

Bill Ritchie, Member # 1070

Harvey Ashwell Reynolds

b. 15 Aug 1828 Buckingham, VA

d. 14 Oct 1913 Locust Grove, Floyd Co, VA

My 2nd great grandfather by NSDOAF member Bill Ritchie

Harvey Ashwell Reynolds Born a slave to sharecropper to an American Farmer

Harvey was born August 15, 1828 in Buckingham, Virginia, and died October 14, 1913, in Locust Grove, Floyd County, Virginia. Around 1850 he married Nancy Rosabell Guerrant, born November 10, 1832, who has been described as a mulatto with a mixture of black, white, and Cherokee. Nancy married Harvey a slave also owned by Peter Guerrant a descendant of Revolutionary War Patriot Captain Peter Guerrant. Harvey was listed as a mulatto in the census. During that era, mulatto was used to identify a person with one Caucasian parent. Nancy died on December 25, 1916, in Floyd County, Virginia.

They both eventually were acquired by American Farmer and slave owner Charles B. Reynolds (CB) (1802-1876). CB was reported to be Harvey's father (with the slave known only as Annie) and is listed as his father on Harvey's death certificate. Subsequent autosomal DNA matches anecdotally confirms the parental relationship. Charles' father, Archelaus Reynolds was also a slave owner and is an American Farmer. Archelaus' father Charles Reynolds was also a slave owner and American Farmer. DNA True-lines charting tends to validate Harvey's ancestral biological relationships to his great grandfather Charles Reynolds.

Harvey and CB became business partners after slavery was abolished that further suggested a father-son relationship. Harvey became a landowner in Floyd County, purchasing land from CB. I have copies of the handwritten deeds from the transaction. They are hard to read but are very good source documents. During 1875, along with being in ill health and lacking financial resources, CB reached out to Harvey for some money. A copy of the letter to Harvey from CB acknowledges receipt of \$500 from Harvey is available

After the death of CB, the executor of his estate sued Harvey in court over the land that CB sold to Harvey. The initial court ruling was in the favor of the executor. Harvey appealed the decision. The decision was reversed by the Supreme Court of Appeals in the Commonwealth of Virginia in Harvey's favor.

Harvey Ashwell Reynolds witnessed the reunion of the State of Virginia with the United States Virginia during the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War.