

H. Lee Carter
P. O. Box 222
Woodville, Ms. 39669

September 11, 1994

Dear Mrs. Hiott,

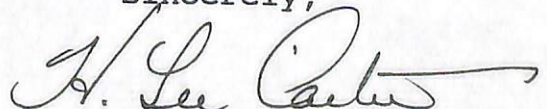
I received your letter of August 30th several days ago. I have been so busy with other things that I haven't done any more research since my letter to you last October 25, 1993.

You stated that your family was interested in marking the gravesite of Capt. Peter Robert with a D.A.R. ceremony. As stated in my letter there aren't any marked graves in the old cemetery prior to 1837. I also stated that I would like to get any information that I could to update or add to what I have done. In your reference material the only mention of Capt. Peter Robert's burial site is where printed text has been marked through and a handwritten statement has been added indicating that the burial site was next to the meeting house. In your letter of August 27, 1993 you stated that you were certain he was buried in the cemetery as well as his wife, Anne Grimball. It seems to be a conflict in just where he and his wife is buried.

One of my reasons for pursuing the history of the Tanner Settlement is to document as much as I can. I have already discovered where certain individuals have rewritten or added to the history of the local Baptist church in order to arrive at to what they wanted in order to tie it with the old Bethel church. My wife and I are very conscious in what we do in order that we maintain the history of whatever we're working on. I do not know if the present location of the cemetery is where the original cemetery was located. Since the earliest date mentioned is in the 1819 deed and the earliest marked grave is 1837, there possibly could have been another cemetery next to the church which never had any markers that would survive the elements and time. The deeds does not list any Township, Range or Section so this alone makes it extremely hard to trace. In my research I have ample reason to believe I have located the site of the church through other deeds but nothing pertaining to the exact location of the cemetery.

I am not in opposition to the establishment of a marker at the graves of Captain Peter Robert and his wife. I would, however, like to see more documentation that they are buried in the cemetery located on my property, (and this might not be the right one) other than what I have seen. I just don't like to assume anything in documenting history.

Sincerely,



October 25, 1993
P.O. Box 222
Woodville, Ms. 39669

Dear Mrs. Hiott,

My wife and I received your letter of inquiry regarding the Old Bethel cemetery and Bethel Meeting House. We also appreciate the information that you sent.

For the past few years, as time permitted, I have been trying to document the site of the Bethel Meeting House that was established circa 1800 and located some 4 miles southwest of Woodville. The old Baptist Associational records show that the associational first met at Bethel in 1807 and continued through the 1820's. From there the church is only mentioned at times up through the 1850's. I have established also that the cemetery was not located by the church but some several hundred feet away. As you know the cemetery does not contain any markers prior to John Ogden's marker dated 1837.

From what I have ascertained the Robert and Tanner families moved into this area prior to 1806 and purchased the Osmun tract on November 4, 1806. This was what is now Section 35, Township 2N, Range 2W and Section 6, Township 1N, Range 2W, which total some 700 acres. In the book, "Three Pioneer Rapides Families," I found that these families were quite prominent and were quite instrumental in establishing a settlement. From maps one can see that roads crossed through this property in several directions. These were main roads from Woodville to Pinckneyville and Fort Adams as well as cross connecting roads. It is no doubt, in my mind, that these families did establish a settlement known as the "Tanner Settlement", as Woodville did not become incorporated until 1811.

The one area of research I have looked into is that Moses Hadley was the Preacher at Bethel for some years prior to his death in 1818. As you know he was the husband of Anne Grimbali Robert, the daughter of Captain Peter Robert and Anne Grimbali. I believe that these families, being of religious background, were quick to establish a church or place of worship. Apparently Rev. Hadley and his family remained at Bethel after the other families migrated to Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

On November 6, 1819, Joseph Robert deeded to the trustees of Bethel Church two tracts of land - one for the church and the other for the graveyard. It is my guess that this was done after Rev. Hadley died to assure the church of proper title. From deeds, maps, and other bits of information I have located the site of the Bethel Meeting House. As mentioned the cemetery site is established. At present I am in the process of assembling this information together. Your mention of the gravesite of Captain Peter Robert buried beside the Meeting House is of special interest and I would

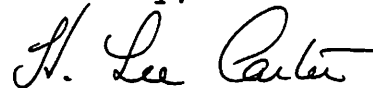
like to include this information if I can get documentation to that effect. Your reference was that of Rev. E.H. Peeples, Hilton Head, S. C. I would like to get any information that would tie these families together with Bethel Church, as I believe they were closely tied together in this time period.

My family first came into possession of part of the Osmun tract sometime prior to 1843, this part being all of Section 6 and the part of Section 35 south of the Pond-Pinckneyville road. It has remained in my family since that time. I am in the process of building a home on this land. My mother, 79 years old, still lives on this property. She was born and raised within a mile of where she lives now. Daniel Leatherman, my great, great, great, great-grandfather was granted title to Section 7 at the same time Benjah Osmun was granted title to Section 6, later to become the Robert-Tanner tract.

We would like to hear from you in any way. As stated I would like to include any information available in the research I am doing.

I hope this information can be of some help to you. Please let me know if I can be of any futher assistance to you and when you get back to Woodville please try to contact us.

Sincerely,



Howard Lee Carter