

Melungeon Voices Podcast Season Five Transcript, Episode Five: Nae Cole Whitman

Lis Malone: This is The Melungeon Voices Podcast, presented by The Melungeon Heritage Association. My name is Lis Malone, and I am joined by the one and only Heather Andolina. Heather, how goes on this fabulous episode five?

Heather Andolina: Oh, it's going very well, I think.

Lis: You think?

Heather: Yes, well, I know.

Lis: Okay, thank you. Don't argue with the president, she said she knows.

Heather: Yes.

Lis: This week, we have another update from a past season alum. So Heather, who do you have an update on?

Heather: Kiran Singh Sirah from our season four, has been busy doing speaking engagements on social divide, food justice, and of course, storytelling. He's currently planning a human rights conference in Canada for early next year. So be sure to follow him on his social media under the handle at Kiran Singh Sarrar, or by checking out his website, <http://www.kiransingsarrar.net>.

Lis: We certainly wish Kiran the very best and congratulations on the new conference and partnering with our neighbors up north.

Heather: Yes, it sounds very exciting.

Lis: And speaking of storytellers, we have a bit of a storyteller joining us today, don't we?

Heather: We sure do, Lis. Nae Cole Whitman is a writer of essay, travel, fiction, and food, as well "as a poet and bon vivant. She has written her first memoir called Hag, and is working on her second memoir, which will be called Factory Girl.

She describes herself as a Melungeon descendant, newly diagnosed ADD, bodacious, broad, cisgender woman, and strong LGBTQIA advocate. Someone with an obsession for diners, cool old lamps, belly dancing, road trips, and Tom Jones. She adores brunches, which turn into dinners, prefers barefoot picnics to fine dining, and believes biscuits with honey to be a cure-all.

Nae is also a DJ and a performer with a one-woman show also called Factory Girl. For today's episode, I chat with Nae Whitman about her journey and overcoming generational trauma, the

resilience of the Melungeon people, her fierce support of the LGBTQIA community, and her future writing and performing endeavors.

Lis: Thank you so much, Heather, for that. And let's take a listen.

Heather: Welcome, Nae. So glad to have you with us today.

Nae Cole Whitman: Oh, I'm so glad to be here. You guys are, I've been studying Melungeon things probably since COVID, because that's when I first had the time to do it. And you guys are the first people I've had to talk about it like in a group, because I haven't been able to make it to the convention.

So, I'm thrilled. I'm thrilled.

Heather: Oh, yes. Well, actually, let's get right into it. Would you share with our listeners the story of the first time you heard the term Melungeon or learned about the Melungeon people?

Nae: Oh my God. Do you know, that's it? I don't remember.

I don't remember. I just recall all of the stories that my family told. And the lack of knowledge we had. And the old pictures we had. Both sides of my family have connections to Melungeon. And that was a fact that I just learned like a month and a half ago.

Like literally, I didn't know Jordan was also a Melungeon name. Adding that to the list. So, you know, as a child, I'm scanning, you know, these old photographs because Nana would pull them out.

I'm hearing all the old stories about how Pop Pop ran away from home from Western North Carolina at 14 to Washington DC. We don't know why. Now, I think I know why. I think I know why. He's like, let me change my name. Let me change myself, become a new person, you know, aspire to other things for, you know, from this sharecropper's life that I have.

Because I know now that in 13 brothers and sisters, and Union level Virginia, there's a whole cemetery with a bunch of Jordans in them that are all my family. And I'm a very long-winded person. But so, it's been a long journey and dotting I's, crossing T's, you know, it's a bit like points on a map.

And you're like, okay, that's weird. Okay, why didn't my grandmother wear a wig her entire life, even though she had beautiful hair? That's weird. Why did she light candles on Friday night? That's weird. Why did my mother continue to do that?

Why did everybody say my mother looked Greek when we were all blonde? You know, like things that like that just add up and you get curious and I have ADHD and I love rabbit holes. And as I grew and became the family's, I'm a writer, so I became the family's historian, you

know, storyteller. It just was natural. So, I have files now. I have, you know, my uncle did a little bit of research, but he's a Confederate guy.

So, you know, he's all about the, oh, the soldiers and the pride and the America. And I'm like, well, okay, Baba, there's a whole other piece. Are you ready for this? Like, I don't think he's ready. So, yeah, it's been a very, I didn't remember hearing about it because nobody talked about it. We never had; we had stories that didn't add up.

