

~Roubidoux Recollections~

William F. Robinson, an early Pulaski County native, was born on a farm on Roubidoux Creek twelve miles south of Waynesville on February 10, 1846. His parents were Pleasant and Rhoda Robinson. Later in life, William Robinson reminisced with author S. C. Turnbo about attending classes in a one-room schoolhouse in Pulaski County along about 1851.

He described the structure as being a "little round log cabin with puncheon floor made from Linn tree logs split open." The chairs were roughly hewed from the same wood with "auger holes bored in the ends and wooden legs drove in to hold the benches up." William's teacher was a one-eyed man named Solomon Young.

"I have a vivid recollection that I took no interest to learn my book at this school," he recalled. "Being only five years old, I thought I was too young to leave my mamma. But she hired me to go a short time and I learned my alphabet in the blue back spelling book.

"Roubidoux Creek, a small stream, was between where we lived and the school house. It only afforded a little water at the time I speak of; but, during a freshet, it was a river. But when I went to school the water was at a low stage and I waded across it of mornings and evenings on my way to school and back home.

- "Other children who were sent to this subscription school was my little brother and sister, Ezekiel and Susan Robinson, and Zeke, William, Margarette and Melphena, children of Mr. Carlock, and Malinda Low and John and Tom Norris and their aunt, Miss Nellie Norris. John and

Mary Watson had two daughters that went to this same school whose names were Drucilla and Malinaa.

"In the year 1856 when I was ten years old, I was sent to another school that was taught by a man of the name of Hatley, which was five miles from where we lived. I only got to go only a short time, but I tried to learn my lessons while I was going and got half way through my blue back speller. My two associates at this school were the same two Watson girls just mentioned, Also John and Malinda Vinson's three children, Artie, Sarah Ann and Jim, and two of Bert Cook's girls, Liddie and Martha, and Alaxander and Isaac Balaam Robinson, Lucinda Baker, and Margarette Turnbull and three other children whose given names were Henry, Sis and Mahala."

This account was written from information taken from "Fireside Stories of the Early Days in the Ozarks," written by Silas C. Turnbo in 1904 and 1907. Turnbo was a newspaperman and farmer who lived most of his life in Ozark County, Missouri, but traveled extensively throughout the Ozarks. The "Fireside Stories" were written accounts of fascinating stories told to him by the pioneering people he met along the way. Turnbo met William F. Robinson on June 25, 1906, near Oneta Post Office in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Robinson spoke of his early days attending school in Pulaski County. He also told Turnbo that his father, Pleasant Robinson, and grandfather, James Robinson, were buried in the Robinson's grave yard on the old James Robinson farm. His mother was a daughter of Ezekiel McNeely, an early Pulaski County settler.



Sister and brother, Georgia and Roy Lee Dye, dressed in historic costumes for the Civil War Centennial celebration in 1961. Photo courtesy of Georgia Primus.



 Barbara
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COUNTY TREASURER

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1058 Missouri Avenue • St. Robert, Missouri
573-336-5574