



John and Thomas Melham lived in Fort Salonga in one of Kings Park's historic houses. Mr. Melham was internationally known for his work with the Mummers organization. John Melham eventually moved to England to become an authority on what to do with abandoned coal mines. Thomas then went in another direction.

Thomas took his interest in the outdoors to the limit by attaching himself to National Geographic Magazine over a period of thirty years. Tom rose from writer to Senior Editor of NGS book division. During those thirty years he wrote or cooperated in some dozen books. He has written extensively about Alaska terrain and Alaskan wildlife. His first major book for National Geographic was John Muir's Wild American, which came about after he physically traced Muir's route through the western United States. From Florida to Alaska, with a great deal in between, Tom has lived the life of a modern Huck Finn, absorbing the freedom of the less populated areas of North America. For a man who received a B.S. in Biochemistry from Cornell University, he has certainly gone for the big picture, rather than the microscopic picture. Most of us hope to have our name attached to one lasting idea or item, while Tom Melham's name is associated with dozens.