And I guess that's the long and the short of it.

Heather: So, Nae, tell us how you got started on the journey in finding your Melungeon ancestry.

Nae: It's divine timing. My sister and I talk about it a lot. So, so much divine timing.

Right before COVID happened, my father was diagnosed with renal failure and he refused dialysis. So, his last year was very powerful and important and ritualistic. He wanted to go out like a warrior, you know. He was like, no, I'm not going to do this. He passed in 2019 and then COVID happened. I got divorced right when COVID happened and I lost a good friendship right when COVID happened.

So, the three most important men in my life left me. Literally, you know, boom, I moved to Florida. So, I'm 900 miles away from my mountain roots in Western Virginia.

My father's from Front Royal, my mother's from Waynesboro. I'm looking at my life from a distance. During COVID, I got a lot of time.

I'm writing a book. During COVID, I started a book. That's when the pieces came together. I had room for it. I had time for it. I met a Turkish family and many of the rituals that they have. I was like, we do that. They have a pickle tray. They have a relish tray. How they eat, they graze. I was a food writer for 10 years. I was like, what?

I'm so excited. Teach me about Turkish food. Then I was like, this feels so familiar. My Nana did this. That's another point. It's so exciting. It's my favorite thing now. It feels like I'm talking with my ancestors every time I have another point on the map. It's so cool.

Heather: I love that. I'd like to mention, Nae, that we have a podcast episode with Oner Kaya. He is Turkish and he was in season three, I believe. We talk about the Turkish connection to the Melungeon people. I don't know if you've listened to that podcast episode.

Nae: Girl, do you know what? Oh my God. I have severe ADHD, which is another thing I discovered about three months ago.

I did not know and it was only until I made a friend who has it worse than me. And I have all of the episodes banked from the convention and I have that episode banked. And it's like, yeah, I got to listen.

I got to listen. And I need to listen before I speak to Heather. I really need to do that. And guess what did not happen?

Heather: Well, you definitely got to listen to it.

Nae: Yeah. It's happening today. It's happening today.

I'm driving into St. Pete. I have an hour. It's happening today.

Heather: All right. All right. And you have to let me know what you think.

Nae: I absolutely will. I can't wait because that was bizarre. I was like, wow, Turkish folks.

Like that was crazy. That's crazy. And that really got me into YouTube, ancient history, you know, when did Turks land here?

If they did, I think they did, you know, all that stuff. So cool. So cool.

Heather: Oh yeah, Oh yeah. You're going to love it. So, you mentioned you were a writer and have written several essays on travel, fiction and food. And of course, you also mentioned that you wrote a book called Hag. What inspired you to write a book about your life's story? And how has it helped you in overcoming trauma?

Nae: I started my book because my best gay friend Scott was diagnosed with stage 3b colon cancer. And we did not think he would make it. And he has lived quite the Forrest Gump life.

And I was like, I need to write his story. Like I need to tribute him. Gay men have been in my life since I was born. I mean, my God, I've had friends all through school. I worked at Benetton at 18. They took one look at me and said, girl, you're a mess.

Come with us to the club. We'll sneak you in. I know it's underage. Who cares? Come to the drag show. What's a drag show? You'll love it. Come to the drag show. So, I had to write this book because I was a f**k hack.

It's not a word we say anymore. It's a bad word because f**ks were groups of sticks that they used to burn gay people back in the Middle Ages. So, we do not say that word anymore.

It's a derogatory term and it got me thinking about labels and all of the labels that I have in my life. I'm a wife or I was a wife, a teacher, a mother, a sister. I was a mother to my kids at school.

I didn't give birth, but I mothered my dogs, I mothered my cats, and God, I mothered my mother, I mothered my father. So, I've been all these labels, but who am I beyond that? Who am I beyond a hag?

Am I a hag? I don't think so. People label you; you label yourself. You allow people to label you and you believe it, and you walk around believing it. And it really got me thinking. I'm still thinking about it.

I want to use my DJ career and my dance desire that I love to teach folks to get rid of those labels and to maybe create your own. And this book really was the journey, and I'm very grateful, and" "Scott is still with us. We're not really friends anymore.

And I've learned that you have to let people go and you can't carry their feelings for them. I'm working on that with a different friend right now. And I'll end with this, because the biggest label for me to get rid of besides I don't want to live under the ADHD label.

