 1871), buried in Deep River, NC

Children:

- Montalva Demosthene Mendenhall (1852-1883)
- William Carey Mendenhall (1858 – 1937)

Second Marriage (1872):

Rebecca Jellico Eaton (1838-1915), buried Green Hills Cemetery, Waynesville NC

No children

The Mendenhalls were Quakers

Attended the Deep River Friends Meeting House in High Point



Basic Quaker beliefs/practices

- Do not consider the Bible to be the final authority or the only source of sacred wisdom.
- Leadership is primarily invested in the laity
- Silent worship
- Do not perform baptisms nor communion
- Pacifists and abolitionists

The Mendenhalls in Haywood County

- Marmaduke Mendenhall married 2nd wife Rebecca in 1872; her son was a businessman in Waynesville
- In 1880, he is in Haywood County and is recorded in the census as a wagoner; son Carey is also in the business. They are wealthy enough to have 2 servants.
- W. H. Mendenhall became a partner in a merchant business with stores in Waynesville and Charleston (now Bryson City) until the end of 1880
- In 1880 the corporation was dissolved by mutual agreement, In 1881, Mendenhall purchased his first property in the town of Charleston

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.
The firm of FAUCETT & MENDENHALL, heretofore doing business at Waynesville and at Charleston, N. C., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business at Charleston, Swain county, will be continued by M. H. Mendenhall & Son, and at Waynesville by Mr. W. H. Faucett.
All parties indebted to the late firm will please come forward and settle with Mr. Faucett.
W. H. FAUCETT,
M. W. MENDENHALL.
Nov. 17th, 1880. de 2-4t

Life in Swain County

- First purchase in Swain County was recorded in 1881 for a lot in town of Charleston
- According to an article in the Asheville Citizen-Times in 1953, the hotel was built in 1885. This is likely inaccurate as the article goes on to say that the building “.....was first used as a store and dwelling by the Mendenhall family. On the first floor was the general store. Living quarters for the family were upstairs.”, but.....
- In 1884, ‘W.H. Mendenhall and Sons’ was recorded in Branson’s Business Directory as having merchant businesses in both Charleston and Forney’s Creek township.
- Therefore, they were likely doing business in this building pre-1884

Life in Swain County

- Montalvria Mendenhall married Emma Lou Justice in Wake County in 1879 and brought her back to Charleston. He died in 1883, leaving her a widow with 2 young children: son James Hudson (1880-1962) and daughter Hattie (1881-1966).
- In 1884, Mrs. Emma Mendenhall and her mother-in-law, Mrs. M.H. Mendenhall were appointed to a committee to facilitate the arrangement of tables for a celebration the completion of the WNC Railroad to the mouth of the Nantahala River. Brother William Carey Mendenhall was a marshall for the same event.
- William Carey Mendenhall married his brother's widow in 1887; had children Roxy Louise (1888-1976) and William Carey Jr. (1896-1974)

- M.H. Mendenhall died in 1887.
- After his death, the Hotel remained in the family until 1889, when it was put up for sale by W.C. Mendenhall

The headstone of M.H. Mendenhall is a thing of beauty, located a little west of the top of the driveway.



While it was up for sale, the hotel was leased to Benjamin Harrison Cathey (uncle of Mark Cathey)

