

CHAPTER VI

THE ROBINSON FAMILY REUNION

The first Robinson reunion was held on August 30, 1964 (See Exhibit 6-1 for copy of the minutes that were taken). Lola Jane (Robinson) Purvis relayed the story to John Snyder Robinson in July of 1991 about how the reunion was started. Lola's parents, Arlie Snyder and Julia (Fender) (Collier) Robinson, had moved from Lenox, Georgia on October 31, 1954 and arrived to their new home in Highland City, Florida on November 1, 1954.

One day Arlie Snyder's brother, John Russell Robinson, and his wife, Hilda, were visiting. The four of them discussed the idea of having a reunion and Julia agreed to write Faleecia and Joseph Milton Robinson, Jr. about it. Faleecia wrote back immediately and agreed that the fifth Sunday in August would be fine with the church. At this first reunion, it was agreed that the reunions would be held annually on the third Sunday of July at Oakey Grove Church. The date is always around David Shannon's birthday, July 30, 1835. Ever since the first reunion on August 30, 1964, the Robinsons have come together every year to reminisce and meet more of their kin.

See Exhibits 6-2 through 6-4 for photographs from three past reunions. See Exhibits 6-5 through 6-6 for newspaper articles about the Robinson reunion.

The reunion has inspired two other projects to be started. Jeannie Robinson, of Mount Dora, Florida, is putting together a photograph album of all the Robinsons. Karen Ann Robinson, of Denver, Colorado, is compiling a recipe book of the Robinson's favorite food dishes.

If you would like to contribute pictures or recipes, they can be sent directly to them or to me for forwarding.

August 30, 1964

The descendants of the late David and Nancy Robinson gathered Sunday, August 30th at Oaky Grove Church for a family reunion. Officers elected for the coming year were as follows: J. M. Robinson, President; Dan Robinson, Vice-President; J. E. Robinson, Secretary & Treasurer; Mrs. J. D. Austin, Historian.

It was agreed that this would be an annual affair and would be held each third Sunday in July at Oaky Grove Ch.

It was further agreed that a collector would be taken up each year to take care of the expenses at the following reunion.

Treasurer Report

~~\$~~ \$ 45.85

44.48 - P. out - postage - ice - water care &

1.37 - Balance on hand ^{supplies}



Robinson Reunion in 1966
Oakey Grove Church

Exhibit 6-2

Robinson Reunion
1966-Oakey Grove
Church

Photograph by
Ben Green -
Tifton, Georgia

This is a reproduction of an original
photograph. The reproduction was out of
focus and does not show the clarity like the
original photograph.



Robinson Reunion on July 19, 1981
Oakey Grove Church

Exhibit 6-3

David Shannon and Nancy Carolina Robinson's grandchildren who attended the Robinson reunion at Oakey Grove Church on July 18, 1976. From left to right: Bertha Lee (Robinson) Belflower, Joseph Leonard Robinson, Mary Emma Robinson, David Ralph Robinson, Sr., Rachel (Betty) (Robinson) McMillan, Sally Magdeline Robinson. Leonard and Ralph are sons of Joseph Daniel Robinson. Bertha, Emma, Betty, and Sally are daughters of David Melton Robinson.



Robinson Family Gathers For Annual Reunion

The sixteenth Robinson family reunion was held at Oakey Grove Primitive Baptist Church Saturday evening and Sunday in honor of David Shannon Robinson and Nancy Carolina Fountain Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman (Shortie) Robinson received recognition for having the most descendants present. Although, they tied in number with Mr. and Mrs. Milton Robinson who also had 39 members of their family

present. These families tied last year and it was agreed to give Mr. and Mrs. Milton Robinson the recognition last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robinson's grandchild Dale Lynn Robinson was the youngest descendant present. The Norman Robinson's are a very close family and will get together regardless of distance. So, their daughter Andrea traveled to greatest distance.

Miss Sally Robinson who is eighty-one years of age was the oldest family member present. Twenty-four people have attended the sixteen times the reunion has been held.

