

## **DESCENDANTS OF JOHN BURNETT TURNER. SR.**

**By Nyla CREED DePauk**

The first of my Turner ancestors to settle in Raleigh County was John Burnett Turner, Sr., his wife Naomi, and their children about 1857.

John Burnett Turner, Sr., was born on February 27, 1816, in Henry County, Virginia. He died on February 20, 1897, according to a Raleigh County, West Virginia, death transcript. However, his son William wrote that he died on May 9, 1897. He died at Matville, on Sandlick, Raleigh County. He is buried in the Turner Cemetery at Matville. (The spelling of Matville is currently Mattsville. However, I will use the same spelling that Captain William Turner used.)

John Burnett Turner, Sr., was the son of the Revered John Turner and Nancy E. Burnett who were married October 15, 1804, in Patrick County, Virginia. Reverend Turner, who was born on September 21, 1779, in Henry County, died May 20, 1874, on the North Fork of Goblintown Creek, north of Elamsville, Patrick County. Nancy E Burnett, was born on August 15, 1788 in Hanover County, Virginia. Nancy died on November 19, 1872, in Patrick County. Reverend and Mrs. John Turner are buried at the old home place, at Elamsville.

John married Naoma Angeline Exoney Via who born on September 6, 1821, in Patrick County. Naoma died December 11, 1898, at Matville. She is buried at the Turner Cemetery at Matville. They were married on September 19, 1838, in Patrick County, by Joshua Adams, Minister. Naoma's father was William M "Billy" Via, and her mother was Sarah Elizabeth "Sallie" Ingram.

John's son William described his father as having a common school education. William wrote in "His Memoriam of My Grand Parents" in September 1914, that his father was six feet tall, weighed 165 to 170 pounds, was well developed, very strong, straight, erect, and good looking.

About 1847, John Burnett Turner Sr. engaged in an unsuccessful tobacco manufacturing enterprise. After John paid all his creditors, he was left with no holdings, home, or servants. After leasing for about ten years, he moved his family to Raleigh County in November 1857. At that period of time, land could be bought for 50 cents an acre. According to William, the land was selling for \$50 to \$100 an acre by 1914.

During the winter of 1857-1858, John came down with typhoid fever, which affected his physical abilities.

When the Civil War broke out, John was too old for military service. However, his son William entered the Union Army in December 1861. William tells how a scouting party of seven Confederates burned the home of his father and mother. According to William,

he said his father “took the spoiling of his goods cheerfully, simply saying , ‘I am one among many innocent sufferers.’”

After the war, in 1870, John was elected Assessor of Raleigh County, serving a term of two years. William wrote that his father’s “valuations of property was much praised for its uniformity.”

William wrote that in 1869, his father was soundly converted from nature to grace, and died in great peace on May 9, 1897. (The date of his death is listed as February 20, 1897, in a death transcript.) John and Naoma were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

I have not located a picture of John Burnett Turner Sr.; however, at least one picture of his wife, Naoma (Via) Turner exists.



**Naoma Angeline Exoney (Via) Turner**

Children of John Burnett, Sr., and Naoma were:

- Henry Clay Turner was born about 1839 and died at Fayerdale, Patrick County, three weeks after his birth from “bold hives,” according to his brother William.

- William Turner was born on January 17, 1841, in Patrick County. See separate chapter.

- Nancy Elizabeth Turner was born on January 17, 1843, in Patrick County. See chapter on William Dickens.

- John Burnett Turner, Jr., was born on November 26, 1947, in Patrick County.

- Mary Jane Turner was born on December 22, 1850 in Patrick County. See chapter on John Dickens.

- George Washington Turner was born on June 6, 1853 in Patrick County. See separate chapter.