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Tate, Taylor, and Southern Families

Entries: 70999 **Updated:** 2016-02-22 04:03:09 UTC (Mon)

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- **ID:** I63517
- **Name:** Reuben Roberts
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** ABT 1760
- **Death:** 2 AUG 1841 in Warren Co TN
- **Fact 3:** 1795 Washington Co TN deed
- **Fact 5:** BET 1818 AND 1841 Warren Co TN
- **Fact 6:** 1830 Warren Co TN p360
- **Fact 7:** 1840 Warren Co TN p351
- **Note:**

MYTHS ABOUT REUBEN ROBERTS

There are numerous postings on the internet about Reuben Roberts which claim he was born about 1743 in Manchester, England. What is the evidence? And just because there was A Reuben Roberts who has a birth record there does not mean it is the same man who ended up in Warren County TN. The 1840 census does NOT support a birth year of 1743. And living until 1841 makes it unlikely that he was born as early as 1743. That would have made him about age 98, very very unusual to live that long in that era.

A birth year closer to 1760 is more likely. Then in 1841, he would have been about age 81 at death. The 1840 census of pensioners clearly gives his age as 80, placing his birth as c1760. Even the 1830 census, which incorrectly gives his age as 80-89, places his birth as 1750-1760, still later than 1743. A birth year of 1743 is not likely for this man.

It is also stated, without any evidence, that he was first married to "Emily Eschere" and that his supposed second wife Milly Asher was born in France. What is the evidence of any of that? "Emily Eschere" is much too similar to "Milly Asher" to be a different person. If he had been born c1743 and had married "Emily Eschere" about 1768, he should have had a number of children before his second marriage.

One posting claims that the early children by wife Milly were born in Orange Co NC, but the 1790 NC census does not list any Reuben Roberts in NC at all. Eldest son Thomas (born c1787) gives his birth place as TN in both the 1850 and 1860 census. (1850 Mason Co IL, 1860 Lucas Co IA) It is more likely that all of the children were born in TN. The 1880 and 1900 census should be checked for the grandchildren of Reuben Roberts to see where the grandchildren say their parents were born.

ACTUAL KNOWN FACTS ABOUT REUBEN ROBERTS

Chronology

1775 Hillsboro, Orange Co NC
 1775-1781 in military service
 1781-1785 where?
 1785-1795 Washington Co TN
 1795-1801 where in TN?
 1801-1814 Anderson Co TN
 1815-1816 White County TN
 1818-1841 Warren Co TN

When Reuben enlisted to serve on the patriot side during the American Revolution, he was living in NC. He enlisted from Hillsboro, Orange County NC in April or May 1775, served as a private under Capt William Lytle and Capt White, Col Archibald Lytle's NC Regiment, and Capt Amis' Company, Col Lee's Corps of Horse; in the battles of Brandywine, White Horse, Germantown; wounded by a musket ball in the right shoulder; at King's Mountain and Guilford; served to the end of the War. (#W1492) If Reuben served until the "end" of the war, then he was in service until 1781 (when the fighting ended) or 1783 (when the treaty was signed).

After the war, Reuben made his way into what is now eastern TN but at the time was part of North Carolina. On Oct 29 1779, Reuben Roberts entered 50 acres in Washington County on both sides of Dry Run and a road that leads over Stone Mt., entered per Charles Asher who transferred to "R Roberts," warrant issued Jan 4 1791, #2024; surveyed Nov 7 1788 for Reuben Roberts by

James Stuart. (Pruitt, 273)

During the years 1784-1788, local residents were struggling to form the State of Franklin. The young veteran Reuben was residing in the area during those tumultuous times. In August 1785, Reuben and Milly married in Washington County. Records from that period are nearly nonexistent because each side destroyed the records of the other (John Sevier vs John Tipton). So, it is not surprising that there is no known official marriage record for them. In 1844 when Milly was applying for her widow's pension, the Washington County Clerk of the Court wrote the following letter: "State of Tennessee, Washington County, County Court Clerk's office, Jonesboro May 18 1844. Dear Sir, At the request of Mr. Wm Trabue Columbia Ky I have searched the office for the marriage license of Reuben Roberts to Mary Milly Asher, said to have issued from this office about the year 1785. I can find neither license bond or record. In that day (1785) the license was not recorded, and this was a new county. The office then was carelessly kept. I think it more than likely that they were not returned and another fact, six or seven years since our Court house was burnt and the Clerks office was kept in it. It may be that many [of] the papers was lost at that time. I have search[ed] about three days for the license and bond, part of the time with assistance. Yours Respectfully, W H Smith, Clerk of the County Court for Washington County. To Hon Geo A Caldwell M.C." (See source below) Since Milly's agent was requesting a copy of the marriage record from Washington County, it is reasonable to believe that they married there.

