

Marker of Joseph Beasley. Photograph and comments by John P. Rankin.



Fennil Cemetery, Redstone Arsenal, Madison Co., AL, June, 2002.

In his personal input to the book "SLAVE GENEALOGY" by Thomas Henry Kenny, James Beasley stated on Nov. 13, 1869 that he was 26 years old. He further stated that he had served in the recent war in Company C, 12th regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry. In 1869 he was a farmer on Matt Strong's plantation.

James Beasley further stated that his father was Bill Beasley, his mother was Maria Beasley, and his wife was Emmaline Beasley. He mentioned no children, but he said that he had a brother Elick Beasley (there was a "Nick" Beasley who served also in the USCI) and four sisters.

The sisters were named Mary Ann, Emma, Lucinda, and Becky.

The 1880 AL census has James Beasley (white), age 63, born in Virginia, as head of a household in Enumeration District 200, page 53A. His wife was Harriet (55 AL), and they had 3 daughters and 2 sons in the household. The household also included Mulattos Lizzie Mastin (married, 60, AL), Francis Mastin (single, 12, AL), and WILLIAM BEASLEY (married, 60, VA).

The 1880 AL census of Lauderdale County has the only Maria Beasley listed as head of household. [She was not found in a scan of the Madison County census records of 1880.] The Maria in Lauderdale Co. AL was shown as age 57, b. VA. She was listed with 3 sons: Edward (18, b. VA), Moses (16, b. AL), and William (14, AL).

While Maria of Lauderdale Co. was the right age and name to be the mother of Corporal Joseph Beasley, she was listed as a WIDOW, whereas it appears that Joseph's father William ("Bill") was still living in Madison Co. in the household of James Beasley, the plantation owner. Furthermore, Maria's sons gave conflicting information about their parents. Edward's parents were listed as father born in VA and mother born in VA, agreeing with data for Maria. However, Moses' father was listed as born in VA and mother in AL, and William's father was listed as born in AL and mother in AL. All of these children were born late enough to not yet be born when Joseph listed his brothers in 1869 in the book "SLAVE GENEALOGY".

Probate Records of Madison County, Alabama, show that Joseph Beasley died February 15, 1918. His brother Thomas became Administrator of the small estate.