Laurie Henry

**Thesaurus of Melungeon Descriptors**

The Melungeons are a group of dark-skinned, light-eyed people of Southern Appalachia directly descended either from (1) the Carthaginians and Phoenicians, (2) the Lost Tribes of Israel, (3) English settlers of Roanoke Island, (4) ancient Romans, (5) Spanish and Portuguese explorers, (6) Turkish slaves, or (7) Welsh visitors to the continent in 1000 AD. On the other hand, they could be descended from racial mixtures of Caucasians, African-Americans, and Native Americans who chose to claim Portuguese descent in order to escape racial prejudice.

Melungeons were the either victims of the unfair treatment accorded other "Free People of Color" during the nineteenth century; or else they weren't, frequently exercising their rights to own property, vote, attend school, and sue non-Melungeons. The term "Melungeon" was apparently first coined in the second half of the eighteenth century, but Melungeons themselves until the late 1960s never identified themselves as "Melungeon." The term either comes from the French word "mélange" or a series of Turkish words that, spoken quickly, sound like "Melungo." The Melungeons, if they ever existed as a unified group, are now part of a great diaspora, mostly having moved from the remote ridges of Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina to major cities of the Midwest.

My thesaurus comprises words and phrases that consistently appear in the writings of Melungeons and Appalachian-studies scholars. I am particularly interested in the stereotypical and archetypical views in fiction written about the Melungeons, and with speculative writings on the group's origins. Much has been written about the Melungeons since 1891, but I have chosen to include in my thesaurus references only those writings that are readily
available to scholars and general readers (unless the scholarly writings are of such importance that it would be worth a trip to Knoxville to read through the archives). I have omitted most newspaper articles written through the 1970s, virtually all of which are based on a review of (or even outright plagiarism of) secondary sources rather than on primary research.

I have used the standard vocabulary to organize and explicate the terms in my thesaurus (e.g. SN, USE, UF, BT, RT, and NT).

### Alphabetical Thesaurus

**Algonquin Indians**

BT Tri-racial Isolates

**Alther, Lisa**

BT Fiction About

NT *Kinflicks*

*Anything Goes*

SN Published 2002

BT Bell, Madison Smartt

**Ball, Bonnie**

BT Descriptions and Observations

NT *The Melungeons: Notes on the Origin of a Race*

Bell, Madison Smartt

BT Fiction About

NT *Anything Goes*
Bible, Jean Patterson
BT Descriptions and Observation
NT Melungeons: Yesterday and Today

Bibliographies
BT Melungeons
NT Langdon, Barbara Tracy
   Sovine, Melanie

Black Dutch
USE Melungeons

Bone, Patrick
BT Fiction About
NT A Melungeon Winter

Brass Ankles
BT Tri-Racial Isolates
RT Lumbees
   Redbones
   Turks

Cherokee Indians
BT Tri-racial Isolates

Collins
SN A surname frequently associated with Melungeons
BT Customs and characteristics
Collins, Vardy
BT Historical Figures
RT School Segregation

Customs and Characteristics
BT Melungeons
NT Collins
   Elizabethan English
   Goins
   Grave houses
   Mullins
RT Economy

Damnfool, Will Allen
BT Dromgoole, Will Allen

*Daughter of the Legend*
SN Published 1965
BT Stuart, Jesse

DeMarce, Virginia
BT Tri-Racial Isolates
NT "Review Essay: The Melungeons"
RT Kennedy, N. Brent

Descriptions and Observations
BT Melungeons
NT Ball, Bonnie
   Bible, Jean Patterson
   Dromgoole, Will Allen
Devil's Dream
SN Published 1992
BT Smith, Lee

Disenfranchisement
BT Prejudice Against
NT Price, Henry R.

