

## THE FAMILY OF GROSS SCRUGGS ROBINSON (#506)

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pg. 187 – Gross Scruggs Robinson was born abt. 1790 in Cumberland County Virginia, and died abt. 1839 in Richmond, Henrico County, Virginia.

He married Sarah “Sally” Anderson, October 30, 1809 in Cumberland County Virginia, daughter of William Anderson and Catherine Shirley. She was born 1790 in Cumberland County Virginia and died 1875 in Putnam County, Tennessee.

Gross Scruggs Robinson was a carpenter and was reportedly killed while working on a courthouse in Richmond, Virginia. His granddaughters say it was the capitol building in Richmond. Some researchers have his date of death as 1825. He was, however listed as the head of household on the 1830 Cumberland County Virginia census living with his wife and 11 children. Additionally, he had children born up until the early 1830s which means that he was probably killed around the mid to late 1830s. In 1840 Sally was the head of household and still living in Cumberland County Virginia.

By 1850 Sally had moved, along with her brothers Thomas Shirley and Caleb Anderson to the Jackson County (now Putnam County) area of Tennessee. Moving with her were the following children: Elizabeth 31, Gross 30, Emily 25, Ann 20, Ellen 19, and Frances 21.

- (1) Catherine married John B. Criddle August 22, 1831 and moved to Missouri.
- (2) Lucy married Jackson G. Meador December 21, 1840 and moved to Hardeman County, Tennessee.
- (3) Henrietta married George F. Marchbanks in 1841 and moved to Texas.
- (4) William A. married a Miss Ryals November 28, 1843 in Cumberland County Virginia and probably stayed there. It is possibly, however, that he came to Wilson County, Tennessee as Thomas J. Wray sold William A. Robinson a jackass 4 March 1859, Ref Trust Deed Book MM, page 221 and five acres of land on the Lebanon and Big Springs Road 12 May 1860, Ref. Trust Deed Book MM, page 235. Thomas J. Wray was the brother-in-law of our William A.).
- (5) Nancy remains missing at this time. She either married or died before 1850.

By 1860 Gross was married and living next door to Sally, Ellen had married Thomas Ray and moved to Overton County, Tennessee, Frances was no longer in the household (at this time I don't know if she married or died), Elizabeth, Emily and Ann remained at home.

In 1860 Sally owned 5 slaves and 2 slave houses. Her real estate was valued at \$2500 and her personal property at \$8000. By 1870 the Civil War had resulted in the Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves. Sally's wealth had diminished to \$1000 in real estate and \$150 in personal property. Although the slaves had been freed they apparently continued to live and work the farm on which they lived. I reached this conclusion due to the fact that in 1870 Sally Robinson (White) lived in the household 46, Peter Robinson (Black) in the household 47, Lewis Robinson (Black) household 48, Gross Robinson (White) household 49. From this it is obvious that the families of Peter and Lewis have taken the Robinson name and are still living in the two afore mentioned slave houses. Additionally Peter and Lewis were both born in Virginia and probably came to Tennessee with the Robinson family.

(Note: There is a family story that one of the slaves was about to be sold and Elizabeth cried and talked them out of selling him “because he is my brother”. If there is any basis for this story, Lewis was probably the slave in question as he is only 3 years younger than Elizabeth. They probably grew up together.)

By 1880, Sally had died, Peter and his family had moved on, Lewis' family now numbered 12 individuals and was still living adjacent to Elizabeth, Emily and Ann who were still single and living together. Gross and family were living next to his sisters.

By 1900 Gross and Elizabeth had died (buried on Robinson Ridge) Emily and Ann had either married or died. The family of Lewis had also left the Ridge. This ended an era of the family of Gross Scruggs Robinson.

*Story submitted by: Wilma Nell (Robinson) Doan.*

\*See The Robinson by Dr. Athea Rogetta Armstrong, Detroit, MI

\*See Chapter 14 and Robinson family files at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

### **GROSS S. ROBINSON (#507)**

**Source:** Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

Pgs. 187 & 188 – Gross S. Robinson, the son of Gross Scruggs Robinson and Sarah “Sally” Anderson was born September 22, 1812 in Virginia, and died April 04, 1881 in Putnam County, Tennessee.

He, along with his mother and sisters, came to Tennessee in the 1840s and settled in what is now known as the Robinson Ridge area of Jackson (now Putnam) County.

He married Helen Jane Whitefield, daughter of William Whitefield and Sallie Lindsey. She was born July 18, 1833 in Jackson County, Tennessee and died October 29, 1901 in Putnam County, Tennessee. Gross and Helen are interred in the Robinson Ridge Cemetery, Putnam County, Tennessee.

Gross and Helen had seven children:

- (1) William Bratcher Robinson, born April 10, 1858, Putnam County, Tennessee; died April 13, 1940, Putnam County, Tennessee. He married Elizabeth L. “Bettie” Jared June 27, 1886 in Putnam County, Tennessee, daughter of Jonathan Jared and Martha Huddleston.
- (2) Virginia Frances Robinson was born January 22, 1860, Putnam County, Tennessee and died July 08, 1919, Putnam County, Tennessee. She married Isaac Monroe “Roe” Huddleston September 11, 1880 in Putnam County, Tennessee. Virginia and Roe had eight children: Oscar Dow, Dailey, Henrietta, Adovil, Lavernia, Isaac, Amanda Jane and Mayme.
- (3) Geneva Lousetta Robinson, born August 21, 1863, Putnam County, Tennessee, died April 21, 1953, Putnam County, Tennessee. She married James L. Whiteaker, son of Ligard Whiteaker and Rhoda Byrne. Lousetta and Jim had six children, Sallie Frances, Clarence Clinton, Ernest Corner, Lena Verda, Mattie Jane and Mary Beatrice.
- (4) Edward D. Robinson, born March 15, 1864, Putnam County, Tennessee, died January 08, 1926, Putnam County, Tennessee. He married Mary Jane Brown February 12, 1893 in Putnam County, Tennessee, daughter of Riley Brown and Rodah Newman. Edward and Mary had eight children: William Riley, James Monroe, Bert Scruggs, Dow Ensor, Scott Farmer, Haskell Claude, Ina and Lillie May.
- (5) Henrietta M. Robinson, born May 18, 1866, Putnam County, Tennessee, died May 04, 1887, Putnam County, Tennessee. Henrietta did not get married.
- (6) Malicia Hardenia Avo “Deanie” Robinson was born May 1868, Putnam County, Tennessee and died October 17, 1969, Putnam County, Tennessee. She married William “Willie” Ashbury Bush. Deanie and Willie had three children: Elvis Floyd, Vertie and Alice.
- (7) James Monroe Robinson was born September 27, 1870, Putnam County, Tennessee and died February 24, 1895, Putnam County, Tennessee. He married Mary Elizabeth Brown, daughter of William Brown and Mary Butler. James Monroe and Mary Elizabeth had two sons: Edward Lawrence and James Prentice.

*Story submitted by: Robert Doan.*

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