



Benton

FRADY



HINES

Cultural Narrative Assignment Response to Question Posed

2. If other than Native American, under what conditions did your family (or their descendants) enter the United States (immigrant, political refugee, slave, etc.)?

My family is a portion of Native American (married into the Bentons).

My father's paternal family came to the United States to escape from religious turmoil and to start a new life. Over the course of time, the Bentons found themselves being a clan that was large in Scotland extending into Wales from which they felt burdened being under a ruling of the crown. Bentons have been Baptists in religion for as long as our history dates being the Benton clan in Scotland and learning of the good Lord (before they were of Nordic descent) keeping their Viking roots. The clan is said to have felt trapped by having to listen to a governing human and wanted freedom to answer only to their Lord and Savior so around the time that England had established colonies they began the journey to what is the American South now.

My mother's paternal family came over during the end of the revolutionary war. There is said to have been quite a few Fradys that fought for the French as they aided the Americans against England. They then stayed in America building a life for themselves. The condition was perhaps the want to help others in a battle for freedom.

My mother's maternal family came over during the end of the revolutionary war as well. There were quite a few Heinz in the Hessian group being paid by the British to fight with them against the Americans. The Heinz that stayed in America would later make their name more "American" in spelling and begin to spell their name as Hines in hopes that they would blend in more. The condition was perhaps adventure and the want of making money or profit from an ongoing battle. Later, the Hines name is known for being a family of helpers in profession and doing good for others.

5. Describe the relationship between the group's identity and your national ancestry (if the group is defined in terms of nationality, please skip this question).

The relationship between the group's identity and my national ancestry is quite complicated. All parts of the group identify strongly with being American since having started roots before the USA became a country or closely to the time of its beginning.

Bentons strongly acknowledge our history of being from Viking descent and to this day one can recognize the body structure with physical appearance of a Viking in our physicality. While we believe that we originated around Denmark moving into Scotland, we know that we were once a huge clan in Scotland that extended into Wales so we pride ourselves on such. Deeper in a closer way, a great great grandmother of mine was full blooded Cherokee and so we have never let those roots go away either.

Fradys come from France but according to my mother her father was not someone that usually shared such with her. Her extended family identified more with roots and she heard about such at family reunions.

Hines come from Germany, but according to my mother her mother was not someone that usually shared such with her. Her mother more focused on closer family history with generations that were closer to her own and my mother. She did have knowledge of her family's descent though and had mentioned it briefly.

6. What significance does race, skin color, and hair play within the group?

I am not really sure how to specifically comment on the significance of race within the group other than I do not know of any members of my family that have married out of the Caucasian/white race other than my mother's aunt who married a very wonderful man who is from Japan. In my father's family the same is true other than my great great grandmother who was Cherokee.

Skin color has the significance in the fact that we are all of white skin color other than our genetic genes that come from the Cherokee but not all of us got the gene to look as such or exhibit any traits. My younger brothers seem to have gotten the Cherokee gene that allows for the absorption of sun creating darker skin color easier when tan and I have seen such with many people on the paternal side of my family. I personally did not get that gene and very much am of the Nordic descent in skin. My mother also has the ability to tan easily which more than likely comes from her French gene pool.

Hair is something we do notice in my immediate family but we love the fact that we have different styles that show our gene pool very clearly. My mother has dark curly hair that stems from her French side and thick hair stemming from her German side. My father has hair that is much like his mother (I chose to not include her genes due to personal not wanting to). I have hair that seems like my mother but due to my complexion I choose to dye it lighter to go with my skin, it looks/feels so much healthier now that I do. I found out that my hair has streaks of red in it and curls a bit different which my father suspects come from our Scottish clan roots. My younger sister has a combination of my mother's dark curly hair and my father's straight hair resulting in dark waves. My brother has my father's coloring to his hair but my mother's curl texture. My youngest brother has hair exactly like my father's father (my grandpa) so his is straight with a distinct brown which I suspect is Cherokee.

I will say that eye color plays a huge role in my immediate family's thinking. We all have blue eyes. We all intend to marry someone with blue eyes to keep that recessive gene active in our future generations.

7. What is/are the dominant religion(s) of the group? What role does religion and spirituality play in the everyday lives of members of the group?

The dominant religion of the group is Christianity. I chose to include a cross in my image because of such. Religion and spirituality have the greatest role played in the everyday lives of members of the group. We love God and we thank Jesus for saving us.

Bentons left Nordic beliefs a long time ago and so that has no factor in our name now. Though I will say that we still strongly uphold Cherokee beliefs intermingled into our current beliefs. We don't believe in killing an animal for no reason, protection of family or for use only. We also strongly believe that cardinals are sacred birds that the Lord might sometimes let an angel visit in the form of.

Fradys have long been Christians and as have the Hines.

8. What role does regionality and geography play in the group?

Regionality and geography mainly play into the group dealing with the Southern part of the United States. We very much identify as being from the South specific to the Carolinas. We value being raised in the South and the morals that we were given growing up.

11. What role (if any) do names play in the group? Are there rules, mores, or rituals governing the assignments of names?

Names play a huge role in the group. There are kind of unsaid rules that "family" names are passed down through the generations. To give example of such I will explain the name origin of my immediate family. My paternal grandpa was named Thomas Edward Benton, he went by Eddie during his life. My father is named Thomas Edward Benton II, he goes by Tommy in life. My brother who is 18, named Thomas Edward Benton III and he goes by Thomas (he plans to name his child the same to be the IV). My mother is named Lori Allison Frady (now Benton added on the end). I am named Allison Ramona Benton; Ramona was my maternal grandmother's name. My sister is named Katherine Joyce Benton, Katherine after my paternal grandfather's mother and Joyce after my paternal grandmother. My youngest brother is named Jesse Alexander Benton, Jesse after my mother's favorite great uncle who owned the house we have lived in our whole lives and Alexander after my paternal grandfather's father.