DNA Testing
BT Theories of Origin
RT Fourth Union

Drake, Sir Francis
SN Supposedly dropped off forced laborers, South American Muslims captured by Spanish in the Mediterranean on Roanoke Island around 1586 with the goal of making trouble for the English.
BT Spain and Portugal
RT Roanoke Island

Dromgoole, Will Allen
BT Description and Observations
NT The Malungeons
   Damnfool, Will Allen
RT Prejudice Against

Economy
BT Melungeons
NT Ginseng
Moonshine

Elizabethan English
BT Customs and Characteristics
RT Roanoke Island

Fiction About
BT Melungeons
NT Alther, Lisa
   Bell, Madison Smartt
   Bone, Patrick
   Fox, John
   Haun, Mildred
   Hunter, Kermit
   McCrumb, Sharyn
   Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
   Offutt, Chris
   Smith, Lee
   Stuart, Jesse

First Union
BT Wise, West Virginia

The Forgotten Portuguese: Melungeons and Other Groups
SN Published 1998
BT Mira, Manuel

Fourth Union
BT Wise, West Virginia
RT DNA Testing
Fox, John
BT Fiction About
NT *Hell-fer-Sartin and Other Stories*

Gallegos, Eloy
BT Spain and Portugal
NT The Spanish Pioneers in United States History. The Melungeons: The Pioneers of the Interior Southeastern United States

Ginseng
BT Economy
RT *Sang Spell*

Goins
SN The surname most commonly associated with Melungeons
UF Gowens
BT Customs and Characteristics

Gowens
USE Goins

Grave Houses
SN Small houses built over Melungeon graves
BT Customs and Characteristics

Hebrew Coins
SN Found in Kentucky, the sole evidence that the Melungeons comprise one of the lost tribes of Israel

Hamer, Philip L.
BT Rome
NT Roman Survival: About the Tennessee Melungeons

The Hawk's Done Gone
SN Published 1940
BT Haun, Mildred
NT "Melungeon Colored"

Haun, Mildred
BT Fiction About
NT The Hawk's Done Gone

Hell-fer-Sartin and Other Stories
SN Published 1969
BT Fox, John
NT "Through the Gap"

Historical Figures
BT Melungeons
NT Collins, Vardy
Mullins, Mahala

Hunter, Kermit
Melungeons

BT Fiction about
NT Walk Toward the Sunset
RT Pride in Identity

Israel
SN Conjecture that Melungeons are
one of the Lost Tribes of Israel
BT Theories of Origin
NT Hebrew coins

Johnson, Mattie Ruth
BT Newman's Ridge
NT My Melungeon Heritage: A Story
of Life on Newman’s Ridge

Kennedy, N. Brent
BT Turkey
NT The Melungeons: The
Resurrection of a Proud People

DeMarce, Virginia
Gallegos, Eloy

Kentucky Straight
SN Published 1992
BT Offutt, Chris
NT "Melungeon"

Kinflicks
SN Published 1976
BT Alther, Lisa
Langdon, Barbara Tracy
BT Bibliographies
NT The Melungeons: An Annotated Bibliography

Lovely in Her Bones
SN Published 1985
BT McCrumb, Sharyn
RT She Walks These Hills

Lumbees
BT Tri-Racial Isolates
RT Brass Ankles
   Redbones
   Turks

Madoc
SN Supposedly explored the southern Appalachians in the 1000s AD.
BT Wales

Malungeons
USE Melungeons

The Malungeons
SN Published 1891
BT Dromgoole, Will Allen
RT Prejudice Against

"Many Accept Theory Melungeons Descendants of the Phoenicians"
MELUNGEONS

SN Published 1970
BT Peters, Mouzon

McCrum, Sharyn
BT Fiction About
NT Lovely in Her Bones
  She Walks These Hills

"Melungeon"
SN Published 1992
BT Kentucky Straight

"Melungeon Colored"
SN Published 1940
BT The Hawk's Done Gone

A Melungeon Winter
SN Published 2001
BT Bone, Patrick

Melungeons
UF Black Dutch
  Malungeons
  Portygees

NT Bibliographies
  Customs and Characteristics
  Descriptions and Observations
  Economy
  Fiction About
  Historical Figures
  Newman's Ridge, Tennessee
Prejudice Against
Pride in Identity
Theories of Origin

*The Melungeons: An Annotated Bibliography*
SN Published 1998
BT Langdon, Barbara Tracy

*The Melungeons: Notes on the Origin of a Race*
SN Published 1992
BT Ball, Bonnie