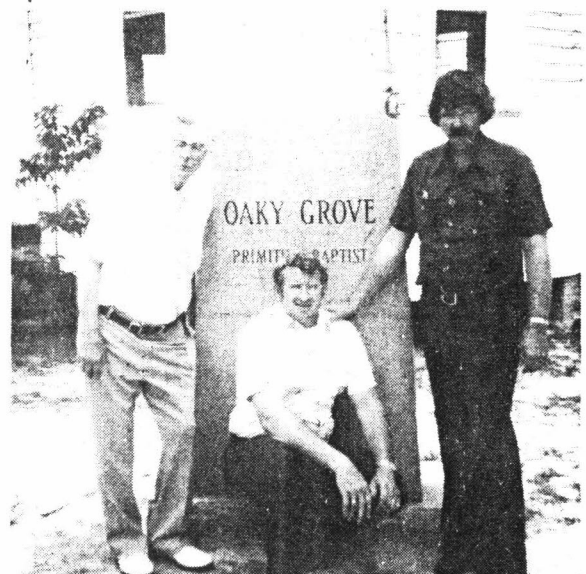
Mr. John Robinson who resides in Tarpon Springs, Fla., Mr. D.R. Robinson and son David Robinson have worked diligently to promote interest in the family gathering and are in the process of gathering information to be put in book form so those interested may have information of their ancestors.

David Shannon Robinson was the youngest son of John and Nancy Robinson of Barnswell County, South Carolina born on July 30, 1835. David migrated to Wilkinson County, Georgia between 1851-54. There he met his wife Nancy Carolina Fountain and they were married on August 23, 1854. Their family consisted of five sons and two daughters, James Hiram, David Milton, Sarah Ann, Nancy Martha, George Americus, John R. and Joseph Daniel.

David and Nancy lived for several years in what is known as the Cat Creek area of Berrien County and did extensive farming.

In 1877 David and Nancy moved from Cat Creek and relocated on the old Robinson homestead which was located in the southwest corner at the crossroads of the Tifton-Nashville road and Sparks and Brookfield road, opposite Oakey Grove Church.

In 1879 the Oakey Grove Cemetery was started. Sara Benefield was the first person to be buried there



D.R. Robinson, Lenox, John Robinson, Tarpon Spring, Florida, and D.R. Robinson Jr., Lenox, deserve credit for promoting the family gathering and collecting information to be put into a book for interested ancestors.

D.R. Robinson worked faithfully to erect the memorial to David S. and Nancy Robinson and their contributions to Oakey Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

On the back of the Memorial is the inscription: "Constituted in Feb. 22, 1890, Brushy Creek Association, Moderator Elder John Churchwell, Constituted by David S. Robinson, Nancy F. Robinson, David M. Robinson, Melissa Robinson, Eliza Baker, Martha Baker, Peter C. Lastinger, Joanna Lastinger, Elder Jacob Young, Elder John Churchwell, Fredonia Churchwell—constituted Aug. 9, 1929 to Union Association-Land given by David S. Robinson March 26, 1904 "In consideration of The Love of The Dead and The Church of God."

In memory of David and Nancy Robinson July 15, 1974 by descendants."

On February 22, 1890 a meeting was held for the purpose of constituting Oakey Grove Primitive Baptist Church. David Shannon and Nancy participated along with their son David Milton and his wife Malissa. Prior to this, the church had been an old style arbor church. On January 11, 1894, he purchased and donated the tract of land where Oakey Grove Church is located.

David and Nancy established a general business at the crossroads comprising a General Merchandise Store, Fertilizer Business, Cotton Gin and Real Estate.

On January 24, 1902 David's beloved wife, Nancy died. He was later married to Mrs. Martha (Byrd) Avera. He continued living at his old

homestead and remained active. He lived 58 years in Berrien County and died May 20, 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Robinson of Nashville are active members of the Oakey Grove Church.

News From Your Home Economist

By Debbie Whatley



While the microwave oven has been like a treasure for many busy homemakers, keep in mind that it does have some limitations.

Generally, these recipes do not perform as well in the microwave oven as they do using more traditional cooking methods.

- Fried foods, such as crisp fried chicken, hash browns, or French fried potatoes (never try to deep fat fry in a microwave oven).

- Crusty foods such as popovers, pizza, pancakes, 2-crust pastry pies.

