

was living near Prospect Church, Jasper, Florida in 1841 near John FUTCH, William WIGGINS and Noel R. RAULERSON.
Venetia Dees, 140 S. Arizona Ave., Lakeland, Fl. 33801

18. Desire information on Reubin CORBETT family who settled at Immokalee, Fl. Also on Jesse WHIDDEN and Thomas E. WILLIAMS families. Mrs. John H. Whidden, Rt. 2, Box 54, Moore Haven, Fl. 33471

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JAMES GARY ROBERTS 1833-cl877

Researched, compiled and contributed by Mrs. Wanda Roberts Hamilton, 1405 6th St., Vero Beach, Fl. 32960.

James Gary Roberts was born in 1833 at Sumter County, South Carolina, a son of Solomon and Nancy Roberts and a grandson of Revolutionary Soldier, Robert Roberts who died there Jan. 2, 1833, the year James was born.

Solomon Roberts moved his family to Georgia after the death of his mother, Agnes (Dunn) Roberts in 1838 at Sumter County. When he died about 1850, he was living about thirty miles from Columbus, Georgia over in Russell County, Alabama in the Girard settlement (now Phenix City). Five of his children had married and left home at the time, but five younger daughters were still at home with their widowed mother. An older son, Chapell, was there from his home in nearby Muscogee Co., Georgia near Columbus when the census was taken, but a few days later was enumerated back at his home. So, it is assumed that Solomon died in late September or early October of 1850. At the time of his father's death, seventeen year old James was boarding at the home of his Uncle Henry Roberts in Marion County, Georgia while working as a farm laborer.

James Roberts then apparently moved to nearby Harris County, Ga. after 1850 where he met the daughter of a Jackson family. This family moved to Jackson County, Fl. about 1853.

James soon followed and on May 20, 1855 he married Mary Jackson at Marianna in Jackson County. She was born June 10, 1839 at Lickskillet in Harris County, Georgia. (Lickskillet being the site of a legendary goldmine in that county). She was the first-born child of Robert Archibald and Martha Jane (Vinson) Jackson. After the marriage, James and Mary lived at the Cottondale settlement of Jackson Co. where he worked as a farm laborer.

He enlisted in the Civil War for three years or for the duration of the war on March 14, 1862 at Marianna, Fl. He was a Private in Capt. Smith's Company (Marianna Dragoons) which later became Company B, 15th Regiment of the Confederate Cavalry. He was also listed in one source as having served in Company G, 5th Florida Battalion in the Confederate Cavalry from Jackson County, but no official record survives. Sometime in 1862 he apparently received leave from the service to move his family to Madison County, Florida where he probably believed conditions were safer.

Family legend is that James' mother-in-law, Martha Jackson (then widowed) had sold her home so that she and all her children, along with daughter, Mary Roberts, who was expecting her fifth child, could move to Madison County. James took the money from the sale of the house and went on a drinking spree, losing all the money he had left over after