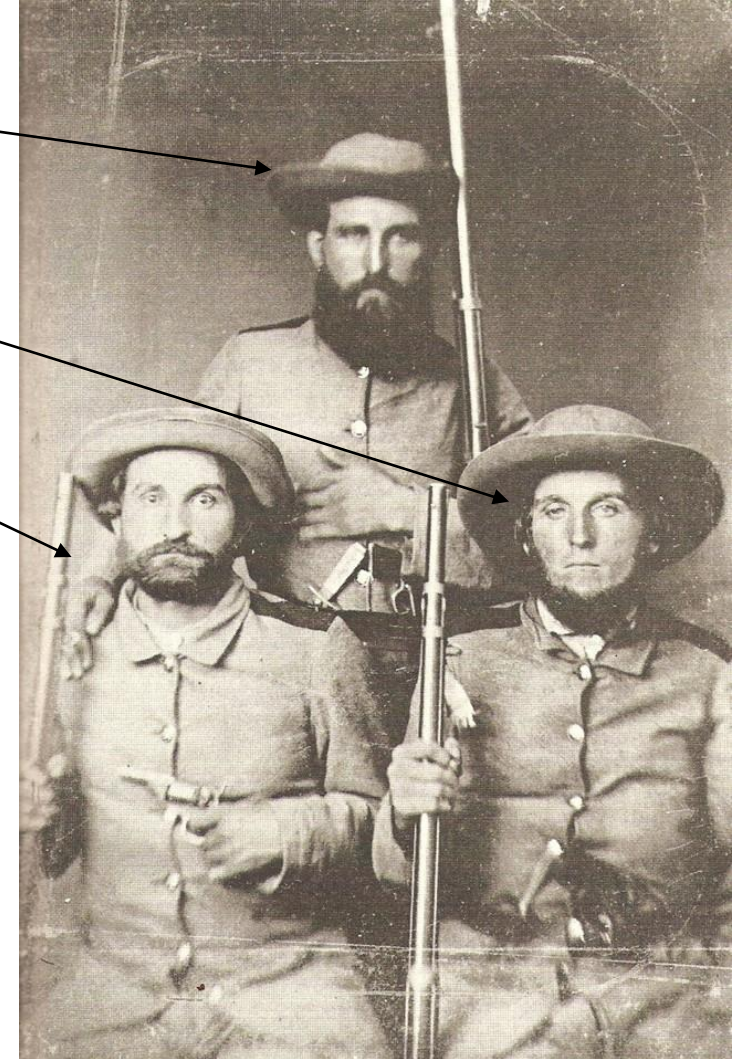
Benjamin Harrison Cathey

Francis Marion Cathey

William Hillman Cathey (Father of Mark)

B. H. Cathey of Qualla, Jackson Co., has leased the Mendenhall hotel and store and will move his family and stock of goods here about March 15th. We welcome Mr. Cathey and wish him success.

Source: Swain County Herald, 21 Feb 1889



William Carey Mendenhall – a ‘Jack of All Trades’

- He was a wagoner
- He was a tobacco farmer who sold at the Asheville Market
- He was a cattle dealer
- He was a timberman who operated in Oconalufy (for Champion) and Forney’s Creek Township
- He could also be a rabble-rouser

Monday night a few of the older “boys” proceeded to make merry. They became noisy and Officer Ditmore interfered. Somewhat of a row resulted and on Tuesday a legal investigation followed. Before Esquire Everett Nathan DeHart, W. C. Mendenhall and N. B. Thompson were examined on the charge of resisting an officer. They were held for trial giving bail in the sum of \$200 each. Before Mayor Collins, Nathan DeHart, R. P. King, N. B. Thompson, Dan Shuler and W. C. Mendenhall were tried for being drunk and disorderly. Mendenhall was found not guilty. The others were fined \$3 and costs each.

Swain County Herald, 07 March 1889

William Carey Mendenhall – a ‘Jack of All Trades’

- He overcame his legal troubles of 1889
- He had a special interest in law enforcement
- Listed as a deputy sheriff in 1896
- Served a writ of habeus corpus in a Graham County murder case
- He was also a revenuer – raids documented in 1896 and 1899

Deputy Marshal W. C. Mendenhall came up from Bryson City last Thursday, and Thursday night he and Sheriff Roane made a raid on a blind tier about three miles from town in the Sugarfork section. They ran on a negro named Harvey Penland and a white man named Hopkins dealing with moonshine. Roane caught the negro by the overcoat, but he shed his coat and ran in the darkness and shot back at Roane. Hopkins fired two shots at Mendenhall fired four shots after him, two from a shotgun and two from a revolver. Both men escaped. There was about 125 gallons of whiskey, but only about fifteen gallons could be carried away by the officers. It is said that a crowd of negroes gathered in and disposed of the remainder.—Franklin Press.