- Conventional yeast breads (Use a specially formulated microwave recipe.)

- Dishes containing uncooked pasta, rice or dried beans. (These foods need to absorb moisture. Usually other food combined with them overcook before they are ready.)

When purchasing herbs and spices, buy in small

quantities so they can be used as quickly as possible. Generally most herbs and spices retain their good quality for at least 6 months to a year. To tell if a spice is "dead", look to see if the color is lively; sniff it to see if it has a pleasant aroma.

Store herbs and spices in airtight non-porous containers. Label them with the name of the contents and date purchased. Keep them in a cool, dark place - never put them over a stove, clothes washer or dryer, or other source of heat. A good spot is next to the refrigerator (not near the exhaust) where the temperature is often 5 to 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the kitchen.

Try experimenting with herbs and spices to determine which ones you like best in certain foods. Remember - start with ¼ teaspoon when using a new herb or spice. Gradually add more to suit your taste.

Immunization

Immunization Clinics: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—1:30-4:00 p.m. Every Third Monday and Wednesday through August—1:30-6:00 p.m. At the Cook County Health Department.

Hood Co

Saturday



The Cook County Tribune

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Vol. 5, No. 20

ADEL, GEORGIA 31620

(912) 896-3132

Wednesday, July 28, 1982

Robinson Reunion Held Recently At Okey Grove

Relatives and friends of David Shannon and Nancy Fountain Robinson gathered at Okey Grove Primitive Baptist Church in Berriew County Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning the 17th and 18th of July.

This was the 19th annual get-together in celebration of the Robinson's who settled in the area 105 years ago. The 3rd Sunday of July was selected as the time of year for the meeting since it was near David Shannon's birthday.

The couple were the parents of seven children. They were James Hiraw, David Melton, Sarah Anne, Nancy Martha, George Americus, John Richard, and Joseph Daniel. All the children are deceased but it is their descendants who gather to show appreciation to their family through the fifth and sixth generations.

John Robinson presided at the business meeting on Sunday morning. Approximately 150 persons were present. Fourteen people present have attended all 19 gatherings; twelve were present for the first time; the youngest person present was the five month old daughter, Bethany Frances, of Greg and Linda Robinson; Mrs. Jake (Betty) McMillaw of Engima was the oldest being 91 years of age; those traveling the farthest was Phillip and June Gay with their children Cara, and Stephnie—coming from Altooma, Oklahoma which is 1,125 miles. The family with the most members

present was Shanman and Beulah Robinson with 45 of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shannon Robinson deceased January 6, 1967. He was the son of William who was the son of Melton who was the son of David Shannon. Shannon's wife, the former Beulah McMillan continues to make the trip each year from the Lakeland, Plant City, Florida area to be with relatives and friends. Mrs. Robinson is 78 years of age. The couple have six children, five sons and one daughter, twenty-three grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Robinson said she came every year and she likes the communication with aunts, uncles, cousins and more especially the very young. She thinks young children should be taught heritage at an early age.

Mrs. Robinson's two sisters married cousins of her husband. Forleecia married Milton, deceased Jan. 3, 1982 and Lucy was married to Dan of Enigama. They are brothers and the sons of Little Joe Robinson of Berriew County.

William P. Robinson 67 of Lenox lived and worked in Elkhart, Indiana 27 years. He has attended every reunion since returning home 5 years ago.

William is the son of Joseph Daniel the son of David Shannon. He says he likes meeting relatives and tracing kinships. He has a warm feeling for Okey

Grove because it is where his grandparents and parents worshipped. He has been attending church on special occasions since a small child. He feels a family newsletter distributed once or twice a year would be helpful. William says he would like

to extend appreciation to John Robinson of Tarpon Springs, Florida and David Robinson of Lenox for their efforts to trace family heritage.

John Robinson has been president of the organization for five years. He travels each year from

Tarpon Springs with his wife Jo and three beautiful daughters, Bonnie 17, Debbie 12, and Vicki 10. He has worked diligently along with Ralph Robins to make the get-together a success. He feels he has learned lots about who he really is by learning more about the people before his time.

John feels the yearly occasion has been a blessing to his father, Synder who has been helping in gathering information. He says Ralph and son David have been an inspiration.