Reuben Roberts is included in the 1787 Washington Co TN (NC at the time) tax list with no acreage, 1 white poll, and no slaves (person #376). (Creekmore, 207) Reuben has the following records in Washington County: 1794, 1795, and 1791 tax lists, and a deed (Deed Bk 7 p 368). (Fisher, 253)

On Nov 27 1792, Reuben Roberts received a land grant from the state of NC for 50 acres on the Watauga River adjoining John Asher for 50 shillings per 100 acres. (Rae, 169)

On Dec 14 1795, Reuben Robert and Milley, his wife, of Washington County, sold 50 acres of land to John Lynch of Washington County for \$500. The tract was in Washington County on both sides of Dry Run on waters of Watauga, joining John Asher, beginning near Asher's Spring. Curiously, this deed was proven at the 1797 Carter County January Court and recorded on April 27 1797. (Carter Co Deed Bk A p 68)

According to Robert Sain, Reuben Roberts lived in

Anderson County TN for 1801 through 1817. (Sain, 14)
Anderson County was formed in November 1801 from parts of Knox and Grainger counties.

Before Dec 1804, Reuben obtained land in Anderson County. The record for Reuben obtaining this tract may be found in Knox County. On Dec 13 1804, Reuben Roberts "of Anderson County" sold to John Leib of Anderson County, 50 acres on a branch running out of Buckhorn Walley for \$50. Reuben signed with an X. There were no witnesses. (Lucas, 49; Deed Bk C-1 p 1)

Reuben was probably renting land in 1809 because on Dec 11 1809, Arthur Crozier sold to John Leib 37 acres on the north side of Clinch River "an improvement where Reuben Roberts now lives" for \$300. (Lucas, 68; Deed Bk C-1) If he had been a landowner in the past, why did he not own land now?

The 1810 Anderson County TN census is not extant.

For the next residence of Reuben, it is important to know the formation dates of counties:

In Oct 1799, Smith County was formed.

In Sep 1806, White County was formed from Smith.

In Nov 1807, Warren County was formed from White.

So, in a short span of 8 years, Reuben may have never moved and yet lived in three counties --- and left records in those counties!

Rev. Monroe Seals wrote, "In or near the Horseshoe Bend, Reuben Roberts came to a small settlement in 1794, perhaps in what is now Warren County." Seals also included Reuben in a list of men living in the Cherry Creek area of White County. (Seals, 6, 8) However, the date of 1794 seems too early when Reuben was clearly living in Knox and Anderson counties.

By 1815, Reuben had continued his westward migration through Tennessee as he moved from east Tennessee into middle Tennessee. Reuben and his sons William and James all appear in the 1815 White County tax list. Reuben was taxed on 40 acres but on himself [why?]. James Roberts had no land and was taxed on himself. There are 3 William Roberts, so it is not possible to determine which one was Reuben's son.

On Oct 21 1816, Reuben sold 40 acres in White County to Isham Russell. (Murray, 93; WPA, 1938, p 288; Deed Bk F p 41) [How and when did he obtain this land?]

In Sep 1818 in adjacent White County, Reuben Roberts, a resident of Warren County, applied for a pension. He stated he was age 67, "that he enlisted into the army of the United States in the state of North Carolina, shortly

after the commencement of the war, in the company commanded by Captain William Lytle, for two years & six months, and was attached to the sixth N.C. Regiment, under the command of Colo. Archibald Lytle in the brigade of Gen. Nash, that he fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, at the sign of the white horse, and at Valley Forge; that at the battle of Germantown, he was wounded in the right shoulder by a musket ball which much disables his right arm; that he served out the term of this enlistment faithfully, and before leaving the army, he again enlisted for during the war, that he afterward fought in the battle at King Mountains in N. Carolina, and belonged to a Scouting party at the Guilford battle; that finally, he fell into the Company of Capt. Amis and was attached to Colo. Lee's Coar [Corps] of Horse, that in that service he remained untill after the capture of Corn Wallace when the company were ordered to disperse without being regularly discharged." Reuben signed with an X. (1818 application)

Reuben was granted a pension in Sep 1818 as a resident in Warren Co TN, aged 67. This would place his birth as c1751 which is supported by the 1830 census, but not by the 1840 census. But this age certainly does not support a birth year close to 1743. Pension papers mention 12 children but only 3 names included: John, James (born Dec 29 1793), and Cobb (age 16 in 1823).

In 1820, Revolutionary War pensioners were required to reapply for their pensions and affirm that they were in financial need. Reuben appeared before the Warren County Court on Oct 7[?] 1820, stating that he was age 65, and that he owned "one tract of land containing 90 acres (ten acres cleared) worth two dollars an acre (\$180). He also had a personal estate of: one horse 10 years old, \$25; 2 cows & calves, \$20; 5 steers, \$30; 14 head sheep, \$14; and other items axes, hoes, an old shovel, 1 dutch oven, 1 skillet, 1 old fleet iron, 6 earthen plates, 6 pewter places, 3 cups and saucers, 6 knives and forks; for a total value of \$286.68 3/4. He continued, "My family consists as follows wife 60 years of age and badly crippled by reason of a fall several years passed, two sons, one nineteen years of age, the other thirteen, two daughters one twenty two years the other twenty one the latter has been disabled along like by reason of a wound in her leg. I am by occupation a farmer but unable to labor from a fracture of my right arm." Reuben signed with an X again. (1820 application) His wife's age of 60 does not seem correct. She was closer to age 54, and Reuben was closer to age 60.