I don't define myself that way. It's a performance disability that I have. I have tools for it. My label is People Pleaser. That freaking label. I have people pleased everybody since I was three, not to get hit, not to get yelled at, to get good grades, get a good boyfriend, to get a better friend at school, anything to find safety.

I people please. And so that's the label to me. What's the center of the square? How many licks does it take to get to the center of the tootsie pop, the center of the spiral? For me, that's what HAG was about. I people pleased my gay friends.

I carried all of their sad feelings. And that's going to make me cry. The reason I wrote this book is because we lost so many to AIDS. And we lost so many to the aftershocks of AIDS. The things that happen in the decades after. Because people get addicted to drugs and that doesn't turn out well.

They lose jobs, they lose partners, they can't keep a job. And so, writing this book, I was like, hey guys, are you a hag? Or did you have a will and grace in your life?

Maybe call them, check in on them, do something, do something. They taught me how to adult. And so, I kind of want to give back to them. I figured I would cry today. I just figured it'd be so early. So that's what hags about. And it's a great book. It was very, that's how I processed pain. That long, very long explanation.

But boy, I processed a lot of pain with that book. Absolutely, I did.

Heather: And do you feel it helped you?

Nae: I'm a different person. I don't carry their feelings for them. I don't have to check in on them as much as I did. I'm like, okay, I think of them, but I don't carry it. I live with analogies.

My Indian, my tribe, my spirit talks to me. And they're like, you know, your water, your air. Stand in the causeway and let the air just move around you. Now let it move through you.

Be the air. You know, don't carry these things. Use the pain and the feelings you feel. I had a moment this morning. I'll be very real with you. I'm trying to get completely sober because I take weed from my neck pain because I was in a very severe car wreck and that's in the book.

That's in the book. I survived. But I've been leaning on this for way too long. My pain is done. I have found a beautiful healer. I'm a dancer now. This is psychological leaning and I don't need it anymore. I had a moment on the causeway today. I was like, you left it at home.

Heather: Wow. Isn't that scary? You don't need it, do you?

Nae: That's very freeing that I'm not carrying that. Because if I can get rid of that one thing, it leaves room for everything. I read that as a meme the other day and I was like, wow, that's so powerful.

Get rid of the one crutch. That's the center of the Tootsie Pop too. I'm a people pleaser and when it hurts so bad, I run to the weed. Oh, my neck hurts. Why does your neck hurt? Because you've been carrying all these feelings.

As Melungeon's, you walk through life. I had to walk through life. I was married to a scientist. Every time I talked about spirit, he would go and make a noise. When I met someone else who has shine, I call it shine because I'm a Stephen King fan too. So, it's my shine.

This has become my life's purpose, actually. I picked up DJing and I thought DJing would be the only thing. Let's get people on the dance floor because I truly believe that movement helps to work out pain and trauma. If you can even move your body at the end of the day by taking a walk, it helps. If you do it in the morning, it helps. Music, hearing music helps because you get in flow and you're not in thought.

They have done studies where humming actually helps you to calm down because you're not thinking. And my purpose now, it's healed me. So, I want to circle back and take these skills and use my writing, use my podcasting and use my music and break bread, have food.

And I'm mobile and maybe take this experience on the road. Help people find your analog. What's your rabbit hole off the phone?

What's the thing when you get home at the end of the night, when you're not a caregiver, when you're not a nurse, a mother, a teacher, when all the kids are in bed and everybody's taken care of, besides scrolling your phone, that's cheap dopamine too. What else can you do? Don't open the wine bottle.

Don't drink the kratom because down here, they think that's a better option. No, it's not. You get addicted to that too. You need to find a rabbit hole that feeds you back. My writing feeds me back. You know, Stephen King novels feed me back.

I love period piece movies with a lot of pretty flower gardens in them. Those are beautiful, especially if they're in Italy. You know, I'll watch Enchanted April if I'm sad. I'll watch that. Like there's things that you can study on YouTube. It's free.

You know, find that analog off the phone. Find your community off the phone. I take belly dance, and there's community there. I started it during COVID. It ties into the Lebanese branch of my family, into the Turkish branch. I don't know whether we're Lebanese, Turkish, or Cretan, but I just know it's that area.

I know it's that area, but it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. It scratches that itch. It feeds that part of you. It plants that seed, which grows. And every time you water it; it grows into something. So, you don't have to lean on addictions. You don't have to lean on the cheap dopamine. And I'm telling you, learning ADHD, learning I had that, wow, it has helped my sobriety so much.

