

History of Absalom Carson

The second child of Andrew and Betsy Carson, Absalom Carson, b. 1792, did not stay very long in Washington County, Tennessee. He was married to Martha "Patsy" Glass on 7 Jul 1814 in Greene County, Tennessee. This county is adjacent to Washington County so that he would not have traveled very far from his childhood home to be married. Soon after his marriage he traveled to Bradley County, Tennessee, where he purchased land to farm. The children from the union of Absalom and Martha Carson:

1. Wilson E. Carson
b. Abt. 1815 in Tennessee ;
m. to Jemima Burnett on 18 Jul 1835 in Roane County, Tennessee; family living in Bradley County , Tennessee in 1850
2. Lincoln Collen Carson
b. Abt. 1817 in Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee, and d. 22 Jan 1892 in Nodaway County, Missouri.
m. first to Mary Ann McGovern in Bradley County, Tennessee. She was b. 12 Apr 1826 in Virginia and d. 12 Apr 1886 in Nadaway County, Missouri.
m. second to Nancy (Morrison) Money, b. 1847 North Carolina, and d. after 1900 in Nodaway County, Missouri
3. Mary A. Carson
b. Abt. 1818 in Tennessee;
m. David A Lay in Tennessee; He was born 1813 in Virginia; eight children born to this union between 1835 and 1850.
4. John B. Carson I
b. 1827 in Tennessee and d. Sep 1859 in Cleveland, Bradley County, TN. It is reported that he was a murder victim;
m. Sarah Jane Lawson Abt. 1847 in Bradley County, Tennessee; There were eight children born to this union between 1848 and 1862.
5. Nancy Ann Carson
b. Abt. 1829 in Tennessee, and d. 5 Jul 1910 in Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee;
m. John Alexander Kinser in Abt. 1856; there were children b. to this union.
6. Susanna Carson
b. Abt 1833 in Tennessee;
m. Carroll Allen; 3 children b. to this union on the 1860 Bradley County , Tennessee Census, ages 10-1
7. Sarah Carson
b. Abt. 1836 in Tennessee
m. she is reported to have married Harmon McCasland; He was b. 1815 in Tennessee. More documentation is needed to prove this.
8. Elizabeth Carson
b. Abt. 1837 in Tennessee, and d. Abt. 1870 in Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee
m. David Hamilton Carson. (Not sure of relationship). 1860 Bradley County, Tennessee Census shows three children born to this union, ages 4 - 1.

After Absalom and Martha Carson were in Bradley County they borrowed money from Martha's brother, Jesse Glass. When this person died in the mid 1840's, the executor of the Glass estate, one Mr. Harmon McCasland, asked for the debt by Absalom and Martha Carson to be paid. Absalom Carson deeded to his sons, Wilson E. and John B. Carson the several parcels of land that he and Martha owned, in essence leaving them with no money to pay the debt. Mr. McCasland took his case to the Chancery Court in Cleveland, Bradley County, TN, to regain the money for the Glass estate. There is a 150 page Court document that describes in some detail about the depositions that were taken for this trial. In the end the Carson family lost their lands and the debt to the Glass estate was paid.

There were a number of people in Bradley County who took sides in the Glass/McCasland vs. Carson Case that resulted in bad feelings and at times resulted in physical altercations. After this incident in Bradley County was finalized the Carsons involved were probably ready to leave Bradley County. Descendants of Wilson E. Carson, maintain that this individual took his family to Texas after 1850. These descendants now live in the state of Texas and are researching the genealogy of their families. Future research may provide enough proven data to publish a genealogy for children of Wilson E. Carson.

Absalom Carson appears in Bradley County with his wife "Patsey" in 1860 but does not show up on any records so far for 1870. This leaves a date between 1860 and 1870 for the death of Absalom Carson. There are individuals who have provided genealogies for Absalom Carson who have expressed opinions about dates and places of death. These are Rhone and Bradley County Tennessee, with a possible date before 1866. A grandson of Absalom Carson, Charles A. Carson, stated on his 1900 insurance application papers, that his grandfather died at the age of 75. Since Absalom was born in 1792, that would be 1867 for his death date. A document that proves the place and date of death is needed for Absalom Carson.

On the other hand, there is a probated will that proves that Martha (Glass) Carson died in Bradley County, Tennessee on 20 Jun 1866 and no mention of Absalom Carson is given in this document. The children of Absalom and Martha Carson along with some of their spouses are given in Martha's probate records. They are:

1. W. E. Carson, spouse not given.
2. Mary Ann "Polly" (Carson) Lay, spouse not given but she is reported to have married David Lay.
3. L. Carson, name of spouse not given. (Probably Lincoln "Linn" Carson).
4. Sarah Carson married to Harmon McCaslin. (Others spell name McCasland).
5. John B. Carson, name of spouse not given.
6. Susan (Carson) Allen, name of spouse not given.
7. Elizabeth Carson married to David Hamilton Carson. (Relation not known).
8. Nancy Ann Carson married to John Kinser.

One of the Carson relatives in Cleveland, Bradley County, Tennessee, understated the observation based on documents that Absalom Carson had financial problems. This comment was made when this writer visited Cleveland, Tennessee in July of 2003. This idea was very apparent when part of the lands in this Carson family were deeded to a third party in the late

1840s to be held in trust for the sole use of Martha Carson and her heirs. Someone evidently had decided that Absalom Carson could not be trusted to leave any estate for his wife, Martha, after his death.

There is also a family story that is told by the Carson relatives, that Absalom Carson would travel with his family and farm animals to nearby northern Georgia to evade the property tax collector and then return to Bradley County, Tennessee. This very well may have happened because there are a number of years where Absalom does not appear on the recorded Tax Rolls of Bradley County, Tennessee. He also does not appear on any Tennessee Census reports for 1840. He does show up on the 1830 census in Roane County Tennessee and later in the 1850 and 1860 censuses in Bradley County, Tennessee. Needless to say, Absalom Carson was a colorful character and left many Institutional records to prove this point.

Sources:

1. Family Group Sheets from Philip Lawson papers, Charleston, Tennessee. Group sheet for Absalom Carson was hand copied and sent with the papers from the McClung Library by Phillip Lawson. Enclosure #RE-828 p. 61.
2. Allen, Carroll, Family History and Genealogy for Allen, Carson and Related Surnames, (Family data sent via internet; Ancestry Message Board; Email: Boa11918@aol.com, by author Carroll Allen)
Carroll Allen; Nashville, TN; Phone 1-615-399-0700.
3. Dorla Stork; 1900 Dracena St.; Bakersfield, CA 93340, did the initial research.