NC Marriage Records New Hanover County Cohabitation Records lists a Mary Douglas and Reuben Nixon as July 1865.

1870 US Federal Census lists Ruben Hines (Nixon) as a fisherman in the household of wife, Mary Hines and six inferred children. However, Nelson is most likely Mary’s brother, or Mary is not the wife but daughter of Reuben Hines, or she is the step-mother of Reuben’s children.

NC Marriage Records indicate Mary Douglas Hines married Isaac Hines on April 26, 1878. Her parents are noted as James and Lucy Douglas. His parents are noted as Moses and Abby Hines.

1900 US Federal Census listed Issac Hines (68) and Mary Hines (50) sharing household with Winna Hines (18), Roener Hines (15), Robert Hines (14), Arthur Hines (7) and Edward Hines (35).
Searches for the inferred children of Mary Douglas and Reubin Hines yielded limited results. Based upon NC Cohabitation Record of 1865 extended search to include surname Nixon to each household member in the 1870 US Federal Census, which yielded a few results worth mentioning below.

(1) Nelson Hines is most documented. 1880 US Federal Census lists Nelson (23) with wife Lucy (21) and son David (2) living in Grant, Pender County, NC. Marriage Records indicate his birth circa 1851 when at age 49, he marries Mary Jones (32) on May 7, 1900. The couple is listed on the 1900 US Federal Census in Wilmington, Ward 1, New Hanover County. Nelson (49) birth date listed as May 1854. Mary (34) birthdate listed as April 1866. Her mother Clark Jones (54) and brother, Frank Jones (23) live with them.

1880 US Federal Census lists Nelson (23) with wife Lucy (21) and son David (2) living in Grant, Pender County, NC. Household includes Celia Hines (48) and daughter Annie Smith (30). Celia is Nelson’s 2nd wife. NC Marriage Records listed Nelson Hines (52) as marrying Celia J. Elliott (47) on January 13, 1910.


1930 US Federal Census lists Nelson Hines (50) widower, working at a Lumber Mill in the household of Martha Barnes (39) and her son, James Barnes (11).

Death Certificate of Nelson Hines, age 65, records his birth date about 1866, Scotts Hill, NC, and his death date as May 27, 1931, Wilmington, New Hanover County, NC. His parents are listed as Reuben Hines and Mary Douglas. His spouse is listed as Mary Hines. He is buried at Pine Forest Cemetery, Wilmington, New Hanover County, NC.

His son, David R. Hines (28), marries June 24, 1908 to Elizabeth McNeil (23). His parents are listed as Nelson and Lucy Hines. Her parents are listed as HC McNeil and Lucy A McNeil.

(2) Elias Hines, age 25, is listed in the 1880 US Federal Census with wife, Mariah Hines, and children Florence (5), David (2) and Tom (5 mos). Mary J. Hines (10) is listed as niece rather than his sister. Multiple marriages listed with various names of parents that intersect with other previously named family members.

Elias Hines (b. 1855) recorded as married on December 27, 1877. Mariah Taylor also listed as Maria. License applied for on December 24, 1877 New Hanover County, NC. Parents listed as Jaine Hines and Reuben Hines.

Ells Nixon (b. 1858) appears in the NC Marriage Records on November 5, 1896 to Dora Fobs (28), listing mother as Cilla Nixon and father as Ned Nixon. Her parents are listed as Dave and Milla Foy.

Elias Hines (b. 1871) appears in the NC Marriage Records on February 13, 1924 to a Lizzie Galloway, listing mother as Jennie Hines and father as Robert Hines.

Elias Hines (b. 1870) appears in the NC Marriage Records on December 3, 1927 to a Francis Lamb (55), listing mother as Jennie Hines and father as Reubin Hines. Her parents listed as Jno and Lizzie Durand. (Julius Hines appears on 1860 US Federal Census in a household with Jno Hines, Sandy Run, New Hanover County, NC).

Ells/Ells Nixon (b. 1862) buried at Pine Forest Cemetery. Death date April 13, 1927. Father listed as Miles Nixon; Mother listed as Siller Rhodes.
(3) Jester Hines could not be found after the entry in 1870 US Federal Census.

(4) Edward Hines, age 35, listed in the 1900 US Federal Census in the household of Isaac Hines (68) and Mary Hines (50).

Edward Nixon (45) appears on the 1910 US Federal Census as Mulatto, married to Leander Nixon. Children in household listed as John (18), Kate (13) and Martha (11).

Edward Nixon (b. 1866 Scotts Hill, Pender County, NC) buried at Pine Forest Cemetery. Death date August 21, 1937.

(5) Mattie Hines could not be found after the entry in 1870 US Federal Census.

(6) Liller/Siller Hines could not be found after the entry in 1870 Federal Census. However, a Siller Rhodes appears as the mother of Ells Nixon, possibly wife of Miles Nixon who married a Rosilla Shepard on January 3, 1868, listing mother as Hannah Nixon and father as Miles Nixon.

