

August 20, 1994

Dear Keith,

Since the information we discussed regarding William Rabb Sr. and Young Madison Rabb is so difficult to read, I thought that it would be better to transcribe a copy for your use. I will also include some other info that was included in Dad's records that is difficult to read. I am not certain of the source of this info, Dad acquired it while I was overseas in the Air Force.

WILLIAM RABB, SR.

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Among those who have contributed to dignify the early annals of Conecuh county by an unobtrusive yet virtuous life, may be classed the subject of the present memoir. William Rabb, Sr. was born in Fairfield District, South Carolina, on January 10th, 1775. His father was born in Ireland. Mr. Rabb's mental training was defective, because of the meagreness of educational advantages during his early life. During his youthful days he realized the fearful responsibilities of the present life and connected with the life to come, and without delay gave his heart to God. At this time he joined a Presbyterian church, but in 1835, his church relations were changed by his union with the Old Beulah Church. In 1804 he was married in Edgefield District, South Carolina to Miss Sarah McDonald, of Scotch parentage. With his family, he removed, in 1819 to Conecuh, and settled what was subsequently known as Rabbville, or Rabb's Store, five miles east of Evergreen. This was one of the first voting points established in the county. Here Mr. Rabb proceeded to merchandising and farming. His goods were hauled across the country, from Pensacola, by his own teams. Like most of the pioneer fathers, who had been attracted from their homes in the distant States, Mr. Rabb was active and energetic, and shared largely in the fruits yielded by the virgin soil of Conecuh. He was noted for his liberality, and gave largely to the relief of suffering humanity. His days upon earth closed on September 20th, 1859. His family physician remarked that it was the first natural death he had ever witnessed. There was no disease, no expression of pain, but a placid sleep, ebbing out in death. He sank

"As sinks the morning star, which goes not down between the darkened west, nor hides obscured amid the tempest of the sky, but melts away in the light of heaven."

NOTE:

In the document you have entitled RABB FAMILY CEMETERY, recorded on March 13 1974 at the community of Rabb Alabama, the following head stones exist:

WILLIAM RABB. who was born JANUARY 10, 1775
and died SEPTEMBER 21, 1859, aged 84 years, 3 months,
and 11 days

SARAH RABB (MCDONALD) Departed this life 14th May 1830
aged 46 years

Hannah Rabb (Barnett ?) is also buried here and her stone indicates she died on November 8, 1843 at the aged of 105 years.

The other reference to William Rabb, Sr. is on the page with the annotation of Greenville Lodge No. 335, A.F. & A.M. at the top of the page. It reads:

RABB, WILLIAM sr. pioneer settler was born January 10, 1775, in Fairfield District South Carolina and died September 20, 1859 at Rabbville, Conecuh County. His father was a native of Ireland. His educational advantages were meagre owing to the conditions of those days. He moved to Alabama in 1819 settling what was subsequently known as Rabbville, or Rabb's Store, five miles east of Evergreen, in Conecuh County, and becoming a merchant and planter. Married in 1804 to Sarah McDonald of Edgefield District, S. C. and of Scotch parentage. He left descendants. Last residence Rabbville.

The second subject of the biographical sketches is:

YOUNG M. RABB

The subject of this sketch was born in Old Town Beat, five miles east of Evergreen, on April 4th, 1826. His educational training was commensurate with the advantages enjoyed at that period. He was among the matriculates at the Evergreen Academy in 1840. Here he was fitted for a collegiate course, but was prevented taking such a course by the untimely death of a brother. By this event the management of his father's estate fell completely upon himself. But having naturally a sprightly mind, he continued to address himself to literary pursuits, as he had the opportunity. In September, 1847, he connected himself with the Baptist Church at Evergreen, and shortly after became one of its deacons, which position he held to the present. He married, in 1848, to Miss Polly H. Stallworth, and at once turned his attention to planting. He was regarded a successful planter during the palmiest period of that pursuit in Conecuh. In 1856, we find him a citizen of Evergreen whither he had removed for the education of his children. Here he formed a partnership with S. A. Barnett (now a citizen of Mobil), in a mercantile interest, which was conducted with success until the beginning of the late war. For many years Mr. Rabb was a member of the Commission's Court of the County, where he was exceedingly scrupulous in regard to the expenditure of the people's money. After the close of the war, he relinquished his farming interest and embarked in a timber enterprise in Escambia county, Florida, as the partner of W. D. Mann. Here the failure of


the contractors, under whose auspices the firm operated, involved it in serious embarrassment thereby rendering Mr. Rabb unable to sustain that spirit of hospitality and benevolence for which he was characteristic during more prosperous periods. In 1880, Mr. Rabb offered himself to the people of Conecuh as a candidate for the Judgeship of the Probate Court. He was, however, defeated by Judge Walker, a former incumbent of the office, and the regular nominee of the people. The many virtues of Mr. Rabb, his devotion to the public interest, and his intellectual qualifications, make him one of the representative men of Conecuh.

The second outline is as follows:

RABB, YOUNG M., Planter, was born April 4, 1826 in Old Town Beat, five miles east of Evergreen, Conecuh County. He was educated at the Evergreen Academy, but was unable to graduate on account of the death of his brother, as the management of his father's estate fell upon his shoulders. He was a successful planter and deacon in the Baptist Church of Evergreen for a number of years. In 1856 he entered the mercantile business with S. A. Burnett, and was a member of the Commissioner's Court of that County. After the War of Secession, he removed to Escambia County, Florida, and embarked in the timber business. He later returned to Conecuh County, was a candidate for judge of the probate court, but was defeated. Married in 1848 to Polly H. Stallworth. Last residence Evergreen.

Also, I am including a brief biographical sketch that I prepared for my Dad, Thomas Morrow (Togo) Rabb. Mother's family, Maddox, has not been included since I am awaiting your further input before adding this line. I hope this is helpful, if I can be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,


Ron Rabb
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