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From: "John P Rankin" <jprankin@knology.net>
To: "Robin Brewer" <BrewerR@Hiwaay.net>

Date: 10/16/2007 4:17:21 PM

Subject: 1840 Webb & Russell Families of Limestone County

Robin --

Have you discovered the close neighborhood in Limestone County in the 1840s that included the Russells and the Webbs living adjacent to one another? John Webb at age 60 - 70 is almost certainly the father of the "Robinson" (Robertson) Webb living next door, who is shown as age 40 - 50 with a wife (before Sarah Russell) in the 30 - 40 age bracket. This earlier wife would be the mother of the John R. Webb age 22 living in their household in the 1850 census when Sarah is the wife at age 24.

Of course, I have been assuming that John Webb is in the older part of his age bracket in the 1840 census, while Robinson / Robertson is in the younger part of his. Otherwise, they could be brothers, but I bet they are father and son. It is also interesting that the families of James and Alex Russell are so close by. Alex may well be the father of James, since he is in the 30 - 40 age bracket, while James is in the 20 - 30 bracket. Since James has a wife shown as age 15 - 20, I assume that he may be closer to 20 himself, rather than close to 30 -- but it could go either way. James and Alex could be brothers. Waddy Tate is the senior of the name in the area, meaning that he is most probably the one who was one of the founders of Triana, and Waddy Jr. would be one of the children, probably one of the oldest sons.

The 1850 census shows Robertson & Sarah living next door to Waddy Tate Jr. (age 33), as well as close to Hezekiah Bradley Cartwright and James (+ son Richard Matthew) Fletcher and Nicholas Floyd. I know that these neighbors were living in the area between Shoal Ford and Nubbin Ridge, barely into Limestone County from Madison County.

Sarah A. Russell should have been shown as age 10 - 15 in 1840, so she really doesn't fit the only young female shown as age 0 - 5 in James Russell's family -- unless the census-taker was a very careless and sloppy, which would not be at all unusual. With no other young females in the listing of 1840 for these families, it indicates that she is in another Russell family, probably nearby, but I have not examined the adjacent pages of that census to see if she might show up as simply a mark in the age brackets. However, since Sarah got married to Robertson Webb in 1841, it is not very likely that the 1840 census-taker would mistake a young lady of marriageable age for an infant. Still, if Sarah was indeed born in 1830 (as indicated by the 1860 and 1870 census records), then she was only 11 years old when she married Robertson Webb and started having children by him. However, the 1850 census indicates that she was born about 1826, so you can never tell -- she may have been an old lady of 15 when she got married the first time....

John

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