*The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People*
SN Published 1994
BT Kennedy, N. Brent
RT Pride in Origins

"Melungeons: The Vanishing Colony of Newman's Ridge"
SN Published 1966
BT Price, Henry R.
RT Newman's Ridge

*Melungeons: Yesterday and Today*
SN Published 1975
BT Bible, Jean Patterson

Mestee Groups
MELUNGEONS

USE Tri-Racial Isolates

Mira, Manuel
BT Spain and Portugal
NT The Forgotten Portuguese: The Melungeons and Other Groups

Moonshine
BT Economy
RT Mullins, Mahala Collins

Mullins, Mahala Collins
BT Historical Figures
RT Moonshine
   Newman's Ridge

My Melungeon Heritage: A Story of Life on Newman's Ridge
SN Published 1997
BT Johnson, Mattie Ruth
RT Newman's Ridge

Mullins
BT Customs and Characteristics

The Mysterious Melungeons: a Critique of a Mythical Image
SN Published 1982
BT Sovine, Melanie

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
MELUNGEONS

BT Fiction About
NT Sang Spell
RT Ginseng

Newman's Ridge, TN
BT Melungeons
NT Johnson, Mattie Ruth
RT Mullins, Mahala Collins

Offutt, Chris
BT Fiction About
NT Kentucky Straight

Outdoor Drama
USE Walk Toward the Sunset

Pardo, Joao
UF Pardo, Juan
BT Spain and Portugal

Pardo, Juan
USE Pardo, Joao

Peters, Mouzon
BT Carthaginians and Phoenicians
NT "Many Accept Theory
   Melungeons Descendants of the Phoenicians"

Plecker, Walter A.
BT School Segregation
RT Kennedy, N. Brent

Portyghees
SN Melungeons' early word to
describe themselves
USE Melungeons

Powhatan Indians
BT Tri-Racial Isolates

Prejudice Against
BT Melungeons
NT Disenfranchisement
School Segregation
Threats
RT Dromgoole, Will Allen
Moonshine

Price, Henry R.
BT Disenfranchisement
NT "Melungeons: The Vanishing
Colony of Newman's Ridge"

Pride in Identity
BT Melungeons
NT First Union
Fourth Union
Second Union
Third Union
RT Walk Toward the Sunset
Redbones
BT Tri-Racial Isolates
RT Brass Ankles
   Lumbees
   Turks

"Review Essay: The Melungeons"
SN Published 1997. Response to N. Brent Kennedy's book
BT DeMarce, Virginia
RT Kennedy, N. Brent

Roanoke Island, Virginia
BT Theories of Origin
RT Drake, Sir Francis
   Elizabethan English

Roman Survival: About the Tennessee
Melungeons
SN Published 1960
BT Hamer, Philip L.

Rome
BT Theories of Origin
NT Hamer, Philip L.

Sang Spell
SN Published 2000
BT Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Santa Elena Colony
SN In South Carolina and Georgia, 1556
BT Spain and Portugal
RT Pardo, Joao

School Segregation
BT Prejudice Against
NT Plecker, Walter A.
RT Collins, Vardy

Second Union
BT Wise, West Virginia

*She Walks These Hills*
SN Published 1995
BT McCrumb, Sharyn
*RT Lovely in Her Bones*

Smith, Lee
BT Fiction About
NT *Devil's Dream*

Sovine, Melanie
BT Bibliographies
NT *The Mysterious Melungeons: a Critique of a Mythical Image*

Spain and Portugal
BT Theories of Origin
NT Drake, Sir Francis
   Gallegos, Eloy
Miro, Manuel
Pardo, João
Santa Elena Colony

*The Spanish Pioneers in United States*

*History. The Melungeons: The Pioneers of the Interior Southeastern United States*

SN Published 1997
BT Gallegos, Eloy
RT Kennedy, N. Brent

Stuart, Jesse
BT Fiction About
NT *Daughter of the Legend*

Theories of Origin
BT Melungeons
NT Carthaginians and Phoenicians
   DNA Testing
   Israel
   Roanoke Island, Virginia
   Rome
   Spain and Portugal
   Tri-racial Isolates
   Turkey
   Wales

Third Union
BT Wise, West Virginia

Threats
BT Prejudice Against
NT "If you don't behave, the
Melungeons will get you."