I didn't know why I couldn't stay sober. It all ties in. It's a quilt. When you know better, you do better, Oprah. Like she always said that. She always said that, you know? She always said that. So, I know better, so now I'm doing better. I have the tools.

And so now I want to show those tools, teach them. And not in a stinky, pointy finger way, because we as women do that. Some but oh my god, women, we got the pointy finger in the advice and you should do this and you should do that, and people just shut down.

There's got to be a way to add play into everything. You know, what's the thing that you enjoyed at three, at five, at seven? I have roller skates over here with pom poms on them. Now, I can't, I don't take them out of my house. But if I'm sad, I'll roller skate through the house for two hours. Exercise, I got a couch to fall on if I stumble.

I feel amazing when I'm done. And I feel like I'm seven again. And it kind of goes back to something that we talked about off mic about being silly.

Nobody wants to be silly because they're so worried about what other people think. Y'all, we graduated high school and the superlatives were handed out. And we all decided that that was bullshit, right? I don't know if y'all allow cursing, but it's bullshit. Like I taught high school for 10 years and nothing's changed. Social media is just a bigger version of it and we've always said it, but we don't follow it.

We don't hear it. And yet we're still there on it. So, my God, learn it, live it and then get some love for yourself. You know, get off the phone and find your analog. I'm preachy, but it helped me. And so, I'm very excited to help others at this point.

Heather: Oh, no, that's great. I love it. That's fantastic.

Nae: Thank you. I did that down as needed.

Heather: Well, Nae, I do want to recommend another podcast episode we did. I believe it's in season three, Dr. Melissa Carver. She specifically focuses on generational trauma.

Nae: Years of therapy really helped me. And I was like, if I could find group therapy or a specialist therapist with this kind of background, as a medium, it has been exciting. Your generational trauma is like the wood grain.

You're a tree and it's in your wood grain. It's something that's built into you. And it might not ever leave you, but it's what you do. What do you use? How do you use it? That's exciting to me.

Heather: So, I'd also like to mention your next book that you're working on, *Factory Girl*, which you said, will focus more on your Melungeon ancestry. What can we expect from this book? And when might it be available if you happen to know?

Nae: Wow. I have just started outlining. I have the stories in my head because they are all based on family stories. I'm probably going to have 11 or 12 stories, maybe only 8 or 9, of the most important ancestors, that the ones that led the way, like Lonnie Webster Jordan, number one, led the way because he was the man. He ran away 14, ran away from home. He was born in 1913.

He lived on the streets of Washington, DC by his wits. And when he was in his early 20s, he had a job selling old gold. He would drive all up and down Skyline Drive. If you got any gold to sell, and he would run it to the city, get some money and come back. And on one of those trips, he met my grandmother. They only knew each other two weeks.

And he said, if I see you sitting on this porch in two weeks, when I come back through, I'm gonna marry you. And she was still sitting there. She was visiting her aunt at her boarding house that she ran in New Market, Virginia. And I think that's a great story. And that kind of resilience and survival, because both of my families worked in factories, and that's where the *Factory Girl* thing comes in. I'm a huge Andy Warhol fan.

The Avtex Factory in Front Royal, Virginia built parachutes for the government for Vietnam. And the DuPont Factory in Waynesboro built Napalm for Vietnam. And my granddaddy was a foreman for DuPont for 46 years, and he wore that ring to church every Sunday, and he had about 150 different ties to wear to church.

He was a proud man, and he traded in his truck every year for a new beige truck, Ford F-150. Those kinds of stories need to be told, because I'm here because of that. I survived because of

that. I'm blessed to live in Florida because of that. You're gonna make me cry again. My dad always, like growing up, we had such tough times in the 70s. He was out of work. Ward's Company went out of business and went over to Circuit City, and they didn't take him and they laid him off. And he was out of work for four years.

Hard times. And we're here because of him, because of his resilience. And I just, I want to tell these stories, because it's really important to me. When things got really bad and we were eating meat out of a can, I mean, I'm not kidding. One Thanksgiving, it was the turkey in the can. I'm not bragging about poverty, like I was poorer than you.

I hate that. But I remember that year, he's like, I want us to live in Florida one day. How are we going to do that? And we never did. But I live here now. Damn it. I live here now. And it's because of that strength and that resilience. And I'll tell you what, girl, Florida is the Wild West. And they make fun of us. And everybody hates us. But it's really hard down here.

