**Jeanette,**

**Have found a court record that this Anne Gray married a Sam Belts and in 1856/57 they sued George Holleman for proper distribution of the assets left in trust by Josiah Holleman to Anne and Virginia Gray per the will abstract in your last email.  Disagreement involved dividing slaves.  It was settled, but it seems conclusive that this Anne Gray could not have been the Anne who might have run away with an Isaac Holleman.**

**Have to look somewhere else.  This is a great Virginia Memory web site of the VA Chancery Court.**

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All,

Continue to noodle on the Isaac and Anne Gray mystery.  Was Isaac a bondsman in the household of the Hollemans who lived in Mill Swamp in Ivor, Virginia during the 1850s and during the Civil War.

Was Anne Gray, later his wife according to the U.S. Census and family history, from the Grays who also lived in Ivor, not far from the Algernon Sidney Holleman house?

Attached is a google map I snipped today.  "A" is the location of the William Gray, Jr. house, the occupant after the death of his father, William Gray, Sr. in 1825.  Rodwell Gray, a sea captain, bought the house in 1853.  The Gray house was purchased by the Nurney family in 1901, evidently a marriage between the Grays and Nurney.

The Holleman House (see 3rd photo) is located a few miles north of the Gray house on Mill Swamp Road (between the word 'Rd' and the numbers 621).  Notice the Mill Swamp Cemetery which we also visited.  See how close all these properties are.

Last fall in the Mill Swamp Cemetery, I took a photo of a Gray-Nurney grave stone (see picture 2).

There were few Hollimans living in Isle of Wight County in 1860, and those that did probably lived on this Mill Swamp property, perhaps in several homes, all but one now gone.  Other Grays may have lived on the Rodwell Gray property.

The circumstantial evidence continues to build that Isaac very possibly lived along Mill Swamp Road in Ivor when the Civil War started.  Did an Anne Gray live at the Gray Farm or did she take shelter there during the conflict, and possibly met Isaac at that time and place?

I shall continue my research.  Tammy, are you all having a Holliman Reunion next August 2014?  If you are, may I come and try to identify a male who might be a direct male descendant from Isaac?  Also would be happy to make a presentation on our research to date on this fascinating couple.



Glenn

**3 attachments** — [Download all attachments](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=9e29275475&view=att&th=14151b2bc47482e8&disp=zip)   [View all images](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=9e29275475&view=att&th=14151b2bc47482e8&disp=imgs)   Share all images

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| Tammy Hunt  |

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Hi Glenn, yes we are having the Holliman Family Reunion again next year, and you and your family are more than welcomed to come and share in this fascinating love story that's yet unfolding before our very eyes. And feel free to try and connect a male Holliman descendant from the original Holliman line to do DNA testing on. I have the grandson of Isaac and Ann Gray-Holleman and he agreed to do the DNA swab for us so that we can get the ball rolling to find out if we are indeed connected to the Christopher Holliman line. I have a question for you. The woman in the blog named Susan Holleman-Brewer, did she know anything about the history of Isaac and Ann? My cousin Alice talked with her and she did say that her father knew something but he didn't want to talk about it. Can you poke around and see what you can find out for me? Thanks. Also, did Jeanette find out anything new for me about this? I know that she said that she would be looking out for me and if she came across anything that she'd let me know.

**From:** Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>
**To:** Tammy Hunt <hunttl\_sept2571@yahoo.com>; Sandra Royal <Sandrarita@comcast.net>; Chris Holliman <vegetarianbarbarian@gmail.com>; Cyndi Barnett <bcyn3@aol.com>; Jeanette Stewart <stuffnsuch50@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 24, 2013 1:39 PM

**An Isle of Wight, Virginia Story....**

*Below, Glenn Holliman, left and Sandi Royal, right, both descendants of Isle of Wight, Virginia first families, compare notes over lunch in July 2012.*



Sandi Royal's great grandfather is Isaac Henry Holliman, born approximately 1824 and died before 1900 in Isle of Wight, County, Virginia. He was born a slave and his racial make up was mulatto, that is of mixed African and European American heritage. His father and mother are not known, not unusual for a time of extreme racial prejudice and no official listing of births yet being recorded by the State.

 One recent DNA test did not test positive for Isaac being a descendant of Christopher Holyman, Sr. (d 1691). However, the surname does substantiate that Isaac took his name from a Holliman family, undoubtedly his slave owner in the first half of the 19th Century. We do not know who that family is, yet.

 Sandi's great grandmother is one Ann Gray, who according to family tradition, was white.  Their first of numerous children were born in 1871.  The U.S. Census of 1880 records Isaac as being 56 years old and Ann, 37.  She would die sometime in the 1930s and is buried with Isaac in Winsor, Virginia. There is uncertainty as to who her parents are although there are at least two options.  More digging into records is required.

The oral traditions of Isaac Holliman descendants tell the remarkable and horrific story of a couple fleeing from her parents and hiding and living in the woods to escape an irate father.  This couple, evidently much in love, broke not only racist social taboos of the time, but also rigid Virginia law.

Yet, under the most trying circumstances imaginable in late 19th Century America, the marriage succeeded, and numerous descendants of this remarkable couple prosper today in a freer, more tolerate country.

Each year near Zuni, Virginia, the extended family gathers, enjoys several meals of regional foods and share the amazing story of a former slave who ran off with a young woman believed to be a slave owner's daughter.

Sandi and distant cousin, Tammy Hunt, have told me this story and with their permission, I share it with the larger family.  There is more research to be done to grasp further the details of this stirring saga.  Hopefully, we can publish more later.

***In the Story of Family, one finds the Story of America....***