Death of Emma Mendenhall, 1898

—Bryson City Democrat: Mrs. L. E. Mendenhall, wife of W. O. Mendenhall, died at her home in Bryson City last Sunday morning at 6 o'clock after an illness of several weeks. Mrs. Mendenhall was in her 42d year of age. She was a daughter of the late Hon. James M. Justice of Rutherford county and had a large circle of relatives in several counties. She was noted for her goodness of heart and charitable deeds to the sick and the poor, and her death is greatly deplored. A husband and four children survive her.

Death of William Carey Mendenhall

C. MENDENHALL IS TAKEN BY DEATH IN SWAIN COUNTY

BRYSON CITY, Nov. 20. (Special) Cary Mendenhall, 78, died at his home on Bryson Branch yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock following an illness of three weeks. Death was a result of a complication of diseases.

Mr. Mendenhall was a native of this section, being of a pioneer family. Prominent in his younger days in civic affairs, he served in several official capacities. He was a well-known lumberman and was employed by the Canton division of the Champion Paper and Fibre company. He was at one time a caretaker of Reuben B. Robertson's lodge at Indian gap.

Mr. Mendenhall was twice married. He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Orphie Milsaps, of Bryson City, and a son and two daughters by a former marriage.

Tentative plans are for the funeral services to be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Franklin Grove Baptist church with the Rev. Thad Watson officiating.



Timber Top Lodge at Indian Gap; Source: GSMNP via Openparksnetwork.com

Carey Mendenhall's Second Wife

- After Emma's death, Carey remarried in 1900 to Orpha 'Opal' Millsaps (
- She is descended from the earliest settlers in Deep Creek
- Orpha outlived her husband, dying in 1949
- Orpha is buried in the Bryson City Cemetery, but has no tombstone

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				16449
Birth No. 152		APR 7 1949 AUG 8 1949		REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 07 20
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Swain		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission.) a. STATE N.C. b. COUNTY Swain		
b. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) OR TOWN Bryson City, N.C.		c. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) OR TOWN Bryson City, N.C.		
4. FULL NAME OF (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION		4. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location)		
3. NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) Orpha		b. (Middle) Mendenhall		c. (Last) 535
4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) 3-1-49		5. SEX Female		6. COLOR OR RACE White
7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED Widowed		8. DATE OF BIRTH Oct. 3, 1875		9. AGE (In years last birthday) 73
10. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life even if retired) Housewife		11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Swain Co. 32		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY
13. FATHER'S NAME W. N. Millsaps		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Eliza Shuler		
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service)		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		17. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS W. C. Millsaps, Bryson City, N.C.
18. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c) 1. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) Evidently heart trouble		ANTECEDENT CAUSES Marked conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last. DUE TO (a) no history DUE TO (b) only saw her as dying		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death. 4-2-49		3. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION AND/OR AUTOPSY		19. AUTOPSY YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20. ACCIDENT (Specify) no		21. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office building, etc.)		22. CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP (COUNTY) (STATE)
23. TIME (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) of INJURY		24. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		25. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR
26. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____, 19____, to 3-1-1949, that I last saw the deceased alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred at _____, m., from the causes and on the date stated above.				
27. SIGNATURE L. R. Byram		28. ADDRESS Bryson City, N.C.		29. DATE SIGNED 3-7-49
30. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		31. DATE 3-3-49		32. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Bryson City Cem.
33. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL BOARD 4-2-49		34. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Mrs. Floyd Cunningham		35. FUNERAL DIRECTOR Moody Funeral Home Bryson City, N.C.