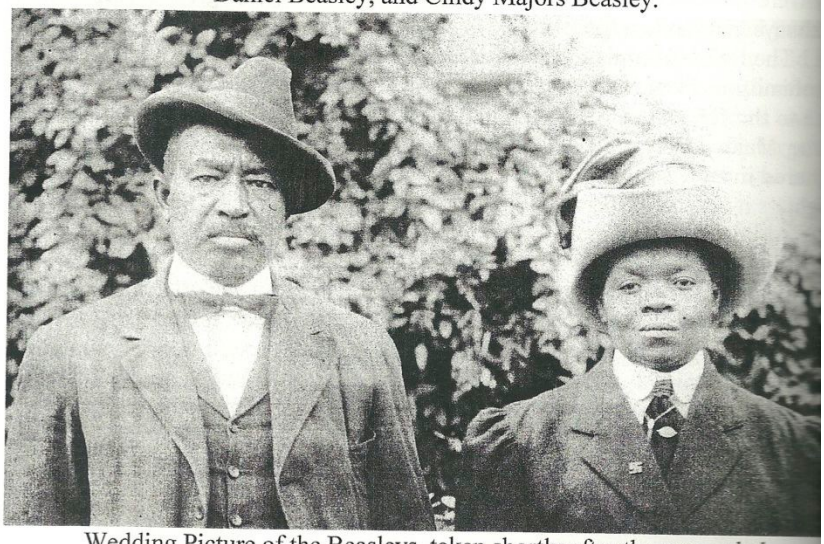
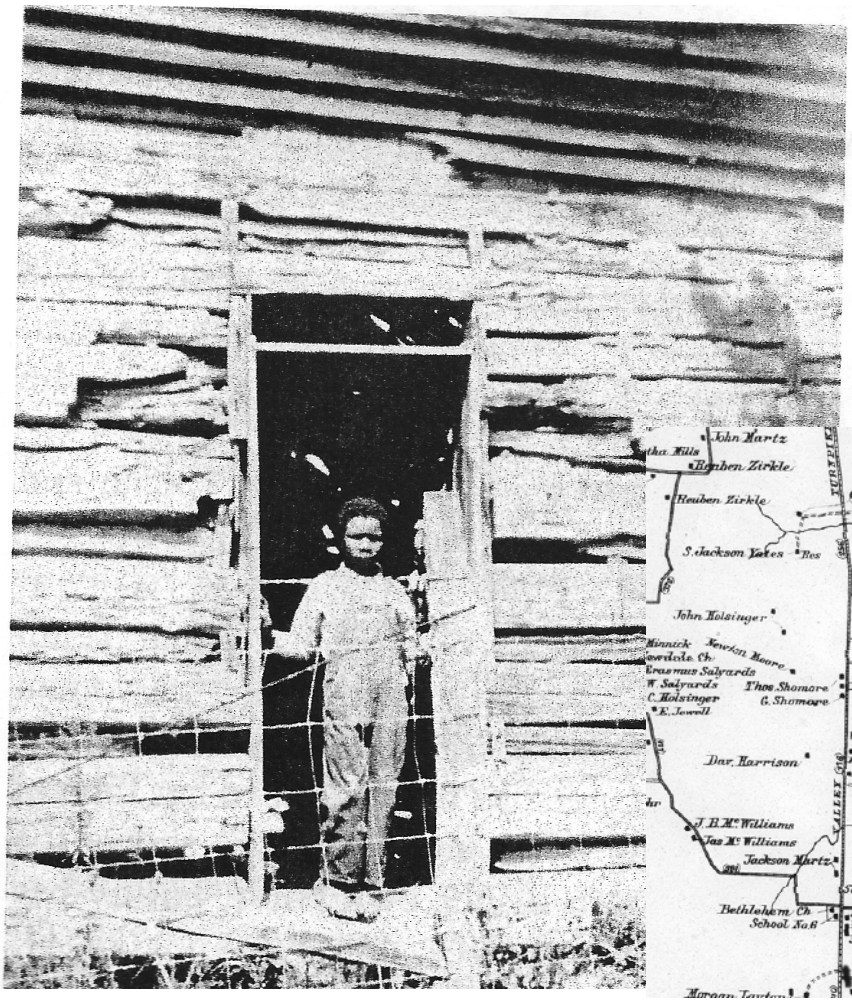
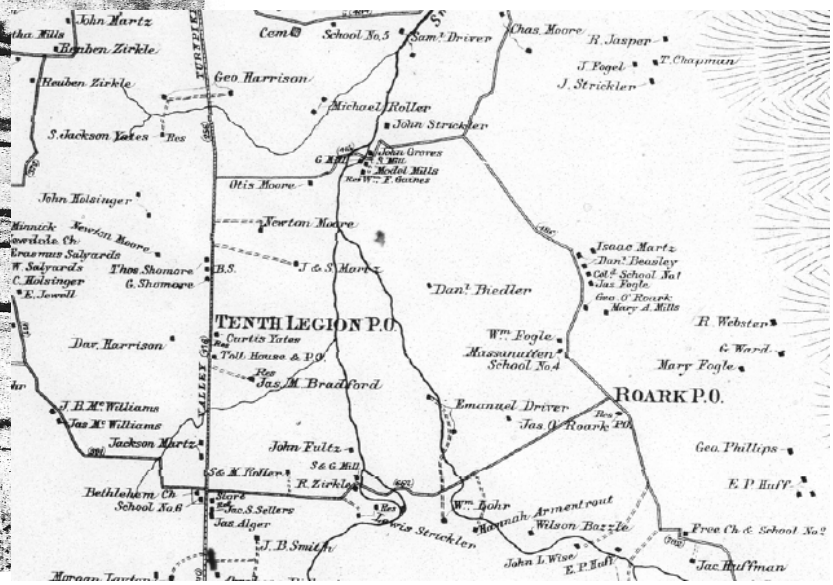
History Bits for The Hit by Robin Lyttle

Daniel and Cindy Beasly; from "Slavery: When Humans Were Sold As Chattel" by William A. Good

Daniel Beasley, and Cindy Majors Beasley.



Wedding Picture of the Beasleys, taken shortly after the war ended.

Shortly after the war, Daniel married Cindy Majors in 1866. She became known as "Aunt Lucinda" Beasley. They had four sons and three daughters. Together with his mother and father Harry and Susan Beasley, all former slaves on the Strickler and Gains/Moore farms, lived in the Otis Moore log home. In 1871, fire consumed the house. With the help of neighbors a new home was built on the site that winter. In 1873 Daniel and Cindy Beasley purchased the home and several acres from the Otis Moore family. It has since fallen in, down the road from Longs Chapel.There was an old one room log building used for a school in Arkton built by the Quakers for a church in 1738. Sometime after 1772 it was moved to the toll gate farm where it was used as a church and also as a school. The Martz family living at the toll gate farm gave the log building to Daniel Beasley, who dismantled it and moved it to Arkton by wagon, where it was set up again. It was known as "Beasley Colored School #1", first known as Georgetown. In 1876, Daniel conveyed the building and land to the Plains District School Board at no cost. The Beasley School was in operation for nearly forty years, before the children were transported to the Simms School at Harrisonburg. The County deeded the lot back to the Beasley's when the school closed. The old school was taken down in 1930s. There is a photo of the old Beasley School, with Clarence Phillips (Daniel's grandson) standing in the doorway taken about 1921 when the school was no longer in use.