"Through the Gap"
SN Published 1969
BT Hell-fer-Sartin and Other Stories

Tri-Racial Isolates
UF Mestee Groups
BT Theories of Origin
NT Algonquin Indians
   Brass Ankles
   Cherokee Indians
   DeMarce, Virginia
   Lumbees
   Powhatan Indians
   Redbones
   Turks
   Tuscarora Indians
RT Sovine, Melanie

Turkey
SN Refers to the country
BT Theories of Origin
RT Kennedy, N. Brent
   Mira, Manuel

Turks
SN Refers to the American tri-racial
   isolate group, not Turkish natives
MELUNGEONS

BT Tri-racial isolates
RT Brass Ankles
   Lumbees
   Redbones

Tuscarora Indians
BT Tri-racial Isolates

Wales
BT Theories of Origin
NT Madoc

*Walk Toward the Sunset*
SN First Performed 1969
UF Outdoor Drama
BT Hunter, Kermit
RT Pride in identity

Wise, West Virginia
BT Pride in Identity
NT First Union
   Fourth Union
   Second Union
   Third Union

Melungeon Descriptors

Melungeons

Bibliographies
   Langdon, Barbara Tracy
   *The Melungeons: An Annotated Bibliography*
Sovine, Melanie

_The Mysterious Melungeons: A Critique of a Mythical Image_

Customs and Characteristics

Collins

Elizabethan English

Goins

Grave Houses

Mullins

Descriptions and Observations

Ball, Bonnie

_The Melungeons: Notes on the Origin of a Race_

Bible, Jean Patterson

_Melungeons: Yesterday and Today_

Dromgoole, Will Allen

Damnfool, Will Allen

_The Malungeons_

Economy

Ginseng

Moonshine

Fiction About

Alther, Lisa

_Kinflicks_

Bell, Madison Smartt

Anything Goes

Bone, Patrick

_Melungeon Winter, A_

Fox, John

_Hell-fer-Sartin and Other Stories_

"Through the Gap"

Haun, Mildred

_The Hawk's Done Gone_
"Melungeon Colored"
Hunter, Kermit
*Walk Toward the Sunset*

McCrum, Sharyn
*Lovely in Her Bones*
*She Walks These Hills*

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
*Sang Spell*

Offutt, Chris
*Kentucky Straight*
"Melungeon"

Smith, Lee
*Devil's Dream*

Stuart, Jesse
*Daughter of the Legend*

Historical Figures
Collins, Vardy
Mullins, Mahala Collins
Newman's Ridge, TN

Johnson, Mattie Ruth

My Melungeon Heritage: A Story of Life on Newman's Ridge

Prejudice Against
Disenfranchisement
Price, Henry R.
"Melungeons: The Vanishing Colony of Newman's Ridge"

School Segregation
Plecker, Walter A.

Threats
"If you don't behave, the Melungeons will get you."

Pride in Identity
Wise, West Virginia
First Union
Fourth Union
Second Union
Third Union

Theories of Origin

Carthaginians and Phoenicians
Peters, Mouzon
"Many Accept Theory Melungeons Descendants of the Phoenicians"

DNA Testing
Israel
Hebrew coins

Roanoke Island, Virginia
Rome
Hamer, Philip L.
Roman Survival: About the Tennessee Melungeons

Spain and Portugal
Drake, Sir Francis
Gallegos, Eloy

The Spanish Pioneers in United States History. The Melungeons: The Pioneers of the Interior Southeastern United States

Mira, Manuel
The Forgotten Portuguese: Melungeons and Other Groups

Pardo, Joao
Santa Elena Colony

Tri-racial Isolates
Algonquin Indians
Brass Ankles
Cherokee Indians
DeMarce, Virginia
"Review Essay: The Melungeons"

Lumbees
Redbones
Turks
Tuscarora Indians
Turkey
   Kennedy, N. Brent
      *The Melungeons: The Resurrections of a Proud People*
Wales
   Madoc