This, okay, this is an Appalachian thing too. I made a friend at my nail salon. He's from West Virginia. He's Vietnamese, right? And I said, did you and your friends do this? Because when people move to Florida and they fail and they come back we would make fun of them. A lot of my gay friends moved to Miami. Oh, you only made it two years, girl. That's a shame.

Meanwhile, we're sitting on the couch without the courage to do even to do it, even do it ourselves. Like we didn't even do it ourselves, but we're smoking a cigarette and going, oh girl, you only made two years. So, when I moved down here, I had the voices of all my gay brothers in my head.

You stay there and don't ever come back. Don't ever come back. And I had my dad's voice in my head doing the same thing. So, like I'm super dramatic because all my friends are gay. So, I'm super dramatic. I do drag.

I dress up and drag male and female. I kind of make you guess that every time there's a storm, I'm out in the storm with my middle finger and I'm like, you're not going to get me. This is not going to get me because of my parents, because of my grandparents, because of my great-grandparents, because of what they had to go through was way worse, way worse and I'll end there because you know, I'm preaching to the choir.

Me and my sister talk and we're like, can you even believe it? Can you even believe that we're here because of what they had to do and endure the hatred? That has been some PTSD to really sit down and get quiet with.

Because women especially rush past things. We rush past our health, we rush past trauma, and we rush past things like this that are super important that you should sit with your family and discuss. But it's uncomfortable, nobody wants to talk about it.

But it's fascinating to me, so I'm glad to take that on. I'm like, well, I'll be the orator, I'll be the writer, I'll write it all down and give you the book. But wow, this is so healing. Thank you. Just getting that out felt good.

Heather: Yeah. I feel the same way you do, that generational trauma, that PTSD. And one word to describe the Melungeon people is resilience.

Nae: Oh my God. As a teacher, we always preached resilience, but we never taught it. We just said, be resilient, but we never showed the kids how.

I really want to do this. I actually, it's funny, on the Lions Gate, the numbers of those days and things are very important to me now. On the Lions Gate, I signed up to be a yoga instructor because I've done yoga 15 years.

I'm like, well, it's time. You know how. You can teach kids, you could teach elderly, you could teach classes. I had one instance in a classroom, my eighth graders, we were reading *Star Girl* by Jerry Spinelli. In a little boy, he looks like my friend whose feelings I'm holding. Well, that's funny.

I just realized that he raised his hand and he said, why that connection is so powerful. He said, what's meditation? Can we try it? Because the little girl in the book was a hippie girl and she meditated every day. And I said, oh, come on. Y'all are gonna treat this.

It's right before lunch. I'm like, y'all are gonna treat this like a big fat joke. You're gonna pass notes. No, I really wanna do it. And I'm like, all right. So, I did it.

I did it. We only meditated; I think it was five minutes. And it was about 20 kids. And about three of them put their head on their desk, fell asleep. Some of them were giggling. Girl, we stopped.

And I said, all right, how do you feel? That little boy, he raised his hand and he goes, my elbow was hurting and it doesn't hurt anymore. And I've never forgotten that. That was so crazy to me. So, I'm a teacher, I'm a dancer, I'm a DJ. Like COVID, God bless COVID.

And all of those men, divine timing. It's all divine timing. Do you know what my daddy used to say? He had two really big Appalachian sayings. Now my family had so many sayings. I could write a book. He would say, well, darling, it's all too random to be random. That was his thing every other day. And we'd be all dead shut up.

It's all too random to be random. He's up there working. He's working for us. All my spirit, all my families, they're going, yeah, go, go. I feel them. I feel them on my shoulders. They feel like wings now.

Heather: Nae, in addition to your writing talents, you mentioned you're a DJ and a performer. Would you tell us more about "your One Woman show and your House of Nae brand?"

Nae: Oh, my goodness. Do you know that that has been everything. I saw a rave video and the girl, she was at a festival and she talked about how her rave family was her family, her chosen family.

That was very appealing to me, being a hag with all my gay brothers. I've lived in gay clubs for 10 years. The only night we did not go out was Monday and Tuesday. We were out every night of the week. I've been DJing in my head for 30 years and I DJed my friend Keith's vinyl for 10 years. Every paycheck, he went to the vinyl record store in Washington DC, like Washington DC was my house music thing.