In his 1820 application, Reuben gave the ages of some of his children: a son as 19 (Reuben, born c1801), a son age 13 (probably Scott, born c1807), a daughter age 22 (Susan, born c1798), and a daughter age 21 (Nancy, born c1799). According to her father, Nancy was disabled, but

whether this was temporary or permanent is not known.
Son Caswell at age 15 was not mentioned. Perhaps he
was away from home as a hired hand.

1820 Warren Co TN p291

Reuben Roberts

1 m > 45 [Reuben 60]

1 m 16-25 [?Reuben 19]

1 m 16-18 [?Reuben 19]

3 m 10-15 [Cas 15, Scott 13, who?]

1 f > 45 [Milly 54]

2 f 16-25 [Nancy 21, Susan 17]

In 1826, Rubin Roberts, James Roberts, William Roberts,
Thomas Hash, and Jessee Billings had land grants
surveyed in Warren County. Their grants were
consecutively numbered at 1771 through 1775. The
Roberts' grants were all located on Mud Creek. (Sain)

1830 Warren Co TN p360

Reuben Roberts

1 m 80-89 [Reuben 70, error]

2 m 0-4 [grandsons?]

1 f 70-79 [Milly 64, error]

2 f 20-29

1 f 5-9

1 f 0-4

On Oct 19 1830, Reuben and John Roberts were
witnesses to a deed of Thomas Roberts of Warren County
to Richard Andrews of Anderson County, 2 tracts of
land, 62 acres. (Lucas, 187; Deed Bk G-1 p 209)

1840 Warren Co TN p351

Reuben Roberts

1 m 80-89 [Reuben 80]

2 m 30-39 [married son?, who?]

2 m 15-19

1 m 5-9

1 m 0-4

1 f 80-89 [Milly 74]

1 f 30-39

2 f 15-19

1 f 5-9

On Aug 2 1841 about age 81, Reuben died in Warren
County TN. In Oct 1841, his widow was allowed one
year's provisions by the Court. (Majors, 47; Will Bk 1 p

408, 413) William F. Cotton and James Roberts were the administrators of his estate. They presented a list of accounts in Oct 1843. (Majors, 62; Will Bk 1 p 582)

Reuben lived a long life and he saw many changes in his country. It had changed from a colony of Great Britain, ruled by a king, into an independent thriving nation. His home in Warren County had been forged by hardy pioneers like himself from a frontier into a community of farmers with towns, churches, schools, and families.

By an Act of Congress in 1836, widows of Revolutionary War veterans were allowed pensions of \$80 per year. On Feb 19 1844, 85-year-old Milly appeared in Warren County Court. She stated that the proof of her marriage (probably the family Bible) had burned in a house fire in 1810, that she had married Reuben Roberts in August 1785 (no place given), and that he had died on August 2 1841. Milly was granted her pension in Nov 1846. Her pension was sent to William Trabue in Columbia, Adair County KY. On the same day as Milly's application, her son James made a deposition before the Court in which he stated that he was a son of Reuben Roberts and Milly his widow, that he (James) was 50 years old, he was born Dec 29 1793, that he had 5 older siblings, that his mother was now blind and had been crippled for ten years not being able to walk. James signed with a mark that looks like an S[?]. Milly's stated age of 85 was probably not correct. She was closer to age 78.

Millie died before January 1847. Buyers at the estate sale included Caswell C. Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Elizabeth Roberts, Emeline Roberts, Wm Roberts, Reubin Roberts, and others. Caswell was the executor of the estate. (Will Bk 2, 210) Millie had borne 12 children and mothered them through their childhoods into contributing adults.

In modern times, the McMinnville DAR chapter placed a memorial marker on Reuben's grave in Asbury Cemetery in Warren County.

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Will Book 2

Washington County TN records

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Census work by Ann Blomquist.

Researched and written by Ann Blomquist, 3/2013.

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Marriage 1 [Milly Asher](#) b: ABT 1766

- *Married:* AUG 1785 in Washington Co NC (later TN)

Children

1. [Elizabeth Roberts](#) b: ABT 1786 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
2. [Thomas Roberts](#) b: ABT 1787 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
3. [William Roberts](#) b: ABT 1788 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
4. [Mary Martha Roberts](#) b: ABT 1790 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
5. [John O. Roberts](#) b: ABT 1792 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
6. [James M. Roberts](#) b: 29 DEC 1793 in Washington Co NC (later TN)
7. [Millie Roberts](#) b: ABT 1796 in TN

8. [Nancy Roberts](#) b: ABT 1799 in TN
9. [Reuben Roberts](#) b: ABT 1801 in Anderson Co TN
10. [Susan Roberts](#) b: ABT 1803 in Anderson Co TN
11. [Caswell Cobb Roberts](#) b: ABT 1805 in Anderson Co TN
12. [Matthew Scott Roberts](#) b: ABT 1807 in Anderson Co TN

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