1880 US Federal Census lists James Harper living as single at the age of 16 and employed as a servant.

1891 NC Marriage Records lists his parents as John Harper and Julia Futch.

1900 US Federal Census lists James Harper (34) and Mary J. Harper (27) as Black. Children listed are Emma M. (8), James Jr. (6), Walter (4), Mary IA (1) and David (3 mos).

1910 US Federal Census lists James Harper (50) of Scotts Hill Road as a Mulatto, Farm Laborer, Homeowner, and able to read and write. He and Mary Jane (34) have children listed as Emma (19), James Jr./Jim (15), Walter (14), Josie (12) and David (9). Possible their grandchildren are listed Walter (7), Mary L (4), Michael (6) and Fred (0).

1920 US Federal Census listed James Harper (57) and Mary J. Harper (45) as Mulatto. Household includes Mary Harper (21), Mitchell Harper (14), Fred D Harper (12), Elora aka Lenora (9) and Allie (5).

1930 US Federal Census lists James Harper (50) and Mary J. Harper (47) in the household of Mary L Harper (20), Fred Harper (18), Lenora Harper (16), Allie Harper (14), and Willie Mae Harper (0).

1940 US Federal Census lists Mary Harper (68) with Thomas Harper (75) in the household with Willie Mae Harper (7) and Christabel Pridgeon (6).

Death Certificate of James Harper of Wilmington, New Hanover County, lists his wife as Mary J Harper. Birth April 15, 1881 (1864) and Death April 15, 1944. His gravesite is located at Pollocks Cemetery, Ogden, New Hanover County, NC. Birth date is recorded as April 15, 1865, the same day and month as his death date of April 15, 1944.

NC Marriage Records indicate that Emma Harper (20) marries Dave Foy (23) on February 24, 1912, in New Hanover County, NC. Her parents are listed as James and Mary Jane Harper. His parents are listed as Lun Foy and Ida Reddick.

Twins, Emma and Hattie Foy, were born on December 13, 1913. Emma does not survive.

1930 US Federal Census lists David Foy (41) and Emma Foy (39) living in Harnett, New Hanover County, NC, on Scotts Hill Road. She is listed as being able to read and write. Children in household include Hattie (16), Nora (13), Lemuel (11), Mary E (9), Bernice (8) and David (3).

*Freddie Foy is born to Hattie Foy on July 31, 1931. He will list Hattie as his mother and his brother David Foy as his father on his Marriage License.
1940 US Federal Census lists Dave Foy (55) and Emma Foy (46) living in Winter Park-East Wilmington, New Hanover County, NC. Household includes Lemuel (23), Mary Emma (20), Dave (13) and Freddie (8).

David Foy Sr. is buried at Pollocks Cemetery, Ogden, New Hanover County. Birth date listed as January 24, 1897. (Gravestone reads May 10, 1887). Death date is listed as September 11, 1952. Emma Foy nee Harper is buried at Pollocks Cemetery, Ogden, New Hanover County, NC. Birth date listed as October 10, 1890. Death date listed as July 19, 1960.

NC Marriage Records indicate that Walter Harper (20) marries Jennie Hansley (19) on June 17, 1916 in New Hanover County, NC. His parents are listed as James and Mary Jane Harper. Her parents are listed as Bradley Hansley and Bessie J. Grady.

1920 US Federal Census has the couple living with Bessie Grady (45) and Boston Grady (50) in Harnett, New Hanover County, NC. Walter (1) is listed in the household along with his parents, Walter Sr. (25) and Jennie Harper (22). Also listed in the household are Violet Reddick (15), Mary Reddick (7) and Elina Reddick (3). The household is next door to Walter’s sister, Emma Harper Foy and husband, Dave Foy.

1940 US Federal Census lists Walter (43) and Jennie (43) living in Winter Park-East Wilmington, New Hanover County, NC, Scotts Hill Road Route 1. Listed in the household are Thomas (14), Adrian (13) and James S. Harper (12).
Walter Harper Jr. (20) marries Lessie Green (19) December 25, 1937. Her parents are listed as Charles and Ella Green. His parents listed as Walter and Jennie Harper.

Walter Lee Harper Jr is born February 27, 1939, but he is not listed on the 1940 US Federal Census in the household of his grandmother, Ella Green Sidbury.


*Limited search results for sons, Thomas and Adrian. Thomas possibly relocated to NYC after serving in the Navy. Another male relative had also served in Korea – if this is in fact a clue. James S. Harper yields limited search as well. However, a marriage record turns up in Cumberland County, NC (Fayetteville) of a James S. Harper (white) marrying Edna Marie Wilson. Noted because of the Mulatto status of the family in previous generations which raises questions about “passing.”

Walter Harper Sr. (53) dies on September 27, 1952, Scotts Hill, New Hanover County, NC. His birthdate is listed as April 20, 1899. His parents are listed as James Harper and Mary Jane Hines.

Created January 23, 2019
Last updated January 24, 2019
Caroline C. Lewis