I lived in Scotland, didn't know why. It was because I needed to be there for drum and bass. That has been a huge thing, House of Nae. I call it House of Nae because of my drag queen past. My cousin Heidi is a founding member of the House of Mizrahi. They sat her on a throne last year in Maryland at DC House.

There's drag houses in DC too I've walked at the Jungle Room in a drag show. It was a hair show for hairstyling. It's all encompassing. It's mobile. I have speakers and a DJ setup. I vend vintage wares. I make clothes. I vend art.

Everybody comes in my house. My house looks like an art store. It's all art that I've curated over my life, over 50 years, because I've moved all through college my whole life, but I carry this art everywhere. So, I want to bring fun to you. I'm like Delight. I'm like Pee Wee Herman.

I did Factory Girl. I did the show, Five Performances for Fringe Festival, and 20 people watched me spin for 40 minutes. I was like, okay, this is a problem. Do we need hype people? Like they have at Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs? I taught at a Hebrew school for a year.

I know that. Like, do we need to lead you by the hand? Get you on the floor, move your body. So, it's got me thinking about all of this. So, House of Nae, it's an umbrella with many prongs in the umbrella, but it's all about creativity and divine timing and Joseph Campbell's concept of finding your bliss. Because if you can find the center of that Tootsie Pop, that thing that gets you out of bed, you won't need crutches.

You won't need those things that you think you need.

Heather: Right. That's awesome. I love it.

Nae: Thank you.

Heather: So Nae, where can our listeners purchase your book, Hag? And also, where can they follow you on social media?

Nae: Hag is available on Amazon, Kindle and paperback. I'm very proud of it. Completely set up and outlined and edited myself.

I did it all myself. I designed the cover. I designed the back cover. I did everything myself. I am the Sheryl Crow of House of Nae. I do everything. I want to learn how. I want to know how because it's cheaper. And because if it breaks, I can fix it.

I think I would edit it down more. But so, the book is there. I have 80 DJ mixes on SoundCloud. I designed the covers for these mixes. I designed the mixes. I curate the music.

I told you; I've been curating music in my head since I was 19. God, since I was 16, since I was 14. I love layering lyrics. I'm a groovy house music girl. I like Chicago gospel. I like a churchy diva going, come on, get up, hallelujah.

I like that kind of stuff, that kind of energy. I guarantee if you need to clean your house on a Sunday and you put on my latest mix, Attuned, it's called Attuned. It's got Mark Spitz on the cover because we just had the Olympics.

You turn that stuff on, you're going to be dancing through your house. I guarantee it. It's an hour of butt-shaking music or your money back, and it's free on SoundCloud, House of Nae.

Also, Instagram, it's House of N-N-A-E-E, because the actual House of Nae is a salon in Curacao. So, I think I need to fly to Curacao and do a show at the House of Nae and say, hey girl, you took my name. So, it's N-N-A-E-E.

Call me up. I will come and I will spin for you, and I'll promise you'll have a great time. You will.

Thank you, Heather, so much.

Heather: Yes. Well, I have heard some of your mixes because we were going to have you DJ the last one.

Nae: Oh, I know. Do you know, my house sold right when you asked me, and I'm like, oh, I was so upset. Next year, I'm there.

Heather: Yes.

Nae: I'm there.

Heather: Yes.

Nae: I'm there every year from now on. If you will have me back.

Heather: Yes, we definitely will.

Nae: Oh, the way to talk about divine timing, ADHD. I want it all done when I want it done. And the one thing I've learned is things take time. You know, water drips and rock erode away. And sometimes you got to take time. So, I'll see you guys' next year.

Heather: Absolutely. All right. Nae, I just want to thank you so much for joining us on our podcast. And I look forward to reading not only Factory Girl in the near future, but having you DJ at the next conference.

Nae: Awesome. Absolutely. Absolutely. Oh my God. I was very excited for it.

Lis: You've been listening to the Melungeon Voices podcast. On behalf of myself, Heather Andolina, and the entire MHA Executive Committee, we'd like to thank all of those who participated in making this episode possible. For more information, you can visit them on the web at melungeon.org.

That's M-E-L-U-N-G-E-O-N dot O-R-G. The information, views, and opinions expressed in this podcast episode do not necessarily represent those of the MHA. Melungeon Voices is presented by The Melungeon Heritage Association.

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