

"Well, here I am, 88 years old the 7th of February. I don't know how long the good Lord will keep me here. I am Rachel WALKER THOMPSON born February 7th, 1861 on Eagle Creek nine miles above Clifton, Tennessee. My father's name was Osborn WALKER. My mother's name was Polly REEVES. They had ten children, raised them to be grown and have families. They are all dead now. I'm the only one left in this troublesome world. I think of the past, that is gone forever, but someday we all meet around the throne of God for evermore - I was born the first year of the Civil War. I can remember the last (I was born Feb. 7, 1861) of it --ended 1865. The old turnpike road was full of horses and men; this was when Gen. Don Carlos BUELL'S army of the Ohio was rushing to the battle of Shiloh. The soldiers were four abreast double time (trotting) most all the time. My father had two fine mules and one work mare they took from my brother they wasn't very large, brother went to work them -- they was gone. My Grandfather lived with them. Also my grandmother. She would help the boys all she could. The soldiers would come in the take everything they wanted and tear or destroy the rest. If they could find the meat she emptied the cradle put more meat in it and covered it with a large bed spread. No one could sleep on it. We also kept our meal in it. If we hadn't done that we would not have anything at all to eat. The turnpike road was about the only road to travel.

"After the War my father and a lot of people moved to Illinois to get away from the garrillas (out laws). There was a lot of them in Wayne Co., Tenn. They were Southern Sympathizers--would kill a man for joining the Federal forces. We didn't stay in Illinois a year, my mother was sick all the time we were there. We moved back to Eagle Creek Wayne Co., Tenn. Papa bought a farm of 900 acres paid \$900. for it. Then we built a pretty home on the turnpike. We had to cut the big trees and clear the land before we could plant and make a crop.

"We sold our farm on Hardin Creek and bought a farm on Ross Creek three miles out of Clifton. My Youngest boy was born there in the year 1899. He is not 50 years old. We moved to Ross Creek close to where my great grandfather settled. The cane was so thick you could not (go) through it without cutting it. My grandfather Andrew REEVES they called him Drew for short. The Federal Government deeded Grandfather this land for his service in the Revolutionary War about 1780. My Grandmother's name was Hannah. They built a house close to the old folks, because the cane was so thick and so many wild varmints in the cane they were afraid of a panther. A mountain lion got after mother and grandmother before their oldest child was born. It like to got her she was afraid to go back home any more. My father build him a home and settled on a creek called Goober Creek, cleared his land. My Granddaddy said they were afraid to get out at night but he had two big dogs and several guns. Grandmother was not afraid to use them. They raised corn, hogs, cattle. My Grandfather said he had killed several bears on Eagle Creek. There were lots of them back then. Mother said she and her sister was playing in the woods one day, there were two small bears lying on a log. Thought they would pet them but the mother bear was behind a tree fixing to jump on them. We raised gourds and used them as dippers.

"My father Osborn WALKER was born in the year of 1830. My mother was born in the year 1832.

"They said my great grandfather lived to be one hundred and eleven years old and grandfather REEVES was 104 when he died. Of course I was small when they both died, but I can remember them both. They walked with two walking sticks. It is so pitiful to see any on going that way. My father died when he was seventy years old. My Mother passed away when she was eighty. My Grandmother was a POWELL. I never did see her and Grandfather WALKER he married another POWELL. They were not related but I can remember her. She had four children by him -- two boys and 2 girls. I never did see Grandmother WALKER. They said she was Primitive Baptist preacher. My father had two sisters and three brothers. My mother had three brothers and two sisters. Mother's older brother left for Arkansas just after the Civil War. He moved to Little Rock. My

Grandfather WALKER was a half brother to Uncle Billie BATTLES and half brother to Uncle John O. ROBERTS. My great grandmother did marry three times. My father Uncle Arlbe (Hart'l) BATTLES married sisters.

"I though they was the finest people in this world.

Mother and my aunt and my cousin was together most all the time. I did love them so much, but all of them have gone on and left me here to wonder why -- because He is not ready for me. I don't know why but that is not any of my business. My second brother moved to Texas and didn't live one year. He helped make a crop and something bit him on the hand. he just lived nine days. It was very poisonous. I was so sorry for him. He didn't want to go but his wife and his father-in-law wanted him to go. Of course, it was right but pitiful. One of my father's half sisters married Wayne PRATER and one of my cousins married his nephew. It is pitiful for me to think all my kinfolks about all gone. No school mates they all gone too.

"I have nine kids to be with me. God bless them. They are good to me. There wasn't any cook stoves; back then we cooked in the fire place."

(This Memoir was kindly shared by a Roberts cousin, David BUNTON.)

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Rachel WALKER THOMPSON, b. 1861, was the daughter of Osborn S. WALKER, b. 4 April 1829, d. 28 Dec 1904, and Mary "Polly" A. REEVES, b. 16 Jan 1832, d. 6 Feb 1912. Osborn WALKER was the son of George H. M. WALKER, b. 1792/3 Rutherford Co., NC, the son of Mary MOORE ROBERTS WALKER BATTLES, b. 1768, d. 1857. Mary "Polly" A. REEVES was the daughter of Andrew REEVES, b. 1803 SC, d. 1907/8, and Hannah PULLEY, b. ca, 1807/9. (WWI Veterans' Biographies as found online at Wayne Co., TN, website)