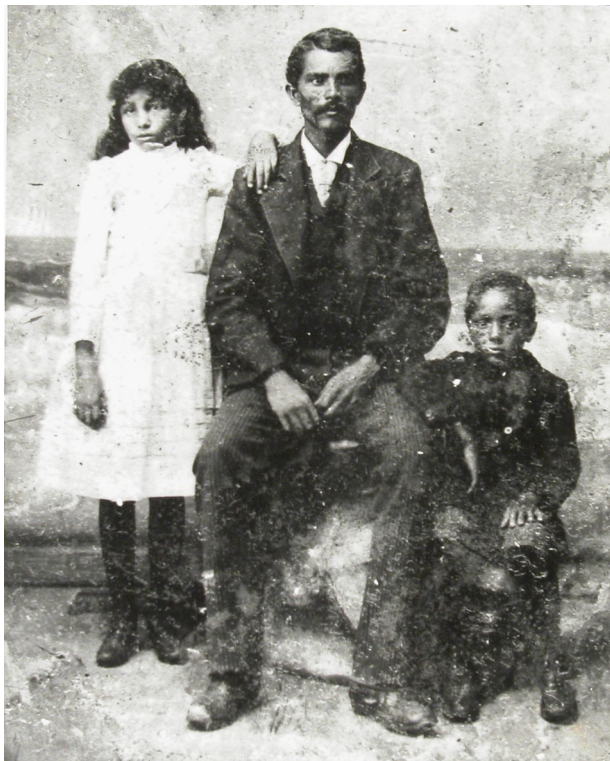
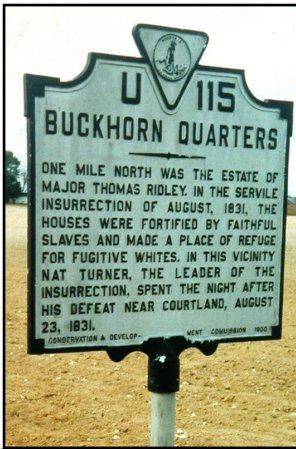




Martha Jane Parham
(author's great-great-grandmother, and wife of Cornelius Ridley (author's g-g grandfather. Left: about age 60, circa 1900, in Media, PA. Right: about age 16 or 18, circa 1856/58, wearing slave garb denoting the plantation that owned her — Fortsville Plantation in Virginia. She was forced to become a breeding woman starting at age 14. Picture at left was taken from a tin-type photograph, circa 1856.

Below: the two children of Martha Jane she was able to take with her when she escaped from Fortsville Plantation, along with her brother Andison Parham and his two year daughter, Sarah. Below left: **George Washington** Ridley (in center) was 9 years old when he escaped the plantation with his mother, Martha Jane. Shown with him are his children Lily and Eddie. Below right: Martha Jane's daughter **Rachel Ann**, who was 2 years old when she escaped with her mother. The author does not know how many children his ancestor had in total, before escaping in 1864 at about age 24. It is likely she had several more during that 10 year period. Cornelius, Martha Jane, her children, and her brother and his child were among the fortunate 1 % to successfully escape from slavery, of the roughly 4 million African Americans held in bondage by 1860. The infants of breeding women were typically sold off from them, and those children were often never seen or heard from again. Martha Jane was so traumatized by this experience, she would never discuss life in the South again.





Top (L-R) Historical sign and public domain picture of the Buckhorn slave quarters of the Ridley Bonnie Doon plantation where author's gg-grandfather, Cornelius, lived. Left: author visited Fortsville Plantation circa 2014. 1850 U.S. Slave Schedule lists slaves owned by John Y. Mason. Martha Jane is likely the 10 year old.

SCHEDULE 2—Slave Inhabitants in <i>Richmond Parish</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> of <i>Virginia</i> , enumerated by me, on the <i>24</i> day of <i>July</i> , 1850. <i>Robert G. Mason</i>																
NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION.			Fugitives from the Laws.	Number of males 16 and over.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.			NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION.		
1	2		3	4	5				6	7	8	9		10	11	12
<i>Robert G. Mason</i>	1	8	M	B					1	1			1	40		
	1	10	F	B					2	2			1	35		
	1	3	F	B					3	3			1	26		
	1	5	F	B					4	4			1	20		
	1	21	F	B					5	5			1	17		
	1	21	F	B					6	6			1	16		
	1	7	F	B					7	7			1	13		
	1	11	F	B					8	8			1	13		
	1	7	M	B					9	9			1	13		
	1	10	F	B					10	10			1	10		
	1	8	F	B					11	11			1	8		